



KANSAS ALUMNI

No 1, 2016 ■ \$5

First Final Four

*All-American Ainise Havili helps lift
30-3 'Hawks to volleyball's biggest stage*

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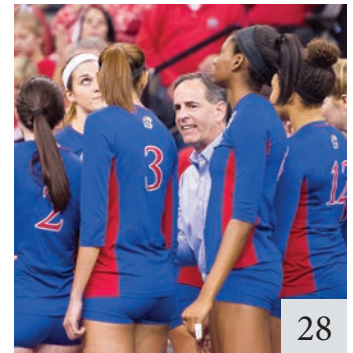
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Dream Big

Ambitious goals and clutch play—including a comeback for the ages—powered KU volleyball’s historic run to the Final Four.

By Chris Lazzarino

*Cover photograph
by Steve Puppe*

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At First Light

Photographer Michael Strickland’s approach to capturing fresh landscape portraits relies on an old-fashioned formula—a large-format camera, film and patience.

By Chris Lazzarino

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Poetry for the People

Tod Marshall’s journey to becoming the next poet laureate of Washington state started with a book-filled Wichita childhood.

By Steven Hill

Lift the Chorus



Strike up the memories

WHAT A GREAT ARTICLE about the Marching Jayhawks [“Suit Up the Band,” issue No. 6]. I was a member of this great organization from 1963 to ’65, and your story brought back a lot of memories.

Whenever we attend a football game, we always get into the stadium in time to see the band charge out of the stands for the pregame. I must say there were a couple of times when that was a chore because of the lively Friday nights in Lawrence.

Tim Weeks, d’68
Kansas City

I ENJOYED THE NOVEMBER issue of *Kansas Alumni*, but there are a couple of errors.

In “First Word,” I think you’re saying that the marching band’s pregame run-in was developed in 1968, but it must substantially predate that. Although I didn’t join the Marching Jayhawks, I was in my high school marching band. We had a KU alumnus as director in 1966, and he had us run down our stadium steps because he thought it was so cool at KU. As a clumsy 16-year-old, I wasn’t nearly as

enamoured of it—always afraid I’d tumble down 20 concrete steps.

In Chris Lazzarino’s article, he states that the Sudler Trophy honors “the country’s best band.” I spent some time this year chastising K-State alumni for saying the same thing about their band’s 2015 Sudler win. The Sousa Foundation website clearly states the Sudler Trophy is not an award for the best band in any particular year; it is an award for sustained excellence in band. It has never been awarded to any school more than once.

I first saw KU as a high school student participating in Band Day, in either 1966 or ’67, and I remember the KU pregame run-in at that game.

I also remember unloading our bus east of Allen Field House and looking in awe at the line of Daisy Hill dorms. I thought they resembled a brick armada sailing across the hill, with the McCollum flagship at the fore. I’m today feeling nostalgic for the loss of that visual. [See *On the Boulevard*, p. 6] Memories of that first trip to Lawrence were a big reason why I chose KU.

Larry Tenopir, d’72,
g’78, l’82
Lawrence

Editor’s Note: According to the John Philip Sousa Foundation, *The Sudler Trophy (which the Marching Jayhawks received in 1989) is indeed awarded biannually “to a college or university marching band which has demonstrated the highest of musical standards and innovative marching routines and ideas, and which has made important contributions to the advancement*

of the performance standards of college marching bands over a number of years.” A history of the Marching Jayhawks compiled by the KU School of Music credits Robert Foster, who became director of bands in 1971, with introducing the pregame march down the Hill, but it does not pinpoint the origins of the iconic pregame run down the Memorial Stadium steps. If anyone out there remembers encountering the daring dash before 1966, we’d love to hear from you.



Calendar kudos

KUDOS TO ALL WHO produced the 2016 KU Alumni Association calendar! What a wonderful look back to 150 years of KU history. Four generations of my KU family loved scrolling through the years. Thank you!

Laurie Forst Russell, d’73
Wheaton, Illinois

Oh say can you please

I HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING Mike Finnigan [“Get Finnigan,” *Rock Chalk Review*, issue No. 6] since I was a ninth-grader in Wichita in 1966.

In the ’80s I was fortunate to live in Los Angeles, where Mike played in many studio-musician bands around town, and I saw him in many a



Finnigan

famous “dive” back then. Those of us who know Mike musically know he is a real treasure and talent. Even Mike’s father said, “God doesn’t care whom he gives talent to—and you’re a good example.”

I lived in Lawrence in the ’90s and, knowing of Mike’s vocal gift, I begged the director of bands to have Mike sing the national anthem, as Mike has done for many a sporting event in the Los Angeles area. KU basketball was honoring an anniversary of some sort, and Mike and other basketball alumni were coming back. I thought it would be great to “get Finnigan,” one of KU’s basketball alumni, to sing.

Unfortunately, a student had already been chosen, and it would break the student’s heart to be told they could not sing.

I understood all of that, but here is my advice: If you really want to hear the walls come tumbling down at Allen, get Finnigan to come back and sing “The Star-Spangled Banner” while the seniors enjoy their last game at home.

Mike Levand, c’76
Wichita



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

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A D V A N C I N G T H E P O W E R O F M E D I C I N E ®



If KU's volleyball players have their way, December Delirium might someday rival March Madness as a certifiable season (or syndrome).

In the waning hours of Dec. 12, when coach Ray Bechard and his gritty team toppled the University of Southern California to earn a Final Four berth, I was among the ecstatic fans glued to the TV, reveling in the unexpected holiday cheer and historic achievement. As I finally settled down to sleep, visions of a cover story danced in my head.

Even though KU's ascent stopped short of the pinnacle, the story of a principled, persistent coach and his determined players offers valuable lessons. Associate Editor Chris Lazzarino, '86, traces Bechard's long career and describes the chemistry of coaches and players who have patiently, carefully built KU volleyball into one of the nation's most respected programs.

Patience also is a virtue for Michael Strickland, a landscape photographer and the subject of another feature by Lazzarino. With an engineer's precision and an artist's passion, Strickland, '15, painstakingly searches horizons in Kansas, California and other regions to create breathtaking images. He eschews digital shortcuts, placing his trust in time-honored tools. On a stormy September morning, Strickland and our *Kansas Alumni* crew embarked on a wild ride through the Flint Hills that revealed insights perhaps even more valuable than the sights the young photographer caught on film.

For our third feature, Associate Editor Steven Hill talked with Tod Marshall, a poet and professor who is beginning a two-year term as the poet laureate in his adopted state of Washington. Marshall grew up in Wichita, where his family faced financial struggles. He found refuge in books. Years later, as a first-generation college student in a writing class, he discovered "I might have a voice with something to say, too," he says.



Strickland



Marshall

Throughout his career, Marshall, PhD'95, has worked to dispel the notion of poetry as an exalted art for a favored few. He has shared poetry with diverse audiences, and he vows to continue his mission on a more public stage as laureate, promoting poetry as a way for anyone and everyone to cope in an era of fear and distrust. "I think poetry forces us to dwell on uncertainty and to inhabit places with unanswerable questions—and try to be OK with that," he says.

Marshall's words echoed as we reviewed the difficult final weeks of the fall semester, when KU became part of a national conversation on racism and discrimination in higher education. During a Nov. 11 town hall discussion in the Kansas Union, students, faculty and staff members cited painful personal examples of unfair treatment and bigotry. One group of students known as Rock Chalk Invisible Hawk interrupted Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little to present 15 demands in the first of several campus protests. In our Hilltopics news section (see p. 10), we report on KU leaders' initial responses and include a timeline of key events since Nov. 11. We will follow the story throughout the spring semester and beyond.

In a Nov. 13 email to the KU community, the chancellor denounced instances of racism and vowed action, declaring that KU will become a leader among universities in addressing racism and discrimination. She also emphasized that change rarely happens from the top down. "Change has to happen from within our university, and it must involve all of us—administrators, students, faculty, staff and alumni—working together," she said.

"In the end, we are all human beings, and we all deserve to be treated with dignity and respect. And we are all Jayhawks."

As many voices join the conversation and the University seeks solutions, let's hope that patience, respect, and thoughtful words and deeds prevail.

On the Boulevard

DAN STOREY (5)



Exhibitions

“Writing Home: Bob Dole’s KU Letters, 1941-1942,” Dole Institute, through spring

“Celebrating Opportunity for People with Disabilities: 70 Years of Dole Leadership,” Dole Institute, through spring

Lied Center events

JANUARY

24 Moscow Festival Ballet: The Sleeping Beauty

29 Shemekia Copeland with special guest Blind Boy Paxton

FEBRUARY

12 The Band of the Royal Marines & the Pipes, Drums & Highland Dancers of the Scots Guards

18 Adam Devine

23 KU Wind Ensemble with special guest Jeff Nelson, French horn

25 Chanticleer

28 Sang-Eun Lee, cello

MARCH

4 Jonathan Rudy, Bales Organ Recital Hall

9 The Demo: Concert Version

22 Christian Tamburr, solo vibraphone and piano

25 Out of Bounds, public performance

McCollum Hall ended its 50-year run at 9 a.m. Nov. 25 in the most spectacular way: surrounded by KU community members who came out in droves to witness the implosion of the 10-story, 220,000-square-foot structure. In less than 20 seconds the building collapsed. Once the rubble is cleared, the site will be paved for much-needed parking on Daisy Hill. If you missed the Alumni Association’s broadcast, including interviews and historical features, visit kualumni.org/mccollum.

University Theatre

Reef: How Human Stories Matter,” Iain McCalman, The Commons

FEBRUARY

26-28, March 3-4, 6 “The Rehearsal & the Hypochondriac,” directed by Mechele Leon, Crafton-Preyer Theatre

MARCH

3 Kenneth A. Spencer Lecture: “An Evening with Andy Borowitz, in conversation with Steve Kraske,” Kansas Union Ballroom

Lectures

FEBRUARY

10 Humanities Lecture Series: “The Great Barrier

22 Humanities Lecture Series: “Human Trafficking in the Heartland,” Hannah Britton, The Commons



Academic Calendar

JANUARY

19 First day of classes

FEBRUARY

4 KU School of Business diversity and equity forum, Summerfield Hall

18 “The Power of Sport: A Conversation on Business, Race and Sports”

MARCH

14-20 Spring break

Alumni Events

JANUARY

23 KU-Texas watch parties

25 KU-Iowa State watch parties

25 Omahawks social hour and watch party, Omaha, Nebraska

30 KU-Kentucky watch parties, Big 12-SEC Challenge

FEBRUARY

1 Pittsburg: Kansas Honors Program

2 KU Night with the Brooklyn Nets

2 Twin Cities Happy Hour and KU150 Exhibition, Minneapolis

6 Southwest Tumble, Liberal

6 KU-TCU postgame party, Fort Worth, Texas

8 Fort Scott: Kansas Honors Program



SPENCER RESEARCH LIBRARY

10 Great Bend: Kansas Honors Program

10 Mound City: Kansas Honors Program

13 KU-Oklahoma pregame party, Norman, Oklahoma

16 SAA Networking Night, Adams Alumni Center

21 KU Night with the Portland Trail Blazers

22 Beloit: Kansas Honors Program

23 KU-Baylor pregame party, Waco, Texas

23 SAA KU-Baylor watch party, Adams Alumni Center

24 Atchison: Kansas Honors Program

24 Holton: Kansas Honors Program

25 Washington: Kansas Honors Program

26 KU Night with the Sacramento Kings

29 KU-Texas pregame party, Austin, Texas

MARCH

9 KU Night with the Oklahoma City Thunder

30 Neodesha: Kansas Honors Program

• **Events listed here are highlights from the Association’s busy calendar. For complete listings of all events, watch for emails about programs in your area, visit kualumni.org or call 800-584-2957.**

Jayhawk Walk



LARRY LEROY PEARSON

A fun class with real bite

Bram Stoker unleashed the modern vampire ideal—Count Dracula—on the world with his classic 1897 novel, but the legends upon which he fashioned his terrifying night stalker reached deep into Slavic superstition and tradition.

As far back as the 11th century, says Ani Kokobobo, assistant professor of Slavic languages and literatures, vampires were believed to be “unclean” dead relatives who returned to menace their families.

Stoker, an Anglo-Irish author and theatre manager with a flair for the dramatic, merged Slavic legends of

Vlad the Impaler and a blood-bathing Hungarian countess named Elizabeth Báthory to create Count Dracula, Kokobobo explains.

This spring she shares thrilling and chilling elements of vampire lore with students in a new course, “The Vampire in Literature, Film, and Television.”

“We hope this will draw students to our department,” Kokobobo says. “We are envisioning this as a gateway course with broad appeal.”

After all, students who learned their numbers from “Sesame Street” and swooned over the “Twilight” saga should be down with the Count.

Foot traffic

“IT IS A 20 MINUTE WALK TO LIVE music and dancing,” proclaims the brightly colored sign on Jayhawk Boulevard. A bold arrow points the way, or smartphone users can scan a QR code for a map and step-by-step directions to Mass Street.

Part of the Walk Lawrence campaign organized by KU’s urban planning department, The Commons and the Biodiversity Institute, temporary signs posted on campus and downtown remind people that cars and buses aren’t the only way to get around.

“There are internal barriers [to walking]

inside people’s brains,” says Ward Lyles, associate professor of urban planning.

“The signs can help address some of those barriers. They can flip that switch. ‘Oh, I could walk from the library to South Park. It can be done.’”

More daunting, Lyles says, are external barriers such as “suburban sprawl-oriented development patterns” that for 70 years

have favored Pontiacs over pedestrians.

Walk Lawrence organizers hope to add to the conversation about walkability now underway in Lawrence, while touting the many benefits of hoofing it: exercise, weight loss, cleaner air and a greater sense of community, to name a few.

Best of all, when students get older, *they* can bore *their* grandchildren with stories of walking to school—or to live music and dancing—uphill, both ways.



EMILY RYAN

Public enemy No. 2

WHERE PIGEONS PERCH, pigeons poop, and because they and other feathered friends fancy the Mississippi Street and Allen Field House parking garages, both structures are stained by association. Parking officials are well aware of the problem, but solving the ongoing stink has no easy solution.

“What we’re trying to do is get the pigeons to move on,” says Danny Kaiser, ’89, associate director of parking and



Jay Draskovich, owner of Drasko's, and Torched Goodness' Julia Ireland

transit. "We don't want to hurt the pigeons."

By the time spring semester begins, parking officials hope to have installed two deterrents: wire-mesh "hardware cloth," shoved into nooks and crannies where birds nest, and lightly electrified "Bird Jolt" strips affixed to flat surfaces.

Washing the bird poop out of the structures is no easy fix. Dirty water filled with bird and car droppings can't be allowed to drain into sewers, so KU will use a special tank,

attached to drain pipes, to filter the filthy garage gunk.

Natural solutions are usually the best, which is why Kaiser and his

colleagues are eager for the return of an occasional visitor to the Allen Field House garage—a hawk, which one morning was seen standing like a statue near the garage entrance. The big bad bird remained so still for so long that parking employees became concerned.

"They had somebody from animal control come out and take a look at him," Kaiser recalls, "and they said, 'No, he's just gorged himself and he can't fly.'"

The field house garage has fewer pigeons than the Mississippi Street structure, and Kaiser has little doubt the bird of prey is at least one reason why: "When he does

come by, he really knocks down the population for a little while."

Beak 'em, hawks!

Keep on truckin'

LOCALLY SOURCED FOOD? Check. Local entrepreneurs teamed with energetic chefs? Yep. But there's another ingredient fueling food-truck fandom:

"It really does build community. It gets

people out and talking to each other," says Julia Ireland, owner of the Torched Goodness crème brulee truck and the food-truck-themed restaurant Fork to Fender. "People are standing on the streets or sitting in a parking spot, and people come up and say, 'Wow, that really looks good. What is that?' And they get to talking. You don't do that in a restaurant."

That's one of the reasons KU Dining Services invited four Lawrence food trucks to visit campus from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays last fall. The trucks parked outside the Ambler Student Recreation Center and in Lot 54, between Murphy and Green halls.

They will return in the spring, along with two expected newcomers. Hours and locations might vary, and talks are underway to allow students to use their KU Dining cards at the food trucks, which Ireland found to be a big boost to business when she and her husband, Le Cordon Bleu-trained chef Eric Ireland, launched Torched Goodness in 2010 near the campus of Arizona State University.

As the recipe for success at KU is fine tuned, we're betting that zest for campus food trucks will only rev higher.

These sharps are on key

They've been on Taylor Swift's tour bus, won Olathe's Got Talent and KU's Got Talent, and even attended the Grammys.

But when it comes to show business thrills, Amanda and Kelley Sharp say it's hard to top rocking the best room on campus in front of friends, family and fellow students.

The Olathe sophomores, twins who perform as The Sharp Sisters, played a half-dozen original songs to warm up for David Cook, 2008 winner of American Idol, at the Lied Center in October.

"It was a pretty cool experience," Kelley says. "We usually play for, like, five people in a bar on Wednesday night. It was fun to play for a bigger crowd."

Aside from their parents and friends, most attendees were unfamiliar with their country-tinged pop material. But by the end of their set, they'd won the crowd over.

"They kept asking if we have an album, and we had to say, 'No, not yet,'" Amanda says. The sisters are now recording an EP they hope to release someday. "We're like, 'Just go like us on Facebook. That'll do for now. Then we'll let you know.'"

Stay tuned.



Amanda and Kelley Sharp

Hilltopics

MEG KUMIN, MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS



Difficult dialogues

Veteran staff member to lead multicultural office as KU strives to improve campus climate

After serving as interim director for eight months, Precious Porras in December was named the new director of KU's Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA).

Porras began working at OMA in 2005 with Hawk Link, an academic retention program to assist students of color and first-generation college students. She was promoted to assistant director of diversity education in 2006, and in 2013 she became associate director of diversity education and social justice programs. Through the past decade, she has played an integral role in developing programs for freshman students and coordinating workshops for faculty, staff and students.

One of Porras' main priorities in her new role is to hire a cultural competency coordinator. "Given the conversation this year about racial issues on campus, we're looking for someone who can make that connection between cultural competency

and the academic unit," she says. "We're looking at how we can help students and have someone be their voice to faculty."

Many of the struggles underrepresented students face came to light Nov. 11 in a heated town hall forum. Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little moderated the event, which drew more than 1,000 students, faculty and staff. During the discussion, a student group known as Rock Chalk Invisible Hawk (RCIH) temporarily took the stage and announced a list of 15 demands, which included hiring a new OMA director by the end of 2015.

In a statement issued two days after the forum, Gray-Little said, "If there was one thing I took from Wednesday's forum, it's that students, faculty and staff want action, and they want it now. As I said Wednesday evening, I am committed to continuing our ongoing efforts to address racism and discrimination at KU."

Other concerns cited at the forum

Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little heard from students, faculty and staff at a town hall forum that drew more than 1,000 participants to the Kansas Union in November.

.....

included the University's low retention rates for students of color and a lack of multicultural training for students, faculty and staff. Both are areas Porras aims to address as OMA director. She also hopes to increase funding for new programs and staff members.

Nate Thomas, vice provost for diversity and equity, who's leading a campus climate study, cites Porras' proven accomplishments in social justice when discussing KU's plans to promote diversity and inclusion on campus. "I'm very happy to have her on board knowing that we have these areas to address on campus," he says. "She brings an exceptional skill set. She's already been doing fantastic things as it relates to training our faculty, staff and students. Last year they trained over 3,300 freshmen during Jayhawk Jumpstart."

Providing guidance and training for all students, not just marginalized groups, is another priority for Porras. "Before we were focused on serving mainly students of color," she says. "Now we're serving every single student on campus, because every student is multicultural. We've expanded the marginalized populations that we work with. Now we also work with students with disabilities, students from different religious backgrounds and the LGBT population."

Porras notes that students are eager to create an inclusive environment at KU, and she intends to keep an open dialogue with them. "One of my priorities is to meet with RCIH to talk about how we, the OMA, can support their cause," she says. "I am excited to meet with lots of groups and have continued conversation on supporting their efforts."

The campus climate study is just one part of the University's plan to reduce intolerance and discrimination on campus. The first phase of the study—which included education, marketing and securing the services of Rankin & Associates Consulting—began early last fall and will continue this spring with focus groups and survey development. The campus climate task force, led by Thomas and Mike Rounds, associate vice provost for human resource management, and composed of faculty, staff and student representatives, expects to conduct the survey on all KU campuses in fall 2016.

In early December, following additional protests by RCIH, Sara Thomas Rosen, incoming interim provost, described the impact of the climate study in an email to students, faculty and staff. "These conversations and, ultimately, the survey responses will provide our offices with deep data on the experiences of students,



Porras

faculty and staff at KU—both overall and within our marginalized communities," she said. Her message also announced members of a new diversity, equity and inclusion advisory group that will identify and report discrimination on campus and recommend solutions. Clarence Lang, chair of the department of African and African-American studies, and Sheahon Zenger, PhD'96, athletics director, lead the new group.

Kansas Alumni will continue to report on campus debate and initiatives as events unfold.

—Heather Biele and
Jennifer Jackson Sanner

Timeline

- Nov. 11** • Town hall on race, respect, responsibility and free speech draws more than 1,000 to Woodruff Auditorium and overflow rooms in the Kansas Union. Rock Chalk Invisible Hawk (RCIH), a student group, interrupts the forum to announce 15 demands.
- Nov. 13** • Chancellor issues message to campus and vows to share plans for action in response to students' concerns.
 - The department of African and African-American studies and the department of American studies release statements criticizing KU's response to racism on campus and supporting students' demands.
 - KU Student Senate Executive Committee demands the resignations of Senate President Jessie Pringle, Vice President Zach George and Chief of Staff Adam Moon. The committee pledges support of RCIH's demands.
- Nov. 16** • The Hispanic American Leadership Organization (HALO) issues statement in support of students.
 - Pringle, George and Moon issue their multicultural action plan in response to concerns raised at forum.
- Nov. 18** • Racial tension on university campuses becomes part of discussion at Kansas Board of Regents meeting. Pringle, as chair of the Students' Advisory Council of the Regents, tells the board that students are hurting. "This conversation is occurring across the nation, and we're not in a vacuum," Pringle said, as reported by the Lawrence Journal-World. "This discussion is important and needs to be had. I think the state of Kansas has a real opportunity right now."
 - Student Senate meeting lasts more than five hours. Pringle, George and Moon refuse to resign, and the Senate passes a bill of impeachment.
- Nov. 20** • Andrea Quenette, assistant professor of communication studies, is placed on leave following a complaint regarding her use of discriminatory language.
- Nov. 23** • School of Social Welfare students present list of five demands to Dean Paul Smokowski after the school failed to issue statement of solidarity with RCIH.
- Nov. 24** • School of Social Welfare releases statement in response to demands.
 - KU announces diversity, equity and inclusion advisory group will be led by Sheahon Zenger and Clarence Lang.
- Nov. 30** • First finalist for KU's OMA director, Festus Addo-Yobo, New Mexico State University, visits campus.
 - Schools of Social Welfare, Education and Business host forums on diversity and equity.
- Dec. 1** • Second finalist for OMA director, Andre Brown, Arizona State University, visits campus.
- Dec. 4** • Third finalist for OMA director, Precious Porras, is endorsed by RCIH.
- Dec. 9** • RCIH and supporters begin protest at Wescoe Hall and lead march into classrooms, School of Social Welfare dean's office and Strong Hall, where they confront Sara Thomas Rosen, incoming interim provost, and other administrators with their concerns.
 - Student Senate defers impeachment proceedings and passes legislation to improve inclusion on campus with the creation of a wheelchair basketball team and adoption of gender-neutral language.
- Dec. 11** • Rosen issues message announcing KU's plan, including details of the campus climate study timeline. She also names members of the diversity, equity and inclusion advisory group.

—H.B.

Hilltopics

MARK SCHOTTE, BARK PRODUCTIONS



Proven innocent

Law school helps win freedom for man wrongly convicted

Floyd Bledsoe, who had served more than 15 years in prison for a murder he did not commit, started a new life Dec. 8, when Jefferson County District Court Judge Gary Nafziger, who had presided over Bledsoe's 2000 trial, ordered his release.

Professors and students from KU's Paul E. Wilson Project for Innocence and Post-Conviction Relief Remedies in the School of Law have worked on Bledsoe's case since 2007, helping him appeal his convictions of first-degree murder, aggravated kidnapping and aggravated indecent liberties in the death of 14-year-old Zetta "Camille" Arfmann, his sister-in-law.

Through the years, Bledsoe relied on the KU Innocence Project, including law students and professors Jean Phillips, '90, director and clinical professor; Elizabeth Cateforis, '94, clinical associate professor; and Alice Craig, '90, '95, supervising attorney.

"Any time people are willing to go with you—not just the distance but beyond—that speaks volumes as to how much they

care," Bledsoe says. "They are superb people."

The KU team, with critical funding from the Midwest Innocence Project, helped secure Bledsoe's freedom by obtaining DNA tests of semen from a rape kit that had not been thoroughly analyzed following the murder, along with testing of new evidence. An independent lab in California ultimately determined that the semen likely belonged to Floyd Bledsoe's brother, Tom, who had initially confessed to the crime before changing his story to implicate Floyd and testifying against him.

Soon after the KU Innocence Project's report in late October, Tom Bledsoe's body was found Nov. 9 in Bonner Springs. He had committed suicide, leaving behind letters in which he confessed to

Flanked by KU law professors Jean Phillips, Elizabeth Cateforis, Alice Craig and other members of the School of Law's Project for Innocence, Floyd Bledsoe left the Oskaloosa courthouse a free man after serving 15 years in prison for a crime he didn't commit.

.....

killing Arfmann and provided details about the crime scene that were verified by Jefferson County Sheriff's detectives and the Kansas Bureau of Investigation.

During the past eight years of Floyd Bledsoe's arduous appeal process, a law student worked with him each year, Cateforis explains, and several students wrote pivotal memos or briefs for hearings before the Kansas Supreme Court, which upheld the conviction; the U.S. District Court, which in June 2008 ordered Bledsoe's release and a new trial; and the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which agreed with the Supreme Court and sent Bledsoe back to prison in June 2009.

The appeal gained true momentum in fall 2013, when Kaiti Smith, '13, who had studied forensic science as an undergraduate at Baylor University and worked on Bledsoe's case for two years at KU, filed a motion seeking additional evidence and DNA testing. Peter Conley, '14, and Emily Barclay, '15, helped coordinate the transfer of evidence to the lab.

"Since I met Floyd, there was not a day that went by that I didn't think of him,"



MARK SCHOTTE, BARK PRODUCTIONS

says Smith, now an attorney with the public defender's office in Louisville, Kentucky. "He will always hold a big place in my heart."

The experience also left a lasting impact on the faculty members. "These cases are few and far between, and this certainly has been—I think I can say for all of us—the highlight of our careers," says Cateforis, who credits Craig and the students as lifelines for Bledsoe.

"He called us almost every day the past two years," Craig says. "It was hard for him when things slowed down. ... The pace is difficult for a lot of our clients because they don't always know what's going on in their cases."

Since December, Bledsoe has visited Lawrence to meet with the attorneys and students as they help connect him with resources and consider potential civil



Phillips, Cateforis and Craig

lawsuits. "We're friends now, and we're helping him figure out where he wants to take his life," Craig says. "It's a pretty special experience to be part of this time with him."

—Jennifer Jackson Sanner

Milestones, money and other matters



EARL RICHARDSON

■ **Higuchi Awards** went to two KU faculty members during a November ceremony at the Lied Center. Michael Wehmeyer, Ross and Marianna Beach Professor of Special Education, received the Balfour Jeffrey Award in Humanities and Social Sciences. Paulette Spencer, founding director of KU's Bioengineering Research Center, won the Dolph Simons Award in Biomedical Sciences. Established in 1981 by KU distinguished professor Takeru Higuchi and his wife, Aya, the KU Endowment-administered awards recognize long-term research accomplishments by faculty at Kansas Board of Regents universities.

■ **An \$8.9 million grant** from the U.S. Department of Education will fund a four-year study by the University Innovation Alliance at KU and 10 other campuses. The study will evaluate the effectiveness of analytics-based advising to increase retention, progression and graduation rates for low-income and first-generation college students.

■ **Steven Soper, PhD'90**, professor of chemistry and biomedical engineering at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, will become KU's 12th Foundation Distinguished Professor. Soper's work involves the development of high-tech diagnostic devices for cancer, stroke and infectious diseases. He will join the department of chemistry July 1, and also will hold an appointment in the department of mechanical engineering.

CLASS CREDIT

Gopolang Mohlabeng, a Fulbright Fellow from South Africa who came to KU to pursue a PhD in physics, has earned the Fermilab Graduate Student Fellowship in Theoretical Physics.

For U.S. students in the research phase of graduate study in theoretical particle physics or theoretical astrophysics, the program provides a stipend, travel allowance and tuition support.

In August Mohlabeng will begin a year-long residence at Fermilab. Located in Illinois and funded by the U.S. Department of Energy, it is America's premier laboratory for particle physics

and accelerator research.

Mohlabeng's work centers on dark matter, which he calls "the cosmic glue" that holds the universe together.

"If you look up on a dark night, you see a lot of stars and some planets," Mohlabeng said in a KU news release. "All of that, including billions of other stars and galaxies that are too far away to be seen with the naked

eye, only forms about 4 percent of our entire universe.

"The rest of the universe is composed of 'dark matter' and 'dark energy.'"

At KU Mohlabeng works with physics and astronomy professors Kyoungchul Kong and John Ralston.



Mohlabeng

COURTESY/MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS

Hilltopics

Bill Clinton accepted the Dole Leadership Prize with a speech that extolled Bob Dole's bipartisanship as a model for how today's political parties can more effectively work together.



STEVE PUPPE

homophobic than we used to be. We have one remaining bigotry: We don't want to be around anyone who disagrees with us."

After leaving office in 2001, Clinton founded the Clinton Foundation to address global issues of health, economics and the environment. He has teamed with several prominent Republicans, including Dole, with whom he worked on the Families of Freedom Fund, which funds education for survivors of those killed in 9/11.

The Dole Leadership Prize annually recognizes a person or group whose public service leadership inspires others. Former winners include Nelson Mandela, Lech Walesa, George H.W. Bush and George McGovern. It comes with a \$25,000 award, which Clinton donated back to the Dole Institute to start a new Women and Leadership Lecture Series.

Clinton was chosen for "his legacy of bipartisanship and economic expansion," according to the institute's prize citation. "Much of his work as president—including his balancing of the budget and efforts to reach across the aisle—mirrors the mission of the Dole Institute and the values of Sen. Dole," said institute director Bill Lacy.

DOLE INSTITUTE

Former president Clinton accepts Dole Leadership Prize at Lied

SPEAKING BEFORE A packed house at the Lied Center Nov. 23 to accept the 2015 Dole Leadership Prize, former president Bill Clinton devoted much of his speech to praising the long record of bipartisanship and public service of his one-time political rival, former U.S. Sen. Bob Dole.

"One of the things I always liked about Bob Dole is that he could fight you like there's no tomorrow, but he never closed

the door on something that could help a real person," said Clinton, who faced Dole, '45, in the 1996 general election to secure his second term in the White House.

Clinton contrasted Dole's "moderate" approach to governing with the political polarization that he said is now "present not just in Washington but in American life."

"Look at how many of our collective bigotries we've been able to overcome in America in the last 100 years. We are less racist than we used to be. We are less sexist than we used to be. We are less religiously bigoted than we used to be. We are less

VISITOR

PC PIONEER

Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak, designer of the company's first line of computers, visited campus with his wife, Janet, g'94, for the Anderson Chandler Lecture Series. The couple awarded four \$5,000 scholarships during the second of two presentations.

SPONSORS: The Self Engineering Leadership Fellows and the School of Business

WHEN: Nov. 20

WHERE: The Lied Center

BACKGROUND: Wozniak designed Apple I and II, the personal computers that launched Apple in 1976 and helped shape the tech industry. His partnership with co-founder Steve Jobs started earlier, when they built and sold a device for making free phone calls. Since leaving Apple in 1985, Wozniak has been involved in business and philanthropic ventures, particularly in schools. In 2000 he was inducted into the Inventors Hall of Fame.

ANECDOTE: Janet and Steve met when both spoke on a MacMania cruise. A Baldwin City native and former science, math and computer teacher, Janet worked in IT and learning technologies at Apple. "I told her I'd move to Kansas rather than lose her," Wozniak said.

QUOTES: "Before we even shipped the Apple I out of the garage, we knew it was a dead-end project; we sold it anyway, because Steve Jobs was a great salesman. He could sell anything," Wozniak said.



MEG KUWIN, MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS

"The Apple II was the one I designed from the ground up as a computer. It had such beautiful things, because you had to attract people in the home with fun. I believe in fun going with productivity everywhere."

—Steven Hill



Welch

TEACHING

HOPE Award recognizes professor of classics

TARA WELCH, professor and chair of the department of classics, was announced as the winner of the 2015 HOPE Award during the Oct. 17 football game against Texas Tech in Memorial Stadium.

Established by the Class of 1959, the HOPE Award is the only KU honor for teaching excellence given exclusively by students. Representatives of the Board of Class Officers and its senior advisory board select the winner after interviewing finalists nominated by the senior class.

Welch teaches Latin at all levels as well as courses in Roman and Greek literature and civilization. Her research interests are in Latin poetry, the city of Rome, and Roman mythology.

"Tara is loved by the entirety of the classics department," says Jennifer Wiebe, a Wichita senior in classics. "She is, in many of our opinions, the gem of KU. I feel she should be honored for all the work she puts into making each student feel welcomed, appreciated and validated as both a student and a colleague."

STUDENT LIFE

Vet services attracts accolades, plans new student center

HIGH RATINGS this fall in several forums suggest KU is a national leader in meeting the needs of students who've served in the military. Plans for a new student veterans center on campus are a bid by the University to keep it that way.

KU was ranked a top five "best-value" school for veterans by Money Magazine, a top 10 school by Military Times, a Military Friendly School by Victory Media and a Top School by the 2016 Military Advanced Education and Transition Guide to Colleges and Universities.

"The rankings are because of what we've done so far," says Mike Denning, c'83, director of the Office of Military Graduate Programs and president of the Alumni Association's Veterans Alumni Network. "The University leadership has provided resources a lot of other schools don't have."

Those resources include partial funding for a new Student Veteran Center planned for Summerfield Hall in 2017. The center will allow the Office of Military Graduate Programs to introduce new services for KU's 1,000 veteran and active-military students and dependents, and consolidate some existing services that currently are scattered across campus. It will also include a new student lounge to replace the student veterans lounge displaced by the December closing of Burge Union. Fundraising for the remaining \$300,000-plus project is underway.

"A lot of student services have not necessarily been targeted specifically for veterans," Denning says. "The new center will bring those services under one roof and also provide a specific focus for veterans."

Milestones, money and other matters

■ **Kevin Smith** will join KU in May as the new dean of libraries. Currently the director of copyright and scholarly communication at Duke University, Smith succeeds Lorraine Haricombe, who left in 2014 to become vice provost and director of the University of Texas Libraries.



Smith

■ **Two faculty members** were elected Fellows of the National Academy of Inventors: Val Stella, University Distinguished Professor in the department of pharmaceutical chemistry, and Bala Subramaniam, the Dan F. Servey Distinguished Professor in the department of chemical and petroleum engineering. They are the first KU faculty to receive the honor, which recognizes people whose inventions "have made a tangible impact on quality of life, economic development and welfare of society."

■ **Research funding** was basically flat for fiscal 2015, as externally sponsored research expenditures at all KU campuses totaled \$238.8 million, dipping only \$48,000 from 2014 levels despite heightened competition for federal funding brought on by the ongoing federal budget sequester. KU ranked 38th among national public research universities in federally funded research for the second consecutive year, according to a survey released in November by the National Science Foundation.

■ **1,250 candidates for degree** were scheduled to receive diplomas this January, according to the University Registrar. KU's newest graduates represent 50 Kansas counties, 41 other states and territories, and 18 foreign countries. All are invited to walk down the Hill during formal Commencement ceremonies May 15.

"Whatever you do in life, try to have fun. Pranks are creativity, because you create them from nothing."

—Steve Wozniak

Circle Feb. 13

With Big 12 title likely on the line, OU will look to avenge KU's triple-overtime victory

Kentucky looms—but suddenly the made-for-TV Jan. 30 showdown is no longer the most anticipated game of men's basketball's regular season. Even more shocking: The game Jayhawks are now salivating for isn't even in Allen Field House.

It's Feb. 13, in Norman, Oklahoma.

The rematch.

"I want it bad," said Oklahoma's All-Everything senior guard Buddy Hield, who dropped 46 on KU in the instant-classic thriller in the field house. "We have to split this time and win the league."

Jayhawks and Sooners alike understand how such an epic test of wills changes things: "Jan. 4," coach Bill Self sighed, "is too early to be having games like this." Even moments after its conclusion after three hours and three overtimes, Game 1 of the 2016 KU-OU series, a 109-106 KU victory, already ranked alongside Allen Field House classics of the Bill Self era:

On March 4, 2007, No. 3 KU rallied from a 16-point deficit to top 15th-ranked Texas, 90-86. Although the win secured KU's third-consecutive Big 12 title (and first outright since 2003), the game is best remembered for Kevin Durant's 25-point first-half performance and the standing ovation he received from the KU crowd after returning from an ankle injury midway through the second half.

On Feb. 25, 2012, KU's sensory-overload overtime triumph against No. 3 Missouri, 87-86, gave the fourth-ranked Jayhawks at least a share of the Big 12 title in the final game against their border rivals.

This season's Jan. 4 classic wasn't for the conference title—at least not yet. But it was Big Monday, with ESPN in the house for an 8 p.m. tipoff on a cold winter night,



STEVE PUPPE

and it wasn't long before a straightforward basketball game between strong rivals took on the air of an old-school 15-rounder for the heavyweight title.

According to the Associated Press poll, it was No. 1 (KU) vs. No. 2 (OU). With the USA Today coaches' poll included, it was No. 1 vs. No. 1, only the second such matchup in the polls' combined histories.

Trading punches in flurries, the 'Hawks and Sooners grabbed leads from each other 13 times, and both teams rallied from deficits of 10 or more points.

KU led by 11, 37-26, with three minutes remaining in the first half. Thanks in part to a three-point swing sparked by a technical foul dropped on Self for his vocal protest of what he termed a "ridiculous call" on Frank Mason III—"I think I probably deserved it," the 13th-year coach said later. "I hadn't had one in like three years, so there was a lot of pent-up frustration"—the Sooners went on an 18-3 tear to take a four-point lead into halftime.

Kansas did not regain the lead until 3:29 remained in regulation, 73-72, and the Jayhawks later had to rally from five down with 2:24 remaining in the second

Frank Mason III (0) played 53 of 55 minutes against Oklahoma and saved his best for last: deflecting and stealing an inbounds pass by Buddy Hield. "He's a winner," said coach Bill Self (getting his money's worth on a technical foul, right). "He wouldn't grade very high tonight—until it was game point."

overtime. After two ties and four lead changes in the third overtime, two Devonte' Graham foul shots gave his 'Hawks a one-point lead with 15 seconds remaining. After an OU timeout, Sooners' coach Lon Kruger asked Hield to inbound the ball from the sideline, near midcourt; admonished by the ref to give Hield plenty of room in the tight quarters, Mason did as told—right until the ref whistled for the action to start.

"After he handed the ball in, there's nothing he can do so I stepped closer and went all out to deny it," Mason explained. "And got the deflection and got the steal."

Said Self, "Frank really labored tonight.

This was probably about as poorly as he's played, offensively. Five of 20, turned the ball over, had some bonehead plays. But he had the two plays to win the game. He's a pit bull."

After scooping up the deflected pass, Mason charged down the court, slowed only by a Hield foul. He made both free throws, Hield missed a well-guarded three-point attempt with two seconds remaining, and the KU celebration erupted—but not for long. Exhausted players and proud coaches from both sides embraced their opponents, and KU fans gave Hield a standing ovation when he finally left the court after an interview.

"It was an epic game," Self said as the clock ticked toward midnight. "The only game I've been a part of in this building that rivals it—and we've had a lot of great ones—would be the last Missouri game. But this one was more of a respect game. Both teams were exhausted, but both teams had total respect for the other. If we'd have lost the game, I would have walked into that locker room and said, 'You'll never forget this one. This'll be a proud one to be a part of.'"

Coach Kruger, who has tussled with Kansas since he played at Kansas State in the mid-1970s, wore a satisfied smile. He knows better than most how difficult it is to win in Lawrence, but, despite the missed opportunity, he remained proud.



STEVE PUPPE

"If we'd have lost the game, I would have walked into that locker room and said, 'You'll never forget this one. This'll be a proud one to be part of.'"

—coach Bill Self

"Given what's at stake, and given the stage and all, I don't know that I've been in one better, other than the result, of course," Kruger said. "It was a grind both ways. Each team had a little bit of a lead, each team came back, and I think the guys' effort was outstanding."

Said Mason: "Craziest game I've ever been a part of."

As is their style, even Jayhawks who rode the bench were jubilant for the victory, none more so than McDonald's All-American freshman forward Cheick Diallo. After he was forced to sit out two exhibition games and five regular-season games while the NCAA picked through his high-school transcripts, Diallo on Nov. 25 was finally declared eligible, effective Dec. 1, against Loyola.

He opened his career with 13 points, six rebounds and three blocks in 13 minutes, and fans stood and madly cheered when he entered the game with 12:57 remaining in the first half and when he left for good with two minutes left in the game.

"He's not going to score 13 points in every game," Self cautioned afterward. "He did fine. He did good. He tries hard. He's just so raw."

After scoring 12 points in 18 minutes Dec. 9 against Holy Cross, Diallo's minutes and production dwindled. He scored six points in eight minutes in the final nonconference game, Dec. 29 against UC-Irvine; tallied four points in six



STEVE PUPPE

Selden

minutes in the conference opener, Jan. 2 against Baylor; and never saw the court after the first half of the OU game. Neither did Carlton Bragg Jr., KU's other McDonald's All-American freshman forward, whose production and minutes in December essentially mirrored Diallo's.

"I want those guys to come around," Self says. "If they do play closer to their ceilings and learn how to play with the other guys, then I think our team will be really, really good. But I don't want to say that I'm going to sacrifice losses or put our team in jeopardy because of that."

"Don't give up on those guys, because I really think that at some point in time during conference play—and hopefully sooner rather than later—they're going to give us something that we haven't seen by anybody else. But it's just not quite happened yet."

"He's still young," junior Wayne Selden Jr. says of Diallo. "People might expect a lot out of him, but he's still an 18-year-old kid not really used to the college game. Got to be patient with him." 🐘

Sports

KU's best yet

Lokedi's 10th at NCAA meet is tops for women's cross country

Freshman Sharon Lokedi on Nov. 21 placed 10th at the NCAA women's cross country championships in Louisville, Kentucky, marking the best finish ever by a KU woman at the season-ending championship meet. As a team, the Jayhawks finished 27th in their first NCAA team outing in 21 years.

"Anytime you can do something that's never been done before in the history of the women's program, you know you had a special day," said coach Stanley Redwine. "Hopefully this is a sign of the women's program moving to more great things."

With a 6K time of 20 minutes, 4.9 seconds, Lokedi, of Kenya, was named the second All-American in the history of KU women's cross country. Julia Saul Mechler, '95, was the first, with an 18th-place



LAURA JACOBSEN

NCAA finish in 1992.

"I'm just this new freshman," Lokedi said, "and to be able to run with these All-American girls is amazing."

Senior Evan Landes, of Mulvane, the only member of the men's team participating at the NCAA meet, finished 136th, with a 10K time of 31:17.7.

Coach Stanley Redwine told Sharon Lokedi (above) to run with the leaders from the outset at the NCAA meet in Louisville, and she maintained her position in the lead pack to finish 10th. "I felt good from the start of the race," she said. "I was excited and so pumped up."

UPDATES

Through the Jayhawks' first 14 games, freshman guard **Jayde Christopher** leads women's basketball with 31 assists, and she recorded only four turnovers in the first three Big 12 games. Sophomore guard **Lauren Aldridge** is KU's leading scorer, at 11.4 points per game. Freshman guard **Kylee Kopatich** is close behind at 10.8. ...

Senior All-American swimmer **Chelsie Miller** was named Big 12 Swimmer of the Week following her dominating performance at the three-day Big Challenge meet, Nov. 20-22



JEFF JACOBSEN

Christopher

and helped power KU to victory in the 200-yard individual medley relay. ... With senior **Yupaporn Kawinpakorn** caddying the first two days, freshman **Ariadna Fonseca Diaz** won the Orlando International Amateur, Dec. 28-30 in Winter Garden,

at Capitol Federal Natatorium in Topeka. Miller won four individual events and was on KU's winning 800-yard freestyle relay team. **Yulduz Kuchkarova**, a junior, won two individual events

Florida. Fonseca Diaz won the tournament with a birdie on the first playoff hole. ... Volleyball on Jan. 5 released its 2016 Big 12 schedule, and the headline match is Oct. 29 against NCAA runner-up and Big 12 champ Texas, the only team to beat KU at home in 2015. ...

Junior **Zainab Sanni** was named National Female Athlete of the Week after winning the 60- and 200-meter sprints at the **Bob Timmons** Challenge, Dec. 4 in Anschutz Sports Pavilion. Sanni also ran the leadoff leg on KU's victorious 4x400-meter relay squad. ... Junior safety **Fish Smithson** was named second-team All-Big 12. Senior defensive end **Ben Goodman Jr.**, sophomore tight end **Ben Johnson** and

junior fullback **Michael Zunica** were named honorable mention. ...

Rock Chalk Park was chosen as host of the USA Track & Field Junior Olympics, July 23-30, 2017. The home of KU track and field is also the site for the NCAA West Preliminary Championship in May. ... Senior midfielder **Liana Salazar** was named All-Central Region First Team by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America. Salazar scored or assisted in eight of KU's final 11 matches. ... **Jon Cornish**, c'07, a second-round pick in the 2006 Canadian Football League draft, in December announced his retirement. The future CFL Hall of Famer rushed for 6,844 yards in his nine-year career.

Sports Photographs by Steve Puppe



Perry Ellis and Devonte' Graham (clockwise from top left) working the high-low; Wayne Selden Jr. shooting over the defense; coach Bill Self congratulating Buddy Hield; a scrum in the paint; Landen Lucas showing his soft touch inside; and Frank Mason III flashing his moves with the ball. "It's a postseason environment," Mason said. "1 vs. 2, in the field house. Probably the best game I've ever played in."

A photograph of a bare tree in a field of tall grass under a blue sky. The tree is the central focus, with its intricate, leafless branches reaching out against the clear blue sky. The foreground is filled with tall, golden-brown grasses, some in sharp focus and others blurred, creating a sense of depth. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

At First Light

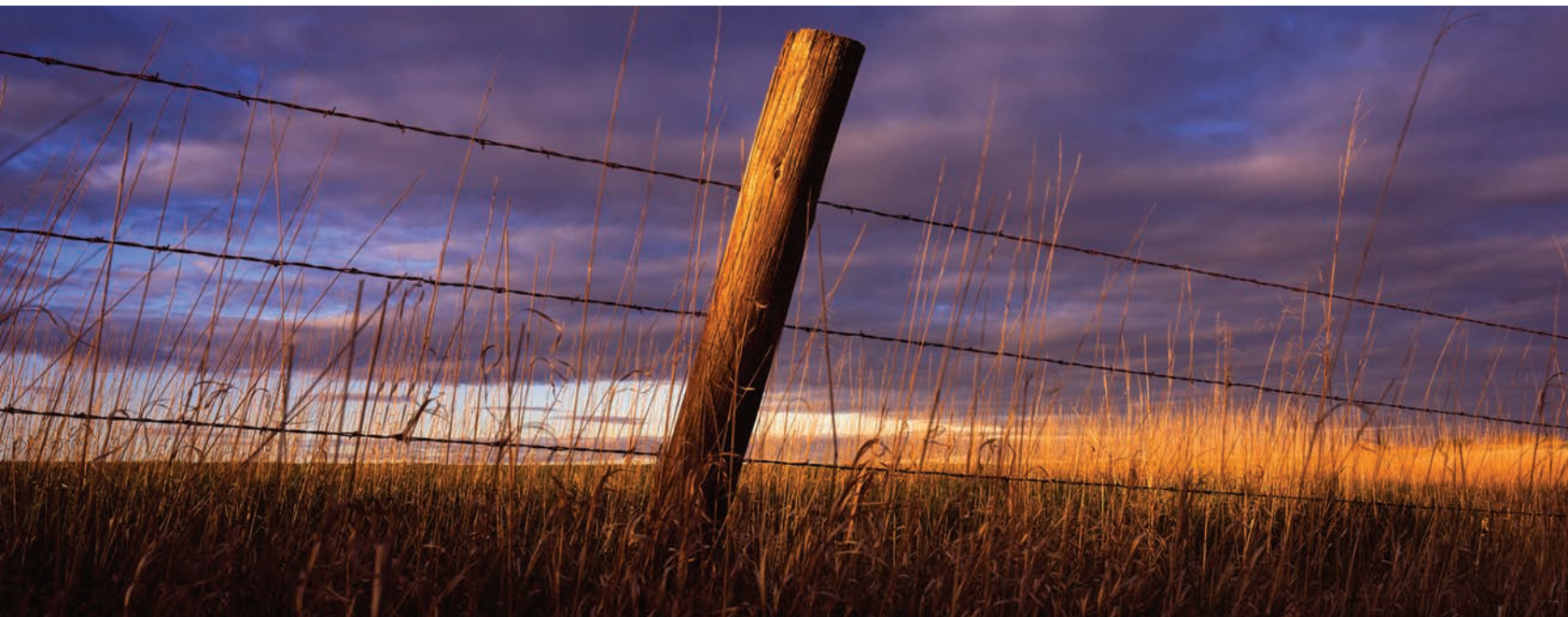
by **Chris Lazzarino** | Portraits by Steve Puppe | Landscapes by Michael Strickland

**Michael Strickland's
photography
adventures invite
others to see wild
landscapes through
his eyes**

The image is out there somewhere, waiting patiently for its eventual capture. Or, it was supposed to be. Until these storms mucked everything up.

Our photography trip to the Flint Hills had been planned since July. Of course we had no idea then that Sept. 18 would wake up so cranky, predawn supercells flickering menacingly on the horizon, every horizon. Twenty miles past Topeka, six of us barreling along in the Alumni Association's sturdy white SUV, the rain begins. Lightning illuminates sheets of black rain, and powerful vertical bolts shimmy and shine and slam to the ground.





All is quiet inside the truck, except for the sound of rain and cool tunes from a Carmell Jones jazz CD. Lining the middle bench are three tired travelers, two of whom landed in Kansas City after a redeye from Los Angeles only hours earlier. Michael Strickland, his fiancée, Jes Hansen, and best man, Ethan Myers, are awake but silent.

Strickland, 31, is a landscape photographer who shoots only on film, and almost exclusively with a large-format camera. When he sets out to get the shot, he means exactly that: *the* shot. His 8x10 film costs about \$20 a sheet, when purchased in bulk. After hauling more than 70 pounds of gear, usually after a good deal of hiking and often a night or two of camping, he will come away from most excursions with one, perhaps two, exposed images.

“Especially with large format, it slows you down, walking out on a hike, looking for something,” Strickland explains. “It’s a very emotional process, slow and time-consuming, and so my images become emotional. It’s a unique experience.”

As is often the case when he heads out to hunt down an image, a fleeting moment to be captured and preserved forever, Strickland already has a destination in mind, a spot he’d previously visited and

stashed away in his mental catalog of wild, open spaces worth a return trip.

Despite the raging storm, it is imperative we arrive as close to the 6:30 a.m. “civil twilight” as possible. The forecast had called for a 40 percent chance of rain, with “scattered thunderstorms possible” at Olpe, southwest of Emporia, but there is nothing scattered about what’s happening all around and on top of us. Two miles before the Emporia service exit, our SUV thunders like a foolhardy surfer through a crashing wave of storm runoff; a lesser vehicle could well have ended up in peril.

“Any kind of atmosphere,” Strickland says softly, soothing our frayed nerves, “is always good.”

Leaving the interstate highway is a relief. The sign outside a country gas station and convenience store touts the latest hybrid McMorsel, a “smoked sausage wafflewich.” We giggle; the tension eases. Surely the worst is past.

Strickland is directing us now with cellphone maps supplemented by his memory of previous visits, and we leave a two-lane highway and head south down something called “Road D.” Do not attempt Road D, especially in the wake of soaking rains. It is a tractor path cut straight through a farm field, and it ends unceremoniously. (Later in the morning,

as we’re recounting the foray, Hansen teases her husband-to-be, “We all thought you were nuts.”)

We make our way back to the county blacktop, backtrack for a few minutes, then try Road A. It is better only in the context of Road D, but at least it goes somewhere. Dawn approaches, and the tension returns, but this time it is a satisfying presence, a spot of adventure spicing up a work day.

As we navigate a slowly improving series of dirt and gravel roads, the SUV begins climbing into the Flint Hills. It is the unforgettable view to the west that catches your breath while driving south on I-35 past Emporia; this time, though, we’re in the middle of it, just as the sky begins to lighten and the storm rumbles away to the north and east.

We stop here and there so Strickland can scramble out of the truck, pace around and sniff out a specific place known only to him—and, we begin to suspect, perhaps not even that.

“You’re getting the full experience,” Hansen comments as Strickland is out looking at a rock or tree or sloping hillside that look pretty much like every rock or tree or sloping hillside for miles around us. “We get lost, he’ll get out of the car a couple of times ...”



“Final Days of Harvest,” Douglas County



“McWay Falls,” Big Sur, California

And then ... we're there. It is suddenly obvious.

Yellow-flowering broomweed, growing lushly this wet, late summer, carpets the terrain. Looking toward the storm loping along the eastern horizon, a lone Osage orange hedge tree is silhouetted by distant lightning.

The truck empties quickly, and Strickland begins assembling his gear. He is silent, lost in his own thoughts, already composing the shot in his mind. Dawn is here. It is time to work.

To faithful readers of *Kansas Alumni*, Michael Strickland's name might seem familiar. That's because we first profiled him in our Rock Chalk Review section in issue No. 3, 2013. He was an engineering student then, and caught our attention with a small exhibition in Pachamama's restaurant.

His talent was obvious, and his story was equally intriguing. He grew up in Liberal, where he proved to be a promising saxophone player, and in fall 2009 he left for New York City to study jazz performance at The New School. On his first trip back home, for Thanksgiving, Strickland was startled by the eerie stillness.

“It was the first time I'd seen the stars for



“Sea of Gold,” Montana de Oro State Park, California

five months,” he told us in 2013. “It's the little things, being able to see the stars or watch the sunset. That's why I've really grown to love nature photography.”

He left the big city and music behind, and in 2010 enrolled at KU to study engineering. In summer 2011, at the urging of a friend, he bought a digital

camera and carried it everywhere, especially on his evening drives through the Douglas County countryside and on weekend visits to western Kansas. Determined to test himself as a landscape photographer, Strickland in March 2012 made his first foray to the Grand Canyon, accompanying a prominent Flagstaff,



Michael Strickland's exacting rituals (l) for finding, framing, focusing and filming images require creative flair and technical mastery. Sharing a Flint Hills outing with lifelong friend Ethan Myers (above, l-r) and bride-to-be Jes Hansen (now Strickland) makes the day rewarding, regardless of the images it produces.

Arizona, photographer, Adam Schallau, who became one of his early mentors.

Strickland and Schallau hiked and camped amid a winter storm with 60 mph winds that whipped snow into their faces as they peered into the canyon. Schallau expected the newbie to beg for retreat; Strickland surprised him.

"It really says a lot about Michael," Schallau said. "He knows what it takes to create the images that we as landscape photographers are trying to create."

Strickland by then was already shooting with a medium-format panoramic camera, but he also had another goal in mind: large-format film, in the style of the great 20th-century masters of landscape photography, most notably Ansel Adams.

"I've always found inspiration in other people's work," Strickland says, "but I don't look at their names, their accomplish-

ments. I see their images, I see what speaks to me and what doesn't. A lot of times it's completely different from what I do, but I study them, I pay attention to my original response, and when I walk out the door I try to forget it all and just create."

After completing his degree, Strickland headed west. He and Hansen—now Jes Strickland, since their Oct. 10 wedding—settled in Grover Beach, California, near the Pacific Ocean in San Luis Obispo County. Jes, a Wichita State alumna, works as a freelance graphic designer and frequently accompanies her husband on his excursions. "We're the outdoors types," she says. "Every time we go on a trip, we almost always camp. We can backpack, sleep in the car, whatever it takes."

Strickland's website, michaelstricklandimages.com, offers a portal into the magnificent photographs he creates,



"The Balcony," Grand Canyon National Park, Arizona



Kansas: Birth of a Vision
by Michael Strickland
www.michaelstricklandimages.com, \$99

including scenes from his new favorite locale, the rugged Big Sur coastline. He offers prints of his gorgeous nature images for sale, of course, and he'll work with clients to print specific images to fit a specific space. Strickland also recently published his first book, focusing on his images of the Kansas prairie, and he intends to publish new books annually to feature his favorite work of the past year.

But Strickland has done well following his passion, which now points him away from online commerce and toward a goal of owning his own gallery.

"Getting gallery presence is incredibly difficult," he says. "It's always a battle, finding where I fit in the art culture and the art community, but that's where I am. I'm an artist."

His wife explains, "He's not just an artist; he also has a technical side, so he's very logical. He makes plans, saves, and meets the challenge. Everything is laid out. It takes both of those minds."

Strickland recently found another mentor in Bobby Wheat, a medium- and large-format photographer and owner of the successful Bobby Wheat Gallery in Las Vegas. Strickland reached out to Wheat through Facebook. Impressed by what he saw on Strickland's website, Wheat agreed to offer encouragement over burgers and beers when Strickland visited Vegas.

"There's so much blatant plagiarism, people shooting the same things," Wheat says. "We all started by imitating our influences, but great artists are the ones

who grow out of that and go out on their own and create their own style, capturing their own subject matter with techniques and compositions that are unique, pushing the boundaries of the medium.

"That's something I saw in Michael's work from the get-go. He's different. He's not going out and shooting all the clichés. He's actually a student of light."

Wheat does not doubt that Strickland has the requisite talent and passion to "continue putting out great work." Whether he'll be able to master the quite different demands of monetizing artistic expression is far less certain.

"I definitely *think* he can, but it's a matter of what's he willing to deal with. It's really hard when you're starting out, with no clientele. There's a lot more that goes into it than just the quality of work. He's definitely got the quality of work; the rest remains to be seen."

Ethan Myers, b'14, who lives and works in Kansas City, met Strickland "pretty much immediately" after moving to Liberal, when they were both in the fifth

grade. Our September photo shoot in the Flint Hills was scheduled around a trip home for Strickland and Hansen to plan their wedding, in his parents' backyard, and the three friends have no intention of being apart even briefly during the visit.

Myers explains that he has always delighted in watching his curious, intelligent friend leap from one hobby or interest to the next. Photography, though, is proving to be different.

"I call them his 'phases,'" Myers says quietly, watching Strickland frame the image of a lone hedge tree. "But this one's not a phase. It stuck."

As Strickland busies himself for the all-important moment when he'll step out from underneath the dark cloth of his tripod-mounted camera and press the shutter release, Myers adds, "I wonder what he would be saying if he weren't being watched."

"What would Michael be saying?" Hansen responds. "He doesn't really talk at this point. He's in the zone."

As lightning laces the storm clouds still looming over the eastern horizon, a cool breeze cuts the remnants of humidity following in the storm's wake. Crickets



"Gateway to the Pacific," Pismo Beach, California



"Kansas Wildflowers," Arkalon Park, Seward County



"Cliffs of Big Sur," Big Sur, California

sing their final summer songs. It is nearly 8 a.m. now, a now-or-never time for photographers hoping to preserve the essence of morning light, and Strickland looks to be unsatisfied with his prospects.

"I use one sheet of film per composition," he explains later. "It's definitely a selective process. A lot of times I come back with either nothing or one shot; very rarely do I expose two sheets for the same scene."

That lovely cool breeze? It's killing Strickland's chances to create a perfect image. The big camera loaded with huge film demands too much precision to be jostled even minutely, and, on this stormy morning, the image will probably elude him. Focus will be lost to the wind. Strickland even exposes a second sheet of film. He won't be thrilled with the outcome, but neither will he fret over it.

"It's exciting, the idea of creating an image with the most epic light you can imagine," he says later. "It's incredibly nerve-wracking, but I've trained myself to be a little more patient, to maintain a bit of tranquility when shooting. I'm more anxious *after* exposing the image than when I'm actually creating it.

"Exploration, that's what it is. It's all about sharing that one tiny moment in time and creating an emotional response from the final viewer."

A day out in the field, we discover, is its own success. Slow down. Feel the image, not in the camera, but within ourselves.

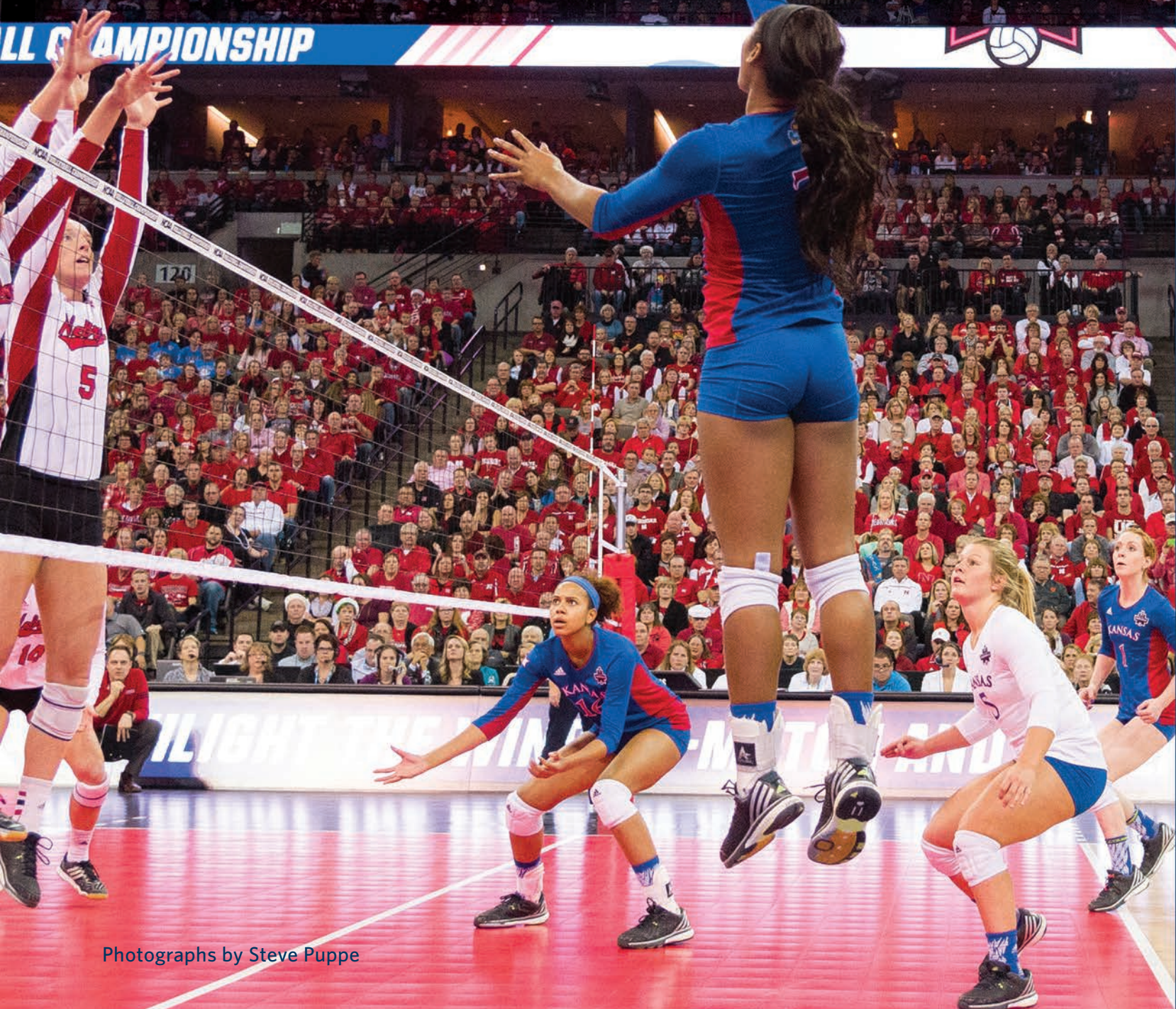
Whether it lives on in a sumptuous print is—at this moment, at least—immaterial. It already exists within each of us lucky enough to stand on a Flint Hills ridgetop, drinking in a gold-gray afterglow that has to be seen to be believed. 🌿

More online

A journal of the Flint Hills excursion by videographer Dan Storey, including interviews with Michael Strickland, can be viewed at kualumni.org/strickland. 🌿

Dream Big

ALL CHAMPIONSHIP



Photographs by Steve Puppe

by Chris Lazzarino

With 30 wins, two All-Americans and a comeback for the ages, KU volleyball rallies all the way to the Final Four

2015 NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

The first surprise in a season full of surprises—a 30-3 record, a pair of first-team All-Americans, a stunning upset of top-ranked USC in the NCAA Tournament's Elite Eight and a trip to Omaha, Nebraska, for KU volleyball's first Final Four appearance—came even before the first practice.

The 2014 Jayhawks had stormed back from an 0-3 record in conference play to finish second, for the second consecutive season, in the rugged Big 12, and earned their third-consecutive NCAA Tournament berth. Yet the Jayhawks in 2014 not only lost their opening-round NCAA match, a five-setter against Arkansas-Little Rock, but also said goodbye to senior outside hitters Chelsea Albers and Sara McClinton, 1-2 in kills in 2014 and both twice named first-team All-Big 12.

Coach Ray Bechard entered his 18th season at Kansas last fall with a promising young team, including junior Tayler Soucie, a first-team All-Big 12 middle blocker in 2014; sophomore setter Ainise Havili, named to the Big 12 All-Freshman team and All-American honorable mention; senior outside hitter Tiana Dockery, poised to become the first Jayhawk to play in four NCAA Tournaments; and sophomore Kelsie Payne, an athletic force whom Bechard described as “our wild card” as he pondered moving her to one of the outside hitter positions after she spent much of her freshman year at middle blocker.

When Bechard previewed the season at media day in August, he praised his players’ “energy and enthusiasm,” yet his public predictions never ventured beyond simply making the NCAA Tournament for the fourth consecutive season.

What he chose not to disclose, however, was that his players were thirsting for much more than yet another respectable season. Eleven days after the Jayhawks’ historic season ended with a loss to eventual national champion Nebraska, one victory shy of the national title game, Bechard chuckles as he recalls his squad’s first meeting, when players startled their coaches with what Bechard describes as “extremely aggressive” goals.

“They said, ‘NCAA Tournament, first

and foremost, but Big 12 champs and Elite Eight,’” Bechard says. “It was unique in that we hadn’t ever won a Big 12 championship, we’ve never been to an Elite Eight, and they said, ‘This team needs to do stuff we’ve never done before.’

“And I said, ‘OK. Let’s get after it.’”

The Jayhawks opened the season by losing just one set in the three-match Arkansas Invitational, followed by three 3-0 victories in their home invitational. They arrived at the Sept. 11 Wyoming tournament in Laramie ranked 22nd in the country, and promptly won three matches, again dropping just one set in their best-of-five-set matches.



Seven matches into conference play, the Jayhawks not only had not lost a match, they'd lost only five sets.

"About a month into the season," Bechard says, "as a staff we were like, 'OK, these are lofty goals, but suddenly we feel like they're not out of line.'"

With 19 consecutive victories and a No. 7 national ranking, the Jayhawks suffered their first, and worst, loss Oct. 23 at Texas. KU scored just 16, 19 and 14 points in a three-set sweep by the second-ranked Longhorns.

"If this motivates the team to create more opportunities to improve in practice," Bechard said afterward, "then it would be a learning opportunity."

The Jayhawks responded by dropping just four sets in its next four Big 12 matches, setting up a rematch showdown with Texas, Nov. 11 in the Horejsi Family Athletics Center. Only two matches all season had attracted less than a sellout crowd, and the Texas showdown suddenly became the hottest ticket in town.

The 1,503 fans who packed an arena with a seating capacity of 1,300 were treated to a five-set thriller—KU's first and, until the USC match, only five-setter of the season—that saw Texas take control of the Big 12 title chase with a 3-2 victory.

While the loss meant the Jayhawks would not reach one of their important goals, it was still another step forward. Payne, the preseason "wild card" who by then had firmly entrenched herself as the right-side hitter, scored 23 kills, her third 20-kill performance in four matches. Havili notched 67 assists and 13 digs for her ninth double-double of the season. Dockery posted her third double-double with 18 kills and 13 digs. Soucie scored 16 kills on 23 swings, and her only attacking error occurred midway through the fifth set.

In a foreshadowing of the national semifinal match against Nebraska, the Jayhawks hurt their chances with 17 service errors, yet hit at a .307 clip against a Texas team that had limited opponents to an average hitting percentage of .163, and they topped Texas in kills, 77-64.

"The level of volleyball that was played that night I think allowed us to realize that we could make a good run in the tournament," Bechard says. "So even though we didn't get the result we wanted, I think we gained some competitive confidence."

After hosting opening-weekend NCAA Tournament matches in Allen Field House in 2012 and '13, KU in 2014 was again chosen to host NCAA action. But a men's hoops game against Florida bumped volleyball to Topeka's Kansas Expoentre, where KU promptly lost to unheralded Arkansas-Little Rock.

That mistake would not happen again. When chosen to host first- and second-round matches this season, KU played to its strength and scheduled the games for Horejsi, where the 2015 Jayhawks had lost just one match and five sets—including the three sets dropped to Texas. Down went Furman, 3-0, followed by an equally impressive sweep of Missouri, and the Jayhawks were off to San Diego.

KU scored its first-ever

Sweet 16 victory Dec. 11 with a 3-1 throttling of Loyola-Marymount, but the most important match of the day might have been the second regional semifinal, featuring No. 1 USC and national player of the year Samantha Bricio against the 16th-seed Creighton Bluejays.

Knowing that his young team, representing a program that had never before been this deep in the tournament, was likely awed by the specter of the three-time national-champion USC Trojans, Bechard and his coaches decided the Jayhawks should stay and watch.

Explains Bechard, "They thought, 'OK, here's this No. 1 seed, national player of the year ... are we really in that league?' And then they saw them play Creighton, and the best thing that could happen is, Creighton takes the first set. And then USC takes the second set, and we sent them home. They had seen enough."

"They saw the very best of USC, but they also saw the vulnerable side of USC."

Born and reared in Grinnell, on the high plains of Gove County, Ray Bechard first grasped his KU allegiance while huddled around a television with his family, watching the Jan. 1, 1969, Orange Bowl. When Penn State toppled the Jayhawks with a two-point conversion after a controversial penalty against KU extended the game by one play, Bechard noted his reaction.



An improbable victory over USC (1) sent the Jayhawks to Omaha (previous pages), where Tiana Dockery (7) patrolled the left side with Janae Hall (16), Cassie Wait (5) and Anna Church (1) ready to assist; and Kelsie Payne (8) celebrated one of her 22 kills against just three errors. "Payne was, I thought, the best player at the Final Four," Bechard says.

“The ’69 Orange Bowl cemented my ties to the Jayhawks,” he told Kansas Athletics communications student assistant Krysti Cole for an online profile published in September. “That’s when I realized that, if I get that disappointed in just a football game, I must be developing some form of allegiance with KU.”

A multisport athlete in high school, Bechard spent two years at Barton County Community College, where he led his basketball teams to a combined record of 45-13. He earned physical education bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Fort Hays State University in 1980 and ’82, coached boys’ basketball and girls’ volleyball for three years at Lewis High School, then returned to Great Bend to coach women’s volleyball at Barton County.

In his 13 seasons at BCCC, Bechard was undefeated at home (126-0) and coached his way into the National Junior College Athletic Association Volleyball Hall of Fame with a career winning percentage of .923, at the time the highest among all college volleyball coaches. The affection Cougars still feel for their former coach was evident at bartonsports.com, which prominently featured coverage of the Jayhawk’s 2015 Final Four run.

In January 1998, Bechard received an unexpected phone call. It was 10 p.m. when he picked up the receiver, and he did not need long to accept KU’s offer to become the Jayhawks’ next head volleyball coach; 18 seasons later, Bechard owns the KU volleyball record book in every conceivable category. All seven of KU’s NCAA Tournament appearances have come under his watch, and he’s been honored as Big 12 Coach of the Year in 2012, ’13 and ’15.

His long, successful career to date peaked Dec. 17 in Omaha’s CenturyLink Center, when the Jayhawks, playing in front of the largest crowd ever to watch a college volleyball match, faced Nebraska in the national semifinal.

And yet, when the 2015 season is remembered a decade from now, it might not be the Jayhawks’ Final Four debut that will be the first point of conversation.

“I think the season,” Bechard concedes,



“is going to be dominated by, ‘Jayhawks are down, 13-9, against the No. 1 seed in the fifth set.’”

The rally.

After thundering to a startling two-set lead against the top-ranked Trojans Dec. 12 in the University of San Diego’s Jenny Craig Pavilion, the Jayhawks dropped the next two sets as USC regained its swagger. With a trip to the Final Four in Omaha on the line, KU fell behind in the race to 15, the winning point total in fifth sets, and faced near-certain elimination at 13-9.

With junior libero Cassie Wait serving, the Jayhawks mounted the greatest comeback in KU volleyball history. After winning points with a kill by junior middle blocker Janae Hall and two USC errors, Wait served an ace to tie the set, 13-13. KU took the lead on Payne’s 18th kill of the match, setting up match point.

After a whirlwind two and a half weeks following the Final Four, Big 12 Coach of the Year Ray Bechard bolted for a quick getaway shortly after this Jan. 4 portrait in the Horejsi Family Athletics Center. “My wife and I are going to get out of town for four or five days,” he said, “and try to find a little bit of sleep somewhere.”

Wait saved the point with an improbable dig early in the rally; setter Havili looked to Payne on the right side for three consecutive kill attempts, but after the ball had crossed the net 14 times she finally went left, to sophomore outside hitter Madison Rigdon, who crushed what Bechard calls “the best shot she could make.” The Jayhawks fell into a jubilant pile as the Trojans watched in disbelief.

“We stayed true to what we talked about

“I’ve seen a lot of matches. I have never seen something as shocking as that: USC in complete control and Kansas would not be denied.” —Paul Sunderland, ESPN



defensively,” Bechard says. “As a rally goes on in volleyball, teams tend to get a little bit out of what they’re trying to do, out of system, out of being assignment correct. But we were exact every time and we got some great touches.”

Raved ESPN commentator Paul Sunderland, a member of the United States’ gold-medal 1984 Olympic volleyball team, “I’ve seen a lot of matches. I have *never* seen something as shocking as that: USC in complete control and Kansas would not be denied.”

Surrounded afterward by his overjoyed players in KU’s cramped clubhouse, the soaked coach happily announced, “13-9: There’s no doubt, right? You guys believe in each other,” which was met by a resounding, “Yes!” Bechard teased them just a bit with, “The last rally took just a little longer than what it needs to,” then added, with emphasis, “But hey, we’re going to Omaha!”

The Final Four. Volleyball is a sport dominated by a relatively small number of programs—only a handful of schools have played their way into debut Final Four appearances in the past decade—and the upstart Kansas Jayhawks

were the hot topic of conversation Dec. 16, as teams and media, along with coaches from across the country, assembled in the CenturyLink Center one day before the Kansas-Nebraska and Texas-Minnesota semifinals.

Payne and Havili were both named first-team All-Americans—the first first-team All-Americans in KU volleyball history—and associate head coach Laura Kuhn was named National Assistant Coach of the Year. Junior Janae Hall, who carries a 3.95 GPA, was presented the NCAA’s Elite 90 Award, honoring athletes with the highest cumulative grade-point average among teams participating in NCAA championship events, and Bechard was named National Coach of the Year by PrepVolleyball.com.

“Ray is one of the classiest coaches in the country,” Nebraska coach John Cook told reporters. “It’s great for Kansas. It’s great for the Big 12. It’s great for this part of the country. There’s not a more deserving guy than Ray to get here.”



Associate head coach Laura “Bird” Kuhn (l) was named National Assistant Coach of the Year. Above, Payne (8), Hall (16), Tayler Soucie (10) and Ainise Havili (11) in Omaha action.

When Kansas took the podium in the cavernous, curtained interview room deep inside the CenturyLink Center, the first question was directed at Ainise Havili, and it wasn’t about the looming Nebraska match. It was, of course, about USC.

“I’ve watched those last six points like a thousand times,” she said. “We all just looked at each other and relaxed, and we all said, ‘We’ll take this one point a time, and we’ll win each point and see how far we can go.’ And then we won.”

Said Payne, “We started down 0-4 and we kind of freaked out a little bit. This isn’t going how we wanted it to. What’s happening? This isn’t working. What’s going on? We took a time-out and we said, ‘You know, what we have is enough. We have all the pieces here. We need to trust



one another and know that we all have our jobs. I think that's what happened."

"That's not the first time we've done that," added Tayler Soucie. "That's been our mantra all season. One point at a time, and we're going to do it together."

As for the match that awaited, the dominant topic was the crowd. Nebraska fans are mad for volleyball, selling out every match in the 8,000-seat Devaney Center since 2001. When tickets went on sale a year ago for the 2015 Final Four, Husker fans immediately made the event a sellout, long before Nebraska qualified Dec. 17 with a 3-1 victory over Washington. Nebraska entered the tournament with three national championships, two of which were won in Omaha—with every match setting a new record for the country's largest volleyball crowd. [Note to KU fans: Havili, Payne and Rigdon will be seniors in 2017, when volleyball's Final Four is set for Kansas City's Sprint Center.]

Although Husker fans surely earned the right to pack the house by buying tickets as soon as they were available, the NCAA didn't help matters by reserving just 200 tickets for fans of other teams. Jayhawk faithful were sure to be drowned out.

Was that a factor when KU, the tournament's ninth seed, opened the semifinal

showdown with No. 4 Nebraska with four service errors in the first set? Nebraska's Cook, who called KU "a great team," speculated that the red-heavy crowd of 17,551 played a role: "I just think the atmosphere got to them a little bit."

Bechard disagrees: "No, I think the serving things came from, 'Hey, this is the Final Four for the first time. It was a great crowd. They know volleyball. I was happy for our team that we didn't go to a Final Four somewhere with 8,000 or 9,000 indifferent fans who don't really have an allegiance. Now, it would have been fun to have a few more KU fans, but it was more about the moment."

Whatever the reason, KU's first-set service errors put the Jayhawks in a hole that would be impossible to climb out of against a strong side like Nebraska. The Jayhawks had three more service errors in the second set, along with a team attack mark of 58 percent. After dropping games 25-20 and 25-21, KU rallied to take the third set, 25-20, but despite Payne's 22 kills against three errors in the match, Nebraska pounced in the fourth set, 25-16.

KU's remarkable 30-3 season was done.

As he prepared to meet with his team, a notion struck Bechard: the two teams that would fight it out for the title—Nebraska and Texas, with Nebraska emerging the victor in straight sets—were the only two teams to beat KU all season long.

"When we talked about that, a little bit of reality hit, like, 'Holy cow, that is a pretty good year, when you can state it like that, correct?' And nobody else, including the No. 1 seed in the tournament, could beat you."

Goals: NCAA Tournament, check. Elite Eight, check. Big 12 championship, not yet. And Bechard isn't ready to predict that will come in 2016. Texas, which will add the 2014 national Freshman of the Year who had to sit out 2015 after transferring from USC, will be favored.

"They picked us fourth in the Big 12 this year," he says, "and I'd be happy if they did that again next year. But I've got a feeling that's not going to be the case."

All-Americans Payne and Havili will

return for their junior seasons, and Soucie, the athletic middle blocker repeatedly cited by Nebraska's coach as a dominant force at the net, will be a senior, as will Wait, Hall and Maggie Anderson.

"There's not a first-team All-American in that group," Bechard said of next season's seniors, "but there's first-team character, first-team work ethic, first-team leadership."

Bechard plans to help players strike a balance between aggressive service strategies and safer tactics designed to eliminate service errors, and he hopes to create "offensive balance" by developing a net player who can complement the expected attacks from Payne. Much work is ahead; Bechard can't wait to get after it.

"Doing something the first time has a certain level of originality to it, a certain level of, 'Wow, this is really fun,'" he says. "Hopefully we can look back on this year and know that if we put our minds to it and try to do the best we can, most anything is possible."

As he reflects on KU's remarkable three-loss run to the Final Four, Bechard says one of the most gratifying aspects was hearing from volleyball coaches across the country who were thrilled for, in Bechard's words, "somebody who does it the right way. I think it gave hope to a lot of schools out there that have very competitive programs but just never got over the hump and got to the Final Four, and if Kansas can do it, why can't we?"

His own highlight, however, was entirely personal.

"My family has always been proud of me, but it doesn't get very much better than looking across the court in Omaha and seeing them all sitting up there, knowing that we're all in this thing together."

Goal No. 1: In it together. Always. 

The Rally

Links to view KU's epic fifth-set rally against USC can be found at kuathletics.com/news/2015/12/13/WVB_1213153906.aspx.



POETRY *for the* PEOPLE

Washington's next poet laureate brings Wichita lines
and a legacy of outreach to statewide advocacy role

Poetry and public service have been linked for Tod Marshall since he first began to think writing was something he might like to do himself, back when he was an undergraduate at Sienna Heights, a small Catholic college in Michigan.

"I had the good fortune of falling into the company of Dominican nuns, who are great gadflies for making you get out and do things," recalls Marshall, PhD'95, the author of three collections of poetry and an English professor and Powers Chair of the Humanities at Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington. "They ushered me to a poetry reading/ritual for peace in the chapel. It was an eye-opening, moving experience."

That led to a place on the protest line at a Detroit manufacturing plant that made rocket engines for nuclear missiles—and to a creative writing class that helped Marshall realize, "I might have a voice with something to say, too."

So his appointment this fall as the next poet laureate of Washington, weeks after receiving an award from Humanities Washington for his role in promoting humanities education in the state, seems a natural progression for a writer who sees poetry not only as a mode of personal expression, but also as an art form to which we can turn—in this age of smartphones and search engines—to ponder the questions that Siri can't answer.

"There are so many energies in our culture

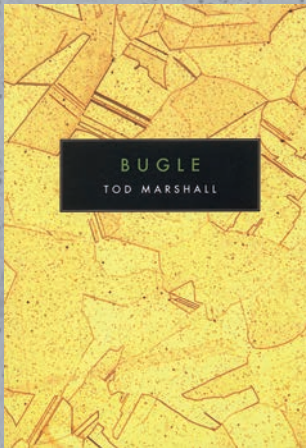
that are moving us toward being satisfied with information," Marshall says. "I think poetry forces us to dwell on uncertainty and to inhabit places with unanswerable questions—and try to be OK with that."

Marshall grew up in a Wichita home where money was tight and going to college "was not part of the life plan," but he never wanted for books.

"Books, the gift that they are, were always available as something that I was encouraged to explore," Marshall says, "and I love being part of programs that encourage that same exploration in children and people who normally don't get that access."

During his two-year term as poet laureate, which begins Feb. 1, Marshall plans an ambitious program to bring poetry to 16 underserved communities around the state. He hopes to focus on isolated rural areas and economically challenged urban neighborhoods and, with the help of local partners, to host readings, recite poetry and conduct workshops encouraging everyone from elementary and high school students to senior citizens to write poetry. He wants to gather enough work (from professionals and amateurs) to publish eight to 10 regional chapbooks, which will be collected in a statewide publication. The goal is to publish one poem for each year of Washington statehood—129 poems in all. He'll end his two-year term by revisiting communities and inviting local writers to

by Steven Hill | Portrait by Amy Sinisterra



Dare Say, University of Georgia Press, 2002

The Tangled Line, Canarium Books, 2009

Bugle, Canarium Books, 2014

“Books, the gift that they are, were always available as something that I was encouraged to explore. I love being part of programs that encourage that same exploration in children and people who normally don’t get that access.”—Tod Marshall

celebrate the project by performing their own poetry.

The project in many ways extends Marshall’s record of public service. As a volunteer with Prime Time Family Reading, he helps public libraries—the main source for his own childhood books—involve parents and children from at-risk families in a reading, storytelling and discussion program that encourages literacy and library use. As a teacher in Humanities Washington’s first Clemente Course in the Humanities Program, Marshall brought humanities courses to economically disadvantaged adults. He also organizes Gonzaga’s Visiting Writers Series and frequently appears at libraries and museums to read and recite poetry—works from the canon and from his books.

In October Humanities Washington, the state’s flagship nonprofit agency for humanities programming, gave him its Scholarship and Service Award.

“He has been really a bright light in the humanities and arts community for several decades, and I think it’s so fitting that he was recognized with our award and at the same time his commitment is recognized with this statewide position,” says Julie Ziegler, executive director of Humanities Washington, which is also a partner in the laureate program with ArtsWA, the Washington State Arts Commission.

“It’s fitting and at the same time ironic—that he’s recognized for his achievements and then is willing to give even more,” Ziegler says. “It’s just the kind of guy he is.”

After earning an MFA in creative writing at Eastern Michigan and a PhD in literature at KU, Marshall published his first collection, *Dare Say*, in 2002. Studded with references to Kandinsky, Bach and Botticelli, the book’s preoccupation with the world of abstract ideas betrays the first-generation college student’s worry

that he must prove he belonged in the literary world. Later books, *The Tangled Line*, 2009, and *Bugle*, winner of the 2015 Washington State Book Award, show him growing more comfortable with telling his own story.

“I realized that this poor kid from the wrong side of the tracks doesn’t need to prove he’s got chops,” Marshall says. “That there’s something valuable writing about the experience of growing up in a Wichita trailer park, something valuable about writing the experience of being served eviction papers at your house.”

“It took me a while to realize that’s a fit subject for poetry, because many people have lived that life.”

During a November visit hosted by the KU English department, Marshall discussed the evolution of his work and read his poems. If *Dare Say* was his *Paradiso*, he noted in an allusion to Dante, then *Bugle* is his *Inferno*, “obsessed with the ninth circle that is Wichita,” he joked.

A bugle, he explained, “is an instrument that’s used to rouse, to waken, that can’t be ignored.” Indeed, many of the book’s short—and often not so sweet—sonnets ring more like wake-up calls than soothing lullabies, focusing frequently on death and environmental destruction while using the language like a live wire to jolt and jangle. A bugle is *sounded*, Marshall reminds us, not played, and the book is a meditation on the word in every sense: “Sound not just as noise,” he says, “but as a fathoming, a probing, a sounding out.”

Drawing children and adults to poetry excites Marshall far more than his own poetry, and while he’s definitely honored to be chosen as Washington state’s poet laureate, he says, “I see it not so much as an honor, but as a duty to the art.

“My purpose as a laureate is not to share my poems with the world, but to share poetry.”



NOMINATE

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We need your assistance in nominating future members of the KU Alumni Association's National Board of Directors.

To nominate a fellow Jayhawk, please complete the form at kualumni.org/board or call 800-584-2957 and materials will be mailed or faxed to you.

All nominations should be sent to the Association **by March 1.**

With your help, the Association will continue to recruit directors who represent the diversity of the KU family and the dedication that has been a hallmark of KU alumni service through the years.

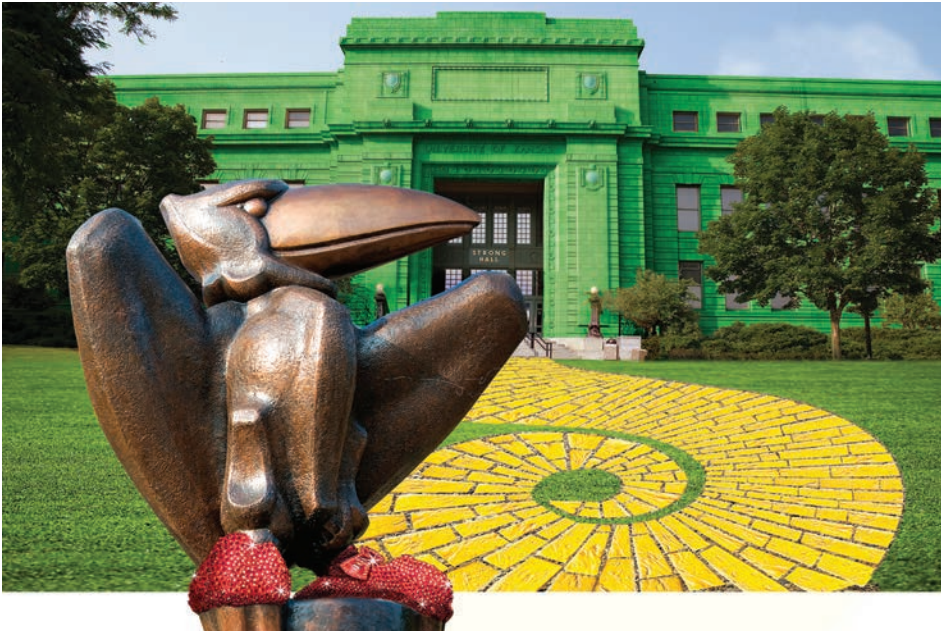


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ASSOCIATION
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For any additional questions, contact the Association at 800-584-2957 or visit kualumni.org

Association

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: SUSAN YOUNGER



There's no place like home

2016 Rock Chalk Ball to highlight the merry old land of Oread

To loyal Jayhawks and aficionados of “The Wizard of Oz,” our home on the Hill is as idyllic as the Emerald City. Kansas City-area alumni will celebrate their alma mater at the 21st Rock Chalk Ball April 23 at the Overland Park

Convention Center. Hosted by the Alumni Association and the Greater Kansas City Network, the annual tradition unites Jayhawks in the nation’s largest KU community and raises funds for Association programs to advocate for KU,

communicate to alumni and friends in all media, recruit students and volunteers, serve alumni and KU, and unite all Jayhawks.

“We are working on putting our own original spin on a familiar story,” says Betsy Winetroub, c’05, director of Kansas City programs. “I hope this will be a theme with which attendees can really get creative and have fun.”

John, j’81, l’84, and Suzanne Adams Holt, l’84, and Joseph, c’01, and Shanna Shoemaker Grant, b’01, are co-chairs of the event. John has served on the board of the Greater Kansas City Network for several years, and he and his wife are Life Members as well as longtime ball participants and benefactors. In addition, John has emceed the event several times.

The Grants are annual members of the Association, and Joseph is a fourth-generation Jayhawk.

Leading the network board’s efforts are ball co-chairs Mark Frutiger, b’01, and Jake Ballard, b’01. Frutiger is a three-year veteran as event co-chair, and Ballard is in his first year on the network board.

Topher Enneking, c’08, a spoken-word poet in Lawrence, will lend his rich voice as this year’s emcee. A former KU football player, Enneking wrote and narrated an inspirational “Welcome to KU” video in collaboration with KU Marketing Communications. The video, which debuted at the 2014 Traditions Night, became an instant hit with Jayhawks old and new.

DAN STOREY



Joseph and Shanna Grant, and Suzy and John Holt

KELSEY KIMBERLIN



Topher Enneking

A NOTE FROM HEATH

Alumni support critical to Association's ongoing success

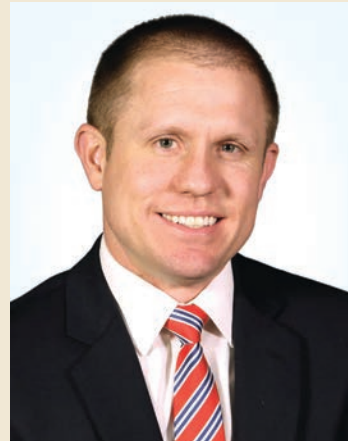
I am humbled and honored to work with a very talented staff and Board of Directors to build on a storied and great organization! On the heels of our most successful decade in history by nearly any measure, I am especially thankful to our 42,000 members and 500 Presidents Club members who fuel our efforts to effectively advocate for KU in the Kansas Legislature, recruit students and new alumni leaders and volunteers, communicate with alumni in all media, serve alumni and the University, and unite a network of more than 340,000 Jayhawks around the world.

World-class universities benefit from involved alumni and friends who lend their time, talents and resources to make otherwise average universities extraordinary. Without the shared pride, tradition and connection of devoted alumni, the University of Kansas would be a far different place. This dedication dates back to 1883, when alumni had the foresight to establish the KU Alumni Association, and 1891, when alumni founded the first public

university endowment association to manage the financial contributions of alumni. This model remains an enormous competitive advantage for KU.

One thing is clear: As public higher education faces numerous challenges, KU will continue to need the strongest independent champion it can possibly have. We will work diligently to grow the Jayhawk network and identify the next generation of advisers, volunteers and donors for KU. We must ensure that the next generation of alumni maintains the same commitment to service and giving as the current KU stalwarts and those who came before. We cannot simply presume that the next generation will follow in the footsteps of their predecessors.

If you're reading this note, you're a Proud Member of the Association, and we are truly grateful for your vital support! Members sustain our programs to strengthen KU, and they are our most informed and effective advocates. In



Peterson

DAN STOREY

addition, Association members give back to KU at significantly higher rates than non-members. I'm sure you know other Jayhawks who are not members, and I'm confident that most of them had great experiences at KU, they are proud of their alma mater and their KU degrees have served them well. Please remind them that

alumni support helped make their experience possible—and we need their support more than ever before. Encourage them to follow your lead and express their pride in a meaningful, tangible way through membership. If you need help, send them my way and I will provide numerous compelling reasons why membership matters!

I believe our best days are ahead. Thank you for all you do for KU.

Rock Chalk, Jayhawk!

—Heath Peterson, c'04, d'09
KU Alumni Association president

Life Members

The Association thanks these Jayhawks, who began their Life memberships Nov. 1 through Dec. 31. For information, visit kualumni.org or call 800-584-2957.

Ghanem Abusaleh
Kimberly L. Bacastow
Thomas J. Barnes
Julie Flynn Baumann
Catherine F. Bettis
James T. Birch Jr.
Ashley D. Braaksma
Alexander B. Thies & Casey E. Briner
Jennifer L. Brown
Shirley J. Brown-VanArsdale
George C. & Pam Bruce
Lindsay R. Brunelli
Stefani Gerson Buchwitz

John M. & Lauren Kirsten Cain
Tony & Catherine Bubb Campbell
Patrick E. Carttar
Robert F. Casida
Barbara S. Coats
B. L. Cohen
Abbie L. Collinsworth
Steven W. Crahan
Russell L. & Ann K. Crane
Robert J. & Lori Hubrig Crouch
Donald J. Jr. & Cynthia Gill Davis

Joseph B. Deneault
Kimberly Pheffer Drake
Paula Grizzle Edrington
June Sutton Erisman
Patrick D. & Veronique Escalante
Judith K. Favor
Ashley N. Fiedler
Casey L. Filbert
Allan R. Fleming
Scot D. Foster
Vincent T. Francisco
Randal J. Gerstner
Megan M. Geysler
Michael C. Graham
Michael J. Gray
Michael O. Growney
Ian J. Guenther
Roger K. Hahn
Randy R. Hall

Griffin T. Hawkinson
Judith M. Hile
Lynley W. Holman
Brenda J. Holt
Daniel J. Hubbard
Dean L. & Betty Lawson Huff
James C. & Judith Locher Hughes
Lindsey Hunhoff
Levi T. Huseman
Allison Hastings Jones
Elaine G. Jones
Linda L. Journeys
Eric T. & Pami S. Keller
Frank D. Kim
Liam & Allie Fiss Kirby
Brian D. Klipp
Holly Lafferty
Holly V. Lashmet
Alan Lavery

Association

Life Members

Continued from page 39

Melissa Larson-Lewis
 Kyle R. Lindberg
 John P. Linden
 Loretta S. Loftus
 Kyle J. Logan
 Brian A. Long
 Kristi C. Marks
 Craig L. Martin
 Bradley L. Mathers
 Todd & Julie Matt
 Kiah C. Mattson
 Ryan G. McAtee
 Thomas W. & Linda B. McCoy
 Todd A. Miles
 Cara M. Montgomery
 David J. Moore
 Madison S. Moser
 A. Miles Nease
 Christopher T. Nelson
 Jay P. Newton Jr.
 Christopher S. & Alexandra Nicholson
 Jeffrey W. Nordstrom
 William W. Nye
 Bill H. & Sherrell A. Paige
 Patricia A. Palmer
 Dennis A. Park
 Melissa R. Peltier
 Andy & Donna J. Perry
 James D. & Theresa Wiseman Pipkin
 John E. Prim

Immer Liza Ravallo
 Brian A. Richmeier
 Kay A. Riedl
 Adam W. Rock
 Stuart A. Schlemmer
 Shannon M. Schreiner
 Jay S. & Nancy K. Schukman
 Randall L. & Hannah Davoren Schumacher
 Lowell D. Seaton
 J. Stanley & Tommye C. Sexton
 Darrel G. Shumake
 Russ Sims
 Timothy R. Smith
 Helen R. Stanley
 Cassie A. Strom
 W. Keith Swinehart II
 Jaimie Wappelhorst Surcey
 Jeanette Watson Tarr & Matthew D. Tarr
 Joseph L. Thomas
 Richard L. Vanderslice
 Amy M. Warkentin
 Frank M. Waugh & Megan Fowler-Waugh
 Randy L. Wenger
 Michael R. Wesley
 Kevin H. Williams
 James C. & Catherine S. Wilkinson
 Jacob M. Wilson
 Hannah M. Wise
 Lance E. Wright
 Andrew T. & Lauren Lynn Wymore

New staff roles



DAN STOREY

Three Association staff members recently earned promotions. Heather Plante Hawkins, j'06, now coordinates donor relations and the Fred Ellsworth Medallion program.

Brad Eland, b'09, g'11, took over Heath Peterson's role as vice president of alumni programs, and Michelle Miles Lang, b'02, moved into Eland's role as director of alumni programs.

DAN STOREY



Judy Ruedlinger scholarships

The Association presented three outstanding Student Alumni Leadership Board (SALB) members with Judy L. Ruedlinger Awards of \$500 each for spring 2016. They are Caleb Bobo, St. Louis senior; Sara Easterwood, Andover senior; and Jake Faflick, Wichita junior.

The award honors the memory of former Association staff member Ruedlinger, who in 1987 founded the Student Alumni Association (SAA) and was known by her students as "Judy Rudy."

SAA now includes more than 1,400 members and is among the largest student groups on campus.

Regional honors

Kansas Alumni, other projects rank among region's best

Alumni Association programs and *Kansas Alumni* earned seven awards in the eight-state District VI 2015 competition of the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE). The fall competition preceded the district's annual conference in January. The following list describes the awards, categories, projects and staff members who contributed.

- Silver, New Alumni Program Initiatives, KU Alumni Online Networking Series. The project included Debbi Johanning, c'98, digital media content manager; David Johnston, j'94, g'06, vice president for Internet services and marketing; Brad Eland, b'09, g'11, vice president of alumni programs; and Teri Harris, assoc., vice president of membership.

- Bronze, Alumni Programs for Special Constituencies, KU Veterans Alumni Network. Jacey Krehbiel, d'12, assistant director of alumni programs, and Eland work with network volunteers

- Gold, Magazine Cover Design, issue No. 4, 2014 ("Readers, Writers, Teachers"). Susan Younger, f'91, creative director; Valerie Spicher, j'94, graphic designer; and Steve Puppe, j'98, photographer, collaborated on the photo illustration.

- Gold, Editorial Design, "For a Song," issue No. 2, 2015. Younger designed the profile of singer/songwriter Freedy Johnston, '85.

- Silver, Editorial Design, "Face to Face," issue No. 5, 2014. Younger designed the story, which featured Puppe's photos of Elsa Rhae Pageler, c'13.

- Gold, Invitation Design, "Hawks Ahoy," 2014 Wichita Network Jayhawk Roundup. Younger created the invitation.

- Gold, Best Articles of the Year, "The Man with Wings on His Feet," *Kansas Alumni*, issue No. 6, 2014. The cover story, by Associate Editor Steven Hill, profiled KU Olympian Billy Mills, d'62. It now advances to compete in the Best Articles of the Year category of CASE's international competition this spring.



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Class Notes by Heather Biele

61 Catherine Moore Freed, g'61, was recently honored at the dedication of the Catherine Freed Galleria at the University of Findlay Mazza Museum in Findlay, Ohio.

Joe Morris, b'61, and his wife, **Susan**, assoc., were named winners of the Rich and Judy Billings Spirit of 1912 Award at the KU Homecoming reception Oct. 31 in the Kansas Union. The Morrisses were recognized for their special contributions to Homecoming and other KU traditions.

62 Marc Asher, m'62, wrote *Dogged Persistence: Harrington, Post-polio Scoliosis, and the Origin of Spine Instrumentation*, the story of legendary KU scholar-athlete **Paul Harrington**, c'35, m'38, and his creative achievement, which

was published by Chandler Lake Books.

Harold Fearing, c'62, is a senior research scientist at TRIUMF in Vancouver, British Columbia.

65 Otha Sullivan, d'65, co-authored *African American Achievement Stamped Through History*, which was published in September by CreateSpace. He was an administrator, teacher and guidance counselor for many years in Detroit public schools.

68 The Hon. **Willard Hardesty**, j'68, is a judge at Brighton Municipal Court in Brighton, Colorado.

69 Keith Finger, b'69, g'74, is founder and principal of Monarch Natural Gas in Greenwood Village, Colorado.

Walter Jones Jr., l'69, was re-elected as town justice in Canandaigua, New York, where he lives with his wife, Diane, and their son, Cameron. He is an attorney at Croucher and Jones law firm.

70 Carl Krehbiel, c'70, was recently elected an honorary life trustee of KU Endowment. He is president of his family's business, Moundridge Telephone Company.

71 Mary Jane Logan Bradley, d'71, was awarded Cottey College's Alumna Service Award. She lives in Kansas City with her husband, **Tom**, c'70.

Phyllis Farrar, c'71, d'75, g'00, is a world language consultant for the Kansas Department of Education in Topeka. She and her husband, **Gary Webber**, c'73, g'98, live in Lawrence.

Rev. **Richard Moore**, d'71, retired after 26 years as pastor of two United Methodist churches. He and his wife, Margo, live in Hastings, Michigan, with their two children.

72 Linda Legg, d'72, l'75, is senior vice president general counsel at AT&T Advertising Solutions in the St. Louis area.

73 Barbara Shiner Padgett, j'73, g'94, is an adjunct professor in the William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications. In 2014 she retired from a 24-year teaching career at Topeka High School. She lives in Lawrence.

John Pederson, '73, retired after 37 years with the Dr Pepper Snapple Group in Plano, Texas.

74 David Hastie, c'74, is a retired defense analyst for the U.S. Department of Defense.

David Williams, c'74, is vice president-general counsel at Legacy Aero Group in Wichita.

75 Todd Thompson, j'75, l'82, was recently inducted in the American College of Trial Lawyers. He is a partner at Thompson Ramsdell Qualseth & Warner in Lawrence, where he has practiced law for 33 years.

76 James Seward, g'76, g'83, is a chartered financial analyst and serves on the board of directors of Brookdale Senior Living. He lives in Prairie Village.

77 Tina Pickrell Leiker, b'77, owns Quality Water Inc. in Salina.

Marvin Motley, c'77, l'80, g'81, was recently elected to KU Endowment's board of trustees. He is director of sourcing, supply chain management at Sprint.

78 Frederick Bueler Jr., '78, is president of Bueler Inc. in Des Peres, Missouri.

Jeffrey Coey, c'78, is assistant regional vice president at U.S. Wheat Associates in Hong Kong.

Lee Glogau, c'78, is assistant vice president and senior equity trader at Waddell & Reed in Overland Park.

Ruth Yager Goff, d'78, teaches art at Hocker Grove Middle School in Shawnee.

Roy Heatherly, j'78, is president and publisher of the Wichita Eagle in Wichita, where he makes his home.

James Muehlberger, c'78, l'82, wrote *The 116: The True Story of Abraham*

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

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



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Lincoln's Lost Guard, which was published in December by Ankerwycke. His first book, *The Lost Cause: The Trials of Frank and Jesse James* ["True Crime," issue No. 3, 2014], was released in 2013. Jim is a partner at Shook, Hardy & Bacon in Kansas City.

Gerald Seib, j'78, is the Washington bureau chief for the Wall Street Journal. He recently moderated the fourth GOP presidential debate.

79 Angela Chammas, e'79, was recently elected to KU Endowment's board of trustees. She is vice president of human capital strategy and technology planning and HR relationship management at Sprint.

Robert Kaplan, b'79, is president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas and co-chairman of the Draper Richards Kaplan Foundation.

Robert Meyer Jr., c'79, is conversion and implementation manager at TPP

Retirement Plan Specialists in Overland Park.

Daniel Skinner, '79, was named director of Kansas Public Radio and the Audio-Reader Network in Lawrence this fall. He was previously executive director and general manager at WKSU in Kent, Ohio.

80 Elizabeth Smith Blankenship, d'80, is an advertising coordinator and bookkeeper at The Leaven in Kansas City.

James Mifsud, l'80, is vice president and general counsel at Lockheed Martin in Arlington, Virginia, where he lives.

Kelly Mirt, c'80, is vice president of advertising at the Charlotte Observer in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Michael Powers, l'80, was elected president of the Kansas District Judges' Association. He is chief judge of the 8th Judicial District of Kansas.

81 Robert Brown, c'81, e'81, is vice president of flow lifecycle services at

Emerson Electric Company. He lives in Houston with his wife, Lana.

82 David Haden, b'82, directs operations at American Sports Network in West Palm Beach, Florida, where he makes his home.

Kevin Harlan, j'82, is a national sportscaster for CBS and Turner Broadcasting.

John Jantsch, '82, is a marketing consultant and public speaker. He created the Duct Tape Marketing System in Kansas City, where he makes his home.

Scot Reeder, e'82, '94, is vice president of quality and engineering at TSE Brakes Inc. in Cullman, Alabama.

James Still, c'82, is a writer and playwright. His one-man show, "Looking Over the President's Shoulder," will be on stage at Chicago's American Blues Theatre in February.

83 Deepak Ahuja, c'83, m'87, is the senior national medical director at

Optum Consumer Solutions Group in Moline, Illinois.

J. Mark Gidley, c'83, chairs the global antitrust/competition practice at White & Case in Washington, D.C.

Ngondi Kamatuka, g'83, PhD'87, received the Walter O. Mason Award from the Council for Opportunity in Education. He directs the Center for Educational Opportunity Programs in the Achievement & Assessment Institute at KU.

Francis Wardle, PhD'83, is an author and professor at Red Rocks Community College and the University of Phoenix.

84 Jan Swanson Glimpse, h'84, is an occupational therapist at the Sunflower Early Education Center in Great Bend.

John Hayes III, b'84, l'91, is senior vice president and general counsel at Dick's Sporting Goods in Coraopolis, Pennsylvania.

Annette Craighead Pierce, j'84, is an online content manager and writer for Baker University in Baldwin City, where she lives with her husband, **Steve**, c'82.

Paula Warren, h'84, is a pediatric occupational therapist at Lawrence

Therapy Services. She lives in Lawrence.

Charles Winters, e'84, is a neurosurgeon at Brain and Spine Specialists in Bel Air, Maryland.

85 Dale Goss, g'85, is senior vice president and chief development officer at Jamba Juice in Emeryville, California.

Janine Gracy, d'85, g'91, is project director of the Heartland Telehealth Resource Center at KU's School of Medicine in Wichita, where she lives.

Kathy Greenlee, b'85, l'88, was named

PROFILE by Steven Hill

'Black Mass' opens doors in screenwriter's career

A pair of movies changed screenwriter Mark Mallouk's path in life.

Mallouk, c'95, was working on his MBA at Pepperdine—having completed a triple-major bachelor's degree at KU in economics, psychology and human development and family life—when he saw "The Shawshank Redemption."

The scene where Andy Dufresne escapes from prison hit Mallouk hard. "It was like I had been punched in the chest," he recalls. "I was so moved, not expecting it at all, thinking this was the greatest thing I'd ever seen."

The next night he saw "The Natural" and had a similar reaction when Roy Hobbes knocks out the stadium lights with a towering home run.

"I remember walking home, saying, 'Yep, that's it. That's what I want to do,'" Mallouk recalls. "It makes me laugh now, because that's not much of a plan. But I've never looked back."

He enrolled in film school at the University of California-Los Angeles and wrote a crime drama set in Kansas City, "Somerset Square," which was optioned by producer Brian Oliver. Though Oliver never made the project, he later asked

Mallouk to write a script about James "Whitey" Bulger, leader of Boston's notorious Winter Hill Gang.

"Black Mass," released in September, shows how Bulger expanded his criminal enterprise while working as an informant for his childhood friend, FBI agent John Connolly. While drawing comparisons to gangster classics like "The Godfather" and "Goodfellas," the Warner Bros. film starring Johnny Depp as the menacing, cold-blooded killer avoids mythologizing mob life.

"I wanted to make sure there was no romance in 'Black Mass,'" Mallouk says. "I didn't want anybody walking out of that theatre going, 'I want to be Whitey Bulger,' because he's a sociopath."

The script's success led to executive producer credits on "Rush," "A Walk Among the Tombstones" and "Everest" (released the same day as "Black Mass"). Now working on a screenplay about Chicago's Calabrese crime family and a graphic novel, *Sunflower*, about a woman who discovers that her murdered daughter may actually be alive, the Prairie Village native who grew up a "Boy Scout and altar boy" is drawn to gangster stories because the criminal world's immense pressures help reveal true character.

"I think our relationships, until they are



COURTESY MARK MALLOUK

"I aspire to do that," Mark Mallouk says, alluding to movies that still make a big impact on him after multiple viewings. "I want to write my 'Shawshank.' I think I have that in me."

.....

tested, are theoretical," Mallouk says. "This world, where there is the constant threat of violence and intimidation, you find out the kind of person someone is."

Adds Mallouk, "I loved 'The Muppet Movie.' I loved 'The Princess Bride.' But I want to write these movies because I feel extremely comfortable in this space. It just feels right." 🍷

Class Notes



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one of the 2015 Influencers in Aging by Next Avenue. She is the Assistant Secretary for Aging at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in Washington, D.C.

Maureen Murphy, m'85, was named 2016 Family Physician of the Year by the American Academy of Family Physicians. She practices at Cabarrus Family Medicine in Concord, North Carolina.

Diane Yetter, b'85, was recently elected to KU Endowment's board of trustees. She is president of Yetter Consulting Services and founder of the Sales Tax Institute. She lives in Chicago.

86 Steven Chrzanowski, c'86, m'90, was named Laureate of the Montana Chapter of the American College of Physicians. He practices internal medicine at Benefis Health System in Great Falls, Montana.

Sean Dow, m'86, is a critical care physician at Benefis Health System in Great Falls, Montana.

William Easley, c'86, received the Silver

Beaver Award, the highest honor given to a volunteer by the Heart of America Council of Boy Scouts of America. William is managing director of wealth management at Prosperity Advisory Group in Kansas City. He served as KU's student body president in 1985.

87 Doug Anderson, d'87, g'93, PhD'02, is executive director of special education for Wichita public schools.

Robert Fee, c'87, was elected to the National Independent Insurance Agents and Brokers of America executive team. He is president and chief operating officer of Fee Insurance Group in Hutchinson, where he lives with **Annie Burger Fee**, b'89.

88 Scott Adam, b'88, l'91, is a partner and shareholder at Adam & McDonald in Overland Park.

Raymond Dick, e'88, g'91, g'94, is CEO and founder of RD Solutions in Kansas City.

John Fullerton, c'88, g'97, is the general

manager for Astro Buildings in Omaha, Nebraska.

89 Cory Powell, j'89, is director of new products at the Star Tribune in Minneapolis.

Eric Soyer, g'89, is chief financial officer and chief operating officer at ERYTECH Pharma in Lyon, France.

90 Julia Forker Sobek, c'90, owns JSRE in Overland Park, where she makes her home.

91 Sean Bailey, c'91, is commanding officer of the USS Arlington, which set sail for its maiden deployment in October. He is a captain in the U.S. Navy.

Virgil Dean, PhD'91, wrote *Images of America: Lawrence*, which was published in October by Arcadia Publishing. He has researched and written about Kansas and regional history for 30 years.

John Morrison, j'91, is a staff photographer for the Toledo Blade in Toledo, Ohio. He's also a freelance photographer for

New Year, New Gear

A. Pewter License Plate. \$29.99 (00489)

B. Brushed Chrome Auto Emblem. \$16.99 (17291)



C. Alumni Key Ring. \$9.99 (15349)

D. Bottle Cap Key Ring. \$6.99 (11226)

E. Classic Key Ring. \$8.99 (17035)



F. Alumni 1/4-Zip Pullover S-2XL. \$62.99 (16716)

G. Alumni Microfleece 1/4-Zip Pullover S-3XL. \$52.99 (16718)

H. Alumni Women's Full-Zip Jacket S-2XL. \$62.99 (16714)



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J. KU Skyline L/S Charcoal Tee. (17213)
S-XL \$42.99 2XL \$44.99



K. Franchise Fitted Hat S-XL. \$28.99 (16933)

L. Gametime Closer Stretch-Fit Hat OS. \$27.99 (16686)

M. Relaxed Twill Adjustable Hat OS. \$21.99 (17256)



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several scuba diving magazines.

Angela Jacobson Watson, b'91, is vice president of international sales Latin America, Caribbean and Canada at UPS. She also is a member of KU's School of Business supply chain management advisory board. Angela lives in Weston, Florida, with her husband, Wendell, and their two children, Taylor and Nathan.

Anne Weintraub, c'91, is principal at Mercer in Irvine, California.

92 Jonathan Harrington, c'92, is a project manager for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Kansas City.

93 Lance Dobbins, c'93, is assistant vice president of medical technology at GlobalLogic. He lives in Edmonds, Washington.

94 Christopher Coy, c'94, is a senior patent engineer at Microsoft Corporation in Redmond, Washington.

Michael Griffin, c'94, a cosmetic dentist,

owns Northalsted Dental Spa in Chicago, where he makes his home.

Lee Ann Hawley, g'94, is a consultant at Alignment Business Consulting in Shawnee.

C. Jason Myers, j'94, directs marketing at Sales Engine Media in Austin, Texas.

William Roddy, m'94, joined the International Association of Healthcare Professionals and will be included in *The Leading Physicians of the World*. He is an internist, psychiatrist and pain management specialist, and he works at Shoals Psychiatric Medicine in Florence, Alabama.

BORN TO:

David, e'94, and **Amy Carter Legler**, d'95, daughter, Catherine, Oct. 15 in Hawthorn Woods, Illinois, where she joins two sisters, Savannah, 12, and Charlotte, 7.

95 Shannon Ochoa, c'95, is a CRM analyst at Optiv in Overland Park, where she lives.

William Pinkston, c'95, manages development at King County Bar Foundation in Seattle. He makes his home in Tacoma, Washington.

Jarrod Williams, f'95, g'03, is a training officer and senior chief musician in the U.S. Naval Academy Band in Annapolis, Maryland, where he lives.

MARRIED

Mark Button, j'95, to Amy Pengra, Nov. 7 in Houston. They live in Dallas, where he is the senior director of communications for the Texas Golf Association.

BORN TO:

Lisa Graham, j'95, and her husband, Geoff, son, Noah, Nov. 15 in Katy, Texas, where he joins a sister, Jillian, 5.

96 Sarah Deer, c'96, f'99, received the American Bar Association's 2016 Spirit of Excellence Award. She is a 2014 MacArthur fellow and a professor at William Mitchell College of Law in St.

Paul, Minnesota. Her book, *The Beginning and End of Rape*, was published in November by University of Minnesota Press.

Kamal Egodage, PhD'96, is vice president of development and manufacturing at Symic Biomedical in San Francisco.

Christina Kulp, c'96, is a data services librarian at the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City. She lives in Merriam.

Brian Chun-Shing Ma, j'96, is senior vice president and executive creative director at Leo Burnett in Chicago.

MARRIED

Milton Wendland, c'96, l'99, g'07, PhD'12, and **Michael Rezayazdi**, h'13, Aug. 29 in Key West, Florida. Milton is an attorney and instructor at the University of South Florida in Tampa, and Michael is respiratory therapist at Florida Hospital in Wesley Chapel. They make their home in St. Petersburg.

97 Jeannette Blackmar, g'97, g'99, is the office manager at the Baldwin City Chamber of Commerce.

Mindy Knepp Mies, c'97, '98, lives in



Lawrence with her husband, Kevin, and their twin sons, Luke and Cole.

98 Russell Caldwell, c'98, commands the USS Ross, which won the Arleigh Burke trophy in 2015. He is a commander in the U.S. Navy.

Lisa Ferris, g'98, received the Richard Kinney Challenge of Living Award from the Hadley School for the Blind for

PROFILE by Chris Lazzarino

Book, exhibition revive Thompson's gonzo legacy

Masked by booze, drugs and an over-the-top persona, there lurked within Hunter S. Thompson a patriot who used wit and insight to illuminate dark forces overpowering American politics. Daniel Joseph Watkins hopes his recently published book, *Freak Power*, and a companion exhibition of posters, photographs and writings from Thompson's 1970 campaign for sheriff of Pitkin County, Colorado, help restore the stature of the trailblazing gonzo journalist.

"Although the campaign did start as somewhat of a joke," says Watkins, '07, "as it gained momentum it became deadly determined."

Watkins, a Lawrence native, was less than a year into an unfulfilling job in San Francisco when he joined his family for an Aspen vacation in 2008 and happened to meet the widow of the late artist Thomas W. Benton, a close friend and collaborator of Thompson's who had recently died.

When Watkins told Benton's widow of his own background, studying art and politics and merging the two with a series of anti-war prints and posters, she asked him to immediately join her for a visit with George Stranahan, a prominent entrepreneur and philanthropist who was

then in the early stages of collecting lost political posters that Benton had parted with for a pittance during years of financial stress. Stranahan convinced Watkins to join the quest, and in 2011 their efforts culminated with the sumptuous and authoritative *Thomas W. Benton: Artist/Activist*, winner of the Colorado Book Award.

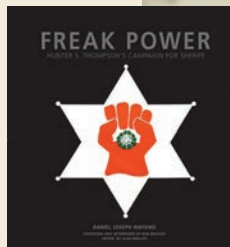
Watkins' search for Benton artifacts made him intimately familiar with Thompson, who had lived in Aspen from the late 1960s until his death in 2005.

He began collecting artwork, political posters, lost writings and other artifacts by and about Thompson, and in 2012 opened the Gonzo Gallery. After 15 months of greeting fans who knew next to nothing about Thompson's writing and activism, Watkins closed the gallery and spent more than a year on the book and exhibition featuring Thompson's pivotal Freak Power campaign (freakpower.com/collection).

Though Thompson lost by 455 votes, other candidates on the ticket won and went on to establish lasting legacies in Aspen politics. His gallery now reopened (gonzogallery.com), Watkins uses the



STEVE PUPPE



DJ Watkins brought 25 of the 100 pieces in his Hunter Thompson "Freak Power" collection to the Lawrence Arts Center for a fall exhibition, the first outside Aspen.

space to display his permanent collection and items for sale, and also host a community salon series.

"What I wanted to do with this book was to bring the discussion away from the craziness, the drugs, the outlandish behavior, and talk about the serious side of Hunter. The greatest form of patriotism is dissent, and Hunter was a courageous spokesman for calling it like it is.

"He wasn't afraid to speak what he had on his mind, and I think that sort of clarity and courage are lacking in today's world." —

Class Notes



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helping people with disabilities. Lisa owns Miles Access Skills Training in Portland, Oregon.

Roseanne Olmstead, m'98, is an obstetrician/gynecologist at Labette Health in Parsons, where she lives.

99 Amy Schmidt, c'99, is a child development specialist at Thera-Care. She makes her home in Egg Harbor City, New Jersey.

Alan Walker, PhD'99, is the president of Sierra Nevada College in Incline Village, Nevada.

BORN TO:

U.S. Rep. **Kevin Yoder**, c'99, l'02, and **Brooke Robinson Yoder**, l'05, daughter, Eloise Jane, Nov. 2 in Overland Park, where she joins a sister, Caroline Lucille, 2.

00 Cynthia Lane, EdD'00, was named 2016 Superintendent of the Year by the Kansas School Superintendents Association. She oversees the public schools in Kansas City, Kansas.

Stacey Wright, b'00, is an organization effectiveness consultant at H&R Block in Kansas City. She lives in Shawnee.

01 Travis Abicht, c'01, m'05, is a physician at the University of Kansas Hospital in Kansas City.

Adam Campbell, g'01, is editor of MensHealth.com. He also wrote *Men's Health Big Book of Exercises* and *Women's Health Big Book of Exercises*.

Matthew Dallman, c'01, owns 18th and Vine BBQ in Dallas, where he makes his home with this wife, Kimi.

Kelly Donnelly Davis, c'01, g'03, is a speech-language pathologist for the Independence school district in Missouri. She and her husband, Jason, live in Overland Park.

Tracy Eicher, m'01, is a neurologist at the Clinical Neuroscience Institute. She lives in Crestwood, Kentucky.

Christian Morgan, c'01, is chief of staff for U.S. Rep. Ann Wagner. He lives in Ballwin, Missouri.

Ruth Stricklen Pullins, g'01, was

appointed to the WGU Missouri advisory board. She is the chief human resources officer at Truman Medical Centers in Kansas City, where she makes her home.

Michael Randall, e'01, is a technical project lead at Computerized Assessments & Learning in Lawrence, where he lives with **Angela Randall**, c'01, a lead preschool teacher at First Presbyterian Church.

02 Russell Pine Jr., c'02, is a senior systems engineer at EMC in Overland Park.

Scott Russell, d'02, g'09, was inducted in the Windsor/Essex County Sports Hall of Fame. He is a physical education teacher and coach at Basehor-Linwood Middle School.

Eric Snider, c'02, an attorney at Smith Moore Leatherwood in Raleigh, North Carolina, will serve a three-year term on the Henderson Collegiate Charter School board of directors.

03 Erin Tornholm Baldwin, h'03, is director of the Thielen Student

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Health Center at Iowa State University in Ames.

Heather Cunningham, c'03, m'09, is a medical oncologist at Lawrence Memorial Hospital in Lawrence.

Matthew McClasky, c'03, g'08, lives in Chicago, where he is vice president of sales at Advance Health.

04 Jason Farley, b'04, an attorney at Whitfield & Eddy in Des Moines, Iowa, was recognized by Great Plains Super Lawyers 2015 as one of the rising stars in construction litigation.

Brian Henry, EdD'04, was inducted in the Winnetonka High School Hall of Fame. He is the superintendent of the Waynesville R-VI school district in Missouri.

Paul Kramer, j'04, g'09, is city manager of Leavenworth, where he lives.

Erin Nichols, b'04, is the Colorado franchise developer at Always Best Care Senior Services. She lives in Denver.

BORN TO:

Jacob, d'04, g'08, and **Jessica Rodriguez Larsen**, c'04, d'05, g'08, daughter, Saman-

tha Jane, Sept. 4 in Lawrence, where she joins a brother, Jack, 6, and a sister, Caroline, 4.

05 Jimmie Manning, g'05, PhD'07, is an assistant professor in the department of communications at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb.

Rae Anderson Nicholson, c'05, l'08, an attorney for the State of Kansas, is the newest member of the Basehor City Council.

Mary Westfall Tanner, c'05, is an epidemic intelligence officer in the HIV/

PROFILE by Heather Biele

Attorney makes impact far beyond courtroom

Reuben Shelton's life could easily have taken a much different course.

Raised on the north side of St. Louis, in "one of those areas people like to stay away from," he was one of nine children born to parents who hailed from a small town in Mississippi.

"The first time I had air conditioning in my house was when I moved to Lawrence," Shelton, j'78, recalls. "But I never knew any different."

Despite growing up in a neighborhood widely known for crime and poverty, he was a National Honor Society student and played basketball at a public high school, where he made the All-America team and caught the attention of college recruiters across the country—including KU basketball coach Ted Owens. Although Shelton had strong offers from several other schools, he decided to attend KU.

As a freshman, Shelton and his teammates enjoyed a triumphant romp to the Final Four. His success was short-lived, though, thanks to a knee injury during his junior year that abruptly halted his basketball career—and squashed any dreams he had of playing in the NBA.

Not one to give up, the journalism major turned to a different pursuit:

practicing law. "I'd always learned that the people who made the most impact—positive impact—on society were preachers and lawyers," he recalls, "and I knew I wasn't going to be a preacher."

In the almost 40 years since that defining moment at KU, Shelton's impact on society has been nothing short of positive.

The St. Louis native returned after graduating to his hometown, where he taught English and writing at a north city public school before attending law school. "That sparked my love for helping young folks," he says.

These days Shelton works closely with youth organizations in the metropolitan area, including the Boys and Girls Club and Big Brothers Big Sisters, where he recently became a big brother to an eighth-grade boy.

Shelton also strives to bring positive change to his profession. He has led several bar associations in St. Louis and, most recently, he served as president of the Missouri Bar, where his motto was "Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges."

"That's been my theme for everything I've ever done," he says. "It's all about diversity and inclusion, reaching out to get more people at the table, because that's the only way we're going to get things done."

Shelton emphasizes that his efforts




KEVIN LOWDER

"Everywhere I go I tell people I'm a Jayhawk," says Reuben Shelton, whose allegiance to his alma mater often fuels a goodhearted rivalry with colleagues at the Missouri Bar.

.....
weren't just about race, although inclusion of minority bar associations was a priority. During his presidency, he also invited a group of lay citizens to join the bar's board of governors in order to bring a fresh perspective to the organization.

Although the initiative was met with resistance at first, it's one that Shelton's immediate successors have agreed to carry on, much to his delight.

"What happens after that, I'm not so sure," he says. "But at least for the foreseeable future, it's gonna be good." 

Class Notes

AIDS prevention division at the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta.

MARRIED

Anne Pleviak, c'05, to Chase Dorian, Oct. 3 in Weston, Missouri. She is senior regulatory counsel at Mariner Holdings in Leawood. They reside in Overland Park.

BORN TO:

Timothy Davey, b'05, and **Diana Sparger**, g'07, PhD'11, daughter, Brynn Leonie, Oct. 2 in Belmont, California. Timothy is a senior key account manager at DH Pace Company, and Diana is a research scientist at Gilead Sciences.

06 Emily Clement, c'06, is sales and office manager at ESKER Sales. She lives in Toledo, Ohio.

BORN TO:

Jeret, d'06, and **Laura Wolowicz Crook**, d'06, g'08, daughter, Caroline, Feb. 16, 2015, in Dallas. Jeret manages

accounts at Splunk.

Jacob Strecker, d'06, and his wife, **Andrea**, assoc., son, Kolbe Leo, Nov. 9 in McPherson, where he joins two sisters and three brothers.

07 Colin Brainard, c'07, is director of government affairs for the National Association of Chain Drug Stores in Washington, D.C., where he lives with his wife, Kristen.

Jon Cornish, c'07, retired from a nine-year career with the Calgary Stampeders in the Canadian Football League.

Andrea Lispi, b'07, owns Lispi Insurance and Financial Services in Shawnee.

Nicholas Sigman, c'07, is a dentist at Performance Dental Center in Boulder, Colorado.

Nathan Smith, c'07, m'12, is a physician at Hays Medical Center in Hays, where he makes his home.

MARRIED

Casey Cabela, c'07, to Todd Steffens,

June 6 in Lee's Summit, Missouri. She is a trust officer at National Advisors Trust Company in Kansas City.

Kyle Schanzer, c'07, to Lucy Pack, May 30 in Carmel, California. They live in Brooklyn, New York.

Brittany Simon, j'07, to Lucas Haynie, May 23 in Denver, where they make their home. She is in commercial operations at Enterprise Products.

08 Luke Grover, e'08, is a technical architect at VML in Kansas City.

Maxx Krueger, c'08, works in business development and analytics at Infegy in Kansas City. He and his wife, Lauren, live in Liberty, Missouri.

Lauren Daly Lee, f'08, was named the Solidworks Women in Engineering honoree in November. She supervises product design and engineering at Shield Casework in Kansas City.

Patricia Barker Little, c'08, m'12, practices family medicine at Salina Regional Health Center in Minneapolis.

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Shawn Shroyer, j'08, is a disability analyst for the Social Security Administration. He lives in Salem, Oregon.

Rick Wiedemann, g'08, directs global business development at Tuthill Vacuum & Blower Systems.

MARRIED

Kalika Walker, d'08, to Aaron Neal, Oct. 17 in Topeka, where she works as an auditor for the Kansas Department of Revenue.

Amanda Zimmerschied, c'08, j'08, and **Kyle Byers**, c'09, e'09, g'12, Nov. 7 in Kansas City. She manages digital sales at WDAF-TV Fox 4 in Kansas City, and he is an electrical engineer at Honeywell. They live in Shawnee.

BORN TO:

Beau, c'08, and **Ashley Trent Winfrey**, d'09, daughter, Brynn Olivia, Sept. 29 in Eudora, where she joins a sister, Charley Nicole, 3. Beau is a data analyst at Sun-

flower State Health Plan in Lenexa, and Ashley is an insurance specialist at Lawrence Family Vision Clinic in Lawrence.

09 Tricia Beelner Ast, PharmD'09, lives in Olathe with her children, Chloe and Cade.

Elizabeth Cattell Kanost, c'09, j'09, g'14, is communications coordinator at the Spencer Museum of Art in Lawrence

Brittany Keegan, c'09, g'10, is curator and collections manager at the Watkins Museum in Lawrence.

Sean Pederson, c'09, is the city manager of Bonner Springs.

MARRIED

Benjamin Koehn, c'09, and **Jennifer Hunt**, c'11, Oct. 24 in Lawrence. Benjamin owns Sign Up, and Jennifer is a textile designer for Peruvian Connection. They live in Lawrence.

BORN TO:

Jeffrey, c'09, and **Jennifer Baker O'Neill**, c'08, son, Thomas Elton, and daughter, Emma Anne, Sept. 29 in Vanceboro, North Carolina.

10 John Chalfant, b'10, g'11, is an assistant manager at Ernst & Young in London, where he makes his home with his wife, Kirsten.

Jennifer Guthrie, g'10, PhD'14, is an assistant professor of communication studies at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas.

Michael Ricklefs, '10, owns King of Freight in Wichita, where he lives.

Chad Small, c'10, lives in Denver, where he is a student adviser at Ashford University.



Class Notes



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MARRIED

Kaitlin Henry, n'10, to Justin Page, Sept. 19 in Olathe. They live in Roeland Park.

Kara Schwerdt, j'10, and **Cesar Rodriguez**, c'12, Nov. 7 in Topeka. She is the digital media and marketing coordinator at the KU Alumni Association, and he is in sales at Midway Wholesale in Topeka. They make their home in Lawrence.

11 Mary Asbury, PhD'11, is an assistant professor at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro.

Marie Biggs, c'11, j'11, is an advocate engagement manager at Health Advocacy Strategies in Seattle, where she lives.

Rebecca Goering, g'11, is the communications coordinator for KU Recreation Services in Lawrence.

Ashley Hendry, h'11, received the American Health Information Management Association Foundation's Veterans Scholarship. She is a health information manager at Banner Thunderbird Medical Center in Glendale, Arizona, and also

served in the U.S. Air Force. She makes her home in Scottsdale.

Joshua Nathan, c'11, co-wrote and directed the short film "Another Easygoing Brother in the Meadow Wind," which was screened last fall at the Tallgrass Film Festival in Wichita.

Rachael Post, c'11, an education specialist at the Topeka Zoological Park, participated in a global field course last summer at the Maasai Mara National Reserve in Kenya. She's pursuing a master's degree at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

Aqmar Rahman, c'11, l'15, lives in Washington, D.C., where he works for the International Trade Administration at the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Jody Seibel Reel, PharmD'11, owner of Sabetha HealthMart in Sabetha, received the Kansas Pharmacists Association's Pharmacist of the Year Award. She also chairs the KPhA's government affairs committee and serves on its board of directors.

Louis Rockford, b'11, is a residence coordinator for Florida State University Housing in Tallahassee, where he makes his home.

Mircea Sauciuc, g'11, is a financial adviser at Morgan Stanley Wealth Management in Leawood.

Sarah Woodard, c'11, j'11, is a copywriter at LittleBits Electronics in New York City. She lives in Brooklyn.

MARRIED

Kelsey Richardson, j'11, and **Grady Underwood**, '11, Oct. 11 in Lawrence, where they reside. She is an administrative assistant at Pennington & Company, and he is an independent contractor for Trothart Renovations.

Lauren Studley, b'11, to Ashley Chaney, Nov. 28 in St. Simons, Georgia. She is an employment coordinator at Sea Island Resort in Sea Island, Georgia.

BORN TO:

Jason Renfrow, c'11, and his wife, Sarah,

daughter, Emerson Gray, July 27 in Odessa, Missouri. Jason supervises technical support at DST Systems Inc. in Kansas City.

Brandon, c'11, and **Nicole Jones Volz**, c'09, daughter, Adeline, July 15 in Lawrence.

12 Kelli Hamman Elmore, d'12, is the assistant commissioner for sport communications at Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference in Wichita, where she makes her home with her husband, Chris.

MARRIED

Christine Davis, j'12, and **Jeffrey Delaroy**, c'14, June 27 in Kansas City. They both work at KU, where she is a communications specialist in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, and he is a teaching assistant and researcher in the department of geography and atmospheric science. They live in Overland Park.

13 Monica Engelman, c'13, is the starting point guard for Piestanske Cajky, a professional women's basketball team in Slovakia.

Angel Goodrich, c'13, plays for Gorzow, a professional women's basketball team in Poland. She is the starting shooting guard.

Nicholas Kleiger, b'13, g'13, is a senior auditor at Deloitte in Chicago, where he lives with **Colleen Young Kleiger**, s'13.

Marlon Marshall, c'13, is director of state campaigns and political engagement for the Hillary Clinton campaign. He lives in Brooklyn, New York.

MARRIED

Katelyn Curnes, d'13, and **Michael Davis**, PharmD'15, Nov. 14 in Lawrence.

PROFILE by Chris Lazzarino

Baptist pastor home again at Ninth Street church

He's from Missouri and lived for more than a decade in Alabama, but Eric Galbreath has always considered Lawrence home. Specifically, Ninth Street Missionary Baptist Church, where he attended services on Sundays while a student, served as a junior deacon and met his future wife.

"Ninth Street is home for us," says Galbreath, c'00, "because the Galbreath family started at Ninth Street."

Galbreath, a fullback on KU's 1995 Aloha Bowl team, on Oct. 11 was installed as pastor at the historic church just a few blocks from campus. Although he had long envisioned returning to the church where he delivered his first sermon (before he entered the ministry, Galbreath one night had a vivid dream of teaching from the Ninth Street Baptist pulpit), he initially declined the church's offer to fill its vacant leadership position.

His mother-in-law was ill at the time, and the family did not feel it was the right moment to leave Montgomery, Alabama, where Galbreath was pastoring at his father-in-law's church. But after delivering a guest sermon at Ninth Street Baptist during a February 2015 visit, Galbreath

asked for another opportunity to apply for the job.

"The church had always been a blessing to me and my wife when we were in college. It's home, it's family, so when the opportunity opened up to go back to the people who blessed us and looked after us, it was an opportunity to reverse roles, to look out for them and to be a blessing for them.

"But was it time? I kind of held off. It was almost like, *really?* Is this really possibly going to happen?"

Galbreath describes his pastoring style as encouraging and supportive, helping congregants build strong lives and relationships based on their Christian beliefs. Especially important is his role in leading young people through challenging times in a changing world.

"My focus and drive are on identity. Once you know your identity, it impacts how you handle everything else in life."

Galbreath's father was a pastor in Missouri, as were his maternal grandfather and great-uncles. Although he loved spending Sundays in church, Galbreath initially resisted the calling because, he



STEVE PUPPE

Eric Galbreath says pastors in college towns should welcome diversity: "I don't care what your way of life is or what your struggles are; everybody deserves to be embraced."

says, it was what everyone expected of him.

Once he looked deep inside, though, he embraced his destiny of shepherding others.

"God has a way of getting us to focus on what matters," Galbreath says. "There are so many divides about so many different things, but if we get back to the basics—the love of Christ, loving one another—then that love gives us more of an opportunity to have productive dialogue about our differences.

"There's more things that unite us than divide us." —

Class Notes

She teaches fifth grade at Corpus Christi Catholic School in Lawrence, and he is a pharmacist at Walgreens. They make their home in Lawrence.

April Miller, DPT '13, to Travis Banwart, Nov. 7 in Wichita. She is a physical therapist at Wesley Rehabilitation Hospital in Wichita, where they live.

Kathleen Wheatley, e'13, and **Jesse Clayton**, '14, May 16 in Lawrence. She is an engineer at Halliburton Energy Services, and he is a student at the Commonwealth Medical College. They live in Hanover Township, Pennsylvania.

14 Nicole Balderston, d'14, lives in San Antonio, where she is an assistant athletics trainer at Trinity University.

Catherine Carmichael, c'14, was the grand marshal for KU's Homecoming parade in October. She is assistant director of football recruiting for Kansas Athletics and the reigning Miss Kansas World.

Adam Cyr, PhD'14, is a senior biomech-



anist at ARCCA Inc. in Seattle, where he makes his home with **Krista Sanchez Cyr**, e'11, g'15, who works at the Seattle Veterans Administration.

Daniel Dutcher, j'14, is district manager at the Lawrence Journal-World. He lives in Lawrence.

Cole Finley, c'14, lives in Lawrence, where he is a collections assistant at Watkins Museum.

Blake Hollingshead, e'14, is a project engineer at Apex Engineers in Kansas City.

Danielle Husted, b'14, g'15, is a tax associate at Grant Thornton in Kansas City. She lives in Merriam.

Katie Kyzer Just, u'14, is a music therapist at Flint Hills Music in Emporia, where she lives with her husband, **Michael**, e'15, a mechanical engineer at Vektak.

Danny Portillo, c'14, coaches boys cross country at Capistrano Valley High School in Mission Viejo, California.

Catelyn Smith, s'14, s'15, is a social work specialist at the Kansas Department for Children and Families in Overland Park.

MARRIED

Shelby Mattox, p'14, to Cameron Sale, Aug. 5 in Key Largo, Florida.

Kenneth Titus, l'14, to Kara Evans, Oct. 17 in Lawrence. He is a staff attorney for the Kansas Department of Transportation in Topeka.

Breanne Wasinger, g'14, to Gabe Perry, Oct. 3 in Kingsville, Missouri. She is the assistant volunteer coordinator at the Overland Park Arboretum and Botanical Gardens and the collections assistant at Shawnee Town.

15 Asia Boyd, c'15, is a small forward for Lulea Basket, a professional basketball club in Sweden.

Amber Hanschu, a'15, works in industrial design and user experience support at Bayer HealthCare Diabetes Care in Tarrytown, New York.

Alexandria Katzfey, c'15, is a stylist at Trunk Club in Dallas, where she lives.

Lauren Longbine, j'15, is director of Southwest promotion at Big Machine Label Group in Nashville, Tennessee, where she makes her home.

Katherine Malotte, l'15, lives in Wichita, where she is an attorney at Joseph, Hollander & Craft.

Tyler Riedel, d'15, teaches in the Auburn-Washburn school district in Topeka. He commutes from Lawrence.

Roberta Wells, e'15, is a civil engineer at the U.S. Department of the Interior. She lives in Denver.

MARRIED

Garrett Barton, m'15, and **Kinzie Kiser**, m'15, May 2 in Chanute. They make their home in Florence, South Carolina.

Nathanael Joslyn, g'15, to Claire Kennedy, Oct. 16 in New York City. He commands a U.S. Army Special Forces company at Fort Carson, Colorado.

Kylee Mercer, c'15, to Andrew Davids, May 30 in Topeka. They live in Winfield.

Eric Williams, g'15, to Allison Bergkamp, Nov. 1 in Lawrence. They live in Littleton, Colorado.

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In Memory

30s Rosemary Smith Headley, c'37, 100, Aug. 5 in Auburn, California, where she was a retired freelance writer. Surviving is a son, David, e'63, g'64.

40s M. Daniel Chase, e'45, b'48, 90, Sept. 18 in Kansas City, where he was retired from a 30-year career with Colgate-Palmolive. He is survived by a son, George, e'72.

Jack Duffy, c'49, 93, Sept. 24 in Oklahoma City, where he was an environmental specialist at the Oklahoma City Health Department. Two daughters, eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren survive.

Irven Hayden Jr., d'47, 94, Sept. 10 in Atwood, where he had a family farm and also served as a city judge and councilman. He is survived by his wife, Ruth Kelley Hayden, c'43; two daughters, Katy, p'75, and Sally, c'78, '12; four sons, three of whom are Kelley, c'69, g'72, g'73, PhD'83, Thomas, '71, and Paul, '87; and four grandchildren.

Mary Parker Huber, b'47, 89, Sept. 10 in Kansas City. She was a teacher and homemaker. Survivors include three sons, Louis Huber III, b'74, Stephen, b'76, and Robert, c'78; a daughter, Ann Huber Adamson, c'83, c'85; two brothers, one of whom is David Parker, c'66; nine grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

George Huvendick, e'49, 93, Oct. 4 in Leavenworth. He owned Missouri Valley Fabricators and also served as a commissioner and chairman for the Kansas City Area Transportation Authority for more than 40 years. A daughter survives.

Joan Kirkham, c'48, 90, Oct. 11 in Lawrence, where she was a retired mathematician. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. She is survived by a brother.

Brownell Landes, e'49, 91, Sept. 12 in Kansas City, where he was a retired senior supervising engineer at Bendix/Allied Signal, where he worked for more than 40 years. He is survived by his wife, Edna; two daughters, one of whom is Diane Landes

Adam, b'86; a brother; eight grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Robert Light, e'49, 88, Oct. 26 in Carlsbad, New Mexico, where he was a business owner and held several roles in local and state government. He is survived by a son; a brother, John, b'49; a sister, Ann Light Burns, d'56; a granddaughter; and two great-grandchildren.

Noble Melencamp, c'49, 86, May 22 in Colorado Springs, Colorado, where he was a retired foreign service diplomat and former White House Chief of Staff in the Richard Nixon administration.

Fred Merrill, '47, 91, Oct. 20 in Mission Hills. He created Cereal Food Processors in 1972 and also founded and chaired Mission Hills Bank. In 1990, he and his wife, Virginia Urban Merrill, c'47, provided an endowment to create the Merrill Advanced Studies Center at KU. The center is part of the Schiefelbusch Institute for Life Span Studies. In addition to Virginia, other survivors include three daughters, one of whom is Melinda, g'03; a son; a sister, Jeane Merrill Rhule, '43; 11 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Arthur Nystrom, c'49, l'50, 94, Oct. 7 in Santa Fe, New Mexico, where he retired after owning several title and escrow companies and serving as president of the Missouri Land Title Association. Survivors include his wife, Patricia Pearson Nystrom, '49; a son; two daughters; four grandchildren; and a great-grandchild.

Robert Samson, e'47, 92, June 17 in Chagrin Falls, Ohio, where he was a retired quality control engineer and manager at General Electric. He is survived by his wife, Nancy; a daughter; a son; a sister, Mary Louise Samson Stuckey, '47; and two grandchildren.

Geraldine Buhler Smith, c'43, 93, Dec. 28 in Lawrence. She served on several committees at KU and also was president of P.E.O. Sisterhood chapters in Lawrence and Larned. In 1989 she received the Alumni Association's Mildred Clodfelter Award for her outstanding volunteer

service. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. She is survived by two sons, G. Sid, c'67, l'70, and Stephen, c'70, m'74; a daughter, Susan Smith Moeser, f'75, g'77, g'82; three grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Glee Smith, c'43, l'47, 94, Nov. 16 in Lawrence. He was a retired attorney and a Kansas State Senator for 16 years. He also chaired the Kansas Board of Regents. He served as president of the KU Alumni Association and was a member of its board of directors. In 1984 he received the School of Law Distinguished Service Award and KU's Distinguished Service Citation, and in 1989, he was honored with the Alumni Association's Fred Ellsworth Medallion. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. He is survived by two sons, G. Sid, c'67, l'70, and Stephen, c'70, m'74; a daughter, Susan Smith Moeser, f'75, g'77, g'82; three grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Marion Pugh Strand, c'48, 87, July 14 in Rochester, New York, where she was a retired employment counselor. Survivors include five sons, five daughters, a brother, a sister, 21 grandchildren and several great-grandchildren.

Mary Duckett Wise, n'41, 97, Oct. 31 in Olathe, where she volunteered at several hospitals and organizations. Survivors include two daughters, Judy Wise Frey, n'67, and Jane Wise Yourdon, c'74; a son, James, s'70, g'74, '92, PhD'93; a sister, Helen Duckett Campbell, n'39; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

50s Mona Coffman Benham, d'52, 84, June 30 in Lafayette, Colorado, where she was a retired secretary and teacher. Surviving are her husband, Alvin, e'52, g'54; two sons, one of whom is Christopher, c'86, j'86; a daughter; eight grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Diane Dey Spencer Burkholder, '56, 81, July 5 in Moscow, Idaho. She was a corporate relocation manager for Raychem Corporation and served on the board of directors for the National Employee Relocation Council. She is survived by two

daughters, one of whom is Shari Spencer Horton, d'76; two sons; a stepdaughter; three stepsons; a sister, Sharon Dey Wainwright, d'60; 17 grandchildren; and 21 great-grandchildren.

Mary Ann Curtis, f'56, 81, Oct. 9 in Washington, D.C., where she was a retired U.S. Navy commander and an educator at the American Occupational Therapy Association. Several nieces and nephews survive.

Richard Davis, c'53, m'54, 89, Oct. 6 in Leawood, where he was a retired psychiatrist and director of the Family and Child Psychiatric Clinic. He was also well known as the creator of KC Masterpiece barbecue sauce. In 2002, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Citation by the KU Alumni Association. He is survived by his wife, Coleen, assoc.; two daughters, one of whom is Laura Davis Gregory, j'75; two sons, one of whom is Richard Davis Jr., c'77; 10 grandchildren; and a great-granddaughter.

Donald Elliott, e'57, 87, Oct. 27 in Wichita, where he was retired from a 35-year career with Boeing. His wife, Laurene, and a sister survive.

Howard Finke, e'50, 95, Oct. 26 in St. Charles, Missouri, where he worked in avionics systems development at McDonnell Douglas. He is survived by his wife, Ida, three daughters, a son, three grandchildren and a step-grandson.

Donald Glasco, c'52, m'56, 85, Jan. 18, 2015, in Denver, where he was a retired psychiatrist and an instructor at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. He is survived by his wife, Jo Ann Lewis Glasco, n'54; a son; two daughters; a brother, Dean, a'55; three grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Robert Hamilton, c'53, m'56, 84, Sept. 13 in Bellingham, Washington, where he was a physician and president of Northwest Medical Center. He is survived by a daughter; two sons; two sisters, one of whom is Mary Hamilton Mead, d'61; and four grandchildren.

Wilmer Harms, c'52, m'56, 93, Sept. 17 in Newton, where he was a retired ophthalmologist. Survivors include two sons, one of whom is Willard, m'77; a brother; a sister; and six grandchildren.

Eldon Herd, b'52, 89, Oct. 15 in Lawrence, where he served on the board of directors of Douglas County Senior Services. Five sons, two sisters, eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren survive.

Rosalie McCray Humphrey, d'51, 88, Aug. 6 in Portland, Oregon, where she was a retired senior management analyst at the U.S. Department of the Treasury. Surviving are her husband, Clare, a son and a daughter.

William Lyons, b'57, 89, Oct. 11 in Owensboro, Kentucky. He served 11 years as Mississippi Athletic Commissioner and also owned King of the Hill Productions. He is survived by a son, two daughters, three brothers, six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Lois Miller McCann, b'57, 78, Oct. 7 in Kansas City, where she was an auditor for the Missouri Department of Labor. Her husband, John, assoc.; and a sister survive.

Lewis Mitchell, e'50, 90, Sept. 22 in Scott City, where he was retired general manager of Wheatland Electric Cooperative. Survivors include his wife, Donis; a son, Marc, b'74; three daughters, two of whom are Meredith Mitchell, c'72, and Melanie Mitchell Key, b'75; and a granddaughter.

Marna Brewer Moore, '55, 82, Oct. 15 in Lawrence. She is survived by her husband, Robert, '53; a daughter, Melonie Moore Sullivan, '76; a son; and five grandchildren.

Dwight Patton Jr., d'55, g'59, 82, Sept. 12 in Wichita, where he was a retired computer services manager at Boeing. He is survived by his wife, Kay Brua Patton, '57; three sons, Timothy, c'79, Jon, c'83, and Jeff, c'84; a daughter, Krista Patton Roller, s'77; 12 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Helen Dowell Powell, c'54, 83, Sept. 26 in Evergreen, Colorado, where she was a retired international marketing manager. She is survived by her husband, C. Richard, c'53; a daughter, Ann Powell Ryan, c'83, l'87; two sons, one of whom is Cory, j'89; a sister, Alice Ann Dowell Johnston, assoc.; and five grandchildren.

James Ruggles, m'57, 82, Sept. 21 in Yankton, South Dakota, where he was a

retired pathologist. Surviving are his wife, A. Ramona Woolley Ruggles, n'56; two sons; a daughter; a stepson, Kevin Landers, p'86; and three grandchildren.

Ann Galloway Salome, c'52, 85, Oct. 27 in Wichita, where she was a homemaker. Survivors include her husband, William, '51; a daughter, Diane Salome Dixon, c'76; a son, Scott, '83; five grandchildren; and a great-grandson.

Edward Schmidt, '50, 91, Oct. 14 in Springfield, Missouri, where he was an architect for the city and BNSF Railway. A son and two granddaughters survive.

Richard Sellars, b'54, 86, Sept. 27 in Nixa, Missouri, where he was retired from a 29-year career with United Telephone Company. His wife, Peggy, two sons, a daughter and two grandsons survive.

Claude Sharp, b'50, 90, Feb. 10, 2014, in North Richland Hills, Texas, where he was a retired salesman. He is survived by his wife, Valetta, assoc.; a son; a daughter; and two grandchildren.

Robert Toalson, c'54, 83, Sept. 15 in Urbana, Illinois. He was general manager of the Champaign Park District and president of the National Recreation and Park Association. Surviving are his wife, Dianne Nothdurft Toalson, b'56; a son; a daughter; a brother, William, c'59, m'63; five grandchildren; and a great-granddaughter.

Ellen Meador Tracy, '57, 79, Oct. 2 in Lawrence. She was a retired attorney. Survivors include her husband, Terry, c'57; a son, Kent, c'89; two daughters, one of whom is Allison Tracy, '80; a sister, Nellie Meador Miller, assoc.; a brother; and four grandchildren.

Balie Waggener III, b'51, 88, June 10 in Panama City, Florida. He is survived by his wife, Susan; two daughters; two step-daughters; a brother, Sterling, c'51, l'53; and a grandchild.

Donald Watson, '56, 86, Sept. 28 in Topeka. He was president of the Buchman Seed and Feed Company in Paola and director of the Kansas Grain Inspection Service. He is survived by his wife, Joan Buchman Watson, g'86; five sons, three of whom are Paul, '82, David, b'84, and James, b'89; two daughters, Donna Watson Laroux, c'82, and Margaret Watson King,

In Memory

'83; 17 grandchildren; and 4 great-grandchildren.

Robert Weatherholt, b'51, 86, July 13 in Overland Park, where he was a retired salesman and co-founder of Olander-Weatherholt Inc. Surviving are a son, Laurence, c'76; two daughters, Leigh Weatherholt Mutert, g'80, and Nancy Weatherholt, b'80, g'86, PhD'89; a sister; and eight grandchildren.

Laurin Wilhelm, c'59, d'68, g'70, 78, June 19 in San Antonio, where he was a retired teacher. He is survived by his wife, Gracie Ramos Wilhelm, '95; two sons, Christopher, c'87, and Phillip, '82; a daughter; and five grandchildren.

60s Sam Ashley, c'60, 77, Sept. 4 in Overland Park, where he worked at Lohse Ashley Associates. Two daughters, a son and a grandson survive.

William Bridges, d'61, 76, Sept. 25 in Santa Monica, California, where he was a retired NBA basketball player and three-time NBA All-Star. He also had a consulting business.

Pamela Rice Dykes, d'64, 73, Nov. 6 in Kansas City, where she was a retired high school teacher. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. She is survived by her husband, Gerald, c'64, l'67; a daughter; a son; her mother; a brother; and three grandsons.

Lynne Meyer Egan, d'63, 74, Aug. 9 in Olathe, where she was retired from a career in health care management. A son, John, j'86; and a sister, Sondra Meyer Raile, '65, survive.

Allen Finch, e'62, 76, Aug. 21 in Towson, Maryland, where he was retired from a career in sales and marketing. He is survived by his wife, Sandra McDonald Finch, '61; a son; two daughters; three sisters, one of whom is Jane Finch Wells, d'70; and seven grandchildren.

Linda Pedlar Godbey, c'68, 69, Oct. 28 in Parsons, where she had a long career with the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. She is survived by her husband, Michael; a daughter; a son; her mother; and a sister, Nadine Beech, b'62.

Carolyn Bolenbaugh Griesel, n'60, 77,

Sept. 23 in St. Paul, Minnesota. She was retired assistant director of nursing and inservice director at Lake Ridge Health Care Center in Roseville. Survivors include her husband, Wayne, '63; a daughter; a son; seven grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Thomas Hamilton, b'67, 70, Sept. 8 in Troy, New York. He was a hunter-safety, firearms and archery instructor. His wife, Andrea, a son, a daughter, a sister and two grandchildren survive.

G. William Henry, b'66, 71, July 31 in Chesterfield, Missouri. He was president of SBPI. He is survived by his wife, Vicki Whitaker Henry, d'66; three sons; a sister, Karen Henry Post, c'69; and six grandchildren.

Sharon Smysor Lindenmeyer, d'64, 73, Oct. 15 in Ellsworth, where she was a homemaker and an educator. Surviving are a daughter, Karen Lindenmeyer Hunter, p'91; two sons, one of whom is Daniel, p'94; a brother, Frank Smysor, d'70, g'75; and five grandchildren.

Susan Nelson Morris, n'61, 76, Oct. 8 in Lawrence, where she was a retired nurse. Survivors include two sons, Frederick, '83, and Jeffrey, c'90, l'93; and two grandchildren.

70s Brenda Boehm, d'78, g'97, 60, Oct. 11 in Mapleton, where she was a retired construction services administrator at Kansas City Power and Light. She also was a longtime volunteer for CASA. She is survived by two brothers, one of whom is Michael Boehm, b'82; and a sister, Barbara Boehm, j'84.

Richard Randolph, c'76, 79, Oct. 28 in Lawrence, where he was a retired substitute teacher. He also was the secretary and manager of the Eagles Lodge in Lawrence. Surviving are two sons, one of whom is Michael, c'90; a daughter, Margaret Randolph Dougherty, c'99; a sister; and eight grandchildren.

Marcos Rubert, c'74, 63, Nov. 9 in Celebration, Florida, where he was a banking professional. He also was an advisory board member for KU's College of Liberal Arts & Sciences. He is survived by his wife, Kathryn, two daughters, a son, a brother and a sister.

80s Chris McClintic Bishop, c'87, 50, Oct. 12 in Lawrence. She was a senior administrative associate at KU. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Her husband, Mark, e'95, and a brother survive.

Kathryn Cook, c'85, c'88, 52, Sept. 7 in Overland Park. She was a geologist and also worked at several bookstores. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Survivors include her parents, David, assoc., and Emma Cook, assoc.; and a sister.

William Lee, '80, 68, Oct. 16 in Lawrence. He worked at several radio stations, and in 2004 he founded the Kansas Music Hall of Fame. He is survived by four sons, two of whom are Kent Lee, c'13, and Jon Dean Barta, '92; six daughters, two of whom are Teresa Lee, '10, and Beth Lee Tennyson, '15; a brother; a sister; 25 grandchildren; and a great-grandchild.

Margaret Thum McNeil, d'80, 60, Sept. 23 in Lawrence, where she was a computer programmer. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Surviving are her husband, Dennis; a daughter, Abigail Rosdahl Johnson, b'01, g'03; a son, Andrew Rosdahl, c'04, '10; a stepdaughter, Kristen McFarren, c'99; a stepson; her mother; three sisters, two of whom are Mary Thum, j'71, and Kathleen Thum Modrcin, c'75; two grandchildren; and two step-grandchildren.

90s Joan Witt Cowan, c'91, 46, April 19 in Chanhasen, Minnesota. She worked in marketing and promotions for General Mills and Land O'Lakes. Surviving are her husband, Chris; two daughters; her parents; and two sisters, one of whom is Linda Witt Polnicky, e'89.

Olivia Thompson Maresh, j'98, 39, July 16 in Overland Park, where she was an editor for a medical journal. Surviving are her husband, Ian, '99; a son; a daughter; her father, Walter Thompson, c'70; her mother, Kaye Salminen Thompson, d'72, '96; and two brothers, Douglas, j'01, and Brett, b'02.

Christopher Sulzer, c'90, 47, Sept. 30 in Kansas City, where he was a senior supply chain manager at Corbion. Two sons, his parents, a brother and two sisters survive.

00s Joseph Barr, g'01, 50, Oct. 24 in Bozeman, Montana. He was an adjunct professor and adviser at Montana State University. His parents, a sister and a brother survive.

10s Shadi Nmair, p'14, 30, Aug. 14 in Lenexa. His parents, a sister and a brother survive.

THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

Harrison Clarke Anderson, 83, Oct. 8 in Kansas City, where he was a retired professor and chairman of the department of pathology at KU Medical Center. In 1990, he was appointed the first Harrington Professor of Orthopaedic Research. Surviving are his wife, Nina; two daughters, one of whom is Heather Anderson Quest, '89; two sons; and five grandchildren.

L. Joseph Bauman, e'61, 75, Oct. 12 in Lawrence. He was dean of KU's School of Business and a professor of management. He also was vice president of manufacturing at IBM and CEO of Adams Business Forms and Cardinal Brands. He was recognized as a Distinguished Alumnus by the department of mechanical engineering and was given the School of Engineering's Distinguished Engineering Service Award. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. He is survived by his wife, Joanie; four daughters, three of whom are Mary Bauman Foster, a'90, Molly Bauman Ward, c'94, and Meg Bauman Roggero, s'95; a son; two sisters, one of whom is Linda Bauman Shumway, d'69; and 12 grandchildren.

Warren Boozer, '66, 95, Oct. 12 in Las Cruces, New Mexico. He was a retired U.S. Navy commander and directed KU's student union recreational department for 19 years. He is survived by his wife, Nancy Moore Boozer, d'51; four daughters, three of whom are Barbara Boozer Morgan, d'76, Beth Boozer Buford, d'78, and Beverly Boozer, b'84; a brother; seven grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Marilyn Chard, 84, Oct. 20 in North Grafton, Massachusetts. She was professor emeritus in KU's School of Nursing and

chaired the department of pediatric nursing at KU Medical Center. A sister survives.

Martin "Mutt" Henry, c'61, 87, Oct. 29 in Fairfax, Virginia, where he was a retired U.S. Navy commander and senior vice president for property management at KU Endowment. He is survived by a daughter, Janet Henry Hodges, d'74; two sons; a brother; and 10 grandchildren.

Paul Jess, 83, Oct. 22 in Lawrence. He was professor emeritus of journalism and also served as general manager of the University Daily Kansan, chair of the news-editorial sequence and associate dean of the William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications. Survivors include his wife, Jan Hurt Jess, s'82; two sons, James, '83, and David, c'89; a daughter, Jill Jess Phythyon, j'90; and three grandchildren.

Charles Michener, assoc., 97, Nov. 1 in Lawrence. He was the Watkins Distinguished Professor Emeritus of ecology and evolutionary biology and curator emeritus at KU's Natural History Museum. He also was regarded as one of the world's foremost experts on bees, and he continued researching, publishing and mentoring after retiring from KU in 1989. He is survived by three sons, David, c'64, Daniel, c'66, and Walter, '79; and a daughter, Barbara, '69.

Capt. J.W. "Buck" Newsom, assoc., 96, Nov. 26 in Lawrence. He served as KU's Naval ROTC commanding officer and also was a professor of naval science. He later worked for Centron Productions in Lawrence. Surviving are his wife, Faye, '82; a son, John Newsom Jr., e'73, g'75; two daughters, Jennifer Newsom Rogozinski, c'68, and Elizabeth Newsom Amyz, b'82; a brother; and two granddaughters.

Lawrence Sherr, assoc., 74, Sept. 20 in Lawrence, where he was professor emeritus of business and in 1986 was awarded a Chancellors Club Teaching Professorship. He also directed instruction for KU's School of Business. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Survivors include his wife, Suzanne Burnstein Sherr, c'76; a son, Jeffrey, c'89;

a daughter, Rebecca, c'92; a sister; a stepbrother; and three grandchildren.

Franklin Shontz, assoc., 88, Aug. 6 in Lawrence, where he was professor emeritus of psychology at KU and a consultant for the Resource Development Institute in Kansas City. He is survived by two daughters, Jennifer Shontz, s'77, and Sally Shontz Fiske, c'80, s'82; a son, K. Curtis, e'84, g'98; five grandchildren; and a great-grandson.

William Woods, assoc., 68, Sept. 11 in Lawrence, where he was professor emeritus in the department of geology and former director of environmental studies at KU. Surviving are his wife, Deanna; a son, Colin, b'99; a daughter, Gillian Woods Bauer, c'00, PhD'08; a sister; and four grandchildren.

ASSOCIATES

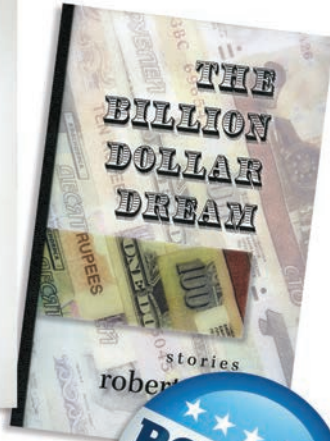
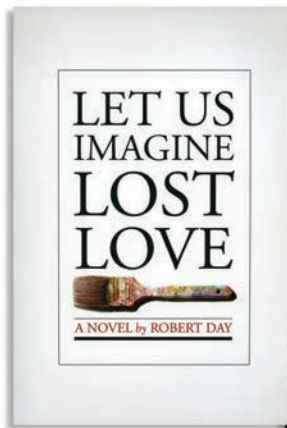
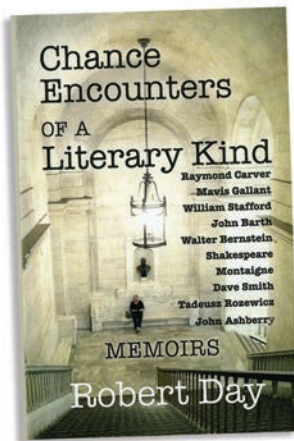
Ray Farha, assoc., 92, Aug. 15 in Wichita, where he owned Ray Sales Company and Farha Liquor Store. He is survived by his wife, Nahia, assoc.; three daughters, one of whom is Jane Farha Mosley, d'86, n'88; a son; eight grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Arthur Lonborg Jr., assoc., 87, Aug. 16 in Wichita, where he was owner of Arthur Lonborg and Associates. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. He is survived by two daughters, Lynn Lonborg Loveland, '76, and Laura Lonborg Peterson, h'85, g'92; a son, Arthur, c'82, g'84; and seven grandchildren.

Carol Lonborg, assoc., 86, July 24 in Wichita, where she was a retired kindergarten teacher. She is survived by two daughters, Lynn Lonborg Loveland, '76, and Laura Lonborg Peterson, h'85, g'92; a son, Arthur, c'82, g'84; and seven grandchildren.

Shirley Barnes Welch, assoc., 79, Oct. 6 in Lawrence. In 2001 she was honored as the "First Lady of Kansas Law Enforcement" by several law enforcement organizations. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. She is survived by her husband, Larry, c'58, f'61; two sons, Ladd, j'79, and Lanny, c'84; a daughter, Laurie Welch Brown, c'86; a brother; and eight grandchildren.

Rock Chalk Review



Kansas quartet

Four new books from the author of 'The Last Cattle Drive'

The narrator of Robert Day's new novel, *Let Us Imagine Lost Love*, is not big on words.

Unmarried and unnamed, he's a designer of books bought chiefly for looks, not language: address registers, recording calendars, abecedarians and coffee table tomes. "But my favorites are 'Blanks'—books with empty pages for memoirs to be written or diaries to be kept," he confides. "I am Mr. Tabula Rasa of Kansas City." He even names his one-man publishing company, run from his Country Club Plaza apartment, Blanche de Blank Books.

He's similarly reticent in his personal life, frustrating repeated attempts by his sister, Elaine, to learn about his no-strings-attached entanglements with a series of married women he calls "my Wednesday wives." Their clipped, witty exchanges run throughout the Kansas City scenes like an urbane Greek chorus. He keeps her guessing. She calls him enigmatic.

A novel 10 years in the making, *Let Us Imagine Lost Love* is one of three books that Day, c'64, g'66, published this fall. *The Billion Dollar Dream*, a collection of short stories and a novella, is published by BkMk Press, the University of Missouri-Kansas City outfit affiliated with New

Letters magazine. *Chance Encounters of a Literary Kind*, reminiscences of Day's encounters over the years with literary figures such as William Stafford, c'37, g'46, Raymond Carver and John Barth, is published by Serving House Books. Due in January is *Robert Day for President: An Embellished Campaign Autobiography*, a memoir of Day's political life growing up with a Republican father, a Polish socialist grandmother and a Catholic Democrat mother.

The publication of so many works in so short a time may have the appearance of a literary "gusher," to use one of Day's favorite metaphors about writing, but it's anything but.

"It probably does look like a gusher, but it has never been a dry well," says Day, whose first novel, *The Last Cattle Drive*, appeared in 1977 to great acclaim and has since aged gracefully into a classic of the picaresque form. "I've never stopped writing, never stopped publish-



DAN STOREY

Day

Chance Encounters of a Literary Kind
Serving House Books, \$10

Let Us Imagine Lost Love
Thane & Prose, \$27.99

The Billion Dollar Dream
BkMk Press, \$15.95

ing. I've had the good luck of not having writer's block. I've just kept on going."

Day credits his English professors—including Ed Wolfe, Ed Ruhe, Charlton Hinman and Carroll Edwards, all of whom he has written about in the pages of *Kansas Alumni*—with helping him develop the tools that have stood him in good stead across a long writing career.

"Saul Bellow said, 'Writers are readers moved to emulation.' I learned that when I met my KU professors. If you learn from professors who are willing to show you how these things work, the process of emulation comes very quickly."

Let Us Imagine Lost Love features a rich scenic structure that toggles between present-day Kansas City, the narrator's college years in Emporia and Berkeley, California, and his adolescence in nearby Merriam. Time isn't unscrolled in Day's nonlinear telling so much as it is juggled: Events are recounted out of order, creating an intricate jumble of memory, musing

and longing that adds to the plot's many mysteries, including its predominant one: Will the narrator reunite with the long lost (and unrequited) love of his life, a famous painter whose exhibit is about to open at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art?

During a Dec. 8 conversation at the Kansas City Public Library with director Crosby Kemper—the first in a series of events funded by

the new Robert Day Endowment for the Literary Arts, established by Day and his wife, Kathryn—Kemper noted how the book is “really in many ways about the influence of the past. It’s a brilliant view of how we come to terms with our past, by telling stories about the past.”

In recounting the story of his past, the narrator of *Let Us Imagine Lost Love* is at last writing his own book—“filling in his own blanks,” Day says—which he also designs and gives to his sister to present to his lost love. It’s the kind of playful meta touch (reminiscent of Nabokov or Twain) that Days delights in.

“I’m a literary writer. I combined the literary tools I learned at KU from Ed Ruhe and Ed Wolfe and the experiences I had in life,” he says. “That’s the way it works for me, and it’s a lot of fun.”

—Steven Hill

Bach overdrive

Piano student who reveres ‘god of Western classical music’ tops New York competition

Kai Ono, a piano performance and music composition major, surrounds himself with sound. He plays the piano, of course, but also the clarinet, saxophone, cello and percussion. He’s dabbled in the

French horn and his professor says he has a fine singing voice, too. He composes music, performs in the KU Jazz Ensemble I and KU Wind Ensemble, and works as an accompanist for ballet classes at the Lawrence Arts Center.

Which helps explain why the soft-spoken junior from Irvine, California, cherishes that magical, fleeting moment, after he’s seated at the bench and before he’s pressed the first key.

“I really love listening to how quiet the hall is before I play,” says Ono, who last October won the Rosalyn Tureck International Bach Competition for Young Pianists, in New York City. “Because I spend so much time playing and writing and listening to all things music, silence is so beautiful sometimes. I don’t want to say it’s a break, because that would make it sound like the music is a chore, but it’s such a nice contrast. The quieter the hall, the more surreal the moment feels.”

Ono did not get serious about piano until early in high school, which is late for young pianists. He spent every summer during his high school years at KU’s International Institute for Young Musicians—“Everybody there is incredibly good, some of the best pianists of my generation”—and was thrilled to attend KU and study under Scott McBride Smith, g’76, Cordelia Brown Murphy professor of piano pedagogy.

Smith, a full-time member of the KU faculty for five years, previously taught in Irvine; although Ono was not one of his students, the two knew each other and were eager to work together at KU.

“I’ve known Kai for half of his young life,” Smith says. “He was good friends with one of my students back in California. They played duets together, and I always thought there was something special about him.”

Johann Sebastian Bach, whom Ono describes as “the god of Western classical music,” presents unique challenges, especially for young pianists. Not only is every nuance of the Bach canon familiar to music aficionados—“There is just no faking it,” Ono says. “Everybody knows if you messed up, and it’s very easy to mess up”—but Bach’s “polyphonic” compositions, with “melody on top of melody on top of melody” are also vastly more complicated than “homophonic” music with a primary melody textured with chords.

“It’s incredibly difficult to memorize Bach because his music is so complicated,” Ono says. “And because pianists have to separate their mind, allocating different parts of their mind to different parts of the melody, depending on which part you’re at, it just makes it a very busy performance for the mind.”

Smith says Ono’s intelligence, curiosity and maturity make him more adept at accomplished Bach performance than others of his age, which is why they agreed the Tureck competition would be appropriate for Ono to enter.

“His Bach has always been really beautiful, and he’s played a lot of it, so this seemed like a good next step,” Smith says. “Not everybody his age understands it. Some people think it’s a little too dry. There’s certain pieces that require a certain kind of maturity to understand, which somebody his age doesn’t necessarily have. But he does.”

—Chris Lazzarino



STEVE PUPPE

Kai Ono’s career goals are simple: “As long as I am performing and writing in some way or another, I will have absolutely no complaints.”

Rock Chalk Review

Old life made new

App delivers digitized fossil collection

The Biodiversity Institute's Digital Atlas of Ancient Life began as a quest to digitize the entire KU fossil collection catalog so scientists and researchers worldwide could access the trove of information detailing remnants of earth's earliest life forms. With the rise in popularity of custom apps for phones and tablets, Bruce Lieberman, professor of ecology and evolutionary biology, also saw an opportunity to reach a much wider audience.

Amateur fossil hunters, kids exploring creeks, farmers turning up soil, hikers exploring the Flint Hills and schoolchildren and their teachers on field trips are the sorts of audiences for which the new Digital Atlas of Ancient Life app was designed.

Modeled on popular bird-watching guides, the app and its online counterpart feature photographs, maps and scientific data about the most common fossils found in Kansas and nearby states—invertebrates from the Pennsylvanian period, about 290 million years ago. Designed in conjunction with researchers from Ohio University, San Jose State University and the University of Florida, with grant funding from the National Science Foundation, the free app for iPhone and iPad also features fossils typical to those regions.

"Kansas is blessed with spectacular fossil deposits, and people come in contact with them all the time," Lieberman says. "I think it does make people wonder about the natural world."

Beginning with its Specify software, now the database management tool of choice for nearly 400 biological collections worldwide, KU has long been a world leader in the urgent push to digitize natural history collections. With the app now available as a tool to aid anyone interested in learning more about fossils, Biodiversity Institute digitization truly reflects the public outreach that drove Professor Lewis Lindsay Dyche to



Bruce Lieberman hopes the new app blends kids' interest in fossils and ever-growing attachment to their phones: "It engages both in the natural world and digital world, which kids spend a lot of time in today."

create his iconic Panorama.

"A focus of my research, and my students' research, is to look at what the fossil record can tell us, deep time, about climate change and evolution and extinction," Lieberman says, "and I think there is a real opportunity to integrate what we've got in the history of life with our modern world. It is sort of a paradigm shift that unleashes great opportunities.

"We also saw the opportunity to engage with the public in a new way, which is part of a long tradition here. We wanted to make information about our collection accessible so the general public could know more about our fossils, but also so they could discover more about what's found in their backyard or places they like to go."

—Chris Lazzarino

Moral murals

Documentary film explores the power of large-scale community art

In spring 2010, Lawrence-based mural artist Dave Loewenstein, '93, working in collaboration with the Mid-America Arts Alliance, started a three-year, six-state project to create community-based murals across the Midwest.

Having seen a set of Junction City murals created by Amber Hansen, g'10,

and Nicholas Ward, g'10, Loewenstein invited them to become mural assistants on the project, which was inspired by the community mural movement.

Moving to Tonkawa, Oklahoma, to work on the first mural in turn inspired Hansen and Ward. "It was really a transformational experience for us, and when we called back home to tell people about it, there was no way to do it justice," Ward says. "We decided the experiences were a narrative we had a responsibility to tell, and film seemed the best way to do it."

Their 80-minute documentary, "Called To Walls," chronicles four of the six projects—in Tonkawa; Newton; Joplin, Missouri; and Arkadelphia, Arkansas—in which Loewenstein guides local citizens in designing and painting a mural that tells their town's story.

The idea behind the community mural movement, Loewenstein explains in the film, is to bring people together "to talk about the issues that matter to them most, and then collaborate as a group to translate those experiences into large public murals."

Each project creates a beautiful piece of art that will remain in the community for all to enjoy. It also becomes a tool for civic engagement, giving each member of the design team (open to any citizen who wants to get involved) opportunity to participate in the decisions made in their community.

The film documents the process, which

is at times uplifting and unifying, and at other times contentious and divisive. In Joplin, where work was scheduled to begin shortly after an EF-5 tornado destroyed nearly two-thirds of the city, the mural becomes a healing tool—despite the team’s initial reluctance to let the disaster define their design. At one point, after an official with the convention and visitors bureau tells designers a downtown site they have in mind is not to be used as a tornado memorial, but as “flypaper” to attract tourists, Loewenstein counsels the team to stick to its guns.

“The theme of the mural, the content of it, what you would like it to be about and depict is up to you,” Loewenstein tells the group. “Is up to you, right? And if that conflicts perhaps with what the city wants, in some way, I think we need to have that conversation. Feel empowered to tell the story you want to tell, and we’ll find the place it can go. If it can’t be on that wall, we’ll find a different place.”

In Tonkawa, the difficult conversation concerns how to represent Tonkawa Indian tribal history. In Arkadelphia, controversy grows out of efforts to include issues important to the minority African-American population. The film shows how the process can unite or divide, but most of all how it can help people look at their



Loewenstein

hometowns in new ways.

“You are asking questions that are really making us think about, ‘Is this really what Tonkawa’s about? Is this really something that is important?’” says a team member in Oklahoma. “You really bring out new ideas and new thoughts about our community and our history that we don’t think about.”

“Called to Walls” is visually, sonically, and emotionally a beautiful film: The camera lingers frequently on small moments—a delightful shot of a little girl jumping on a bed, an elderly couple relaxing on their front porch—and the soundtrack includes music by local musicians, Lawrence bands and even the filmmakers themselves. “We wanted the film to lay out the potential for how this



Hansen and Ward

work can be done without being didactic,” Ward says, “and at the same time still contain some of the emotive and playful and really heavy experiences we had.”

Mission accomplished. “Called To Walls” is a delight to watch even as it poses taxing questions that can only be answered by the communities and the people who form them. But the essential thing, it makes clear, is to ask.

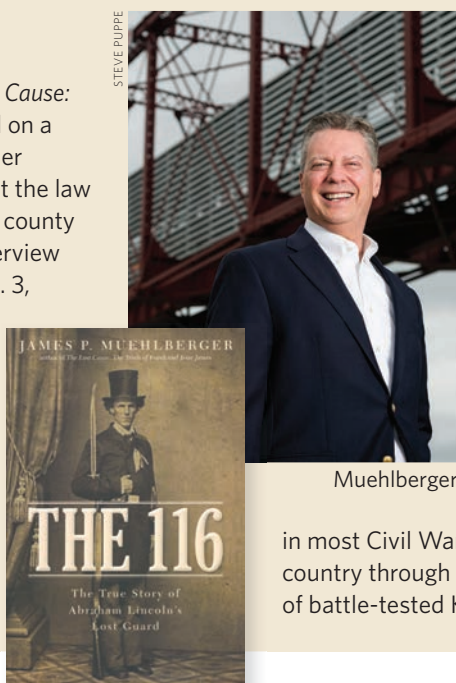
—Steven Hill

“Called to Walls” premieres in Lawrence Feb. 27 at Liberty Hall. Visit calledtowalls.com for more information.

Sentries at the Gate

James Muehlberger’s 2014 book, *The Lost Cause: The Trials of Frank and Jesse James*, hinged on a long-lost legal file that Muehlberger, a former Johnson County prosecutor and a partner at the law firm Shook, Hardy & Bacon, discovered in a county clerk’s office in Gallatin, Missouri. In an interview with *Kansas Alumni* [“True Crime,” issue No. 3, 2014], Muehlberger, c’78, l’82, called his discovery of the first case prosecuting the notorious outlaws “probably the most exciting thing I’ve done as a lawyer.”

His new book, *The 116: The True Story of Abraham Lincoln’s Lost Guard*, (Ankerwycke, \$24.95) benefits from another triumph in the discovery process: the muster roll and action reports of the Frontier Guard, a 116-man force of



Muehlberger

Bleeding Kansas veterans raised by Kansas senator Jim Lane to protect Abraham Lincoln at the White House during the first 10 days of the Civil War, when Washington, D.C., was nearly devoid of federal forces and vulnerable to attacks by Confederate troops from Maryland and Virginia.

Before Muehlberger found the document, at the Library of Congress, historians knew the identities of only 51 of the men and had no account of their actions. Addressing one of the Civil War’s great mysteries (why did Southern forces not immediately attack the defenseless capital and kill or capture the president?), he documents the pivotal role played by a little-known outfit previously relegated to a footnote in most Civil War histories, arguing that safe passage of capital and country through the early days of war was steered by a contingent of battle-tested Kansans.

—Steven Hill

KU 150

Historical notes in celebration of the University's sesquicentennial



STEVE PUPPE



SPENCER RESEARCH LIBRARY

Vince Meserko (far left), an Overland Park graduate student and KJHK DJ, hosts weekly shows “Hickory Wind” and “The Jookhouse.” In the late ‘50s, Wilt Chamberlain (left) had his own 30-minute weekly radio show on KUOK, “Flip’er with Dipper,” which featured Chamberlain’s own brand of banter.

Radio broadcasting has come a long way since the early 1900s, and the University’s foray “into the ether” is no exception.

KU first took to the airwaves on April 8, 1916, when alumni nationwide tuned in to what KU News Bureau dubbed “the first transcontinental alumni reunion.” Organized by the Alumni Association, which leased 3,800 miles of telephone wire for the event, it was reportedly the first radio rally broadcast by any college or university.

By 1924, the University was primed for a station of its own. After building a radio tower behind Marvin Hall, KU launched its first station, KFKU, on wavelength 275.

To prepare listeners for the station’s inaugural broadcast at 8 p.m. on Dec. 15, the Alumni Association posted a notice in the November issue of its *Graduate Magazine*, stating, “Telegrams from alumni will be read and a great exchange of greetings will be passed back and forth among old timers. It is hoped that every K.U. alumni group now organized will be together ... and that they will send in messages saying whether they are able to hear the new station and how they like the program.”

The program didn’t disappoint. Alumni were treated to a moving rendition of John Philip Sousa’s “The Stars and Stripes Forever” before Chancellor Ernest H.

Lindley announced, “This is KFKU, the new radio station of the University of Kansas, at Lawrence.” The broadcast continued with greetings from faculty members, performances by the KU Men’s and Women’s Glee Clubs and the University Band, and introductions of athletics coaches and team captains by KU Director of Athletics Phog Allen.

A total of 160 telegrams rolled in from alumni across the nation that evening and, as noted by the *University Daily Kansan*, all “expressed their delight at hearing the old rally yells and songs and greeted faculty members and speakers.” President Calvin Coolidge’s secretary of commerce, Herbert Hoover, was among those who sent a message congratulating the University on its venture into radio.

Despite its initial success, KFKU became “low in wattage and program quality” by the early ‘50s, according to historian Clifford Griffin, and was overshadowed by the University’s first FM station, KANU 91.5, which launched in 1952. Now known as Kansas Public Radio, the station over 63 years has dramatically expanded its programs and reach. KPR now serves 100,000 listeners weekly in 34 Kansas and four Missouri counties. The Kansas Association of Broadcasters has named KPR Station of the Year 15 times in the past 20 years.

Another station, KUOK, run by School of Journalism students and heard only in

residence halls, debuted in 1956.

As the ‘70s rolled around, the University agreed to allow KUOK to become a full-fledged, publicly accessible radio station. After switching its call letters to KJHK and receiving permission to broadcast at 90.7, the station broadcast its first song on Oct. 15, 1975.

Although KJHK had its share of hard times in the beginning, including public pushback about the “progressive” music selections and several run-ins with the FCC, the self-described “Sound Alternative” found its way into the hearts of listeners and won awards in the ‘80s for “developing and promoting local music.”

That trend continues today for the student-run station, which in 2010 moved out of its longtime, aptly named home, “the Shack,” and into a more professional studio in the Kansas Union. Now stocked with more than 150 student volunteers and nearly 60 DJs, the award-winning station keeps a lively mix of music on air, with crowd pleasers such as “Jazz in the Morning” and “Breakfast for Beatlovers,” as well as talk shows, sports broadcasting, live in-studio performances, and arts and culture programs.

“We have a little bit of everything,” says station manager John Dillingham, a Katy, Texas, senior majoring in architecture. “Any kind of niche program we can offer, we have.”

—Heather Biele



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