

# KANSAS ALUMNI

No 2, 2015 ■ \$5

## The Hotspot

*Learning Studio turns Anschutz Library  
into bustling campus hub*

■ LOUIS ARMSTRONG ■ FREEDY JOHNSTON





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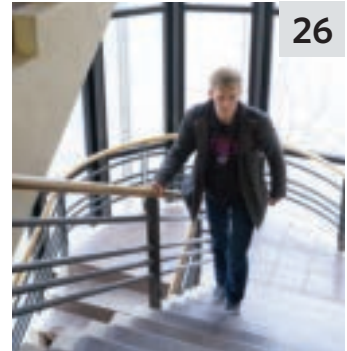


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## 26

### Turn the Page

With coffee cafes, microwave ovens and technology by the tetrabyte, The Learning Studio at Anschutz is a beeping, buzzing round-the-clock reminder that the quiet, cloistered library of yesteryear is gone.

*By Chris Lazzarino*

*Cover photograph  
by Steve Puppe*

## 20

### Really Wailing Tonight

Did Louis Armstrong truly serenade Wilt Chamberlain and teammates upon their return to campus from a heartbreaking triple-overtime loss in the 1957 national championship game, as campus lore has long maintained? Roll the tape.

*By Chris Lazzarino*

## 34

### For a Song

More than 20 years after he sold his little piece of Kansas to finish his classic recording “Can You Fly,” Freedy Johnston is still doing what it takes to keep rockin’.

*By Steven Hill*



# Lift the Chorus



## Pointed praise

**YOU CONTINUE** to produce a super magazine for all of us. Gretchen and I love it.

Chancellor Emeritus Gene Budig  
Isle of Palms, South Carolina

## Kind words

**THE ARTICLE** “Don’t worry, be happy” [Jayhawk Walk, issue No. 1] touched my heart. I recall hearing a story about a student who told himself that if no one said hello to him that day, he would end his life. Sadly, no one did and a young man took his life.

As a clinical social worker working with veterans who have post-traumatic stress disorder, I know the smallest gesture or kind word can take their thoughts off ending their own life and give them hope to continue.

The fine young women of KU Encouragements have hearts to see the needs and struggles of those around them and do something about it, even in a simple way. Don’t we often get caught up in the complications of taking on a big idea when a small idea would have just as much

impact, if not more? Small, but MIGHTY! Keep going, girls! Keep reaching out to your fellow students in this beautiful way.

Teresa Boos, s’94  
Hays

## Mills wins out

**AS A SPORTSWRITER** who’s lived far from Kansas for most of the past quarter-century, I’ve come to rely on well-written, entertaining, informative stories about KU from the staff at *Kansas Alumni*. I fall behind in my reading sometimes, like this winter, when the team I cover—the Atlanta Braves—kept me busy and periodicals stacked up next to my recliner. So I brought a bunch with me to spring training and just got around to reading Steven Hill’s story, “The Man With Wings on His Feet” [issue No. 6, 2014], about the legendary distance runner Billy Mills. Tremendous—the story, and the man.

It was one of the most powerful pieces I’ve read in some time, and I can honestly say I’ve never been more proud of a fellow Jayhawk than I am now of Billy Mills. We, the ink-stained wretches, get a bit jaded about much of what we cover, in my case sports. For me to get teary-eyed reading a sports story is a tall task. But really, this wasn’t a sports story. It was a human story. About a man who shocked the world by winning the 10,000 meters at the 1964 Tokyo Olympics, the first and only American to win Olympic gold at that distance.

Because he was an American

Indian—a proud Oglala Lakota from an impoverished South Dakota reservation—he was treated in the 1950s and ’60s like less than a man, across the United States and in Lawrence. It was shameful and disgusting. But as heartbreaking as the story was, it also was uplifting, because Hill painted for us a picture of a man whose integrity, perseverance and dignity won out. Mills found a way to forgive those who treated him so poorly, and today he spends his time working tirelessly to give back and to help kids from the res try to make something of themselves despite all they must overcome.

I hope to meet Billy Mills someday. I want to shake his hand. Much respect to you, sir. And to Steven Hill for giving us a wonderful story about such an honorable man.

David O’Brien, j’86  
Atlanta

**I REALLY ENJOYED** the Billy Mills article. I remember his wonderful victory—a tremendous tribute to his heritage. The story was special for me because I had recently finished the Glenn Cunningham biography *American Miler*.

My dad, a junior-high coach, took me to the Kansas Relays many times, and I have many great memories of outstanding performances. Too bad that track is ignored now except for the Olympics.

David Dittmore, e’69  
Tacoma, Washington

## Voice raised

**I READ THE PIECE** by Jennifer Jackson Sanner and Chris Lazzarino, “A Time for

Change” [issue No. 6, 2014], and remembered my own rape on the KU campus in November 1972. In many ways, I’m grateful to a friend who insisted on taking me to Student Health Services that day, and to the doctor who insisted on calling the police. I don’t know if, left alone, I would have done that. But I did, and so did many other women who, over the next year (was it longer?) were raped by the same man, a student at a Bible school in Ottawa, who came to KU on the weekends to have his way with women.

He was prosecuted, twice (in Kansas and Nebraska), let out both times, and returned to his criminal impulses until, in 1982, a Nebraska court put him away for 30 years. I never knew the other women victimized at KU, nor how many of them agreed, in 1982, as I did, to go to Nebraska for the trial that finally took him off the streets. So many of us agreed to testify that the case was settled before it went to trial.

I share this to add my voice to many who want colleges and college students to better understand the crime of rape (and differentiate it from poor decisions), to understand the extra burden that falls to victims to report the crime to the police (and stop the rapist), and to understand that ignoring the severity of the crime and its aftermath fuels a culture that still allows this crime to fester.

There is no erasing the aftermath of rape. We must try harder to stop it before another victim lives a life forever clouded by a single, horrible act.

Susan Alderson Hoffmann, c’74  
South Pasadena, California

Issue 2, 2015

# KANSAS ALUMNI

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STEVE PUPPE



When my son, Jack, happened to mention that he and his KU business school classmates had chowed down on fried chicken from a grocery-store deli as they studied in Anschutz Library, I was mortified. Fried chicken in the library? What was he thinking? Clearly I had failed to school him in proper library etiquette.

As I prepared to scold him, I recognized the smirk on his face. Mom was showing her age again. I was the one who needed schooling.

Silly me. As Chris Lazzarino describes in our cover story, gathering with friends over food in the library is now perfectly fine—in fact, it is part of the vibrant atmosphere that draws students to Anschutz in droves. More than half of the 1.5 million annual visits to KU Libraries occur in Anschutz, which attracts 778,000 visitors. Watson, the stately elder edifice that opened in 1924, lags far behind, with 337,000 annual visits.

Both libraries have undergone renovations through the years to create more inviting spaces. Alumni who dreaded getting lost in the stacks wouldn't recognize the Watson of today. But the changes in Anschutz since its opening in 1989—especially the creation of The Learning Studio in 2010—have continued to boost the library's popularity. Although Anschutz still offers quiet corners for studying, The Learning Studio encourages collaboration in open areas, where groups can gather or students can meet with tutors and writing coaches. Coffee, sodas and snacks are

**“The digital revolution is what’s affecting libraries and education, but probably right behind it—and maybe even more in students’ minds—is the economics. Some students have to work as much as they go to school, so they have to be able to use a library space 24/7. Anschutz is a 24/7 learning environment.”**

—Kent Spreckelmeyer


readily available in the iQ Cafe. As the only campus library open 24 hours daily, Anschutz provides vending machines as well as a toaster and microwave ovens for late-night studiers who bring their own provisions.

But The Learning Studio is more than its amenities. Staff members in KU Libraries, Information Technology and Undergraduate Studies who joined forces to create the studio insist that its activities and environment can be vital to student retention and success. They plan to launch new programs that will bring together students, alumni, faculty and staff for workshops on a vast array of topics. And this semester, design students and their professors are exploring ways in which The Learning Studio can continue to adapt to an educational landscape that features more discussions and fewer lectures.

Richard Branham, f'62, g'64, professor of industrial and interaction design, and Kent Spreckelmeyer, a'73, professor of architecture, design and planning, teach a course in which students examine future options for The Learning Studio. Spreckelmeyer says students must consider the impact not only of technology but also of economics.

“The digital revolution is what’s affecting libraries and education, but probably right behind it—and maybe even more in students’ minds—is the economics,” Spreckelmeyer says. “Some students have to work as much as they go to school, so they have to be able to use a library space 24/7. Anschutz is a 24/7 learning environment. Not only is it the fact that people can use a smartphone and get anything they had in a 2 million volume

library, but it's also the fact that education costs so much more, their time is so much more valuable than it used to be, and they depend on different ways of learning that didn't exist a generation ago.”

A generation ago, I ventured into Watson only when I was paid to do so. As a sophomore, I worked in the library Monday through Thursday afternoons in the card catalog department (oops—showing my age again). I could never have envisioned hanging out with friends there—much less feasting on fried chicken. Thankfully, Anschutz signals a transformation. No longer is a library an imposing enclave meant only for solemn, secluded study. For my son and countless other KU students, it is the place to be. 



# On the Boulevard



**“Macro/Micro,”** an exhibition of photographs by Brian Goodman, showcases delicately detailed portraits of some of the 10.2 million animal, plant, fossil and archeological artifacts held by the KU Biodiversity Institute but rarely seen in public galleries. Through May 1 at the Natural History Museum.

## Exhibitions

“World War I & The End of Empires,” Spencer Museum of Art, through spring

“Conversation XIX: Phases: Multinational Works, 1900 to Now,” Spencer Museum of Art, through September

“Nature/Natural,” Spencer Museum of Art, through April 12

“Free Speech in America: The Wilcox Collection at 50,” Spencer Research Library, through April 18

## Lied Center events

### MARCH

**13** West Side Folk presents Connie Dover

**24** Bernadette Peters

**25** Stewart Copeland & Jon Kimura Parker

**31** KU Jazz Ensemble with Steve Wilson, saxophones

### APRIL

**2** Joy of Singing

**10** Wild Kratts—LIVE!

**11** Million Dollar Quartet

**12** Brahms’s Requiem, Lawrence Civic Choir 40th-anniversary concert

**17-18** The Sage of Emporia

**19** Elling Swings Sinatra

**25** Pilobolus Dance Theater

### MAY

**3** KU University Band & Jazz Ensembles II and III

**5** KU Choirs: Bales Chorale, Bates Organ Recital Hall

**5** KU Symphonic Band

**19** The Ugly Duckling & The Tortoise and the Hare

## University Theatre

### APRIL

**10-12, 14-16** “Flora, the Red Menace,” directed by John Staniunas, Inge Theatre

## Murphy Hall events

### MARCH

**28** Percussive Arts Society

### APRIL

**3** Undergraduate Honor Recital

**7** Susanna Phillips, soprano Visiting Artist Series

**9** Lawrence Brownlee, tenor, & Martin Katz, piano, Visiting Artist Series

**14** Eric Ewazen, composer, Visiting Artist Series

**15** Saxophone Quartets



**19** Kansas Virtuosi

**24, 26, 30, May 2** “The Marriage of Figaro,” directed by John Stephens, with University Theatre and KU Symphony Orchestra

**26** Collegium Musicum

**26** Percussion Ensemble

**27** David Schifrin, clarinet, & Borromeo String Quartet, Visiting Artist Series

**29** Tuba Euphonium Consort



**MAY**

- 1** Deborah Brown, vocalist, with KU Jazz Students, Visiting Artist Series
- 2** New Music Guild
- 6** Trombone Choir

**Performances**

**APRIL**

- 28** Jazz Combos I-VI, Lawrence Arts Center

**MAY**

- 7** Jazz Ensemble I & Addison Frei, piano

**Lectures**

**APRIL**

- 7** "The Reagan Enigma: 1964-1980," author Thomas Reed, Director's Series, Dole Institute
- 9** Humanities Lecture Series: James Oakes, Kansas Union
- 10** Humanities Lecture Series Conversation: James Oakes, Hall Center
- 16** An Afternoon with Karl Brooks, Director's Series, Dole Institute

- 21** "The Writing on the Walls: Epigraphy in Medieval Cairo," Franklin D. Murphy Lecture Series, Spencer Museum of Art
- 23** Bob Dotson, j'68, NBC News correspondent, William Allen White Foundation National Citation ceremony and lecture

**Academic Calendar**

**MARCH**

- 16-22** Spring break

**MAY**

- 7** Last day of classes
- 8** Stop day
- 11-15** Finals week
- 17** Commencement

**Alumni events**

**MARCH**

- 11-14** Kansas City: Big 12 men's basketball tournament
- 17** Lawrence: Networking night, Adams Alumni Center
- 18** Houston: Networking breakfast

- 19-22** NCAA men's basketball tournament, second and third rounds
- 24** Greensburg Honor Roll
- 26-29** NCAA men's basketball tournament, Sweet 16 and Elite Eight

**APRIL**

- 1** Chanute: Kansas Honors Program
- 1** Oberlin: Kansas Honors Program
- 2** Logan: Kansas Honors Program
- 4-6** NCAA men's basketball tournament, Final Four, Indianapolis
- 7** Sacramento: KU Night with the Kings
- 8** Dallas: Jayhawks and Java
- 8** Pratt: Kansas Honors Program
- 9-11** Class of 1965 50-Year Reunion, Adams Alumni Center
- 11** Gold Medal Club Reunion
- 11** Denver: Network Spring Skiing in Breckenridge
- 15** Houston: Networking breakfast
- 21** Denver: Networking breakfast
- 25** 20th-annual Rock Chalk Ball, Bartle Hall, Kansas City

**MAY**

- 2** Garden City: Great Plains Golf Tournament
- 9** Black Alumni Network Congratulatory Graduation Banquet
- 15** Hays: Smoky Hill Golf Tournament
- 20** Houston: Networking breakfast
- 29** Salina Steak Out, Wilson Ranch



**For details about Association events, call 800-584-2957 or visit [www.kualumni.org](http://www.kualumni.org).**

Visit [www.briangoodmanphoto.com](http://www.briangoodmanphoto.com) for more information about the photographer and his work.

# Jayhawk Walk

LARRY LEROY PEARSON



## Pees' teas brew business success

**WHEN HE FIRST TASTED** kombucha—a brewed tea rich with tangy effervescence—Elliot Pees was quickly intrigued, both by the taste and, as he was “sort of getting into his own health crusade,” kombucha’s digestion-boosting probiotics.

It was 2009 when he began home brewing the tea, and a year of hard work produced recipes not just for kombucha, but also for life.

“When you’ve identified something that you like and you’ve identified that there’s a need for it, that’s your biggest motivation,” says Pees, f’07, whose KANbucha tea is now sold on tap and in bottles in Lawrence, Kansas City and Manhattan. “But I’ve also identified things about myself that made this successful, and that’s important; it’s a part of self-discovery.”

Pees was encouraged from the start by the Community Mercantile, where staff members sold him ingredients at discount prices and provided access to their shelves.

Demand grew so rapidly in the ensuing five years that Pees, facing a “now or never moment,” last August left his job as a music teacher at Southwest Middle School and is building a North Lawrence manufacturing site, in partnership with Ben Farmer, ’05, owner of

## Domain defenders

**KU**’s newest club team doesn’t fling Frisbees (this ain’t Ultimate) or ride broomsticks (quidditch, smidditch). Their games aren’t even a sport—technically.

The JayHackers, a group of engineering and computer science students, vie in cyberdefense competitions, which pit college teams in a kind of war gaming scenario that requires each to protect a simulated corporate IT system from attacks by a team of “white-hat” hackers, professional penetration testers who make a living probing networks for weakness.

The team won its first match, during the Central Area Networking and Security (CANSEC) workshop at Nichols Hall last fall. The Jayhackers topped four teams in the eight-hour battle; all were scored on how well they protected their networks from fierce hack attacks by the pros.

Tactics are not only technical, but also treacherous: “Social engineering” assaults involve trickery, as when hackers snuck into work areas to swipe passwords when

students left for a group photo. Bo Luo, associate professor of electrical engineering and computer science and a judge at the event, recalled one such gambit at a regional competition, where a member of the red team, as the pros are called, knocked on a student team’s door in a bid to spy valuable information scrawled on their whiteboard.

“They literally tackled the red-team member to the ground,” Luo says. “I heard a big noise, went outside and found two people on the ground. I’m like, ‘What? You’re fighting?’”

“It gets intense,” says team captain Chris Seasholtz, c’14, “so it’s kind of a sport.”

Contact optional.

STEVE PUPPE



Elliot Pees





Hyunjin Seo and Gengjun Li

Alchemy Coffee & Bake House, to expand KANbucha production beyond the limited commercial kitchen space he had been leasing.

How might other young entrepreneurs replicate his success? The secret, Pees insists, is simple.

“Make sure there’s some reception for what you love,” he says, “and I don’t think you can fail.”

## Researchers review reviewers

**AS REGULARLY FEATURED** by Facebook titan George Takei, cheeky product reviews can make for some of the Interweb’s best reading, including brilliant Amazon.com sendups for a banana slicer (“The slicer is curved from left to right. All of my bananas are bent the other way.”), a gallon of milk (“Has anyone else tried pouring this stuff over dry cereal? A-W-E-S-O-M-E!”), and Uranium ore (“I purchased this product 4.47 billion years ago and when I opened it today, it was half empty.”).

Elsewhere, however, fake reviews aren’t so funny, tarnishing online commerce

for both consumers and businesses.

“If credibility and trust are not there,” says Hyunjin Seo, assistant professor of journalism, “it can harm all sides.”

That’s why Seo and Gengjun Li, assistant professor of electrical engineering and computer science, are using a KU strategic initiative grant to analyze and detect fake online reviews. They will study the semantics of millions of reviews collected from stalwart sites such as Amazon, Yelp and TripAdvisor, digging for language clues and contributor habits that might reveal disingenuous dialogue.

They plan to develop algorithms and computational models that online businesses

and social media sites can use to improve online offerings. They also aim to offer computer security and literacy workshops for policymakers and a KU course in “computational journalism.”

But even those of us who lack training in high-speed, automated analytics can still sniff out *some* fake reviews, such as Seth G. Macy’s Amazon endorsement of a “Three Wolf Moon” T-shirt: “I had a two-wolf shirt for a while and I didn’t think life could get any better. I was wrong. Life got 50 percent better, no lie.”

Laughter, it turns out, is still the best detector.

## National treasure

**WHEN 88 WOMEN FROM** around the world gathered in Miami in January to vie for the Miss Universe 2015 title, our loyalties were with Miss Ecuador, Alejandra Argudo, ’14.

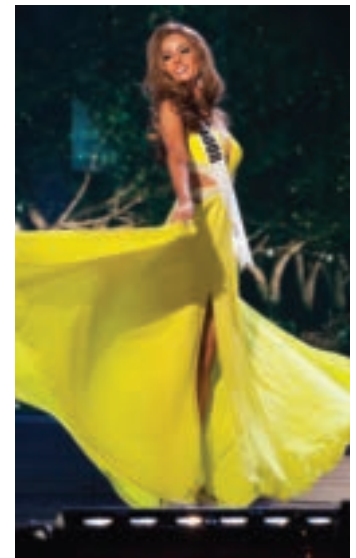
The psychology major qualified for the international competition by earning the Miss Ecuador title in March 2014, after leaving KU early (one semester shy of her degree, which she plans to

finish, reports the University Daily Kansan) to pursue her longtime dream of competing in the pageant.

“I always saw myself on that stage,” Argudo told the Kansan. “I always saw myself saying my name and Ecuador in front of everybody, and I think it’s just amazing that I’m actually having the opportunity to do it.”

The title went to the contestant from neighboring Colombia, but Alejandra represented her tribe with grace and style, proving a real credit to her nation.

Bet Ecuador is proud, too.



Alejandra Argudo

## On a scale of 1 to 2

**I**t’s a big campus, after all, with lots of places to powder one’s nose. Thank heavens for KU Bathroom Reviews, a Twitter account launched by Raleigh Prinster, a Tucson, Arizona, sophomore in pre-sports management. Tweets from Prinster and the roughly 200 followers of @kubathrooms tout the best—and worst—campus spots to heed nature’s call.

**High marks go to pit stops with plenty of**



**elbow room, a quiet vibe and ample supplies.**

**Cleanliness is next to godliness. JRP, Fraser and Wescoe score well, while Strong Hall brings to one reviewer’s mind the Moaning**

**Myrtle scene from Harry Potter.**

**Winner of the prize for Elegant Solution To A Problem We Didn’t**

**Know Existed is the second-floor Snow Hall toilet with the “big window in the corner stall” overlooking Potter Lake.**

**A loo with a view, eh? As in so many matters of taste, how that sits probably depends on where you stand.**

# Hilltopics

STEVE PUPPE



## Smoke out?

### New policy proposal could make Lawrence campus tobacco-free

A policy change now being discussed on the Lawrence campus aims to make KU one of the more than 1,000 universities nationwide that are 100 percent tobacco-free.

Tobacco Free KU, a coalition that includes the human resources department, Watkins Health Services, Recreation Services and the student group BEAK (Breathe Easy at KU), is working to formulate a revised tobacco policy that would replace the University's existing policy.

The existing policy prohibits smoking inside any Lawrence or Edwards campus building and mandates a smoke-free zone within 20 feet of building exteriors. The policy also prohibits smokeless tobacco products such as chewing tobacco and electronic cigarettes in Memorial Stadium, KU Public Management Center in Topeka, and other university sites affiliated with the Lawrence campus.

"We are still in the policy formulation and investigation mode," says Ola Faucher, c'71, g'87, director of human resources. "We're still reaching out to the KU

community and trying to gain that level of endorsement and support that we need from the University community."

A draft policy was written in January, after surveys and town hall meetings provided input from students, faculty and staff. A preliminary draft policy is posted on the Tobacco Free KU website alongside the current smoking policy and a comment form. As currently written, it proposes to extend the current ban on tobacco use inside buildings to all outdoor campus areas.

"It's a draft policy," Faucher says, "not the final policy. We are still in the policy formulation and engagement stage, which involves getting feedback, identifying issues that need to be considered, gaining support and providing education."

Once comments have been gathered and a final draft policy is written, a formal comment period of two to four weeks will be conducted before any final decision is made on a policy change. The final decision, Faucher notes, rests with the provost and the chancellor.

The call for a new policy started as a

"Ultimately we're trying to better the whole institution," senior Ashley Hrabe says of the tobacco-free campus proposal she and Ola Faucher are spearheading. "We're trying to make the institution healthier, greener and more respectful."

student initiative. Ashley Hrabe, a Salina senior in accounting, launched the campaign after serving a freshman-year stint as a representative for the Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition, a nonprofit group that seeks to reduce tobacco use in Kansas.

Hrabe notes the University's 2012 designation as a National Cancer Institute Cancer Center, KU Medical Center's 2006 decision to become a tobacco-free campus, and the University's ongoing embrace of green issues as reasons that she thinks the Lawrence campus is ready to embrace a tobacco ban.

"I reached out to the KU Medical Center and talked to some doctors there, because they are already experiencing this cultural change on their campus," Hrabe says. "Then I started reaching out to students."

A student survey conducted in 2013 showed that 64 percent of respondents favored a stricter campus tobacco policy, and 59.5 percent favored a tobacco-free campus. A survey of faculty and staff, also in 2013, showed similar levels of support: 58.9 percent of respondents favored a stricter tobacco policy, with 58.2 percent supporting a tobacco-free campus.

"When I started, I was like, 'Everyone is going to say no; no one is with me at all,'" Hrabe says. "Then I realized, 'Hey, there is a pretty good crowd here supporting this policy.' As I have continued further on, I feel like the student body is definitely ready for this change."

A decision to adopt a more restrictive tobacco policy would represent a cultural change, Faucher notes. In some ways, that shift has been underway for quite a while.



“When I was in school, a million years ago,” Faucher says, “I would go to meetings and classes, and they would be filled with smoke. The air would be gray. That’s no longer the case. That’s a cultural change.”

Tobacco Free KU will continue seeking input from campus groups and other interested constituencies, including alumni, through the next several months. Implementation of any new policy may be in fall 2016. For more information or to share your views on the existing and draft tobacco policies, visit [tobaccofree.ku.edu/draft-policy](http://tobaccofree.ku.edu/draft-policy).

—Steven Hill

## Extended stay

### Residence halls to remain open through breaks starting this fall

Christmas is traditionally a time when not a creature is stirring on Daisy Hill, as residence halls shut down for a long winter’s nap. Thanksgiving and spring break have always been down times, too.

That will change in fall 2015, when KU Student Housing begins offering extended housing hours that will keep all residence and scholarship halls open for Thanksgiving and spring break. Daisy Hill halls and Oliver Hall will remain open for the entire winter break as well.

The change, says Jennifer Wamelink,

associate director for residence life, is partly a reaction to KU’s effort to attract more international students. Administrators have set a target of raising international student enrollment to 15 percent of the student body.

“The increase in international students has been the driver behind this,” Wamelink says, “but we also know it’s a good service for our out-of-state students and students who want to stay on campus and work, especially those who have campus jobs.”

“The needs of students are changing, I think, from what they used to be.”

Historically, students who lived in residence and scholarship halls that closed over breaks had an option to stay in McCollum Hall. But students had to pay extra to move into an empty room in McCollum.

Under the new policy, stays during Thanksgiving and spring break will be part of the housing contracts students sign at the beginning of the academic year. There’s no special sign-up and no extra charge for anyone who wants to hang in Hashinger instead of partying in Padre.

Students who live on Daisy Hill and in Oliver Hall and want to stay on campus during winter break will need to sign up on the housing department’s website and pay an extra fee.

Wamelink said it will be “business as usual” during summer: The department will still have housing options for summer school students while opening some halls

## Milestones, money and other matters

■ **James Tracy**, a former vice president of research at the University of Kentucky and professor of molecular and cellular biochemistry at UK’s College of Medicine, will



Tracy

become KU’s new vice chancellor of research April 1. Tracy replaces Steve Warren, c’74, g’75, PhD’77, who served in the top research job for seven years before stepping down last May to return to full-time teaching and research. Tracy will also hold an academic appointment with tenure in the School of Pharmacy’s department of pharmacology and toxicology.

■ **The University Daily Kansan** will adopt a “digital first” model that puts more content online while reducing the student newspaper’s print edition to twice-weekly starting this fall. Kansan student leaders say the decision, approved by the Kansan board last year, was based on research of readership preferences of their target audience: millennials who get news via mobile devices and expect interaction through multimedia and social media. Preparing journalism students to enter the media workplace of the future was also a factor.

■ **Ernest Hemingway’s *A Farewell to Arms*** has been selected as the KU Common Book for the 2015-’16 academic year. The Office of First-Year Experience will provide first-year students a copy of the 1929 novel during KU Orientation to read and discuss at Common Book activities and programs throughout the year.



“We’ve seen this coming for a couple of years,” says Jennifer Wamelink of KU Student Housing, noting that many universities now offer extended housing programs. “It’s becoming the new normal.”

## Hilltopics

for camps and conferences.

McCollum will be demolished after construction wraps this summer on the two new halls—Madison A. and Lila Self Hall and Charles W. Oswald Hall—now under construction on Daisy Hill.

“With McCollum closing and the two new halls coming up, there’s a commons building between those two new buildings that is designed to help us centralize some services,” Wamelink says. The fact that students now use their KU ID card to get in and out of buildings also makes it easier to manage access over winter

break, Wamelink says.

Extended access is just part of recent trends that have been changing the University housing landscape for some time, affecting everything from the design and layout of new halls to decisions about whether or not to use trays in campus cafeterias.

“One of the biggest changes is for all of us to be thinking about how we provide service to students when they don’t leave campus and still want and expect to have service when they’re here.”

—Steven Hill

## ADMINISTRATION

### Steeple steps in to guide College through transition

**GEOLOGIST** Don Steeples is the last man in the state of Kansas who would ask taxpayers to fund updated comforts or whiz-bang gadgetry for his campus office, but the interim dean of the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences does have one request in mind.

“I need to get a stamp that says ‘No,’” Steeples says from his home in Palco, northwest of Hays, where he and his wife,

## VISITOR

### PRESIDENT OBAMA

Two days after his State of the Union address, President Barack Obama traveled to Lawrence. The city and KU hosted the first visit by a sitting president since President William Howard Taft in 1911.

**WHEN:** Jan. 22

**WHERE:** Anschutz Sports Pavilion

**BACKGROUND:** More than 7,000 people filled Anschutz to



hear the president. Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little welcomed him, and Alyssa Cole, Garden City senior, introduced him. Cole had written to Obama in 2013, describing her challenges as a single mother and full-time

student. For coverage of the event, visit [kualumni.org/potus](http://kualumni.org/potus).

**ANECDOTE:** Obama met the men’s basketball team before his speech. Coach Bill Self and the players gave him a No. 1 KU jersey.

**QUOTE:** “It seems sometimes like our politics is more divided than ever, that in places like Kansas the only blue stands for KU. Because of those divisions, the pundits ... hold this up as proof that any vision of a more hopeful politics must be naive or misguided.

“But I still believe that we as Americans have more in common than not. And I have seen too much of the good, generous, big-hearted optimism of the American people ... to believe otherwise.”



STEVE PUPPE (3)





Steeples

Tammy, raise wheat on 2,200 acres. “The College is taking a budget hit this fiscal year of over \$900,000 in response to what’s coming out of Topeka, and this late in the fiscal year, that’s a bunch of cash to pull back from people.”

Steeples, McGee Distinguished Professor of Applied Geophysics, retired from teaching and research last summer and says he’s been happily “living the Life of Riley” with “six Saturdays a week.”

That changed March 1, when Steeples stepped into the top job in the College, the largest academic unit on the Lawrence campus with more than 50 departments, programs and centers. He says he agreed for two reasons. First, Provost Jeffrey Vitter promised him the gig would last only six months, “give or take a month.” Second, Steeples says, he couldn’t find a reason to say no.

“It’s a matter of serving the University and serving the people of Kansas,” Steeples says. “That’s really what I’ve been about my whole career—or, at least, intended to be about.”

Steeples is one of the world’s leading experts in near-surface seismology, a field he essentially invented. He previously served the University and state as senior vice provost, chair of geology and deputy

director of Kansas Geological Survey. The experienced administrator and Mount Oread insider says he intends no drastic organizational changes during his short tenure atop the College.

“My plan of action,” he says, “is to keep the trains running on time until they get a new dean in.”

The former dean, Danny Anderson, g’82, PhD’85, in May leaves KU to assume the presidency of Trinity University in San Antonio.

—Chris Lazzarino

## GIVING

### Million dollar donation supports cardiovascular research

**A FORMER FACULTY MEMBER** who is beating a family history of heart disease thanks to coronary bypass surgeries performed at the University of Kansas Hospital has made a \$1 million gift to support research at KU Medical Center’s Cardiovascular Research Institute.

Keith Tennant and his wife, Laurie, both retired faculty in the department of health, sport and exercise science, announced the gift in January.

“We are very grateful for the excellent care Keith received at KU Med from the doctors and nurses,” Laurie Tennant said. “Our money will go toward research so that other lives can be saved, as Keith’s was.”

Now 72, Keith Tennant had a quadruple bypass surgery when he was 46 and a triple bypass in 2010. Heart disease claimed the lives of a number of his male relatives when they were in their late 40s and early 50s.

The Cardiovascular Research Institute connects investigators from KU Medical Center and the University of Kansas Hospital who make discoveries across a wide spectrum of cardiovascular and translational research; it also trains future generations of scientists and physicians.

The Tennants’ gift counts toward *Far Above: The Campaign for Kansas*, KU Endowment’s comprehensive fundraising campaign.

## Milestones, money and other matters

■ **A \$1 million gift** from the Bernard Osher Foundation will benefit KU’s Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. The KU Continuing Education program offers educational courses and activities for lifelong learners 50 and older. The gift will help the institute keep fees low, maintain technology, attract highly qualified instructors and expand programs into communities that lack resources for lifelong learning, according to Jim Peters, assoc., director of the Osher Institute.

■ **KU is among the top 5 U.S. universities** for 2014-’15 Fulbright Scholars, according to The Chronicle of Higher Education. Six faculty members will teach and conduct research overseas during the current academic year: Dave Besson, professor of physics, Russia; Randal Jelks, professor of American studies and African and African-American studies, Czech Republic; Alexander Moise, assistant professor of pharmacology and toxicology, Brazil; Paulette Spencer, Deane E. Ackers distinguished professor of mechanical engineering, Brazil; Patrick Suzeau, professor of dance, Malaysia; and Nina Vyatkina, associate professor of Germanic languages and literatures, Germany.

■ **The President’s Higher Education Community Honor Roll** recognized KU for the eighth consecutive year. The Honor Roll’s Presidential Award is the highest federal recognition for higher education institutions that demonstrate commitment to community, service-learning and civic engagement. KU contributed 980,000 service hours in the 2012-’13 academic year recognized by the 2014 honor roll; 74,000 of those hours occurred through service learning classes, and 98 percent were contributed locally or regionally.

STEVE PUPPE



## 11th heaven

### Hard rockin' 'Hawks keep Big 12 championship streak alive

For those who believe that things happen for a reason, there might have been no better way for the men's basketball team to win the Big 12 Conference championship outright than the 76-69 overtime victory March 4 over West Virginia. The Jayhawks had actually clinched at least a share of their 11th-consecutive league title two nights earlier, when Iowa State rallied to beat Oklahoma, but that wasn't nearly enough.

The Jayhawks wanted it all.

"You never want to share anything," said junior forward Jamari Traylor. "We definitely wanted to finish the night and cut down the nets here."

The Jayhawks did indeed cut down the nets in Allen Field House. And sported blue championship T-shirts and caps, and

saw their Big 12 trophies displayed in a gleaming array on Naismith Court and cheered the team's only senior, guard Christian Garrett, who got to make his speech after all.

Would Self have allowed a Senior Night send-off had the Jayhawks lost? Nobody knows, because that hasn't happened since Self took over 12 seasons ago. It didn't happen under Roy Williams or Larry Brown, either. In fact, KU's last Senior Night loss was in 1983, when "Senior Night" didn't exist.

"We were almost the asterisk," Self conceded, and yet as the Jayhawks—24-6 overall and 13-4 in the conference with a game remaining at Oklahoma as *Kansas Alumni* went to press—looked back on a tumultuous trip since

With Perry Ellis (l) slowed by flu and injury, Jamari Traylor (r) stepped up big when the outright league title was up for grabs against West Virginia. "Jamari was the best player for us, without question," coach Bill Self said afterward. "He looked like the old Jamari. He had energy and he made some great athletic plays."

November, Self's satisfaction with his team's determination outweighed his concerns about its shortcomings.

The young Jayhawks struggled with consistency in almost every area of the game throughout the season, yet consistently found ways to emerge victorious—as was the case against West Virginia.

Junior Perry Ellis, the team's leading scorer and a top contender for Big 12 Player of the Year, was slowed by the flu entering the game then left in the first half with a strained knee. Freshman forward Cliff Alexander, whom Self had finally moved into a starting role for the Feb. 18 game against Texas Tech, had been held out since the Feb. 28 Texas game as the NCAA investigated an unspecified issue that could affect his eligibility.

Struggling without two premier paint players, Kansas trailed by as many as 18 late in the first half, and was still down 8 with two minutes remaining before sending the game into overtime.

"As a coach, when you have good players and you play well, you should win," Self said. "I think it means a little bit more when you can't get anything going and somehow the kids figure out a way to do it. So it was pretty special for me to sit there and watch those guys pull it off. We didn't do anything that I thought looked like a really good basketball team, but still they found a way to do it."

Self's Jayhawks have never lost more than four league games in a season, and three times they won the league crown (2014, 2009 and 2006) with rosters completely changed from the previous season; this year's rotation made do





without the NBA's first and third overall draft selections, 2014 freshman sensations Andrew Wiggins and Joel Embiid.

"Faces change but expectations don't," Self said. "That's a reflection of our players, the mindset and the culture. They showed toughness to do it this year, they really did. Probably as much as any team we've ever had."

Said sophomore point guard Frank Mason III, "Keep believing. Keep fighting." Referencing the NCAA title thriller against Memphis, he continued, "The 2008 team was down 9 with two minutes left and they came back. Just know it's possible. Just keep believing."

## Glory days

### Assistants Kane, Jackson link football to recent successes

When incoming coach David Beaty announced that former all-conference linebacker Kevin Kane had left a successful run at Northern Illinois to return as linebackers coach, he made almost no reference to Kane's history as one of the key elements in the program's revival under coach Mark Mangino.

"I always admired Kevin as a player," Beaty said Jan. 6, "but I am even more

*"We've won here in the past and it's going to happen again. Is this personal? Yes."*

—linebackers coach Kevin Kane

impressed with his ability to teach and develop young players."

Yet make no mistake: Kane's connection to KU football's not-so-long-ago glory days is not lost on Beaty, Mangino's wide receivers coach in 2008 and '09. As with Clint Bowen, d'96, Beaty's assistant head coach and defensive coordinator, and strength and conditioning director Je'Ney Jackson, Kane, c'06, is a link to bowl-game banners lining Mrkoncic Auditorium.

In eight seasons at KU, from 2002 to '09, Mangino was 50-48; Turner Gill and Charlie Weis were a combined 11-41 in four seasons plus four games. Neither, of course, so much as sniffed a bowl game, while Mangino's Jayhawks reached their first in his second season, then won three in four seasons, including the Orange Bowl that capped the 12-1 2007 season.

"This is the place where a lot of blood, sweat and tears went into building this thing to where it was, and obviously where it is now is not where I left it," Kane says. "It's a personal thing for me here."

Kane, who played for coach Tony Severino at Kansas City's Rockhurst High, was the final commitment of Mangino's first recruiting class. He weighed just 205 pounds, yet Severino assured Mangino that "this guy's a football player."

Filling out to 230 pounds, Kane (who is now back to 205) became a two-year starter. Linebackers such as Big 12 Defensive Player of the Year Nick Reid, c'15; Banks Floodman, c'06, g'08, g'12; Mike Rivera c'09; and Joe Mortensen, '12,

might have been flashier athletes, but none were tougher than Kane. He was twice named honorable mention All-Big 12, won the Nolan Cromwell Award for Leadership following his junior season, and the Don Fambrough Award, given to KU's most unselfish player, after his senior year.

When Kane was a freshman, KU went 2-10. The Jayhawks were 6-7 in 2003, and ended a bowl drought with an invitation to the Tangerine Bowl in Orlando, Florida. KU regressed to 4-7 in 2004 yet closed that season with a 31-14 victory at Missouri—a game Kane recalls as one of his two favorite memories from his playing days. The other came the following year, when Scott Webb, d'08, hit a field goal to give

KU an overtime victory over Iowa State, making KU bowl eligible for the second time in three years.

Kane, a three-time Academic All-Big 12 honoree, stayed on for two seasons as a graduate defensive assistant, concluding his six-year run with KU's 24-21 victory over Virginia Tech in the Orange Bowl.

"My first year here we were 2-10; my last year here we won the Orange

Bowl," he says. "We've won here in the past and it's going to happen again. Is this personal? Yes. My linebackers are going to know what I think of them and what I expect of them, how things *were* done here and how they are *going* to be done here."

Kane spent three seasons as a graduate assistant and quality-control assistant coach at Wisconsin, followed by a four-year run at Northern Illinois, most recently as linebackers coach and special

JEFF JACOBSEN



Kane

## Sports

JEFF JACOBSEN



Jackson

teams coordinator. In his 13 seasons as player and coach, Kane's teams have hung banners from 10 bowl games.

"He will bring an energy and toughness to our team," Beatty says, "that we will all benefit from."

Jackson spent six years as a strength and conditioning assistant at Wyoming, his alma mater, then came to KU and worked for Chris Dawson, the football fitness guru who was helping Mangino change the culture of Kansas football. Kane rightly calls Jackson a "Chris Dawson descendant," yet his career is a bit more complex than that.

Jackson stepped away from the fitness focus for four seasons, coaching cornerbacks at KU and Southern Mississippi, then in 2010 jumped back in as strength coach for Indiana basketball—a wrinkle that he says gives him an advantage.

After training 7-footers for the strength, speed and mobility to bend their knees

and get low in the midst of fast action, he doesn't expect many football players will object to his training philosophies.

Like Kane, Jackson isn't shy to invoke his first KU stint when discussing his intention to help Beatty turn KU football around.

"One of the things that we have to do here is get the players to understand the history of this program," Jackson says. "There's a history here before the last five years, obviously, so we've got to get them to understand that it *is* possible. If they see it, if they can visualize it, we can do it.

"Just like those kids from the year we won the Orange Bowl, no one saw that coming. We saw us being really, really good, then as we continued to win, we're like, why not? Our team believed that. It's up to us to get the guys who are here now and the guys who are coming in to believe the same thing."

And, one day, to hang some bowl banners of their own.

## UPDATES

Softball rocketed to a 17-1 start, the best in program history. Senior right-hander

**Alicia Pille** opened the season 9-0, including a no-hitter Feb. 8 against Penn State and a one-hit shutout of North Florida Feb. 27. "She had a great game, the best I've seen her throw all year," sixth-year coach **Megan Smith** said after

KU's 1-0 victory over North Florida. Pille on Feb. 24 was named Big 12 Pitcher of the Week after winning three games at the University of Florida's Aquafina Invitational. Junior outfielder **Briana Evans**

on March 3 was named Big 12 Player of the Week after batting .600, with four runs scored, in the 25th-ranked Jayhawks' sweep of the UNF Tournament in Jacksonville, Florida. ...



JEFF JACOBSEN

Pille

Women's basketball closed the regular season 15-16 overall and 6-12 in the Big 12, yet went on a tear late by winning at Oklahoma Feb. 28, 65-58, followed by a Senior Night victory March 2 over Iowa State, 68-64. In her final game in Allen Field House, senior forward **Chelsea Gardner**, a two-time All-Big 12 First Team honoree, scored 25

points with 12 rebounds against the Cyclones. ...

Junior **Chelsie Miller** won three silver medals and **Yulduz Kuchkarova** took two to help swimming and diving to a third-place finish at the Big 12 meet in Austin, Texas. Miller lowered her KU records in the 200- and 400-yard individual medleys and 200-yard backstroke at the meet. ...

The April 15-18 Kansas Relays at Rock Chalk Park will feature a four-team collegiate quadrangular, pitting KU against Kansas State, Colorado State and Purdue. "We think this will be a great way to generate more interest around our area, a way for fans to come and see Kansas athletes going head-to-head against other

great programs for a team title," says meet director **Milan Donley**. The scored quadrangular will be run in conjunction with an "open college" meet and high school events. ... Seniors **Joe Luvisi** (baseball) and **Maria Belen Luduena** (tennis) and junior **Tessa Scott** (rowing) were named recipients of Big 12's Dr. Gerald Lage Academic Achievement Award, recognizing athletes with at least a 3.80 GPA at the time of their nomination. ... Launched by doubles victories by freshmen **Summer Collins** and **Alexis Czapski** and junior **Maria Jose Cardona** and Luduena, the tennis team beat Iowa 4-1 March 2 at the Jayhawk Tennis Center.





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I am  
Bill Self,  
*and* I am a  
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“If you know someone who had a great experience at KU—  
if KU changed their life—why wouldn’t they want to be a  
part of something bigger that makes our entire university  
stronger? That something is the KU Alumni Association.”

**I challenge each of you** to recruit  
another Jayhawk to join the KU Alumni Association.  
*There’s strength in numbers!*

—Coach Bill Self, Proud Life Member



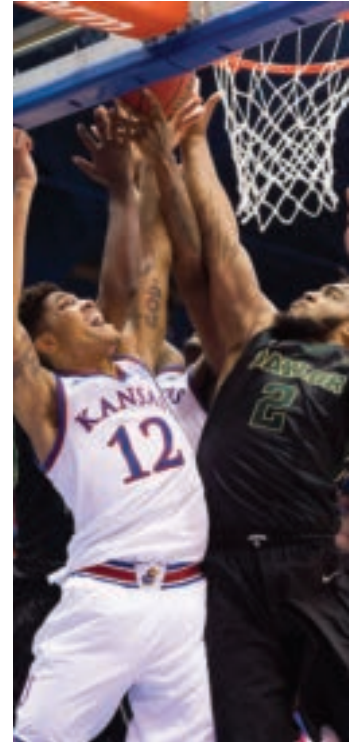
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# Sports Photographs by Steve Puppe



Nick Collison, Joel Embiid, Greg Ostertag and Scot Pollard were among the alumni and future alumni who cheered on Landen Lucas (33), Kelly Oubre Jr. (12), Frank Mason III (0), coach Bill Self and the rest of the Jayhawks during another hot hoops February in Allen Field House.







# Really Wailing Tonight

**By Chris Lazzarino**

Photographs by Steve Puppe



**T**he foul mood that enveloped Mount Oread the night of March 23, 1957, mirrored the foul weather. A month's rain fell in two days, and the Midwest's worst spring blizzard in 30 years roared from northwest Kansas to Chicago, producing 15-foot prairie drifts that stopped trains in their tracks.

Inside the Kansas Union Ballroom, students were dry but in no tenor to dance. They had gathered earlier in the evening for a TV watch party to cheer on the men's basketball team in its 9 p.m. NCAA Tournament title game against North Carolina in Kansas City's Memorial Auditorium, then stay for the victory rally.

The thrilling season electrified Lawrence with a festive intensity unseen since KU won its first NCAA championship in 1952. That team had been welcomed home from Seattle with a late-night downtown reception later described by Lawrence Journal-World sports columnist Bill Mayer, '49, as "the biggest celebration of its kind up to then."

"But some felt the '57 uproar would be even greater," Mayer recalled in the Journal-World in 2007, "if the Jayhawks could bring home another title trophy."

Just two days earlier, students and fans had gathered on a Thursday afternoon for a send-off rally followed by a 150-car parade that meandered along Jayhawk Boulevard from the Kansas Union to the west side of the Hill, pausing at Carruth-O'Leary Residence Hall just long enough to allow sophomore center Wilt Chamberlain to drop off his car, which he'd driven to the Union, and join his teammates on the KU bus. From there the parade ambled to Ninth Street, Massachusetts Street, and over the river to the turnpike interchange.

The next evening, Chamberlain and the 'Hawks, led by first-year coach Dick Harp, '41, dispatched the San Francisco Dons, two-time defending NCAA champions, 80-56. At 31-0, the undefeated Tar Heels, who beat Michigan State in their semifinal,

**Long part of KU hoops lore, Louis Armstrong's impromptu midnight concert, which warmed Jayhawk hearts after triple-overtime NCAA loss, finally gets first encore performance**

had been ranked No. 1 since the seventh week of the season; regardless, the second-ranked Jayhawks were a three-point favorite.

"K.U. in Dream Clash With Tar Heel Quint," raved a Journal-World headline, and, years later, sportswriter Frank DeFord called it "the defining game of the NCAA Tournament."

Even now, 58 years later, what happened that rainy night in Kansas City remains among the most painful events in KU athletics history: North Carolina 54, Kansas 53. In triple overtime. Chamberlain, the tournament MVP, left KU after

the following season, with a year of eligibility remaining, and when he finally returned to campus in 1998 for his first public appearance in Lawrence since 1958, Chamberlain, '59, told the Allen Field House crowd that his long sojourn was due to one thing and one thing only:

"A little over 40 years ago," he said, his voice cracking, "I lost what I thought was the toughest battle in sports in losing to the North Carolina Tar Heels by one point in triple overtime. It was a devastating thing for me because I felt as though I let the University of Kansas down and my teammates down."

That devastation was still raw and new as students sorted through emotions while gathering for a team homecoming rally.

"People milled uncertainly around the ballroom," the Journal-World reported two days later, "most of them wearing deadpan expressions to hide their disappointment in the team's loss."

But a surprise awaited, and soon spirits soared.

There to greet the students was none other than the great Louis Armstrong.



That Louis Armstrong played on campus the night of KU's triple-overtime loss to North Carolina is a charming touch of trivia well known among Kansas basketball fans. But details have long been fuzzy. Were Armstrong and his band really on campus specifically for the dance, or did they push a long-scheduled concert to later in the night to avoid a conflict with the basketball game? Did Satchmo *really* play "When the Saints Go Marching In" when the basketball team arrived?

Questions swirled because no artifacts survived: no photographs in the public record and, heartbreakingly, no recording.

Until now.

"I'd like to say," Satchmo tells the 3,000 dancers before launching into "12th Street Rag," "y'all really wailing tonight!"

"Go Satchmo!" somebody yells. A chorus of cheers rises. "Get 'em, Louie!"

This we know thanks to Don Potts, c'57, m'62, a retired Independence, Missouri, physician and University of Missouri-Kansas City associate professor emeritus. He recorded the rally as a remote engineer for KU's public radio station, KANU—and saved the tape.

When Potts, a longtime supporter of Kansas City jazz, mentioned its existence a couple of years ago to pianist Paul Smith, Smith asked to hear it. Enamored, he set about preserving the recording.

Smith researched Armstrong's band as it had been assembled in spring 1957 and came up with a list of players: Trummy Young on trombone, Edmond Hall on clarinet, Billy Kyle at the piano, Squire Gersh on bass, Barrett Deems on drums.

Smith and Jeff Schiller of SoundTrek and Studio B Audio mastered a CD, which Potts and his wife, Barbara, a former two-term mayor of Independence, shared with their friend David Basse, a Kansas City jazz vocalist and drummer and, since 2001, host of Kansas Public Radio's Saturday jazz show, "The Jazz Scene."

Basse recognized the recording's historical significance, not only for jazz lovers but also for the many KU basketball fans who listen to his show. He brought Potts to campus in February for an interview, and will air the CD March 28.

Potts' recording preserves the evening's second set: five up-tempo jazz standards plus Armstrong's priceless performance of "The Star-Spangled Banner" and, yes, "When the Saints Go Marching In," which is overwhelmed in the recording by fans cheering the team's arrival.

For Basse, though, the true gem is Potts' sweetly naive, on-the-fly interview with Armstrong, who plays along as graciously as if he were an up-and-comer hustling for publicity rather than a national treasure and sublime titan of the quintessential American art form.

"Folks, this is Satchmo here, wailin' out to the college," Armstrong says at the start of the six-minute interview, conducted by Potts in a balcony room where the band was on break between sets, "and the folks are havin' a nice time."

Don Potts, a part-time student employee of KANU, was not scheduled to interview Armstrong. That honor had been planned for sociology professor Carroll Clark, an aficionado who went on to host his own jazz show on KANU. But, for reasons still unknown, Clark never showed.

Potts built his first FM radio when he was 14—growing up in Queens, New York, just blocks from Louis Armstrong's home—so

he could listen to classical music, a taste his parents did not share. His electronics skills became so good that when he was drafted during the Korean War, the U.S. Army assigned Potts to its Counter Intelligence Corps. Potts maintained walkie-talkies, planted hidden microphones and other listening devices, went on stakeouts, and even trailed a suspected foreign agent on a bus trip from Leavenworth to New York City.

By the time he arrived at KU and supplemented his G.I. Bill funds with part-time work as a KANU engineer, Potts was an audio technology expert. Nothing about his duties that night caused him concern: He simply lowered a Shure crystal microphone from the balcony railing, plugged it into his personal 7-inch reel-to-reel Pentron tape recorder, and waited for the night to unfold.

Clark's no-show changed everything, and suddenly Potts found himself trying to interview a legend.

"I said, 'I don't think Dr. Clark is coming. Would you mind if I interviewed you?' So I did this stupid little interview. It was pretty bad. But I wanted to do it."

Potts opens by asking Armstrong what he thought of the game.

"I enjoyed it," Satchmo replies. "On the edge. Just like anybody else, biting



## How to hear Satchmo

**David Basse will air the CD and his Don Potts interview during the 1 to 4 p.m. March 28 broadcast of KPR's "The Jazz Scene." Basse plans to present a two-hour history of jazz leading up to 1957, then dedicate the final hour, from 3 to 4 p.m., to the first public airing of Armstrong's late-night performance at the Ballroom rally.**

**Basse anticipates that Bob McWilliams, c'77, will play the CD sometime the following week on his KPR jazz show, "Jazz in the Night." Basse's show will be archived at [kpr.ku.edu](http://kpr.ku.edu), where the show can also be heard live online.**

—C.L.





Jazz singer and radio host David Basse (l) interviews Don Potts Feb. 20 in a Kansas Public Radio recording studio. Basse, who grew up in Nebraska, chose to make Kansas City his home in the early days of his career as a touring musician with a band based in Nashville, Tennessee. “Over the course of traveling around, some musicians told me that I should come to Kansas City because of the kind of music that I liked. I didn’t really know that I liked jazz. I didn’t really know that I liked blues. I didn’t really know much.” Along with his Saturday afternoon KPR staple “The Jazz Scene,” Basse launched a syndicated show, “Jazz Alive Overnight,” and is a featured performer on the nationally broadcast radio show “12th Street Jump.”

my nails. I thought they shoulda had it, man.”

And Chamberlain?

“He really wailed. He had his moments. The whole club, they working. It’s just one of them things, man.”

“You’ll probably notice from the tone of my voice,” Potts told Basse, “that I was pretty scared.”

But then Potts begins to settle in. When he perceptively asks Armstrong about playing “small, one-stop stuff” like the KU gig, Armstrong replies, “It’s everyday life for us. That’s our life. A lot of them cats that don’t play one-nighters, they lazy, I think. They lay around New York and get rusty and then they don’t play the horns anymore, you know? Man want to blow his

horn, he don’t care where it is, you know?”

After a hilarious interlude in which Potts inquires about the salve Armstrong is applying to his lips, an awkward pause finally ends with Potts circling back to the basketball game. He asks Satchmo whether he’s ever met “Old Wilt,” and Armstrong says he hasn’t but is looking forward to it.

“I’m supposed to have a picture made with him,” Armstrong says.

Potts asks permission to record the band’s second set, and Pops gives his OK with, “I think it’s great.”

It’s 1:30 a.m. at this point, and Armstrong shows that his legendary good humor and pleasant demeanor are not put-ons for his public image. He refers to this student engineer turned celebrity

interviewer as “Papa D,” and offers up a spectacular anecdote about the time he was forced to wear swim trunks when he took the court for a basketball game between two Chicago bands.

The room fills with giddy, exhausted laughter.

“Oh well, shoot, gee whiz,” Potts says, still chuckling. “Well, it’s been wonderful, by golly. I hope to be listening to you the next 60 or 70 years.”

“Easy, easy,” comes Satchmo’s reply.

“It’s been wonderful.”

“With Swiss Kriss you can’t miss.”

Unaware of Satchmo’s devotion to a particular brand of herbal laxative, the confused Potts musters, “Hmm?”

“I said,” Armstrong replies, “it’s plausible



Retired physician Don Potts, here striking his radio broadcasting pose in KPR's live performance studio, volunteered in New Orleans after 2005's Hurricane Katrina and in Haiti after the 2010 earthquakes. His wife, Barbara, the first woman mayor of Independence, Missouri, founded a homeless shelter and helped form the Truman Heartland Community Foundation.

that you can do those things.”

Plausible indeed. True to Potts' wish, 58 years later he's still listening to Armstrong. And now, for the very first time—at least in this context—so are the rest of us.

**S**o how was it that Louis Armstrong played the welcome-home rally for KU's basketball team?

He was, in fact, already on campus that evening, for a long-planned Student Union Activities concert in Hoch Auditorium. According to KUHISTORY.COM, Frank Burge, then in the early years of his long career as director of the Kansas Union, moved swiftly after the Hoch concert to convince Armstrong to stay and play the dance in the Ballroom. Without Satchmo,

he feared, the gloom would be unbearable; according to legend, Burge sweetened the request with a promise that he'd meet Chamberlain, along with a delivery of what Burge later conceded was “some premium bourbon” from his private stock.

“It was one of the greatest evenings I've ever seen,” Burge told the *Journal-World's* Mayer after Armstrong's death in 1971. “He had the great ability to motivate youth over their temporary sadness. He had everyone dancing again.”

Despite the late hour and a long night of performing, Armstrong and his band played with high energy in the rally's second set. Applause, cheers and general background hubbub rise in intensity over the course of the songs Potts recorded.

“The music,” Basse commented to Potts, “changed everything.”

Armstrong closes the set by singing his trademark tune, “When It's Sleepy Time Down South,” then segues into a request: “Everybody stand for the National Anthem, folks.”

It is about 2:20 a.m. when the band kicks up “When the Saints Go Marching In.” A few bars in, revelers apparently see players enter and a roar thunders over the music.

Though not captured on the recording, newspaper accounts reported that Armstrong told the Jayhawks, “You got beat, boys, but I want to say you really played over there tonight.”

When coach Harp is asked to speak for the team, he doesn't hide his dejection.

“I'm not sure, after seeing all of you here, that perhaps we've been in the wrong place this evening,” he says. “It's been a rather long evening, and it's rather hard to know what to say.”

After Harp comes Chancellor Franklin Murphy, c'36, who says, “This university has never been represented by a finer group of boys than stand behind me tonight. But above everything else, standing behind these boys, and with them, are the traditions of this university that people like you make.”

Basse is looking forward to hand-delivering a copy of the CD to the Louis Armstrong House Museum when he leads a jazz tour group to New York City in July.

“I think it's really important. It's a cool thing,” Basse says. “At least it's important to KU, and I think it'll live on.”

“Team lost. Bad night. But good jazz. And good history.”

**“I'd like to say, y'all really wailing tonight!”**

**—Louis Armstrong,  
performing at the Kansas Union  
March 23, 1957**

Potts' recording ends after Murphy thanks the bandleader—“Mr. Armstrong, we're grateful that you made this evening what it has been”—so we are left only with the *Kansas City Times'* account to know what came next:

“The rally broke up about 2:35 o'clock with the Rock Chalk cheer,” the *Times* reported. “Students slowly left the Union and walked out into the pouring rain, which only added to the somber atmosphere on campus.”

On a wet, cold, sad night, there was one place to shake the blues. Satchmo made it so.



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# Turn the Page

Anschutz Library's  
'Learning Studio' transforms  
a touchstone of campus life







**T**ara Hotchkiss makes her way on a sunny February afternoon to her favored nook in Anschutz Library and finds a comfy chair positioned to enjoy a lovely view from the fourth-floor David Beaham Reading Room. As is her regular routine, the sophomore from Fort Lauderdale, Florida, pulls out a small stack of notes and her laptop computer and burrows into another productive study session.

Not so long ago, certain elements of her routine would have been unusual, unlikely or even impossible: the laptop and earbuds, for starters, and certainly a smartphone tucked into a coat pocket or backpack, ready to access the Internet on Anschutz's Wi-Fi network. The technological gizmos at her disposal are ubiquitous now, to be sure, but those of us who can remember, say, a campus without a library behind Hoch Auditorium—sorry, Budig Hall—didn't use them as students. Our high-tech flourishes were pretty much limited to pocket calculators and portable cassette players.

The glass-walled space in which Hotchkiss situates her afternoon's work is attractive and airy, the furniture sleek and modern, with stylish little swing-arm work trays affixed to soft, overstuffed chairs and small sofas; behind her, a quote from Rudyard Kipling's "If—" is etched into opaque glass.

**by Chris Lazzarino**

Photographs by Steve Puppe



CHRIS LAZZARINO

It's probably fair that few of us of a certain age would recall many aspects of our library experiences as airy, stylish or comfy, right?

Yet within the dynamic campus hub that is now Anschutz Library—despite the common campus lingo, “Anschutz Science Library” was never its actual name, and the moniker is even less appropriate now—Hotchkiss is, in a sense, going retro.

That's because, unlike the rest of the library's third and fourth floors, collectively known as The Learning Studio, the Beaham Reading Room is, above all else, quiet. It is designed and maintained as a silent space for individual study, and that's exactly why Hotchkiss likes it so much.

“Everyone respects the need to be quiet here,” she explains, barely audibly. Gesturing to her view of campus between Wescoe and Malott halls and even the flags atop Fraser, Hotchkiss continues, “It's a nice, open space. And ...”

She smiles now, pleasantly. “... it's quiet.”

OK, hint received. No more interruptions. But she needs not say anything more to prove that if it's quiet she seeks, she found the right place, because beyond those glass walls it's anything but.

Welcome to the 21st-century library.

**T**he first evidence that this isn't a monkish library of yesteryear is visible as soon as you pass through Anschutz Library's third-floor entrance. Lining the window sills are a succession of big, beautiful potted plants, lovingly tended and watered by library staff and student employees.

“I think it's a cue that this is a casual space,” says Erin Ellis, g'13, KU Libraries'



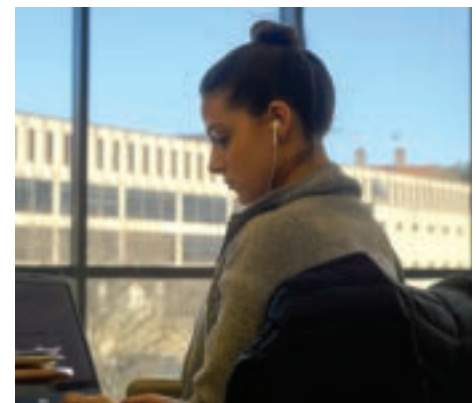
Students Lauren Haag (above) and Tara Hotchkiss find peace, quiet and Kipling (left) in the Beaham Reading Room.

assistant dean for research and learning. “We certainly wanted to capitalize on the lovely light we get in Anschutz in a way that makes it feel like a comfortable environment for students, where they are going to feel cozy, a little bit at home.”

To the left is iQ Cafe, serving coffee, sodas, bottled water, sandwiches and snacks. Nearby are microwave ovens and even a toaster. For all-night study sessions when the cafe is closed, huge vending machines stand at the ready.

Those can be found next to the relaxed retreat known as “TANschutz,” where soft chairs face a wall of high windows. There, too, are more plants, giving the area something of a greenhouse vibe.

Stretching the length of the south side of the third floor is a massive common space, filled with big tables and computer work stations in carrels fashioned with modern partitions and chairs. A high-ceilinged



CHRIS LAZZARINO

atrium soars above the common area, with student artwork lining the south wall.

At almost any time day or night, the place is packed with students, and a hum of activity enlivens the air.

“It's a vibrant, dynamic environment,” Ellis says. “It's a place where they can meet up with friends. It's a place where they can study. It's a place where they can do group work. It's all of those things.”

“For my parents, the library was not that place. The library was where you hunkered down to dig in for hours of study on your own. We certainly see that still, and there's a demand for that kind of space, but that



concept is just not anything that they're actually seeing in any kind of library anymore."

Prior to its opening in 1989, the honor of naming the \$13.9 million library was granted to Denver entrepreneur Philip Anschutz, b'61, and his wife, Nancy, thanks to their pledge of \$6.5 million for a permanent endowed library acquisitions fund. They chose Marian and Fred Anschutz Library, in honor of his parents.

The building became known as the "science library" for its role in housing mountains of books, documents and maps from across the physical and social sciences and engineering, leaving Watson Library to its traditional role serving the humanities.

Although centrally located on prime campus real estate, Anschutz in its early years was not much of an undergraduate hotspot. "Hey, gang, let's meet up later down at the science library!"

Yeah, not so much.

That perhaps began to change after

Hoch Auditorium burned, in 1991. When Budig Hall arose in its place, in 1997, its three lecture halls, with seating for 2,000 students, and a huge computer lab attracted more students than ever, and traffic continued to increase when The Underground food court and convenience store opened next door in the basement of Wescoe Hall.

By 2009, KU Libraries began considering how best to modernize Anschutz. With the digital revolution beginning its assault on the old ways of librarianship and foot traffic in the area at an all-time high, they began sketching plans for what came to be known as The Learning Studio, launched in 2010.

Assistant Dean Erin Ellis (r) knows that iQ Cafe (below) is a key element of Anschutz Library's Learning Studio transformation. In complete agreement are cafe patron Alice Wambua and baristas McKale Wiley (l) and Lane Blessum.





Open spaces encouraged group study and a coffee stand negated the hushed atmosphere. The fourth floor welcomed The Writer's Roost, where students receive one-on-one instruction and tips. Library users applauded glass-walled group study and tutoring rooms as instant hits, and educational technology in its growing variety permeated the reconsidered and renovated environment.

Students noticed.

Even though KU Libraries instituted the "Ask A Librarian" service for online chat, text, email and phone queries, face-to-face visits to the Anschutz service desk doubled since 2009. In 2004, Anschutz had 605,708 visitors, or the equivalent of each student visiting the library 21 times over the course of the year; 10 years later, those numbers had risen nearly 25 percent.

Each year the KU Libraries system logs about 1.5 million visits; more than half, 778,000, are now in Anschutz, with Watson Library, the traditional epicenter, logging about 337,000.

"Libraries are no longer just places to check out books and do quiet study," says Easan Selvan, c'08, chief of staff for KU Information Technology, which, along with Undergraduate Studies, is a KU Libraries partner in development of The Learning Studio. "They are literally hubs of

information and social interaction that, I believe, enhance the learning experience dramatically."

Lucy Sankey Russell, assistant vice provost for Undergraduate Studies, sees The Learning Studio's fourth-floor amenities as particularly valuable. The Writer's Roost nests at the top of the stairs, and, although its space is cordoned off, there are no walls; instruction happens right out in the open for all to see. The group study rooms, with bright orange dry boards and technological enhancements, are booked 24 hours a day, either for students to discuss coursework or meet with tutors.

While some of the services might not have changed all that much from their previous incarnations, they are now centrally located and no longer mysterious or imposing. With students able to see the process in action, tutoring and writing-skills coaching shed the tarnish of remedial instruction.

"Before, so much of it happened behind closed doors in various classrooms across campus; now it's a much more visible process," Russell says. "When I went to college, there was no cafe on the main floor of the student library, you know? That sort of change is part of the deliberate plan for The Learning Studio to become a

**"Libraries are no longer just places to check out books and do quiet study. They are literally hubs of information and social interaction that, I believe, enhance the learning experience dramatically."** —Easan Selvan

hub, to make that kind of interaction welcome, to make it a comfortable place where people want to spend time."

It's not an accident that after first gathering in the Kansas Union for new-student orientation, incoming freshmen are now directed to the fourth floor of Anschutz Library to register for classes.

"They immediately get introduced to The Learning Studio," Russell says. "They get a sense right away that this is an important place where they are going to be spending time."

On a recent afternoon, while students craving quiet stationed themselves at carrels and tables throughout Anschutz's first and second floors and the Beaham Reading Room, the third and fourth floors



TANschutz and the relaxed, airy common space are popular third-floor features. When they reach the fourth floor from the library's sun-splashed stairway, Alekhya Dwibhashyam (l-r), George Savvides and Anirudh Tadeppally will find The Writer's Roost (below), the Beaham Reading Room, study rooms and computer work stations.

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were buzzing, appearing perhaps more like a residence hall lobby or even the old Hawk's Nest in the Kansas Union than traditional images of a library.

With students wearing earbuds or headphones, laptop computer screens played videos—probably a TV show or two on Hulu, sure, but just as likely YouTube videos posted by faculty members eager for students to hear the content of a lecture before arriving for classroom discussion. At a table shared by two sorority sisters, a spread of open notebooks and loose papers shared the tabletop space with an open Domino's pizza box. The line at iQ Cafe was three deep, with others circling the counter while considering their options.

None of the hundreds of students filling both floors talked loudly, but neither were they whispering or hushing their neighbors.

"Students in droves use that space. All kinds of students are there all the time," Erin Ellis says. "And it is a thing to behold as we approach Spring Break and finals week; it is ever-so-slightly contained insanity. People will literally live there for a few days. They will bring a sleeping bag and find a corner.





Kate Wang (left, l-r), Heba Alhadyian and Jay Livingston prepare in a glass-walled fourth-floor study room for their research presentation (below) in the design course led by Richard Branham (above, l-r) and Kent Spreckelmeyer.

“It’s an interesting space, but students are studying. They are getting their work done. And it’s just really kind of remarkable.”

This semester, the group study room adjacent to the Writing Center has been taken over by graduate design students enrolled in a course that meets in The Learning Studio to study The Learning Studio itself.

Led by Kent Spreckelmeyer, a’73, professor of architecture, design and planning, and Richard Branham, f’62, g’64, professor of industrial and interaction design, the course allows students an opportunity to closely examine their own turf—unlike Spreckelmeyer and Branham’s past collaborations, many of which directed students to focus on changes in health care environments.

“We’ve been doing this now for 30 years, and 30 years ago the family practice exam room and the emergency room were radically different than they are now, and that’s affected the way medicine is practiced,” Spreckelmeyer says. “It’s the same thing now with the libraries. Very simply put, 10 years ago, Anschutz was full of books, and those were rapidly being moved out. Now students are not looking



at books; they’re looking at computer screens, they’re talking to other students, they’re doing collaborative forms of classwork, and the way in which they treat the library is completely different.

“It’s basically taking what used to be a library and turning it into this new way of learning, this new way of getting information and dealing with each other.”

Along with his collaborations with Spreckelmeyer, Branham has spent much of his career helping the School of Education consider how environments and spaces affect learning. While it is widely agreed that traditional classroom

structures—with students lined up at their desks and dutifully taking notes while a professor at the front of the room delivers a lecture—are outdated, Branham has also come to the conclusion that technology-reliant remote learning isn’t the answer, either. The best solution, he says, is a blend of the two, now called the “flipped classroom.”

Faculty post lectures and lesson plans to online sites such as YouTube and Blackboard; by the time students get to class, they are ready to discuss the material with the expert and among themselves.

Anschutz’s Learning Studio, Branham



notes, offers an opportunity to devise, test and perfect learning methods that can then be applied across campus.

“It’s the idea of collaboration. What are the collaborative ways to use spaces? It’s going to evolve, and one thing a lot of people don’t realize is that learning is socially mediated. You have to understand the social part of this.”

Over its initial half-decade, The Learning Studio underwent important evolutions derived from student feedback: KU Libraries, for instance, delineated zones that offer students the choice of varying levels of noise and interaction. Despite its obvious successes, however, The Learning Studio has yet to take the next important step in its progression.

That begins in April, when Sofia Leung, currently a research services librarian at Seattle University, begins her job here as Learning Studio coordinator. Leung sees Anschutz as “this great starting point” that is “well positioned to do something really cool.”

She hopes to create a variety of programs, such as workshops that would let faculty, staff, alumni and students discuss careers and courses of study that other students might never have heard of or considered.

“I want students to encounter unexpected experiences,” Leung says, “where they come in expecting one thing and instead they’re learning something that’s totally new and different to them.”

The Learning Studio and programs it soon will offer, Leung says, can help nudge the campus community toward meeting Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little’s goals of improved student retention and

**“Very simply put, 10 years ago, Anschutz was full of books, and those were rapidly being moved out. Now students are not looking at books; they’re looking at computer screens, they’re talking to other students, they’re doing collaborative forms of classwork, and the way in which they treat the library is completely different.”**—Kent Spreckelmeyer

graduation rates. They also reflect the Bold Aspirations strategic plan’s intent to enhance educational environments and experiential learning.

“That’s really why I was brought in,” Leung says. “To create these programs so undergrads succeed not just in school but after school. In life, really.”

Changes to the life of a library might seem a bit much to take in, especially for those of us nurtured in eras that venerated libraries as silent citadels of solitary study.

“I think alumni would be interested to see just how drastically libraries have changed,” Ellis says not just of Anschutz Library, but also of Watson, where environmental alterations have been less dramatic but thorough nonetheless. “It’s a space probably unlike anything many alumni have experienced, but it’s such a unique space on our campus.”

Academic libraries aren’t the only ones undergoing foundational shifts. The new Lawrence Public Library, for instance, is blossoming in a renaissance not just of its physical space, but also vibrant program offerings that have made it an

entirely new jewel of the downtown scene, and nobody is crying for the loss of its somewhat bland former self.

Those who heralded the death of libraries with the advent of the digital revolution counted on one primary assumption: that libraries would remain little more than warehouses of an increasingly outdated mode of information exchange known as the printed book.

They were wrong.

And anybody who thinks they know what’s coming next will be wrong, too.

“I have no concept of what the next generation is going to look like,” Spreckelmeyer says. “What we think of as a library is rapidly transforming itself to where we don’t recognize it anymore.”

Yet another way to consider the evolution of libraries is to stop our extinct species’ perspective of regarding it as drastic shifts from the old ways. For an 18-year-old undergraduate, there’s nothing new about it. The modern library atmosphere isn’t different; it’s what a library is.

And judging by the way young people stream through Anschutz and even fill up the Lawrence Public Library for quiet study on Sunday afternoons, they are smitten.

“I think it’s about becoming a part of the fabric of their everyday life,” Ellis says. “Not just as a student, but as a lifelong learner.”

Yet, fear not, fellow dinosaurs. There are still books to be pulled down from shelves and quiet spaces to read and reflect, and we should remind ourselves to relish the cheery notion that our introspective enclaves need no longer be musty cloisters.

Now there are reading rooms with a view.

## Partnership offers library access to Association members

Thanks to a partnership with KU Libraries, Alumni Association members now have access to several databases that offer the latest scholarly

information in many areas of study, full-text business magazines and journals, and summaries of the best business books available. All Association members

(in-state and out-of-state) may purchase a KU Libraries borrower card. For more information, visit [kualumni.org/libraries](http://kualumni.org/libraries). —C.L.

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# For a Song

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**Twenty years after he hit the rock 'n' roll jackpot, Freedy Johnston is still trying to wake up in your head**

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**I**N NEW YORK CITY FOR A COUPLE OF SHOWS TO PROMOTE HIS NEW ALBUM, “NEON REPAIRMAN,” FREEDY JOHNSTON IS DISCUSSING THE CURIOUS CRAFT THAT HAS FIRED AND FOCUSED HIS CREATIVITY EVER SINCE HE GOT HIS FIRST MUSICAL INSTRUMENT, A MAIL-ORDER GUITAR DELIVERED IN A COFFIN-SHAPED BOX WHEN HE WAS 15 AND LIVING IN WESTERN KANSAS, “WAY OUT WHERE THE RAMONES DIDN’T REACH.”

Johnston, ’85, is proud of “Neon Repairman.” Loves it, in fact. But though the official release date of his first new work since 2010’s “Rain on the City” is still in the future and the promotional tour is just now getting off the ground, his attention has already shifted to the next batch of songs he wants to write.

“I’m a songwriter,” Johnston shrugs. “I obsessively sit around and write these things. I work alone, with the voices inside my head, and we try to get the songs done. But it takes time.”

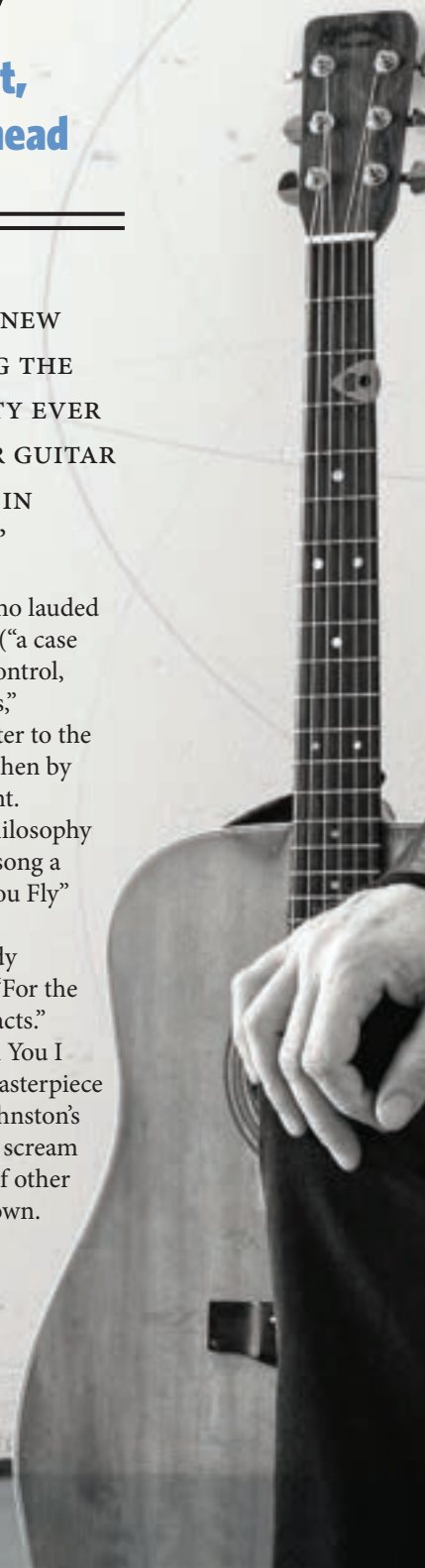
Since 1990, when his first record, “The Trouble Tree,” appeared on the Bar None label, he has steadily built a reputation as a master of the craft, a musical storyteller known for his deft mix of whip-smart lyrics, catchy pop hooks and complex, lovingly crafted tunes. His breakthrough 1992 recording, “Can You Fly,” caught on left of the dial and drew raves from

rock critics like Robert Christgau, who lauded Johnston’s lyrical, melodic songcraft (“a case study in bringing confusion under control, in loving your life as a beautiful mess,” Christgau wrote) as a welcome counter to the tortured chaos being embraced just then by the Nirvana-fueled grunge movement.

“Contained, mature, realistic in philosophy and aesthetic, it’s every goddamned song a keeper,” enthused Christgau, “Can You Fly” was “a flat-out monument of singer-songwriterdom—up there with Randy Newman’s ‘12 Songs,’ Joni Mitchell’s ‘For the Roses,’ and other such prepunk artifacts.”

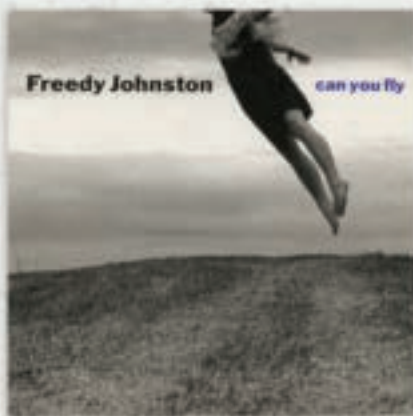
The opening track, “Trying To Tell You I Don’t Know,” is a driving, alt-rock masterpiece that rides a bouncy guitar riff and Johnston’s increasingly fierce vocals to a primal scream crescendo. Johnston is a chronicler of other people’s stories more often than his own.

**by Steven Hill** ★ **Photograph by Bill Frisch**









(“His epiphanies evoke a heartland miniaturist like Bobbie Ann Mason,” one critic opined, “more than any rock artiste.”) But “Trying To Tell You I Don’t Know” is an autobiographical song that over time has grown into a kind of origin myth, because it details just how far the Kinsley native was willing to go for his music: To finish that second record he sold western Kansas farmland that had been in his family for generations. Written last, after the label asked for one more rock song, “Trying To Tell You I Don’t Know” is Freedy’s manifesto, a defiant send-up of music as high art and low trade, at once a description and a demonstration of the songwriter’s aim:

*Well, I sold the dirt to feed the band  
Falling right through my hands  
Yes I sold the map up to the sky  
Falling down, always trying  
Trying to wake up in your head  
Trying to cry with the red light on  
Trying to tell you I don’t know*

“At the time I felt really cynical about the label,” Johnston says. “They had bought a van—I think some of my money had been used—and they were renting the van back to me, but they said don’t worry, it’s all good. I’d sold my land in western Kansas that I’d just inherited. That was

seen as a foolish thing, selling that land. Luckily—luckily—that record was loved.”

Indeed, the gamble paid off: “Can You Fly” landed Johnston a major-label deal with Elektra Records. “This Perfect World,” made with Butch Vig, who also produced Nirvana’s monster-selling “Nevermind,” yielded his biggest radio hit; “Bad Reputation” reached No. 54 on the Billboard Hot 100 in 1994 and was later featured on the soundtrack of the Farrelly brothers movie “Kingpin.” That December Johnston beat out Kurt Cobain for songwriter of the year honors in the Rolling Stone critics poll.

“I had a lot of success early on—too much success,” he says. At 34 he had a hit on the radio, a park-view apartment and money in the bank. “Just a couple of years before, I’d had a straight job and ironed my shirt every morning. It was a whirlwind.”

Three more Elektra albums followed, but sales began to flag. Some reviewers felt the big-label approach of sanding off rough edges in search of a broader audience was a poor match for Johnston’s talents, which tended toward the quirky and offbeat. When his Elektra contract ran out after 2001’s “Right Between the Promises,” he went back to smaller labels, putting out a cover album, a live recording and a collection of four-track demos from his early days. By the time “Rain on the City” came out in 2010, it had been nine years since his last original release.

Reviewing that album on New York’s WFUV radio, Rolling Stone critic Anthony DeCurtis noted the long absence.

“You wonder, what is this going to mean?” DeCurtis said. “And in his case, it just means another great Freedy Johnston record. What you have is a set of 11 perfectly crafted, beautifully sung, extremely melodic, very catchy songs that are a pleasure to listen to. So it’s just, ‘Hey, man, where have you been?’”

Johnston gets that a lot. “Everybody

says, ‘Hey, man, what happened to you?’ Well, here’s what happened: I had all this success and I had no idea what to do with it.”

After a beat he backtracks, not wanting to sound ungrateful for his good fortune. He’s taken heat for that too.

“It was great,” he says. “I was a fortunate dude. But I was not gonna be able to keep that beach ball on my nose. No way.”



*Well I sold the dirt and bought the road  
Let me tell you right where we’re going  
I sold the house where I learned to walk  
Falling down, always trying  
Fifty bucks to use the van  
Trying to find your city, man  
Trying to get back my guitars  
Trying to tell you I don’t know*

Growing up in Kinsley, Fred Fatzer, as the world knew him then, didn’t listen to Randy Newman or Joni Mitchell or any of the singer-songwriters he’d one day be compared with. Steely Dan, Aerosmith, ZZ Top and Led Zeppelin—cranked loud on the kick-ass stereo he spent a whole summer’s wages on—topped his playlist. Neil Young was as close as he got to the singer-songwriter vein of rock ‘n’ roll.

Rolling Stone and Crawdaddy brought the news of the world. (“I remember reading about the Sex Pistols, and it seemed dangerous to me,” Freedy recalls. “I was like, ‘I don’t think I want to listen to that!’ When I finally heard them, it was something.”) To get his hands on Elvis Costello’s “My Aim Is True,” he had a buddy drive him 35 miles west to Dodge City to find a store that carried the seminal pub-punk LP. He bought a guitar because his brother played, and took to it straight away, writing a couple of songs to perform in the high school variety show. The first



song he wrote, “Sparky the Heroic Dog,” he still plays.

“Silly, jokey songs,” Johnston calls his early work. But if the topics were a gas, the approach was serious. “I was writing songs and putting them on tape. It was like I’d finally found the thing I can do.”

One of Kinsley’s claims to fame is the town’s giant halfway sign: Arrows pointing east to New York City and west to San Francisco announce Kinsley’s equidistance (1,561 miles) from each, reminding a restless small-town boy that one man’s middle of nowhere is another’s starting line. Working at Dyne-Quik as a cook, Freedy would take cigarette breaks under those arrows and think about getting out. “It was like a bad movie,” he quips.

First stop was Lawrence, and a room in Hashinger Hall where he found kindred spirits who shared his mania for music. He fell in with a crowd that followed the Wichita band The Embarrassment, kings of a Lawrence scene then drawing soon-to-be national acts like R.E.M., Sonic Youth, Devo, Hüsker Dü and The Replacements while spawning legendary local bands like The Mortal Micronotz, Get Smart! and (a Freedy favorite) Pat’s Blue Riddim Band.

“The music scene was so vibrant, so inspiring,” says longtime friend Renee Epps, c’85. “It felt like there were so many different opportunities for self-expression, because all these bands made Lawrence a stop on the music circuit. You could just shuffle out of the house and hear bands from all over. Fred was just like the rest of us: We were just shambling around, but it was amazing fun.”

An RA allowed the rowdy group to move to an out-of-the-way cluster of rooms on Hashinger’s lower level, where a bathroom doubled as a recording studio. He pursued songwriting more seriously than classwork, and before long had set his restless eye on New York City.

**“Everybody says, ‘Hey, man, what happened to you?’ Well, here’s what happened: I had all this success and I had no idea what to do with it.” —Freedy Johnston**

Having come east from Kinsley, after all, wasn’t he already more than halfway there?

He dropped out of KU and moved to Manhattan, but within months he’d dropped back in. Living at 1700 Tennessee St., he cut songs to cassette, dubbing parts with a pair of boom boxes before buying a four-track tape recorder. He sold his tapes at Exile Records and got his first review, in the Lawrence Journal-World.

Beyond that, Freedy Jaunz (as he’d begun calling himself) made barely a splash in Lawrence: He was in a few local bands (including a stint as drummer for Dalton Howard and the Go-Cats) but mostly he played *in* rather than out.

“It was kind of on the sly. I was writing songs and putting them on tape in my room, but I wasn’t playing for people, I wasn’t really in the scene. When I went to New York and got a record deal, folks in Lawrence were like, ‘Wow, Fred, I never knew you were a musician.’”

The contract came after he left in 1987 for a second bite at the Big Apple. He changed his name to Freedy Johnston, combining his childhood nickname and his mother’s maiden name. He gave a



cassette of his songs to a cousin who worked at The New Yorker; the cousin’s coworker heard the tape and took it home to her husband, critic Michael Azerrad.

“I heard this combination of things I’d never heard before,” says Azerrad, a longtime contributor to Rolling Stone and Spin and author of *Come As You Are: The Story of Nirvana*. “It was this Midwestern buzzsaw twang combined with someone who’d obviously heard English post-punk bands like The Fall—and who wrote really good songs.”

“The songs were incredibly catchy and well-written, the lyrics really smart. I don’t want to say they were poetic, because they were clearly designed for music. It was songwriting—really evocative songwriting that rocked.”

Azerrad passed the tape to Glenn Morrow at Bar None Records, and one

.....  
Halfway home: Johnston’s first stop after Kinsley was KU, where he drew inspiration from Lawrence’s music scene before moving to New York City.



MIDWAY SIGN COURTESY OF THE EDWARDS COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

day Freedy got a phone call.

"I'd been going to work, coming home, doing my four-tracks," Johnston says. "I was getting pretty depressed. Honestly, it was like, 'Do I wanna keep doing this?' Then one day, a record company calls and says, 'Hey, we like your stuff.'"

That "quite raw but quite great" first album, as Azerrad calls it, was followed by "Can You Fly."

"What a perfect, amazing record that was," Azerrad says. "One of my favorite records. I don't think it's ever gotten nearly the due it deserves."

Halfway through studio sessions, the recording budget was tapped out. The band, the record, the life needed to be fed. So Freedy sold the farm, sold the house he'd lived in when his mother and father were still together. The time for wondering if he was on the right road was past: Freedy Johnston was all in.

"He was fearless about throwing himself into the wind and following his dream," Epps says. "He's just so determined."

"It was a big deal," Johnston recalls. "I never told my mom what I'd done. She found out through a Rolling Stone interview."

He imagines the reaction he'd have gotten had "Can You Fly" tanked.

"You hear what he did?" he says in mock dismay. "He sold his land to make an indy record, then jumped off a bridge."

"But it didn't happen that way, because the guitar I wrote all those songs on is sitting in the Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame. So give me a break."



*Well, I sold the dirt for a song  
Bleeding on every note  
Yes I sold the map up to the sky  
Falling down, always trying  
Trying to sing what I can't say  
Trying to throw my head away  
Trying to cry with the red light on  
Trying to tell you I don't know*

Sometime in the '90s, Michael Azerrad heard a Muzak version of "This Perfect

World," the title single from Johnston's first Elektra album, in a supermarket.

"That was an astonishing moment. I mean, this is a guy whose very raw, self-recorded cassette I'd been handed a few years before, and now his song is on Muzak."

While certainly no fan of elevator music, Azerrad found the moment fantastic.

"I was like, 'Wow, *that* is cultural penetration.' He's made something that's really sunk into the mass mindset of America—which is where I think he deserves to be. I think he's a massive talent."

The arc that Johnston's career has traced is pretty typical these days, but Azerrad has a hunch that Freedy may have been among the first to make it work.

"You start out on an indy, then get signed to a major. Maybe you have some success, then times change and maybe you don't have as much success with the next album. But you manage to sustain a career, and it's because you don't live too large and you tailor the way you conduct yourself to the size of your audience."

Along with singer-songwriter peers like Marshall Crenshaw and Robyn Hitchcock, Johnston has figured out how to keep rockin.' "Maybe it's not jackpot money, but it's enough to keep him doing what he loves to do, which is play music," Azerrad says. "A lot of people never figure out how to do what they love. In that sense, I consider Freedy a great success."

Johnston had his share of hard knocks along the way. A divorce, an IRS audit and a string of rootless years that saw him living in Nashville, Austin, Madison and Wichita before returning to his beloved New York City, contributed to the long gap between albums. The music business, transformed by the digital revolution that weakened big labels and left musicians to fend for themselves, was a factor too.

"It's a hard row to hoe, being an artist,"



This Perfect World, 1994



Never Home, 1997



The Way I Were, 2004



Live at McCabe's Guitar Shop, 2006



says friend and producer Peter Feldman, who has made music videos for “Bad Reputation,” “The Lucky One” and other Johnston songs. “It’s a very flavor-of-the-day business that’s always looking for the next big thing.” Once upon a time Freedy *was* the next big thing, winning Rolling Stone’s newcomer of the year award after “Can You Fly” appeared. “But you can only win that once,” Feldman notes. “When you’re yet another guy doing it and you’re not getting the positive feedback and big audiences and record sales and press, it’s harder to keep going. Freedy has endured, and I find that heroic.”

Selling the family farm was a big deal, Feldman agrees. “I think he saw a lot of bleak alternatives for himself if he did not succeed as a musician; selling his family’s sole legacy was the supreme measure of the degree of his commitment. But every day since then he has demonstrated it by chipping away at that boulder. It’s easy to do when you’re being celebrated, but when you have to grind forward like it’s a job, like everybody else does, it’s a lot harder.”

“The only thing people want you to do,” says Johnston, “is keep going. I’m lucky that I’m in a business where you’re somewhat ageless. As long as you keep rockin’, it doesn’t matter.”

At 53, he may not be old by rock ‘n’ roll standards, but he surely feels the clock ticking. Releasing the crowdfunded “Neon Repairman,” which took longer to finish due to the DIY nature of the enterprise, has pushed him to see that “every day must be seized.”

“I want to be 73 and look back and say, ‘Wow, these last 20 years kind of kicked ass. I wrote songs and made records.’”

He knows nothing is guaranteed.

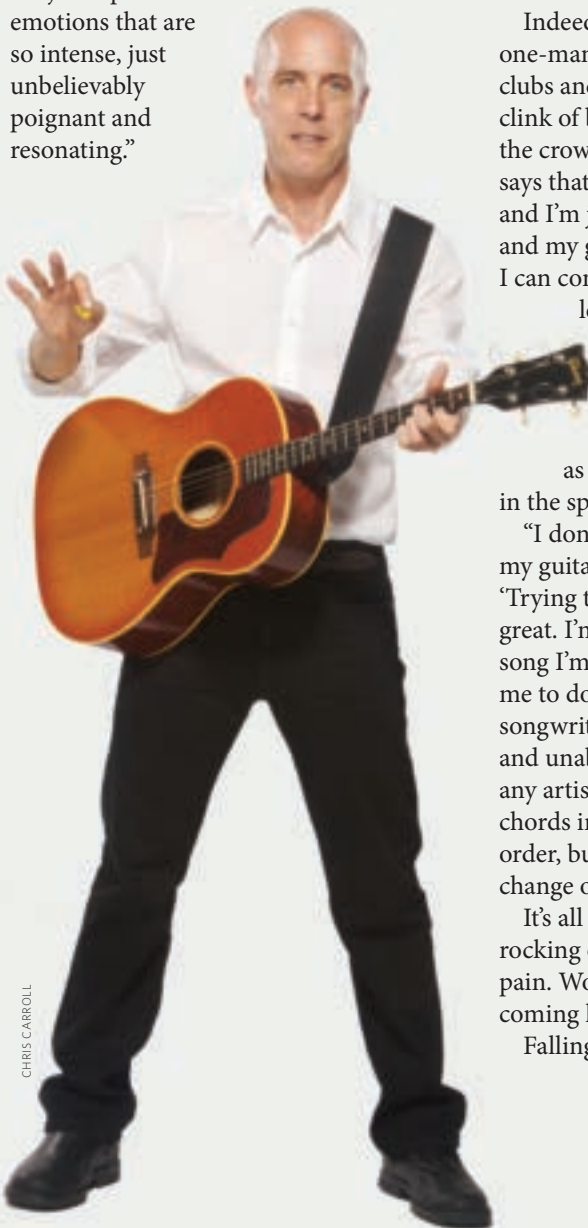
“It’s like I got this big thing, that I then lost, and it just really upset my life and it took me a long time to get over it,” he says. “But in the last five years or so, since ‘Rain on the City,’ I’ve come back and I’m happy to be in this musician tribe, I’m so happy that I have something I identify with. My brother and sister musicians are the people I really understand. All of them are like me; we gotta do this thing but we don’t always get the credit or the rewards.”

The new album marks a continuation of

the resurgence that began with “Rain on the City,” and it showcases the evolution of Johnston’s songwriting.

“He was always a storyteller, but in the early days it was a little more personal,” says Renee Epps. “He has honed that craft; now it’s almost as if he’s a short-story writer. He’s very curious about the world, about history, about science, and he’s able to create these moving vignettes because he has an incredible imagination when he starts knitting all those bits together.”

“The First to Leave the World is the First to See the World” is about cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin. “A Little Bit of Something Wrong” chronicles the struggles of wounded warriors who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder. While those songs don’t draw on his personal experience, Epps notes, “he’s still able to conjure up emotions that are so intense, just unbelievably poignant and resonating.”



CHRIS CARROLL

Johnston wrote the title song as an homage to “Wichita Lineman,” the great Jimmy Webb number made famous by Glen Campbell. Freedy has long covered the classic tune. “It was his theme song for years,” Azerrad says, “and he did a version that would just break your heart, it was so poignant.” Epps calls it a totemic song for her friend. “It really evokes the plains of Kansas, being out there doing this really solitary gig, and I think he wanted to tap into that. It’s a very solitary job Fred is doing.”

*I am a neon repairman  
It’s all I’ve ever done, man  
Darkness is my friend  
I am a neon repairman  
Working through the night, man  
And coming home at light again*

Indeed, touring now is mostly a one-man show, playing coffee shops and clubs and songwriter showcases where the clink of bottles and boisterous squawk of the crowd compete with the music. He says that’s OK: “I can walk into a gig now and I’m just one guy with my gear bag and my guitar, just set it up and rock it out. I can control my music. Sell the CDs and leave and have it all be happy and good.”

Like the blue collar journeyman he created, Freedy will keep doing his thing, as much at home in the shadows as in the spotlights and neon that cast them.

“I don’t have a lot of stuff, but I still have my guitars. It’s kinda like that song, ‘Trying to Tell You.’ Honestly, I’m doing great. I’m gonna finish working on the song I’m working on—like people expect me to do. I’m not good at much, but I’m a songwriter. I’m as confused and untidy and unable to get things done on time as any artist, but at least I get the words and chords in order. My room may not be in order, but I like all the words. I wouldn’t change one.”

It’s all he’s ever done: Setting up and rocking out, in times of glory and times of pain. Working through the night, and coming home at light again.

Falling down. Always trying. 

# Association

DAN STOREY



**Kelly and Paxson St. Clair will lead Rock Chalk Ball 2015 as chairs. Their eldest son is a fourth-generation Jayhawk. "I always find an excuse to meet him in Lawrence," Paxson says. "I think he sometimes gets tired of my reminiscing."**

## Hail to Old KU

**Kansas City's Rock Chalk Ball to celebrate KU's 150th April 25**

**K**ansas City Jayhawks formed the first official KU alumni group in 1909, when 80 graduates met in Swope Park for a picnic. So it is only fitting that the nation's oldest and largest KU community will be among the first to mark the University's sesquicentennial with "Hail to Old KU," this year's Rock Chalk Ball. The 20th black-tie (or crimson and blue) event hosted by the Alumni Association and its Greater Kansas City Network will be April 25 in the Grand Ballroom of Bartle Hall in downtown Kansas City, Missouri.

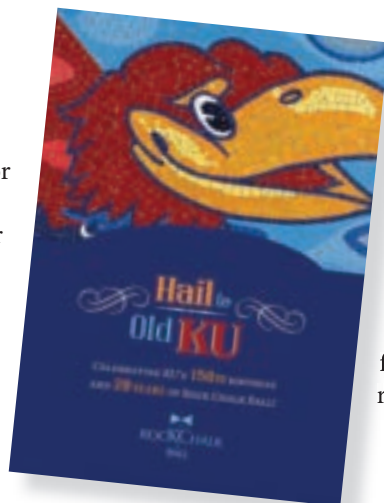
Paxson, c'87, and Kelly McElhinney St. Clair, c'87, l'90, will chair this year's rendition. "Kelly and I have been to eight or 10 balls, and it's a highlight of spring for us," Paxson says. After living for many years in Pittsburg, near the headquarters of his family's company, Cobalt Boats, in Neodesha, the St. Clairs moved six years ago to

Mission Hills to be closer to Lawrence. Their eldest son, Pack III, is a KU sophomore and a fourth-generation Jayhawk on both sides of his family, Kelly says.

"I grew up in Dodge City, and there was never any doubt that I would attend KU," she recalls. "It's funny because a lot of things have changed on campus, but it's still the same in so many ways. It is still as beautiful as ever."

Their second son, Cameron, will climb the Hill next year as a freshman, and the

St. Clairs hope that younger siblings Carson and Margeaux also will follow the family tradition. "In my third year of law school, my brother Christian was a senior and my brother Lance was a freshman," Kelly recalls. "It was so



much fun to be on the Hill together."

This year's ball will feature silent and live auctions, the music of Atlantic Express and special guest emcee Darrell Stuckey, c'09, a Kansas City native and a safety on KU's 2008 Orange Bowl team. Stuckey was a member of the All-Big 12 Team and Big 12 Sportsman of the Year in 2010. He and his wife, Lacie Reed Stuckey, d'10, will return to Kansas City from San Diego, where he plays in the National Football League for the San Diego Chargers.

"We are thrilled to have Darrell as this year's emcee," says Betsy Winetroub, c'05, director of Kansas City programs. "He is such a wonderful representative of our beloved alma mater, both on and off the football field. His continued support of KU and the Association makes him the perfect choice to emcee our largest alumni event."

## KC Blood Drive

**May 1 blood drive in Fairway to support KU cancer research**

**T**he Alumni Association will partner with the Biospecimen Bank at the University of Kansas Cancer Center for its second-annual biospecimen blood drive May 1 at the Clinical Research Center in Fairway.



## A NOTE FROM KEVIN

### Career networking event bodes well for future programs

When the University was founded in 1865 and the KU Alumni Association in 1883, the task of keeping KU graduates and friends connected was simple. Most tended not to stray far from Kansas. As time has gone on, hundreds of thousands of graduates have walked down the Hill and become KU alumni. As we know, the world has become easier to travel and new international markets have lured KU graduates to reside in all parts of the globe—making our task of engaging more than 220,000 graduates and another 100,000 friends of KU more challenging since those early days.

Although the Association hosts more than 400 programs and alumni events worldwide, we simply are unable to reach everyone on an individual basis. Jayhawks, we know from surveys, crave opportunities to be connected and network, but they cannot always attend events held in their geographic areas. To meet this need, the Association researched technological

opportunities with the goal to provide real-time, one-to-one programs for alumni to connect.

We sent numerous emails to Association members to announce our first online career networking event Jan. 29. Jayhawks around the globe could join the conversation by selecting specific online industry “booths,” including arts and communications, business and economics, education and social services, health sciences, government and law, science and technology and more.

The January event was successful, with 203 registrants participating from 26 states and eight countries. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, and we received many suggestions for future events that could focus on current students and alumni mentors or discussions with University academic and administrative leaders. In addition, many alumni traded business information to become better acquainted following the event. It was such a success that we will host regular online conversations the third Thursday of every month, beginning March 19. Another session on April 9 will pair Student Alumni Association members with alumni



Corbett

STEVE PUPPE

mentors. We will continue to post information on our career services web page at [kualumni.org](http://kualumni.org) and send emails before each event.

Many thanks for all you do as members of the Association to help us advance the University of Kansas.

Rock Chalk!

—Kevin J. Corbett, c'88  
KU Alumni Association president

The event differs from other blood drives in that donors give only a small amount of blood—equivalent to the amount collected for a standard blood test—which will then be used by researchers to study the causes, prevention, detection, diagnosis and treatment of cancers and other diseases.

“In a health care facility, we see plenty of patients who have their blood or tissue samples modified through disease,” says Colleen Reilly, intake and data management coordinator for the Biospecimen Repository at the KU Cancer Center. “We can’t do research without them. But we also can’t do what we do without healthy samples to compare.”

Last year, Kansas City area alumni donated more than 50 samples, and this year’s event organizers hope to exceed that number. “This is a great way for alumni to

come back and invest again in KU and their community,” Reilly says.

For those who are unable to attend the blood drive but are interested in donating, the center encourages alumni to call the Cancer Center and schedule an appointment. More information can be found at [kualumni.org/donateblood](http://kualumni.org/donateblood).

## Healthy, safe kids

### Bicycle safety, healthy habits are focus of June 6 KC event

On June 6, the Alumni Association will host its seventh-annual ‘Hawks, Helmets and Handlebars event at the KU Cancer Center’s Westwood Campus. The program for Jayhawk families stresses the

importance of healthy lifestyle and bicycle safety for children, including wearing proper protective gear and following road rules.

This is the second year the Association will team up with Healthy Hawks, a program created by KU Medical Center’s department of pediatrics to help children and their families overcome issues related to weight. Healthy Hawks will lead the charge to collect bicycles and distribute them to children in need during the event.

Also on hand that day will be Hospital Heroes and the Concussion and Trauma teams from the Medical Center to professionally fit the free bicycle helmets that are given to all children who attend. The Johnson County Fire Department and MedAct will round out the event, educating families about fire safety and setting up bicycle safety obstacle courses where the

## Association

children can test their road skills.

“This is an event that we love and we feel is a nice reward for our families,” says Ann McGrath Davis, c’91, g’08, director of Healthy Hawks and the Center for Children’s Healthy Lifestyles and Nutrition at KU pediatrics. “Our partnership with the Alumni Association has been wonderful and has allowed us to reach more families, combine our resources and collect more high-quality bikes to give away.”

KU alumni can participate by donating a bicycle to Healthy Hawks in advance or bringing their families to participate in the event. For more information, go to [kualumni.org/bikesforkids](http://kualumni.org/bikesforkids).

### New staff member



**H**eather Biele joined the Association staff in January as communications coordinator. She graduated from Kansas State University in 1999 with a doctorate in veterinary medicine, but after working in the profession she discovered her true calling was as a writer and editor. Her love of Lawrence and the Jayhawks made accepting a position on the Association’s communications team a no-brainer.

### Football Fan Fest



Defensive lineman Keon Stowers, wearing a blue mustache, greets fans at Football Fan Fest in February. On-hand to talk football were players and coaches, including coach Dave Beaty and assistant head coach Clint Bowen, d’96. Kids enjoyed activities such as facepainting and tossing the pigskin with current and former players.



### Dole Institute in Topeka

The Association has partnered with the Dole Institute for a traveling exhibit titled “Your Story, His Story: Snapshots in Time from the Dole Archives.” The inaugural event at Washburn in Topeka drew more than 65 Jayhawks to hear speakers and view artifacts showcasing the legacy of Sen. Bob Dole, ‘45.





# Life Members

The Association thanks these Jayhawks, who began their Life memberships Jan. 1 through Feb. 28. For information, visit [kualumni.org](http://kualumni.org) or call 800-584-2957.



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# Class Notes by Karen Goodell

**48 Elmo Maiden**, e'48, g'50, received the French Legion of Honor Medal last year at a ceremony in Los Angeles. He's a retired lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Air Force. Elmo and his wife, Dorsie, live in Canoga Park, California.

**49 Fred Hirsekorn**, e'49, g'50, wrote his first book, *A Journey Through Life*, at age 90. He and his wife, Barbara, make their home in Lilydale, Minnesota.

**52 William Lienhard**, b'52, was honored last year when the basketball court at his alma mater, Newton High School, was named for him. In 1952 Bill played for KU's first NCAA tournament champion basketball team and for the USA Olympic basketball team that won a gold medal in Helsinki, Finland. He lives in Lawrence.

**54 Edward Chapman Jr.**, c'54, f'59, retired last year after a 56-year career practicing law in Leavenworth.

**60 Winston Grantham**, b'60, lives in Lenexa with **Karen Boyd Grantham**, g'73. He's retired from a career with Hallmark Cards.

**61 Philip Anschutz**, b'61, chairman and CEO of the Anschutz Foundation, has been named Citizen of the West by the National Western Stock Show. He and his wife, Nancy, live in Denver.

**Robert Berkebile**, a'61, won the 2014 Hanley Award for Vision and Leadership in Sustainability. He's co-founder of the Kansas City-based architecture firm BNIM Architects.

**62 Philip Risbeck**, f'62, g'65, received the Distinguished Faculty Award last fall from the Colorado State University Alumni Association. He lives in Fort Collins and is a professor of graphic design and founder of the CSU Colorado International Invitational Poster Exhibition.

**65 Wendy Fisher House**, c'65, is a clinical psychologist in Ann Arbor, Michigan, where she and her husband, James, live.

**Dennis Klein**, d'65, g'67, recently returned to Plano, Texas, from Israel, where he volunteered with the Israeli Defense Forces.

**67 Shani Wooton Crossen**, d'67, a retired teacher, lives in Overland Park.

**Daniel Suiter**, c'67, m'71, chairs the board of the Kansas Medical Mutual Insurance Company and practices medicine in Pratt, where he and **Marcia Johnson Suiter**, '67, make their home.

**68 David McClain**, c'68, professor and president emeritus of the University of Hawaii, was recognized last year at the university's Shidler College of Business Hall of Fame Awards. He and his wife, Wendie, live in Kailua.

**Leslie Steckel**, s'68, c'68, is president and CEO of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. He and his wife, Christine, live in Overland Park.

**Deanell Reece Tacha**, c'68, chairs KU Endowment's Board of Trustees. She's dean of law at Pepperdine University in Malibu, California.

**69 Jon King**, c'69, j'74, wrote and published *Jazz Sketches: Musical Musings on the Mother Lode*. He lives in Topeka.

**71 Ronald Carter**, j'71, g'72, retired from a career with the University of Denver. He and his wife, Shannon, live in Greenwood Village, Colorado.

**Carl Kell**, PhD'71, wrote *The Exiled Generations: Legacies of the Southern Baptist Convention Holy Wars*, which was published by the University of Tennessee Press. He's a professor of communication at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green.

**Nicholas LoBurgio**, c'71, f'74, is an administrative law judge in the Office of Disability Adjudication and Review in Denver. He and his wife, Paula, live in Littleton, Colorado.

**Richard Wilborn**, '71, received the 2014 President's Award from the McPherson Chamber of Commerce. He operates Wilborn Consulting in McPherson, where he retired from a career with Farmers Alliance Mutual Insurance Company.

**73 Michelle Vaughan Buchanan**, c'73, has been named a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. She's an associate laboratory director for physical sciences at the Department of Energy's Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

**Richard Hirsekorn**, e'73, g'74, is vice president and New York City area manager of Ch2M HILL. He and **Alyse Silverstein Hirsekorn**, f'74, live in Marietta, Georgia.

**Christine Stewart Power**, c'73, is a registered nurse paralegal at Frankenburg Jensen in Salt Lake City.

**Douglas Westerhaus**, b'73, f'76, owns DVW Properties and is a member of Flint Hills Energy. He and his wife, Victoria, live in Overland Park.

**74 MaryAnn Genova Diorio**, g'74, PhD'77, owns MaryAnn Diorio Enterprises in Merchantville, New Jersey. Her novella, *A Christmas Homecoming*, won the Silver Medal for Ebook Fiction in the 2012 Illumination Book Awards Contest.

**C.W. Powell**, p'74, g'79, retired regional executive director of pharmacy at Mercy Health System, lives in Springfield, Missouri, with his wife, Michele.

**75 Clark Case**, j'75, g'78, directs finance and administrative services for Leesburg, Virginia.

**James Mason**, c'75, directs the Great Plains Nature Center in Wichita, where he and his wife, Helen, make their home.

**Douglas Merrill**, c'75, m'78, is chief medical officer at the University of California in Orange. He and his wife, Deborah, live in Newport Coast.





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## Class Notes



**Mark Shermis**, c'75, is dean of education at the University of Houston-Clear Lake. He and his wife, Becky, live in Houston.

**77 John Anderson**, c'77, is president of BancFirst in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where he and his wife, Sandi, make their home.

**78 Thomas Campbell Jr.**, n'78, works as an operating room nurse at Kaiser Permanente in Portland, Oregon.

**David Love**, e'78, is a broadband engineer with Windstream Communications in Twinsburg, Ohio. He and his wife, Marla, live in Aurora.

**79 Linda Hineman Gallagher**, j'79, began a term earlier this year in the Kansas Legislature. She and her husband, **Michael**, e'86, g'03, live in Lenexa.

**Brian Shepard**, f'79, is assistant dean and professor of audio design practice at the University of Southern California in

Los Angeles. He and his wife, Jenny, live in Woodland Hills.

**Carol Smith Weinberg**, e'79, works as a project manager for Ericsson. She and her husband, **Alec**, assoc., live in Leawood.

**Walt Wesley**, c'79, continues to make his home in Fort Myers, Florida, with his wife, Denise.

**80 Christopher Andrist**, c'80, is deputy director of the Colorado Bureau of Investigation in Lakewood. He and his wife, Kimberly, live in Littleton.

**James Corbett**, b'80, is president and CEO of Alphatec Spine in Carlsbad, California. He makes his home in San Juan Capistrano.

**Mark Deaton**, a'80, a'81, is senior project manager of HNTB Companies in Kansas City. He and his wife, Sarah, live in Lee's Summit, Missouri.

**Laura Ice**, d'80, is deputy general counsel for the Textron Financial Corporation in Wichita. She received the Professionalism Award from the

Kansas Bar Association.

**Cathy Reinhardt**, c'80, l'83, president of Reinhardt Financial Services in Lawrence, serves as a board trustee for KU Endowment.

**Scott Rowe**, b'80, g'82, is senior vice president of Alon USA in Dallas, where he and his wife, Susan, live.

**Jay Wanamaker**, g'80, is president and COO of Amati USA. He lives in Bloomfield, Connecticut.

**81 Teresa James**, b'81, l'84, serves as a magistrate judge for the U.S. District Court of Kansas. She lives in Shawnee.

**John Lomax**, g'81, PhD'87, is a professor of history at Ohio Northern University in Ada, where he lives.

**82 Barbara Bichelmeyer**, j'82, c'86, g'88, PhD'92, is executive associate vice president at Indiana University in Bloomington.

**Margaret Kremers**, c'82, works as a client service associate at Eggert Financial Management in Englewood, Colorado. She lives in Centennial.

**Brent Lovett**, c'82, m'87, practices psychiatry in Naples, Florida, where he and **Amy Poore Lovett**, c'93, live.

**James Still**, c'82, wrote the play "Appoggiatura," which recently was performed in Denver. He lives in Los Angeles.

**83 Stephen Flood** j'83, directs sales planning and retail operations for Hyundai Motor America. **Sharon Bodin Flood**, j'86, c'87, g'87, supervises payroll for Silverado Care. They live in Trabuco Canyon, California.

**84 Randall Goering**, m'84, practices medicine at the Via Christi Clinic in Newton. He was the 2014 recipient of the American Academy of Family Physicians' Exemplary Teaching Award.

**Nelson Jordan**, e'84, is vice president of operations at Enerfab in Cincinnati, where he and **Jane Esser Jordan**, '83, live.

**Michael Kelly**, e'84, g'93, is a global learning and development leader at Black & Veatch in Leawood. He and **Teresa Leckie Kelly**, b'83, live in Lenexa.

**Audrey O'Hagan**, a'84, is a principal in



Audrey O'Hagan Architects in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

**85 Ronnda Bartel**, PhD'85, retired from Aastrom Biosciences and owns Ronnda L. Bartel Consulting. She lives in San Diego.

**Steven Bratton**, f'85, is ride coordinator for Cycle for the Cause, a three-day bike ride from Boston to New York benefiting the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center of New York. He lives in New York City.

**Dan Bruning**, m'85, is a physician at

PainCARE in Overland Park. He lives in Lake Lotawana, Missouri.

**John McDonald**, m'85, is chief medical officer at North Hills Hospital in North Richland Hills, Texas. He and his wife, **Joan Bergstrom**, m'86, live in Arlington.

**Denise Sanders**, l'85, practices law at Parker McCay in Mount Laurel, New Jersey. She and her husband, **Gary Zangerle**, l'85, live in Marlton.

**86 Larry Bonander**, g'86, is deputy staff director for the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services in Baltimore.

He lives in Timonium, Maryland.

**John Heeney**, j'86, owns Rising Tides in Leawood, where he and **Debbie Hoy Heeney**, '87, make their home.

**Cindy McCurry-Ross**, j'86, is executive editor of the News-Press in Fort Myers, Florida, where she and her husband, James, make their home.

**David Moser**, b'86, joined Cirrus Aircraft as vice president of fleet and special mission sales. He lives in Golden, Colorado, with his wife, Susan.

**Paul Wolf**, c'86, is managing director of Deer Creek Holdings in El Segundo,

## PROFILE by Heather Biele

### Dancer parlays passion for movement into profession

Dance lessons are part of many little girls' lives, whether by choice or their parents' persuasion. But for most, recitals soon give way to other activities, and those once-treasured ballet shoes find themselves permanently retired.

That's not the case for Minnesota native Alyssa Mann, f'12, who started dancing when she was 4 years old and almost immediately took to the craft, honing her skills in competitions nationwide and practicing as many as seven days a week by the time she was in high school.

But as focused as Mann was in her youth, it wasn't until she attended college that she knew she wanted to dance professionally—and KU was the place to be. "We had guest choreographers every semester when I was there," says Mann, who performed the work of artists including Dusan Tynek and Jennifer Hart. "They had different styles of dance and were from different parts of the country. It was a great way to learn more about the professional dance world."

The 2011 Elizabeth Sherbon Dance Scholarship recipient continued to excel, and in her senior year her hard work paid off. In the spring, Carl Flink, the artistic director for Black Label Movement, a

modern dance company in Minneapolis, made a guest appearance and invited the soon-to-be graduate to audition.

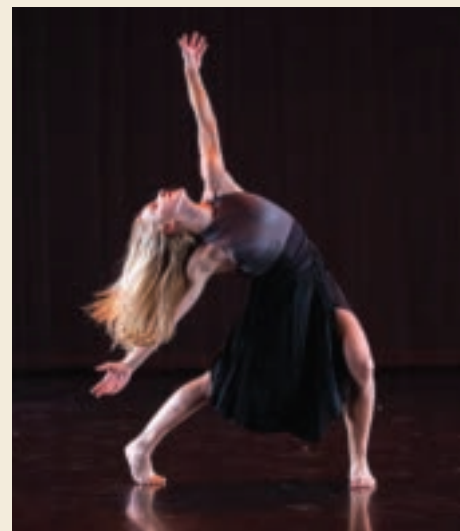
She happily accepted.

Now Mann, who recently was selected as one of Dance Magazine's "Top 25 to watch in 2015" and touted as "a rare combination of technical refinement, fierce athleticism and postmodern cool," is working for Zenon Dance Company, another modern dance group in the city. In addition to two regular season performances each year, the company makes time for smaller projects and collaborations, like teaching

dance to children in Big Fork, Minnesota. "We try to reach out to schools that wouldn't normally be exposed to dance or any type of creative art," Mann says. Dancing with Zenon also will take Mann to Cuba, where she and her fellow dancers will reunite next year with Osnel Delgado, a choreographer the company worked with last August. "That was a challenge," Mann admits. "He had to set a 20-minute long piece on us in two weeks.



LAUREN BAKER



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"Beyond her incredible ability, she was one of the hardest workers I've known," Michelle Heffner Hayes, f'91, professor and chair of the department of dance, says of Alyssa Mann.

It was high stress, because of the language barrier, too. But overall it went really well."

No matter how challenging the choreography or how grueling her days become, Mann maintains that her favorite thing about being a dancer is performing—and she doesn't plan to let up anytime soon.

"Rehearsals are hard and tiring, and sometimes you get sick of the people you're with all the time" she laughs. "But when the show comes around and everything's pulled together, that makes it all worth it."



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California. He lives in Manhattan Beach with his wife, Denise.

**Cari Zweig-Driscoll**, b'86, works as an adviser at Jameson Sothebys. She and her husband, Timothy, make their home in Highland Park, Illinois.

**87 Diana Davis**, j'87, was inducted into the Silver Circle at the 38th Mid-America Emmy Gala in September. She's a news anchor at KAIT-TV in Jonesboro, Arkansas.

**Phillip Forte Jr.**, c'87, is vice president of AFS Logistics. He and **Julie Rheem Forte**, d'87, live in Addison, Texas.

**LaDale George**, c'87, joined Perkins Coie as a partner in the firm's health care industry group. He and his wife, Donna, live in Oak Park, Illinois.

**Jeffrey Harkins**, d'87, g'91, is CEO of Woodlands Retirement Community. He lives in Huntington, West Virginia.

**89 Elaine Frisbie**, c'89, g'92, is vice president of finance and administration for the Kansas Board of Regents in Topeka, where she and her husband, Errol, live.

**Kevin Hoppock**, m'89, was named 2014 Physician of the Year by the Kansas Academy of Family Physicians. He practices medicine at Via Christi Clinic in Wichita and lives in Wichita with his wife, Lori, two daughters and a son.

**Daniel Pennington**, j'89, is president of the VVMC Foundation in Edwards, Colorado, where he and **Pamela Withrow Pennington**, c'89, make their home.

**90 Bobie Loewen Davis**, d'90, is vice president, office operations officer and cashier at Plains State Bank in Plains. She and her husband, Michael, make their home in Montezuma.

**Gregory Goheen**, c'90, a partner in the Kansas City law firm of McAnany, VanCleave and Phillips, has been elected secretary-treasurer of the Kansas Bar Association. He lives in Overland Park.



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**Ryan McCammon**, c'90, works as an air resource specialist for the Bureau of Land Management in Cheyenne, Wyoming, where he and **Dana Feldhausen McCammon**, '93, make their home. She's an administrative assistant at Laramie County Community College.

**Madeleine McDonough**, l'90, is a partner in the Kansas City law firm of Shook, Hardy & Bacon. She received a James Woods Green Medallion from the KU School of Law. Madeleine makes her home in Mission Hills.

**John Milburn**, j'90, g'98, a statehouse reporter for the Associated Press for the past 13 years, was communications director for Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback's re-election campaign last year. He lives in Lawrence.

**Lora Koup Rimmer**, c'90, g'99, commander of the U.S. Army ROTC Maverick Battalion at the University of Texas in Arlington, was named Professor of Military Science of the Year by the U.S.

Army Cadet Command. Lora and her husband, Christopher, live in Mansfield.

**91 Shane Bangerter**, l'91, vice chairman of the Kansas Board of Regents, is a founding partner in the law firm of Rebein Bangerter Rebein in Dodge City, where he and his wife, **Kirstin**, assoc., live.

**Michael Schiller**, c'91, is president and CEO of MedEvolve in Little Rock, Arkansas.

**92 Craig Durham**, c'92, l'96, practices law at the Durham Law Office in Boise, Idaho, where he and **Leslie Atkins Durham**, g'95, PhD'01, make their home.

**Chris Gavras**, l'92, works as an administrative law judge with the Social Security Administration in St. Louis.

**Danny Manning**, c'92, coaches men's basketball at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

**Lucy Mason**, l'92, received a James Woods Green Medallion last year from the

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KU School of Law. She lives in Lafayette, California, with her husband, Cris Sena.

**Raymond Ryan Jr.**, m'92, practices medicine at Banner Churchill Community Hospital in Fallon, Nevada.

**93 Vanessa Finley**, c'93, is CEO of YWCA Tulsa. She and her husband, Phillip Brown, live in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

**Denise Scott Geelhart**, c'93, is a contributing writer at WhatTheFlicka.com. She lives in Sherman, Illinois, with her husband, Christopher.

**Lyle Niedens**, j'93, g'06, is vice president

and director of product development with Ivy Funds Distributor. He and **Caryl Francis Niedens**, f'93, live in Westwood.

**Marguerite Redford**, c'93, works as a nurse at the Overland Park Regional Medical Center in Lenexa. She lives in Mission Hills.

**94 Kim Christiansen**, l'94, manages government relations for Kansas Electric Cooperatives in Topeka, where she and her husband, Stanley Light, live.

**Rodney Hopkins**, c'94, works as a

security engineer with Check Point Software Technologies in Chicago. He and his wife, Kelly, live in Grayslake, Illinois.

**95 Kevin Admiral**, c'95, has been promoted to a colonel in the U.S. Army. He lives in El Paso, Texas.

**James Helt**, j'95, works as senior manager at Accenture Ltd. He and his wife, Lisa, live in Paradise Valley, Arizona.

**Jerry Hobbs**, g'95, is president of Prairie Dog/Trozzolo Communications in Kansas City. He and his wife, Jodi, live in Olathe.

**Missy Vaskov Johnson**, c'95, was named

## PROFILE by Chris Lazzarino

### Bedore still going strong as basketball beat writer

Gary Bedore's first road trip as a sportswriter, of sorts, took him from his suburban Chicago home, where he was a high school senior, to Lawrence for an interview with Gale Sayers.

It was spring 1975. Bedore had traveled to Lawrence by train the summer before to visit KU, a school recommended by a counselor who saw his potential as a reporter; when his journalism teacher assigned a story about a notable Chicago figure of the students' choosing, Bedore headed back to Kansas—this time by car, with a buddy—to interview Sayers, d'75, g'77, then an assistant athletics director after retiring from the Chicago Bears.

"I had about 10 questions prepared, and he answered all of them in the first question," Bedore, j'79, recalls with a laugh. "So I tried to fake it the rest of the way. But he was nice."

The enterprising reporter earned an A on his paper—his startled teacher even called KU to confirm that Bedore had interviewed Sayers in person—and the journey solidified Bedore's decision to study journalism at KU.

Now in his 36th year with the Lawrence Journal-World, the longtime KU men's basketball beat writer in January was for

the second time named Kansas Sportswriter of the Year by the National Sportscasters and Sportswriters Association.

"Gary Bedore is as persistent and fair as anyone can be," coach Bill Self says. "I couldn't have more respect for an individual who has covered us."

Although the perception among his colleagues—and probably many of his loyal readers—is that the friendly, soft-spoken Bedore has spent his entire career with the Journal-World, that's not quite accurate. His first full-time job after graduation was with the Emporia Gazette, which he left after three months for the Oklahoma City Times.

But Bedore was back in Lawrence three months later when then-sports editor Chuck Woodling offered him a job covering Lawrence High, KU football and basketball, plus Kansas City's Chiefs and Royals. In a different era of sports coverage, the local paper didn't designate a full-time KU basketball beat writer until after the craze that followed the Jayhawks'



Gary Bedore's first two jobs lasted three months apiece. "Then I stopped moving," Bedore says wryly of his 35-year career writing sports for the Lawrence Journal-World.

1988 NCAA Tournament championship in Kansas City's Kemper Arena.

"I remember going to that game and it wasn't even a big deal who wrote the game story. I think Chuck just said, 'I'm going to do a column; you do the game story and some notes.' The coverage now is nuts."

By making himself invaluable as a chronicler of the rise of KU basketball, Bedore avoided grim career fates typical of what he calls "the layoff generation."

"I know a ton of people who have worked for big companies since the layoffs and the new media, and they've had bad experiences. But with a private company and good owners like [the Simons family], it definitely has advantages."

## Class Notes



Distinguished Meeting Professional of the Year by the Heartland Chapter of the Professional Convention Management Association. She and her husband, **Mic**, c'94, are co-principals of MJMeetings in Prairie Village.

**Susan Mosier**, m'95, has been appointed secretary of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. She commutes from Lawrence to Topeka.

**96 Michael Bell**, e'96, is vice president and general manager of Hunt Midwest Real Estate Development. He and **Meredith Bayles Bell**, c'96, n'99, live in Leawood.

**Cassandra Reiter Campbell**, s'96, manages human resources at R.R. Donnelley in Liberty, Missouri. She and her husband, **Christopher**, assoc., make their home in Kearney.

**Kyle Moore-Brown**, '96, has been inducted into the 2014 Arena Football League Hall of Fame. He makes his home in Kansas City.

**Joseph Nyre**, g'96, PhD'00, received a

distinguished alumni award last year from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. He is president of Iona College in New Rochelle, New York.

**97 Jeffrey Freese**, e'97, has been promoted to project director at Tarlton Corp. in St. Louis. He and his wife, **Kathleen**, live in Chesterfield, Missouri.

**Hung-Chieh Huang**, e'97, g'08, manages operations for Mastercard Worldwide in Kansas City. He and his wife, **Ami Rhae**, live in Raytown, Missouri.

**James Plesser**, j'97, directs interactive strategy and execution at Allianz Life Insurance Company of North America. He and **Leslie Taylor Plesser**, j'97, live in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where she works for the Minneapolis Star Tribune.

**Russell Stone**, b'97, is CEO of MediJane Holdings. He lives in Deerfield, Illinois.

**98 Aravind Saraff**, g'98, is a security engineer for FastPay. He lives in Northridge, California.

**Daniel Timblin**, b'98, is president and

CEO of BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee's Onlife Health in Chattanooga. He lives in Signal Mountain.

### BORN TO:

**Megan Maciejowski Woodard**, j'98, and **Derrick Woodard**, daughter, **Dylan Elizabeth Woodard**, Nov. 20 in New York City, where she joins a brother, **Connor**, 2. **Megan** is director at Corigin Real Estate Group.

**99 Nona Golledge**, '99, is director of campus dining at KU. She and her husband, **Michael**, c'91, g'96, make their home in Lawrence.

**Eric Halsey**, m'99, coordinates the Western Africa region for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. His home is in Atlanta.

**Gregory Harms**, PhD'99, has been promoted to associate professor of biology and physics at Wilkes University in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. He lives in Kingston.

**Andrew Hause**, f'99, was KU's 2013-'14



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## Class Notes

Unclassified Professional Staff Employee of the Year. He's associate technical director at the Lied Center in Lawrence, where he and **Ann Hockenberry Hause**, g'99, live.

**Mark Thompson**, f'99, practices law with Mix Sanders in Seattle, where he and his wife, **Sandy Cho**, '98, live.

**00 Angela Stoller Davidson**, f'00, practices law with Wyatt & Davidson in Salina.

**Matthew Way**, d'00, serves on the Kansas Athletic Trainers Council. He's an athletic trainer at Wichita Southeast High School.

**01 Timothy Dupree**, c'01, serves as a Wyandotte County District Court judge in Kansas City, where he and

**Tamara Cruitt Dupree**, c'00, live.

**Daniel Ferguson**, j'01, manages communications for the city of Shawnee.

**02 Emily Donnelly**, g'02, PhD'08, serves as dean of liberal arts and sciences at Park University in Kansas City. She lives in Platte City, Missouri.

**Joshua Lake**, f'02, works as a front-end developer and digital producer for Callahan Creek. He lives in Lawrence.

**03 Timothy**, p'03, and **Deborah Finger Bredehoft**, e'04, live in Lawrence with their sons, Sam, 3, and Caleb, 1. Timothy is a staff pharmacist at Medical Arts Pharmacy, and Deborah is an environmental engineer at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Lenexa.

**Daniel Dye**, f'03, is an associate professor of law at Arizona Summit Law School in Phoenix, where he lives.

**Lindsey Erickson Mahoney**, a'03, is a self-employed architect in Wichita, where she lives with her husband, **Brian**, n'02, m'14.

**Diane Hager Mansfield**, g'03, manages projects for FWAI Architects in Springfield, Illinois. She and her husband, Steve, live in Chatham.

**04 Adam John**, b'04, is an account executive at Elemento L2. He lives in Chicago.



**Sara Jordan**, c'04, g'08, works as a marketing representative for City Colleges of Chicago.

**Laura Hays Mossman**, b'04, g'06, won the Emerging Leader Award from the American Institute of CPAs and Kansas Society of CPAs. She's director of BKD in Wichita, where she and her husband, Scott, live.

**Diane Sedgwick Payne**, m'04, is an orthopedic surgeon at Emory University in Atlanta.

**Thomas Reid**, c'04, is senior manager of business development at the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center in Boston.

**Amanda Baker Waier**, c'04, is a senior corporate audit associate for Plum Creek. She and her husband, Erick, live in Whitefish, Montana.

**05 Eric Berg**, PhD'05, has been named the first book review editor of the Journal of Camus Studies. He's an associate professor of philosophy and religion at MacMurray College in Jacksonville, Illinois. Eric lives in Springfield.

**Jennifer Ferns**, j'05, directs sales operations and planning at Hive Beverages International. She lives in Overland Park.

**Devin Sikes**, c'05, f'08, is a law clerk for the U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington, D.C. He lives in Arlington, Virginia.

**Madhumeet Singh**, c'05, f'09, g'09, practices law with Foundry Law Group in Seattle.

**Celeste Morgan Yaluk**, c'05, g'10, and her husband, **Fernando**, c'09, g'12, live in Lawrence with their son, Fernando Gabriel, 1. Celeste coordinates international programs at KU, and Fernando is a manager at General Dynamics.

### MARRIED

**Matthew Wilson**, c'05, m'11, to Kathryn Gedge, May 24 in Charlotte, North Carolina, where they live. He's a resident orthopedic surgeon with the Carolinas Healthcare System, and she teaches seventh grade math at Providence Day School.

**06 Ian Cummings**, c'06, g'13, works as a reporter for the Herald-Tribune in Sarasota, Florida.

**Sarah Heath**, f'06, teaches art at the Highlands Eating Disorder Treatment Center in Birmingham, Alabama. Her work recently was exhibited at the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art.

**Keri Walthall Prichard**, g'06, and her husband, **Jeremy**, c'06, g'09, live in Lawrence with their daughter, Audrey, 1.

### MARRIED

**Steve Munch**, c'06, and **Jennifer Sheldon-Sherman**, c'06, Oct. 4 in Lawrence, where they live. Jennifer is an associate with Shook, Hardy & Bacon. Steve is completing a combined law school and doctoral program at Northwestern University.

**07 Natalie Casady Hernandez**, n'07, manages nursing at the Olathe Medical Center. She makes her home in Olathe.

**Mary Johnson**, j'07, g'09, serves as a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy. She's stationed in San Diego.

**Joshua Max**, m'07, practices medicine at the TriHealth Digestive Institute. He lives in Los Angeles.

**Jennifer May**, g'07, directs economic development for the city of Sugar Land, Texas.

**Catherine Odson**, j'07, is a technology guide at Anythink Libraries. She lives in Brighton, Colorado.

**08 Brian Carmitcheal**, b'08, works as a consultant for Deloitte. He and **Mary Schultz Carmitcheal**, '10, live in Olathe.

**Jay Kasten**, d'08, is executive director of sports for the Tuscaloosa Tourism and Sports Commission in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Jay and his wife, May, live in Birmingham.

### MARRIED

**James Gallivan III**, c'08, to Abigail Tice, Oct. 18 in Dallas, where they live. He is an associate at Markit, and she works for Tice Capital.



**09 Elizabeth Bartkoski**, b'09, is a senior analyst for the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City.

**Ryan Cantrell**, c'09, is assistant director of football operations at KU. He lives in Lawrence.

**Melissa Geha**, j'09, plays midfielder for FC Kansas City. She makes her home in Overland Park.

**Alexandra Helmuth**, b'09, is a senior associate with RedRidge Finance Group in Chicago, where she lives.

**Laura Kane**, g'09, is a nurse practitioner at Southwest Professional Physicians

Internal Medicine Clinic in Liberal.

**Robert Lutz**, e'09, works as a senior mechanical engineer with Oklahoma Gas & Electric. He lives in Edmond.

**James McClinton III**, '09, is a defensive lineman with the Jacksonville Sharks, an arena football team based in Jacksonville, Florida. His home is in Garland, Texas.

**Jessica Bergmann Newell**, g'09, is a psychologist with the Spring Hill School District. She lives in Olathe.

**Bella Truong**, l'09, is assistant district attorney in the Cumberland County District Attorney's Office in Fayetteville,

North Carolina. She lives in Spring Lake.

**Kenji Uegaki**, a'09, is a sales executive with Shell Chemicals Japan. He makes his home in Tokyo.

**Terry Zeigler**, g'09, has been promoted to chief of police of the Kansas City, Kansas, Police Department. He and his wife, **Phyllis**, assoc., live in Kansas City.

#### MARRIED

**Brooke Badzin**, b'09, to Nathan Fine-man, Oct. 11 in Kansas City. They make their home in Chicago.

**Nicole Jones**, c'09, and **Brandon Volz**,

## PROFILE by Steven Hill

### Recovery from brain injury brings career calling

Holding a sign that reads, "Not all disabilities are visible," Amanda Thompson looks into the camera and says the traumatic brain injury she sustained in a 2010 car accident provided "the sweetest blessing I could ask for—a purpose, a reason to feel like I need to be here."

In the video made last year for the National Disability Institute's (NDI) My American Dream video contest, Thompson explains that her injury and recovery focused a previously undefined urge to help people. While recovering at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital in Lincoln, Nebraska, she was aided and inspired by a speech therapist who recovered from her own traumatic brain injury.

A pre-law student at KU before her accident, Thompson, c'14, returned to school after a grueling yearlong rehab, switched her major to speech-language-hearing and set out to become a speech pathologist. Her American dream, she says in her video, is to someday work at the same rehab facility where she spent six weeks recovering from her accident.

Thompson won the contest—which awarded \$1,000, a digital tablet and career mentoring—after her video garnered the

most votes on NDI's website, [realeconomicimpact.org](http://realeconomicimpact.org).

In addition to her clinical work, she also has a strong interest in advocacy and appreciates the platform the contest provides.

"My injury was such a horrible experience in my life, it's just like, 'Something good has to come out of this,'" says Thompson, now studying for a master's degree at Fort Hays State University. "I feel really good when I can share my story, and to be able to share it on that big of a stage, with all those people seeing it and voting, really meant a lot."

At KU, she served as an accessibility ambassador and joined Able Hawks & Allies, leading a student campaign to build a wheelchair ramp at Strong Hall. Her work earned the Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns' 2013 Michael Lechner Award.

"She really put her story out there to dispel the myths about traumatic brain injury," says Jamie Lloyd Simpson, c'05, g'09, director of accessibility and ADA education. "But she also was a fearless advocate for students who use wheelchairs, and for students with all kinds of disabilities."

Traumatic brain injury left Thompson unable to care for herself for months and




STEVE PUPPE

"When people think of disability, they don't think of people like me," says Amanda Thompson, whose experience with traumatic brain injury inspired a career change.

.....

still affects her speech, cognition, and ability to walk. As an invisible disability, it has raised subtle barriers too.

"People have a clear picture of physical disability, because it's something you can see," she says, noting that she sometimes feels judged when using handicapped parking, because her challenges are hard for others to detect.

"I want to give up every day, but I feel like I've come so far. I feel like this is what I'm here to do." 



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c'11, Oct. 4 in Lawrence, where they live. She's a financial representative for Northwestern Mutual Financial Network, and he's a radio producer with Advisors Excel.

**10 Jenny Brockel**, j'10, is a program counselor at ACR Homes in Roseville, Minnesota. She lives in Minneapolis.

**Keeley Swartz Davis**, c'10, works as a medical lab scientist at Kingman Community Hospital in Kingman. She and her husband, **Aaron**, b'06, live in Pratt.

**Sungtae Kang**, f'10, is a special assistant to the U.S. Attorney's Office in Louisville, Kentucky, where he lives.

**Alison Lungstrum**, f'10, is an associate with Ogletree Deakins in New Orleans.

**Jaclyn Miller**, s'10, is a social worker with Saint Francis Community Services. She lives in Lawrence.

**Alyson Van Dyke Petty**, j'10, received the top prize in the Watchdog Reporting category at the ninth Morris Journalism Excellence Awards for her coverage of government transparency and overtime abuses. She's a reporter for the Topeka Capital-Journal.

**Jenna Sauls**, c'10, is a child life specialist at Wesley Medical Center in Wichita.

**Tyler Sifers**, c'10, works as an operations research analyst for the U.S. Air Force in San Antonio, where he and **Ashley Kornhaus Sifers**, g'10, live. She's a senior accountant with Ernst & Young.

**Allyson Stanton**, j'10, g'12, works as an admissions representative at KU. She lives in Lawrence.

**Spencer Sward**, s'10, and his wife, Alison, live in Lawrence with their son, Desmond, 1. Spencer is a clinical social worker.

**Bradley Thompson**, m'10, practices medicine with the Mayo Clinic Health System in Owatonna, Minnesota. He and his wife, **Rebecca Vrabac**, j'08, live in Rochester.

**Jelindo Tiberti III**, b'10, g'10, g'11, is a project engineer with RCI Engineering in Henderson, Nevada. He and

**Lindsey Fisher Tiberti**, p'12, live in Las Vegas.

**Brooke Vincent**, c'10, is a vocational rehabilitation specialist at the Oklahoma

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Department of Rehabilitation Services in Tulsa, where she lives.

**Wei Yan**, f'10, works as an associate with Michael Best & Friedrich in Chicago.

**11 Theresa Brown**, PhD'11, directs student affairs research at KU. She lives in Overland Park.

**David Green**, e'11, f'14, is an associate at Lathrop & Gage in Kansas City.

**Erin Hemphill**, m'11, practices medicine at HaysMed in Hays, where she lives.

**Thad Hubler**, g'11, is a senior budgeting and financial system analyst at EPR Properties in Kansas City. He and **Alyx Schmidt Hubler**, g'10, b'10, live in Shawnee. She's an assistant controller at Tradebot Systems.

**Jonathan Kalinowski**, e'11, b'11, works as a stress engineer at Textron Aviation in Wichita.

**Lee Legleiter**, f'11, practices law with Hampton & Royce in Salina.

**Grace Peterson**, c'11, coordinates visual

arts for the Salina Arts and Humanities Commission.

**Reece Petty**, d'11, is a graduate assistant with the football coaching staff at Iowa State University in Ames.

**Andrew Posch**, j'11, works as assistant public relations manager at Sullivan Higdon & Sink in Kansas City.

**Huan Zhu**, f'11, works as a consultant for the CATO Institute in Washington, D.C. She lives in Alexandria, Virginia.

### MARRIED

**Simone Cahoj**, b'11, to Levi Elder, Nov. 15 in Atwood. She directs Wichita County economic development in Leoti, where they live, and he works for Helena Chemical Company.

### BORN TO:

**Michael Chavez**, c'11, g'14, and Sara, daughter, Ava Marie, Oct. 10. They live in Lawrence, where Michael coordinates on-campus recruitment for the KU School

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of Engineering. Sara is a respiratory therapist in Ottawa.

**12 Kelsey Barclay**, '12, manages projects for the New Home Company in Walnut Creek, California. She lives in Lafayette.

**Dezmon Briscoe**, '12, is a receiver for the Dallas Cowboys football team. He lives in Duncanville, Texas.

**Beth Brittain**, d'12, works as a senior account executive at Sporting Kansas City.

**Shannon Carroll**, c'12, manages production for the Casting House. She lives in Hampton, New Hampshire.

**Nicole Jeffries**, g'12, is a business development specialist for Colbalt Talon in Kansas City, where she lives.

**Levi Keach**, c'12, has completed a master's in anthropology at the University of Nevada in Las Vegas, where he and his wife, Lorna, live.

**Sara Miller**, j'12, a freelance television producer, will work at the 2015 MTV Movie Awards. She lives in Burbank, California.

**Maury Noonan**, l'12, practices law with Pappajohn, Shriver, Eide & Nielsen in Mason City, Iowa, where he lives.

**Natalie Schumann**, l'12, is an appliance consultant for Aetna. She lives in Olathe.

**Hope Stein**, c'12, coordinates clinical research at the KU Cancer Center in Kansas City.

**Taylor Teague**, c'12, works as an account administrator at Lockton Companies. She lives in Dallas.

**Kaosity Umeh**, l'12, has a law practice in Silver Spring, Maryland, where she lives.

### MARRIED

**Mark Satterfield**, g'12, to Lea Crawford, April 26 in Mission. They live in Manhattan Beach, California, and Mark works as a global controller at Ria Financial in Buena Park. Lea is the compliance examiner for the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority.

**Alexandra Schriener**, c'12, and **Jason Sneegas**, e'13, Nov. 15 in Lawrence, where they live. Jason is a staff engineer at Professional Service Industries.

**Haley Smith**, c'12, and **Ian Dahl**, c'14, June 21 in Kansas City. They live in Tucson, where Ian studies for a master's at the University of Arizona.

**13 Ryan Bartholomew**, g'13, works for Golden Valley Memorial Hospital in Clinton, Missouri.

**Carolyn Davis**, c'13, is a graduate assistant with the Kansas Wesleyan University women's basketball program in Salina.

**Shawn Goetz**, g'13, celebrated 20 years with Hanson Professional Services in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where he's senior associate and project manager. Shawn makes his home in Mound.

**Douglas Mowery**, s'13, is a youth development specialist with Teen Living Programs in Chicago.

**Audrey Moylan**, d'13, teaches at Mill Creek Middle School in Lenexa, where she makes her home.

**14 Kayla Gray**, m'14, practices medicine at HaysMed in Hays, where she lives.



**Philip Harms**, b'14, lives in Fort Worth, Texas, and works for Textron.

**Taylor Hines**, c'14, works as a paralegal at Kugia & Forte in Dundee, Illinois. She lives in Crystal Lake.

**Yueting Jiang**, l'14, is a law professor at Fujian Normal University in Fujian Province, People's Republic of China.

**Laura Jacob Knobel**, g'14, coordinates campus involvement at Marietta College in Marietta, Ohio.

**Judith Johnson Koak**, c'14, is a clinic administrator at MRIGlobal in Kansas City. She and her husband, **Michael**, c'85,

make their home in Shawnee.

**Jacob Maeder**, e'14, is an applications engineer at ON Semiconductor. He lives in Portland, Oregon.

**Benjamin Martin**, c'14, is a paraeducator at Lawrence High School. His home is in Olathe.

**Ren Mullinix**, c'14, is a senior consultant at Navigant in Chicago.

**Christin Pham**, b'14, coordinates compliance for Design Resources. She lives in Overland Park.

**Adrienne Vernon Smith**, n'14, is a nurse at Neosho Memorial Regional Medical



Center in Chanute, where she and her husband, Charles, live.

**Dustin Stolz**, g'14, works as a geologist at Samson Resources in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He lives in Owasso.

**Jacob Wamego**, l'14, manages business development for Prairie Band in Mayetta.

**Matt Wilbur**, d'14, works as a community relations intern with the Carolina Panthers in Charlotte, North Carolina.

## PROFILE by Heather Biele

### Teacher flips odds for success in students' favor

An ordinary faculty meeting in January turned out to be extraordinary for Laura Brogdon. Much to her surprise, the Shawnee Mission West High School geometry teacher received the Educating Excellence Award in front of her colleagues, the district superintendent and the president of the board of education.

The award, given each month by Perceptive Software and the KU School of Engineering, recognizes outstanding educators in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics in Kansas City. Brogdon was nominated by her fellow faculty members, school administrators, parents and students.

Brogdon, d'08, g'11, who has taught mathematics at the school since 2010, employs the "flipped classroom" method, which swaps traditional classroom activities with those often done at home. For example, instead of lecturing for an hour at school, Brogdon records a 10-minute video explaining basic geometry concepts and practice problems. Students can watch the video on their own, pausing or rewinding it as many times as they need to. They can then take advantage of their time in the classroom to work on assignments with a partner, in

small groups or one-on-one with the teacher.

"I saw that no matter if kids have me first hour or seventh hour," Brogdon says, "by the time they get home after extracurricular activities and stuff, they can't remember what happened during class." A flipped classroom alleviates that problem, she says.

This method also benefits teachers, she adds. "As we're doing problems together, I walk around and try to gauge who's struggling and who's getting it," she says. "I make sure to focus more on the students who need more attention."

Brogdon, who struggled with geometry herself when she was in high school, says keeping students motivated can be a challenge—especially with a difficult subject like geometry—and building strong relationships with them is key.

"Whatever I can do to keep students energized about the material, I'll do it," she says. "If I'm standing up in front of the room and singing or dancing to get them




STEVE RUPPE

"She is so good at building positive rapport with all learners," says Steve Loe, principal at Shawnee Mission West, of Laura Brogdon. "This is what makes her one of our best."

to like me, I can get them to like math."

Now Brogdon, who received a check for \$1,500 with the award, is investing that money in her future: She's taking courses at KU again to obtain her doctorate in education. Brogdon hopes to take her skills and passion for education outside of the classroom one day and move to the administrative level.

"This award really energized me," she says. "To receive something like this lets me know that the things I'm doing really are affecting students in a very positive way." 

# In Memory

**30s** **George Gordon, e'39**, 96, June 2 in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, where he was retired from a career with Eastman Kodak. He is survived by two sons and two grandchildren.

**Olive Krehbiel Pipkin, f'37**, 99, Dec. 30 in Scottsdale, Arizona. She is survived by two daughters, a son, five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

**40s** **Betsey Sheidley Fletcher, c'48**, 87, Jan. 5 in Overland Park. She was active in community affairs and received the American Red Cross Humanitarian Award in 1986. She also was 2002 Volunteer of the Year with the Junior League of Kansas City. Surviving are a daughter, Janet Fletcher Graham, g'05; two sons; a brother; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

**Mary "Mimi" Nettels Gillin, c'47**, 89, Jan. 1 in Louisburg. She is survived by three sons, one of whom is Timothy, c'72; a daughter, Marcia Gillin Cook, assoc.; a brother, George Nettels Jr., e'50; four grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

**Carey Hartenbower, c'48, m'51**, 94, Sept. 14 in Peterborough, Ontario, Canada. He is survived by a grandson and two great-grandsons.

**Harriet Bossemeyer Jones, c'45**, 91, Jan. 19 in Scott City. She had been a homemaker and is survived by two sons, Steven, c'79, and Walter III, c'75; and five grandchildren.

**Ohmer Kaiser, b'49**, 89, Dec. 25 in Yuma, Arizona. He had been an accountant for Kennedy and Coe and had lived in Lawrence for many years. Surviving are his wife, Janet Wiley Kaiser, '49; a daughter, Barbara Kaiser Jacobs, '73; four grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

**Franklin Murphy, c'42, m'44**, 95, Aug. 5 in Oroville, California, where he practiced medicine for many years and helped found the Oroville Hospital. He also served on the board of directors of Blue Cross Blue Shield. Surviving are two daughters, a son,

five grandchildren, two stepgrandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

**Dean Ostrum, c'47**, 92, Nov. 15 in New York City. He had worked for Lucent Technologies. Surviving are his spouse, Richard Nagrodsky; three sons; a daughter, Karna Ostrum Hanna, c'70; a brother; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**Robert Ready, c'48**, 89, July 16 in Asheville, North Carolina. His career encompassed both academia and business, and he worked as a teacher, provost, researcher, manager and consultant. Surviving are his wife, Patricia, three sons, two stepsons, 10 grandchildren and five great-grandsons.

**Rodney Wuthnow, c'48**, 89, Jan. 22 in Olathe, where he was retired from practicing dentistry in Overland Park and Stanley. Surviving are his wife, Diane Perkins Wuthnow, PhD'92; a daughter, Terri Wuthnow Boyle, '73; a son, John, '71; two brothers, one of whom is Alan, j'61, g'63; two grandsons; and three great-grandsons.

**50s** **Ann Haggard Ackerman, d'56**, 80, Dec. 12 in Marysville. She worked at Potter's Jewelry and the CMH Foundation. Survivors include a daughter, Dana Ackerman Gerhard, '82; a son; and a sister.

**Richard Altman, c'52, l'55**, 86, Nov. 21 in Houston, where he practiced law with Mobil Oil for 30 years. He is survived by his partner, David Roberts; a daughter, Kelly Altman Covey, '78; a son; a brother, William, c'56; seven grandchildren; and a great-grandson.

**John Blake Jr., c'58, l'60**, 79, Jan. 7 in Garden City, where he was a retired attorney with Blake & Blake. Surviving are two daughters; a son; a sister, Barbara Blake Bath, c'59, g'61; 10 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

**Robert Brokaw, b'57**, 86, Dec. 25 in Pea Ridge, Arkansas, where he was retired district vice president for CUNA Mutual Insurance Society. He is survived by his

wife, Betty; a son, Erik, b'82; a daughter, Cari, '83; a brother; and two grandchildren.

**William Brunner, e'55**, 84, Dec. 25 in St. Joseph, Missouri, where he was a retired architectural engineer and architect. He is survived by his wife, Cecilia, a son and four grandchildren.

**Nile Call, b'50**, 89, Jan. 25 in Wichita, where he was a manufacturing engineer at Boeing. He is survived by a son, John, c'70; two daughters; three grandchildren; and a great-grandson.

**Jane Crosby Cooper, d'57**, 79, Jan. 3 in Hutchinson, where she was a retired teacher. She is survived by a son, Andy, b'84; a daughter, Stacie Cooper Williams, b'84, g'90; a brother, James Crosby, e'55; and five grandchildren.

**John Drake, c'57**, 79, Jan. 7 in Lawrence, where he was retired from a career with Southwestern Bell. He also was former owner of Countryside Golf Course in Pittsburg. Surviving are his wife, LaVivian, assoc.; two sons; a daughter, Glenna Drake, '81; a stepson; a sister; a grandson; and a stepgranddaughter.

**Susan Mitchell Eisenthal, c'59, g'65**, 77, Dec. 16 in Sharon, Massachusetts. She taught English at Bridgewater State College and at the University of Massachusetts-Boston. Surviving are her husband, Sherman, PhD'61; three sons; a sister; and six grandchildren.

**Robert Elliott Jr., b'55**, 80, Dec. 14 in Chevy Chase, Maryland, where he had been an attorney. He is survived by his wife, Judith Crane Elliott, d'55; two daughters; and three grandchildren.

**Thomas Fritzen, c'50**, 84, Dec. 12 in Kansas City, where he had been a pathologist for more than 50 years. He is survived by three daughters, Martha Fritzen Goodwin, n'83, Mary Fritzen Travis, j'85, and Anne Fritzen Randolph, c'87, g'92; two sons, one of whom is Thomas Jr., c'84; 13 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

**Benjamin Grant, c'58**, 79, Nov. 10 in Dallas, where he was a retired vice president with Chicago Title. He is survived by his wife, Ann Markwell Grant, d'58, g'63; a son, James, '93; two daughters; a sister; and seven grandchildren.



**Jack Greenwood, d'53**, 88, Jan. 9 in Aurora, Colorado, where he was retired president of Barber County Savings and Loan. He ran track at KU and resumed running again in the 1970s, eventually setting more than 20 national and world records. He was inducted into the Master's Track and Field Hall of Fame in 1997. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Surviving is his wife, Nancy MacGregor Greenwood, d'53; two sons, Riley, d'82, and Jack, c'85; and a grandson.

**Stan Harris, a'56**, 83, Nov. 30 in Lawrence, where he was a retired architect and a partner in PKG Design Group. He had worked on many buildings at KU, including Oliver Hall, Hashinger Hall, Malott Hall, Oread Laboratories and the Hoch Auditorium renovation. Survivors include his wife, Margaret Lynch Harris, assoc.; a daughter, Lisa Harris Cornwell, '56; four grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

**Alvin Haverty, c'57**, 84, Dec. 30 in Lawrence, where he owned Al Haverty Real Estate. He is survived by his wife, Nancy Hampton Haverty, c'55; three daughters, two of whom are Betsy Haverty Hoke, c'82, and Jennifer Haverty Brown, '84; two sons, Tim, b'84, and John, '95; a brother, Charles, c'51; and six grandchildren.

**Charles Henson Jr., c'52, l'55**, 83, Oct. 3 in Topeka, where he was former assistant attorney general. He practiced law for 52 years and is survived by his wife, Sally Francis Henson, d'64; two daughters, Meg Henson Propes, c'91, l'94, and Anne Henson Klingman, c'96; a brother, Harold, c'54, l'59; and five grandchildren.

**Constance Hyre, c'57**, 82, Aug. 24 in Fort Collins, Colorado. She supervised the state bacteriology laboratory in Laramie, Wyoming, for 18 years before retiring. A cousin, Leon Mason, b'55, survives.

**Paul Jacot, e'57**, 81, Jan. 13 in Moline, where he was a retired rancher and Boeing engineer. Surviving are his wife, Eva, four sons, two daughters and two sisters.

**Don Jones, e'50**, 90, Dec. 3 in Oxnard, California. He had been a research hydraulic engineer at the Naval Civil Engineering Laboratory in Port Hueneme. Survivors include his wife, Mary Kinds-

vater Jones, a'50; two sons; a sister, Alice Jones Stephenson, c'41; and four grandchildren.

**Robert Kline, b'51**, 85, Jan. 7 in Wilmington, North Carolina, where he was retired president of Performance Contracting Group. His wife, Rosemary Owen Kline, d'54; two daughters; a son; a brother; and six grandchildren survive.

**Geraldine "Jerry" Walterscheid Liebert, p'55**, 82, Jan. 5 in Coffeyville, where she had co-owned Isham's True Value Hardware Store for many years. She is survived by three daughters, one of whom is Ann Marie Liebert Vannoster, '80; two sisters, one of whom is Jean Walterscheid, d'57; and five grandchildren.

**David McDonald, c'58**, 78, Nov. 29 in Galesburg, Illinois, where he was a partner in McDonald & Conolly. He is survived by his wife, Suzanne; a son; a daughter; a brother, Gerald McDonald, '44; and four grandchildren.

**Floyd Meade, e'59**, 77, Dec. 10 in Edmond, Oklahoma, where he was a retired petroleum engineer. He is survived by his wife, Jane Barrett Meade, d'59; two daughters; a son; a sister; and five grandchildren.

**Frank Mischlich, b'52, g'75**, 86, Jan. 14 in Lenexa, where he was a retired wastewater management engineer for the Environmental Protection Agency. He is survived by his wife, Carlene Anderson Mischlich, '63; two daughters; a son; two sisters; two brothers, Howard, g'61, and John, a'61; and nine grandchildren.

**Charles Oswald, c'51**, 86, Dec. 30 in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where he was chairman and chief executive officer at National Computer Systems. He endowed the KU economics department along with faculty fellowships in business. He is survived by two sons, one of whom is David, c'75; four daughters; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

**Shirley Esplund Rice, d'51**, 85, Dec. 24 in Minneola. She taught music and gave swimming lessons in Greensburg for many years. Surviving are three daughters, one of whom is Melisa Rice Phelps, e'78; a brother, Gary Esplund, e'61; 17 grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

**Beverly Cobb Richards, c'59, g'62**, 77,

Dec. 5 in Falls Church, Virginia. She taught science in Jonesboro, Arkansas, for many years and is survived by a son; two daughters; a brother, Gene Cobb, d'67, g'72; and four grandchildren.

**Valentin Romero, '51**, 87, Dec. 2 in Lawrence, where he had a 30-year career with the U.S. Postal Service. He is survived by his wife, Liz; two daughters, one of whom is Cecelia Romero Godwin, c'82; two sons; nine grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

**Dean Smith, d'53**, 83, Feb. 7 in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, where he coached the University of North Carolina men's basketball team from 1961 to 1997, winning two national championships and retiring as the winningest men's basketball coach in Division I history. At KU, Smith lettered in baseball and basketball, playing for Phog Allen on the 1952 team that won KU's first NCAA title. His many honors included induction into the Kansas Athletics Hall of Fame and the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame, KU's Distinguished Service Citation, and the Presidential Medal of Freedom. He is survived by his wife, Linnea, a sister, a son, four daughters, seven grandchildren and a great-granddaughter.

**Bob Spanier, b'56**, 85, Dec. 30 in Atchison, where he owned and operated an accounting firm for many years. He is survived by his wife, Fern; four daughters, one of whom is Sherri Spanier Heald, '81; a sister; seven grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; and six great-great-grandchildren.

**Richard Van Dyke, '51**, 86, Jan. 11 in Plano, Texas. He owned Design Promotions and had worked in international procurement at General Dynamics for 38 years. Surviving are two daughters, three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

**Marie Bardwell Walters, c'50**, 87, Dec. 17 in Miami, Oklahoma, where she was a retired payroll processor. She is survived by her husband, Gordon, b'49; a son; a daughter; two granddaughters; and a great-granddaughter.

**Jim Wells, '58**, 78, May 29 in Derby, where he owned Oilfield Chemical Supply. He is survived by his wife, Carol Herold

## In Memory

Wells, '58; a son, David, c'79; two daughters, one of whom is Marshelle Wells, l'93; a sister; and five grandchildren.

**60s William Foley II, b'61**, 75, Dec. 9 in Kansas City. He lived in Basehor and was a partner in the accounting firm of Arthur Andersen and Company. He is survived by his wife, Elaine Haines Foley, d'62; a son, William III, e'92, a'93; two sisters; a half sister; a half brother; and a granddaughter.

**Barry Gunderson, b'67, l'72**, 71, Jan. 12 in Minneola. He had been a partner in several Dodge City law firms and is survived by a daughter, Erika Gunderson Martin, '95; two sons; a brother, Scott, assoc.; and three grandchildren.

**Ryan Harrington, m'60**, 82, Dec. 16 in Fargo, North Dakota, where he had been a neurologist. He is survived by his wife, Agnes Diller Harrington, n'60; two sons; a daughter; and four grandchildren.

**Neal Holt, b'60**, 77, Dec. 13 in Overland Park. He had been manager of health care products and manufacturing for Colgate Palmolive and had helped with the startup of Wendy's Old Fashioned Hamburgers. He is survived by his wife, Linda, three sons, a daughter, a sister, nine grandchildren and a great-grandson.

**Nancy Gilliland Kendall, d'60**, 76, Dec. 1 in Prairie Village. She taught school and later was a paralegal. Surviving are her husband, Forrest Jr., c'59, m'63; three sons, Forrest III, '92, Christopher, c'90, and Bradford, assoc.; a sister, Gilliland Robinson, d'65; and seven grandchildren.

**Karla Toothaker Kneebone, p'65**, 72, Dec. 27 in Wichita. She lived in Neodesha. She had been pharmacy director at Wilson County Hospital for nearly 30 years and worked at Porter Drug and Wal-Mart Pharmacy. Surviving are a son, Kelly, b'92, c'93; a brother, Norman Toothaker, p'56; a sister; and three grandchildren.

**Lynn Trombold Oliphant, d'67**, 70, Dec. 30 in Houston. She is survived by her husband, Buck; a daughter; six sons; her mother, Charlotte Kaufman Trombold, '76; a sister; three brothers, two of whom are Steve, c'71, m'74, and Chuck, b'80, c'80; and 19 grandchildren.

**Homer Quisenberry Jr., d'60**, 76, Dec. 3

in Overland Park. He taught high school and later was Uniserve director for the Kansas National Education Association. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. A sister and two nephews survive.

**Cheryl Henningsen Schooley, '65**, 71, Dec. 21 in Cunningham. She lived in Medicine Lodge and had been gallery director for the city of Las Vegas's two art galleries. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. She is survived by her husband, Max, b'63; two sons, one of whom is Chad, m'97; and five grandchildren.

**70s Mitchell Adams, b'74**, 63, Jan. 26 in Overland Park, where he was a project manager at Genesis 10 and Bank of America. He is survived by his wife, Elaine Zimmerman Adams, j'74; three sons, two of whom are Brian, e'01, and Mark, e'05, g'07; a sister, Lucy Adams Krause, g'82; a brother; and two grandchildren.

**Robert Allen, c'73**, 64, Dec. 26 in Scottsdale, Arizona, where he was retired. He had been a senior executive at the Federal Reserve System and later owned two financial services companies in Lawrence. He is survived by his wife, Teresa McDonald Allen, h'98; a stepson, Dylan Standish, b'01; a stepdaughter, Caitlin Standish, c'05, g'11; a brother, Burt Allen, d'70, g'72, g'77; a sister, Marian Allen, c'67; and a granddaughter.

**Carlene Wiltshire Burkhead, EdD'74**, 80, Dec. 17 in Grandview, Missouri, where she taught physical education in the Grandview school district. Later she became director of education, pastoral care and liturgical planning at Ruskin Heights Lutheran Church. Two sons, a sister and three granddaughters survive.

**John Campbell, l'79, g'79**, 59, Nov. 25 in Topeka, where he had been Kansas chief deputy attorney general and general counsel for the state insurance commissioner. He is survived by his wife, Lisa Jo, his parents and two sisters.

**Robert Epstein, b'71**, 68, Dec. 12 in Spicewood, Texas. He owned Hill Country Blind Company and is survived by his wife, Velma, two sons and a sister.

**Dan Hazelet, b'72**, 71, Jan. 8 in Over-

land Park. He had been a systems accountant for the General Services Administration. Surviving are his wife, Leslie, assoc.; a son; a sister, Sharon Hazelet Schick, '61; two brothers, one of whom is Timothy, b'69; and two grandchildren.

**Gregory Hembree, c'76, g'78**, 60, Sept. 6 in Centreville, Virginia. He had been planning and zoning director for Vienna for 27 years. Surviving are his wife, Marla Manske Hembree, '87; four sons, one of whom is Steven, '06; his parents, Will, assoc., and Connie Hembree, assoc.; and six grandchildren.

**Jo Anne Deal Hicks, c'78**, 83, Dec. 27 in Lawrence, where she was active in community affairs and church work. Surviving are her husband, Walter, a'54; two sons, Jeffrey, '83, and James, '79; two daughters, Jan Hicks O'Neill, '95, and Jo Ellen Hicks Kasson, '88; a sister; eight grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

**Mary Walsh Mayfield, f'77**, 75, Jan. 13 in Overland Park, where she was an artist. She is survived by her husband, Rodney, assoc.; a daughter, Margaret Mayfield Boylan, h'82; a son, Bruce, j'82; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

**Douglas Oliver, c'76**, 63, Dec. 18 in Olathe. He owned Douglas Oliver Design Office, and his work is part of the permanent design collection at the U.S. Library of Congress. He is survived by his wife, Betsy Wells Oliver, c'75; two sons; a daughter; a sister, Diane Oliver Joseph, j'69; a brother, Craig, c'75, l'78; and a grandson.

**Pamela Muth Shields, d'70, g'72**, 67, Jan. 7 in La Grange, Illinois, where she was an executive and a consultant in the food manufacturing industry. She is survived by her mother, Betty, a sister and a brother.

**Kirk Vann, e'73**, 63, Jan. 13 in Houston, where he was a financial planner with Ameriprise. Earlier he had been an engineer with Exxon and worked in crude and products trading. Surviving are his wife, Darla; three daughters; a stepson; a stepdaughter; and a brother, Kyle, e'69.

**80s John Hocker II, b'81, g'83**, 56, Jan. 14 in Lenexa, where he was a partner and vice president of Hocker Realty & Investment Company. He is survived by



a son, Andrew, '13; a daughter, Rebecca, '14; his mother, Elizabeth Campbell Hocker, s'66; a sister, Jan Hocker Hart, e'81; and a granddaughter.

**Daun Horttor, c'84**, 53, Oct. 15 in San Antonio, where she was a retired lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Air Force. She had received the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Force Commendation Medal and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal. Survivors include a son; her parents, Donald, c'53, l'59, and Jane Ausherman Horttor, d'57; and a brother, Bretton, c'87, l'92.

**Randy Howard, c'81, m'85**, 54, Jan. 22 in Westfield, Indiana, where he was a regional medical director for Anthem Blue Cross. Surviving are his wife, Valerie; three sons; his father, Randall, g'72; a brother, Rusty, '85; and his grandmother.

**Virginia Volk, c'81**, 55, April 17 in Arlington, Virginia, where she was retired from a 32-year career with the Federal Aviation Administration. She is survived by four brothers, two of whom are Dietrich, b'76, and Richard, '79; and a sister, Elizabeth Volk, c'79, m'84.

**90s Terese Brophy, g'98**, 61, Jan. 22 in Lenexa. She had been a neonatal intensive care nurse at Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City for 37 years. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. She is survived by her husband, James; two daughters, Margaret, '16, and Katherine, '15; a son; and a sister.

**Christopher Hanna, b'93**, 44, Feb. 14 in Lawrence. He was an investor in Merchants Pub & Plate and a member of the KU Memorial Unions board. He also had co-founded The BleuJacket restaurant and worked for Americans for Prosperity. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. He is survived by his wife, Teresa Lynch Hanna, j'92; a son; a daughter; his father, Bill, assoc.; and two brothers, one of whom is Paul, b'91, g'93.

**Brian Hicks, c'95**, 41, Dec. 26 in Charleston, South Carolina. He lived in Folly Beach and had worked for Clipper Cruise Lines and Mariners Cay Marina. Surviving are his parents, Robert Jr., c'66, and Barbara Gates Hicks, c'90; a sister,

Julie Hicks Hamlin, n'94; and his grandmother.

**Tyler Preston, c'90**, 46, July 24 in Knoxville, Tennessee. He was a pilot and owner and operator of Preston Aircraft. Surviving are his wife, Catherine; a brother, Reed, c'86; and five stepsiblings.

**00s Rhonda Sell Thompson, s'02**, 59, Aug. 31 in Opolis. She lived in Pittsburg, where she was a social worker for The Farm Incorporated for the past 17 years. She is survived by her husband, Robert, a son, a daughter, her mother, a brother and four grandchildren.

**10s Alice Dye, PhD'13**, 60, Jan. 3 in Grandview, Missouri. She is survived by her father and stepmother, a sister and two nephews.

**Christopher Willdermood, e'10**, 32, Jan. 14 in Olathe. He worked for the Federal Aviation Administration and is survived by his wife, Stacey, his parents, his twin brother and his grandparents.

#### THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

**Anna Cienciala**, 85, Dec. 24 in Lawrence, where she was professor emerita of history and Russian and Eastern European studies at KU. She recently received the Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland with Star, conferred on people who have rendered exceptional service to Poland.

**William Fletcher**, 82, Dec. 14 in Natchez, Mississippi. He had been director of Soviet and Eastern European studies at KU from 1970 to 1996. Surviving are two daughters, Laurie Fletcher Hall, c'82, and Linda Fletcher Rodriguez, c'89; a son, Stephen, c'84, h'96; a brother, Stephen, g'86; 10 grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

**Alfred Lata, '73**, 83, Dec. 21 in Lawrence, where he taught chemistry at KU until retiring in 2003. He frequently spoke at regional, national and international meetings on the use of computers for chemical education. Surviving are his wife, Mary; a son, John, c'84, g'95; a daughter, Jamie Lata Guthrie, s'93; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

**Forrest Swall, assoc.**, 83, Dec. 30 in

Lawrence, where he was a retired assistant professor of social welfare at KU. He also had served in the Kansas House of Representatives. Surviving are his wife, Donna Stearns Swall, s'69; a son, Ronald, g'90; and two daughters, Tara Swall, d'85, and Maria Swall, c'86.

**Alexander Tsiovkh**, 63, Dec. 23 in Lawrence, where he was director of Ukrainian studies and an associate professor of practice at KU's Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies. He is survived by his wife, Yaroslava, and a daughter, Olena Tsiovkh, c'11, b'11.

**Richard Whelan, EdD'66**, 83, Jan. 9 in Overland Park, where he was a retired KU instructor of psychiatry, professor of special education and pediatrics and the Ralph L. Smith Distinguished Professor of Child Development. He also had been dean of graduate school and director of education at the Children's Rehabilitation Unit at the KU Medical Center. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. He is survived by his wife, Carol King Whelan, n'57, g'82; a daughter, Cheryl Whelan-Fox, l'90, g'02; a son; and two grandsons.

#### ASSOCIATES

**Dale Gregg**, 81, Dec. 24 in Wichita. He lived in Lecompton for many years, where he owned a painting and repair business and had served on the Lecompton City Council. He is survived by his wife, Elise Stucky-Gregg, c'85; three daughters, two of whom are Dayle Gregg Hodges, '04, and Christine Gregg Hollister, c'88; a son; 15 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

**Joan Bilbe McRae**, 89, Jan. 10 in Wichita, where she was a homemaker. She is survived by three daughters, Karen McRae, d'67, Marsha McRae Bacon, d'70, and Janet McRae Chegwiddden, d'74; a son, Brian, b'77; seven grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

**Edith Ice Shrimplin**, 84, Jan. 16 in Topeka. She lived in Valley Falls and is survived by her husband, Frank, p'50; a son, Tom, p'75; two daughters; two sisters; six grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

# Rock Chalk Review

COURTESY TERESA ELLIOTT (5)



*Young Longhorn Bull*

## True West

**An artist's oil portraits of a Texas icon make her the toast of the Western art world**

**B**y the age of 12 Teresa Elliott knew that she wanted to be a painter.

“I really made a statement to myself: ‘I want to be a famous artist,’” says Elliott, f’77. “I’d draw the family dog over and over again. Drawing was the one thing I enjoyed in high school, and I just stuck with it.”

The Texas-based artist has since moved on to bigger subjects, painting oil portraits of Texas longhorns and other cattle breeds; the wildly popular works have brought so many commissions and offers to exhibit that she has to turn down many.

In January, Elliott was the featured artist at the 2015 Coors Western Art Show, the big annual showcase that draws visual



Elliott

artists and collectors from around the world to Denver to view and buy premier Western-themed art. Her oil painting “High Noon” was added to the permanent collection of the National Western Stock Show, which sponsors the art show, and a limited-edition poster of the portrait was sold to benefit the National Western Scholarship Trust.

Elliott has exhibited at the Coors show the past seven years, and five times her paintings were voted the People’s Choice Winner. She was asked to be the featured artist in 2014 but had to take a rain check because her work is in such demand that her schedule was full: Elliott’s epic year included a successful solo show at InSight Gallery in Fredericksburg,

Texas, and appearances in multi-artist shows in Phoenix; San Antonio; Denver; Tucson, Arizona; Bridgehampton, New York; and Sag Harbor, New York.

She attributes the broad appeal to the fact that, for many people, the iconic longhorn “just screams ‘Western art,’” even though she didn’t conceive her first cattle portrait as such.

“I painted my first longhorn as a means to have something on my own walls, because the actual artwork I wanted I couldn’t afford at the time,” Elliott says. “The first time I took snapshots of a bull it was late afternoon, and the way the light fell across its body, the shapes and colors and atmosphere, was just something that really appealed to my artistic eye.”

The exquisitely detailed oils feature rugged cattle in bold poses, often backed by brilliant sunsets. Their expressive faces contrasted with dramatic backdrops are Elliott trademarks.

“I tend to anthropomorphize them,” Elliott says of her bovine subjects. “Their expressions are more human than what’s actually there. If there’s the possibility to do that, I always go in that direction.”

She traces her skill for highly detailed drawing to a summer job she got after graduating from high school. At a Six Flags amusement park near St. Louis, she became one of the artists at an exhibit called Quick Draw, where patrons lined up



*High Noon*





*Headwaters*

to have their likenesses—portraits, not caricatures—drawn. As her skills improved, the line behind her easel grew, and by summer’s end she had the confidence—and the tuition money—to come to KU.

As a student in Lawrence, her ability to create realistic portraits led to a short stint as a sketch artist for the local police department. A composite sketch she created from witness descriptions helped bring a serial rapist to justice.

“I learned how to draw people from life, and that’s really how you learn to draw,”

says Elliott, who is getting back to those artistic roots in the next phase of her work, which focuses on the human figure. She has already completed a series of paintings based on photographs she took of her children years ago in the Texas Badlands, not far from where she lives near Big Bend National Park.

“It’s hard to give up the sure thing, but I have to move on. I’ve seen people who don’t, and it’ll catch up to you. You have to keep growing and expand your subject matter or you’re going to get stuck.”

—Steven Hill



*Agua Fria*

Capturing—or creating—an expressive face is essential to making a compelling portrait, Elliott says, whether the subject is animal or human. “My ability to get that expression right is really what people respond to.”

## Photo bug

### Researchers get dangerous pest ready for its close-up

An innovative collaboration between the arts and sciences at KU could help Latin American countries improve the public health response to one of the region’s biggest health threats.

Chagas disease, which affects an estimated 8 million people in Mexico, Central America and South America, is caused by a parasite carried and spread to humans by triatomine bugs, also known as kissing bugs. For anyone who comes into contact with the insect’s droppings or gets bitten by the blood-sucker, the experience can literally be the kiss of death.

“The terrible thing about this disease is the parasite gets into your bloodstream and in a few days to a week you get a low-grade fever and malaise,” says Town Peterson, professor of ecology and evolutionary biology and senior curator at the Biodiversity Institute. “If it’s treated at that point it’s curable, but if it goes much beyond that point there’s no cure.”

Kissing bugs pass on a trypanosome parasite, which causes organ damage that eventually leads to death, Peterson says, though it can take years to run its course. “It’s a very weird disease, because you can get it when you’re a kid and then have a very unproductive and unhealthy life and die of the disease decades after you got it.”

The public health response—which involves fumigating houses and other areas where the insects come into contact with humans—is complicated by the fact that more than 100 species of kissing bugs exist, and they are difficult for the average person to distinguish. To compound matters, the number of entomologists with expertise in these species is dropping as scientists age. A census 10 years ago showed that the median age for entomologists with triatomine expertise was 72.

“Distinguishing among the different species tells you a lot about what kind of public health response there should be,” Peterson says. “Knowing which species is present is pretty important, but our

## Rock Chalk Review

base of expertise is waning.”

To counter that loss, Peterson and his KU colleagues at the Biodiversity Institute, Information and Telecommunication Technology Center (ITTC) and Spencer Museum of Art are harnessing computing and digital photography technology to develop a computer application called Virtual Vector that can automatically identify kissing bug species from photographs. Automating the identification process would help public health officials counter the shortage of expert entomologists and more effectively target their efforts to control the bugs.

“The dream—what we’re aiming toward—is wouldn’t it be cool if anybody could capture a bug, snap a pic with a smartphone camera, email it somewhere and get back a species name,” Peterson says. “Turns out you need some pretty hefty computer science work” to do that, Peterson says. “It’s difficult.”

Providing that hefty computer science is Ed Komp, c’77, g’79, research engineer at ITTC, who is building a program that turns a photo into a set of landmark-type features that allow a computer program to distinguish among the many species.

“I assumed that the biologists and taxonomists probably had software already doing much of the work we need to look at a photograph and identify a species, and that my job would be to tune that up to work with this specific species,” Komp says

of his introduction to Virtual Vector. “But I found instead that a lot of people have tried to do this without much success.”

To help simplify Komp’s task, Jarrett Mellenbruch, a Kansas City artist with connections to the Spencer Museum, helped researchers gather more consistent photos, building a stand in which bugs can be positioned and photographed with an iPod’s digital camera. The stand is small and portable (and can even be produced with a 3-D printer), which allows researchers to more easily use it in the field. The stand provides consistent perspective, lighting and background for the photos.

Early tests using biologists to back up the automated system have shown success rates around 90 to 95 percent, but more work remains to be done before the system is tested in Mexico and Brazil later this year. Once perfected, Peterson says, Virtual Vector could have applications for insect species closer to home, such as deer ticks that carry Lyme disease in Kansas.

But there are already U.S. applications for the project, which is funded by a \$300,000 award from KU’s Research Investment & Strategic Initiative Grant Program. Photographs submitted for identification will be added to an existing database, allowing Virtual Vector to build science’s understanding of kissing bugs by generating more accurate maps of each species’ distribution throughout the



*Relicts of a Beautiful Sea: Survival, Extinction, and Conservation in a Desert World*

by Christopher Norment  
\$28, The University of North Carolina Press

Americas—a range that increasingly includes the United States. As many as 300,000 cases of Chagas disease have been identified here, and changes in habitat as a result of global warming could make larger swathes of the country hospitable to the deadly bugs in the future.

“This is not just a Mexico-Brazil issue,” Peterson says. “We have similar challenges right here in Kansas.”

—Steven Hill

## The survivors

### Tiny, aquatic desert creatures tell unlikely conservation story

“It is in the particulars of place and being that we will take our meaning, the goodness of our lives, and the lives of others,” conservation biologist Christopher Norment writes in his third book, *Relicts of a Beautiful Sea*.

So it is that Norment, PhD’92, chose to examine the particulars of a place close to his heart, the “spare and aching” Great Basin desert east of California’s Sierra Nevada Mountains, and six “stunning and compelling” aquatic creatures, all of which are—so far, at least—survivors of the harsh landscape and human encroachment.

How much longer the salamander, a toad and four types of pupfish can hold on says more about us than it does them, Norment argues. Will we recognize their inherent value and treasure their contradiction of hardiness and fragility, or must we first insist on a cost-benefit analysis?

“Why should we cherish and protect the many threads of life’s deep and intricate



The Virtual Vector team includes Lindsay Campbell, project leader Town Peterson, Hannah Owens and Ed Komp.



history,” he writes, “and just what are all the lonely and besieged species worth?”

Norment, professor of environmental science and biology at the State University of New York’s College at Brockport, writes with an authority and subtlety that evoke those he credits with inspiring his research and writing: the scientific sturdiness of Charles Darwin, narrative power of naturalist Barry Lopez and lyrical grace of poet B.H. Fairchild, c’64, g’68.

For those who seek such a melange of science, literature and passion, *Relicts of a Beautiful Sea* offers sanctuary as rare as the survivors it illuminates.

—Chris Lazzarino

## Price of justice

### Alliance funds law students’ work to free the innocent

With a small endowment of about \$10,000 for DNA testing and expert testimony, the School of Law’s Paul E. Wilson Project for Innocence and Post-Conviction Remedies has struggled to access scientific evidence and testimony that are often the best hopes for wrongly convicted prisoners.

Now, thanks to a recent agreement with the Midwest Innocence Project, law students working in the KU clinic can vigorously pursue their loftiest goals: seeing an innocent person walk free. The Midwest Innocence Project, a member of the National Innocence Network, investigates cases in Kansas, Missouri, Arkansas, Iowa and Nebraska.

“This is a big step for us,” says director and clinical professor Jean Phillips, l’90. “This allows us more avenues to help people, avenues that can be expensive.”

Founded in 1965 by the late Distinguished Professor Emeritus Paul E. Wilson, c’37, g’38, The Kansas Defender Project, as it was then known, was the first law-school prisoner assistance clinic in the country. It represented inmates at Lansing Correctional Facility and U.S. Penitentiary-Leavenworth with a variety of legal issues, including jail credit,

child custody and medical attention.

It began to morph in the late 1970s into a post-conviction clinic, assisting Kansas inmates who had lost their initial appeals yet still hoped to pursue additional appeals because they believed they had not received fair trials for various reasons, including failure to call helpful witnesses, withheld evidence or ineffective representation by their attorneys.

As changes to federal and state law in the mid-1990s and early 2000s increased the difficulty and risk of pursuing appeals, the Project, as it is known inside Green Hall, began to look more closely at actual innocence cases. DNA testing is a well-known resource for some wrongly convicted prisoners, and new science in areas such as arson investigation, battered woman syndrome and shaken-baby infant death are also opportunities for reversals.

But DNA cases cost at least \$4,000, and, Phillips says, “We ran up against costs.”

When Phillips was approached in spring 2014 by the Midwest Innocence Project (MIP), it was agreed that KU would litigate the cases for free in return for the MIP helping cover expenses.

According to the MIP, recent studies “conservatively estimate” that between 2 and 5 percent of all U.S. inmates were falsely convicted; some estimates reach as high as 7 percent, including up to 4 percent of inmates on death row. That equates to somewhere between 2,000 and 7,000 wrongly convicted inmates in the MIP’s five-state region.

In the past five years alone, 38 KU Project for Innocence clients have been granted new trials. Thanks to the infusion of resources for testing and expert testimony, KU law students will now have even more opportunities to right wrongs.

Faculty members emphasize that freeing innocent people isn’t the Project’s only goal. Phillips and her colleagues—clinical associate professor Elizabeth Cateforis, l’94, and supervising attorney Alice Craig, g’90, l’95—are clinic alumnae who are passionate about educating talented and sympathetic lawyers.

“Our goal is to get students out there who are excellent in what they do,” Craig says. “If they intend to be defense counsel,

that they know how to prepare a case and they know what’s expected of them. And for our prosecutors, that they really see both sides to the issue.”

The Project’s 16 current students, paired in eight teams, simultaneously work a federal clemency petition, an MIP innocence case and a post-conviction case, and it is assured that they will encounter disappointment, either because they can’t help a client they truly believe or because they discover that clients they trusted were dishonest about their cases.

“My message to them is that you’re going to deal with these kind of clients no matter what type of work you do,” Cateforis says. “Even in the civil world there are



Project for Innocence faculty are Jean Phillips, Elizabeth Cateforis and Alice Craig.

clients who are not going to be straightforward and clients that you can’t help even though you want to.”

Phillips says students who arrive with black-and-white views in favor of the defense or prosecution will find that the reality is usually somewhat grayer.

“My goal here is to understand that we’re all people,” Phillips says, “and everybody deserves to be treated with dignity and respect, no matter who you are, no matter what you did.”

“If you’re willing to understand that everybody is a person, I think that makes you a better lawyer, I think that makes you a better member of society, and I think that’s just good all-around education.”

—Chris Lazzarino

# KU 150 Historical notes in celebration of the University's sesquicentennial



COURTESY SPENCER RESEARCH LIBRARY



COURTESY KANSAS MEMORIAL UNIONS



1968 JAYHAWKER YEARBOOK

Louis Armstrong's Ballroom performance of March 23, 1957, was notable because of the occasion: a student rally to welcome home the men's basketball team after its heartbreaking triple-overtime loss to North Carolina in the NCAA Tournament title game in Kansas City. It was otherwise far from unique.

Satchmo, in fact, also played the Kansas Union Ballroom on March 12, 1955, according to records compiled by KU

Memorial Unions' director of public affairs Mike Reid, '87, and in 1967 he played a Homecoming concert for 6,000 fans in Allen Field House. Having recently returned from a tour of Vietnam, Armstrong closed the joyous event on a serious note by dedicating "You'll Never Walk Alone" to mothers of U.S. servicemen and women fighting in Southeast Asia.

Although Armstrong's 1957 gig has our attention at the moment, with the emer-

gence of Don Potts' remarkable recording, the Ballroom has hosted many other notable performers and celebrities, including Notre Dame football coach Knute Rockne, less than two months before his 1931 death in a Kansas plane crash, Tommy Dorsey and Frank Sinatra in 1941, Les Brown and his Band of Renown in 1955, poet and former Lawrencian Langston Hughes in 1965, bandleader Tex Beneke in 1982, the Red Hot Chili Peppers in 1988, Public Enemy in 1992, and the year before, Nirvana. After their Ballroom concert, the hot Seattle rockers stepped for the first time onto a bona fide tour bus of their very own.



COURTESY SPENCER RESEARCH LIBRARY



1941 JAYHAWKER YEARBOOK

Kurt Cobain (clockwise from top left) and Nirvana's concert poster, Louis Armstrong at Allen Field House, Frank Sinatra and Connie Haines with the Tommy Dorsey Band, and the Pied Pipers.





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