

# KANSAS ALUMNI


No 1, 2017 ■ \$5

## Natural Leader

*Shegufta Huma is KU's  
27th Rhodes Scholar*

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### Champion for Change

For KU's newest Rhodes Scholar, growing up Muslim in Kansas has been a source of strength and struggle. Both have fueled her fight for marginalized communities around the world.

*By Heather Biele*

*Cover photograph by Steve Puppe*

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### The Few, The Proud

The U.S. Marine Corps has no higher honor than the Leftwich Trophy. In the past five years this select group of leaders has welcomed two Jayhawks to its ranks.

*By Chris Lazzarino*

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### Honor the Father

For his first project as both writer and director, a budding filmmaker turns to a personal story of faith and family.

*By Steven Hill*

# Lift the Chorus



## Jayhawk pride

IT WAS WITH both a deep sense of admiration and bittersweet feelings of loss that I discovered in Hilltopics that Bernadette Gray-Little would leave the University of Kansas next June [“Eight fateful years,” issue No. 6]. I couldn’t be more proud of my University for her

eight years of leadership. We should all be proud of the many achievements as we look back on her years at the helm.

While Hilltopics cites many of those accomplishments—in dollars and cents raised, in new programs begun or in construction undertaken—certainly, I believe, Gray-Little will leave a far more enduring legacy to KU.

In an era that began with America’s deepest economic crisis since the Great Depression, that saw the governor literally implode the state’s budget for higher education with short-sighted tax policies, and that gave voice to a new age of politics in the form of bigots, misogynists and racists, the serene face and calming hand of a woman—a woman of

color—has seen KU through the storm.

I loved the picture of BGL on page 10 of *Kansas Alumni*. I will miss seeing her gracious smile as KU’s ship steers into the waters of 2017-2018. But I am immensely proud to say that my University—our University—had a black woman at the helm in very troubled times.

Timothy Rake, c’73  
Forest Grove, Oregon

Mclendon’s “Literature of the Holocaust.” I think of it often, and reference the impact the course had on me to my own students and advisees.

It was an amazing, thought-provoking and influential class, taught by a gifted instructor. I am saddened that future KU students will not benefit from Dr. Mclendon’s instruction.

My condolences to her family and University colleagues.

Jennifer Dennis, PhD’09  
Associate professor of biology  
Missouri Southern State  
University  
Joplin, Missouri

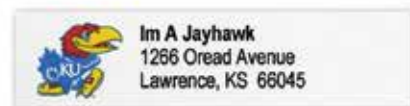
## Teaching legacy

AS I WAS READING through my *Kansas Alumni* magazine this evening, I happened to look at the In Memory section and noted the passing of Dr. Maryjane “MJ” Mclendon.

The most influential course I completed as an undergrad was, without question, Dr.

*Editor’s Note: Maryjane Mclendon, PhD’91, was an assistant professor of American literature and a literature of the Holocaust scholar at KU. She died Aug. 12 in Lawrence.*

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January 2017

# KANSAS ALUMNI

**Publisher** Heath Peterson, d'04, g'09  
**Editor** Jennifer Jackson Sanner, j'81  
**Creative Director** Susan Younger, f'91  
**Associate Editors** Chris Lazzarino, j'86  
Steven Hill  
**Photographers** Steve Puppe, j'98  
Dan Storey  
**Graphic Designer** Valerie Spicher, j'94  
**Staff Writer** Heather Biele

**Advertising Sales Representative**

Teri Harris

**Editorial and Advertising Office**

KU Alumni Association  
1266 Oread Avenue  
Lawrence, KS 66045-3169  
785-864-4760  
800-584-2957  
www.kualumni.org  
kualumni@kualumni.org

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# FROM TO PROMISE POSSIBLE

*"For me, this was  
a dream come true."*

*—Robin Randolph,  
Amelia, Virginia,  
scholarship recipient*

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THEIR PROBLEMS.

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Profiles of KU’s Rhodes Scholars are among our favorite cover stories. Since 1993, *Kansas Alumni* has featured six Jayhawks whose intellectual firepower, passion and commitment earned them one of academe’s most coveted accolades: Pam McElwee, c’93; Munro Richardson, c’93; Robert Chamberlain, c’02; Ruth Anne French-Hodson, c’05; Kelsey Murrell, c’12; and this year, Shegufta Huma, who will graduate in May with her political science degree, then begin her master’s studies at Oxford University in England. Staff writer Heather Biele shares the story of Huma, whose scholarly talent and bravery as an advocate and mediator earned her distinction as one of 32 U.S. Rhodes Scholars.

Courage and conviction—and the will to pursue a calling—add luster to several stories throughout this issue. In our second feature, Associate Editor Steven Hill describes the determination of filmmaker Paul Shoulberg, c’04, to bring his parents’ poignant story of love and faith to the screen. Don, PhD’75, and Gini Shoulberg, g’72, met when he was a priest and she was a nun. “The Good Catholic” follows the couple as they make the difficult choice to follow their hearts and heed the call to marry and start a family while remaining faithful Catholics. The film is their son’s memorial to Don, who died in 2013.


Honor and valor gleam in the stories of two Marine Corps officers, Ryan Sparks, c’97, and Thomas Morrow, c’06, whose leadership of their infantry companies proved worthy of the Marines’ most revered award, the Leftwich Trophy. As Associate Editor Chris Lazzarino, j’86, explains in our third feature, the fact that two alumni from a public university, rather than one of the

*“No matter what our life’s work, we draw nourishment from the examples of Jayhawks who clearly see a purpose and work ceaselessly to fulfill it.”*

military academies, earned the trophy makes their stories even more remarkable.

Another Jayhawk is just beginning his journey in the military as an Army ROTC cadet. Wilfredo Figueroa-Rivera, a Leavenworth sophomore, was among the students who took the Oath of Enlistment Nov. 12 in Memorial Stadium. Lazzarino was there to cover the football game, but he also came away with the story of Figueroa-Rivera, who so impressed Lazzarino in their conversation following the game that he found it difficult to share only a portion in our Jayhawk Walk section. We expect to chronicle the young Jayhawk’s achievements in years to come.

One of Mount Oread’s most treasured and honored professors, Elizabeth Schultz, taught English for 34 years and for several years chaired the humanities and comparative literature programs. Schultz devoted her scholarly life to Herman Melville’s *Moby-Dick*. For generations of students, she illuminated the ways in which the classic novel explores the essence of humanity and the questions we all struggle to answer. In our Hilltopics section, Steve Hill reports on Schultz’s gift to fund a KU professorship and ensure that the study of Melville and other guiding lights of literature will continue to flourish at the University.

No matter what our life’s work, we draw nourishment from the examples of Jayhawks who clearly see a purpose and work ceaselessly to fulfill it. Their stories feed our hearts, our souls and our minds. As *Kansas Alumni* begins Volume 115 of its long KU chronicle, we feel privileged to share them. 

# On the Boulevard

CHRIS LAZZARINO



## Exhibitions

“Temporal Turn: Art and Speculation in Contemporary Asia,” Spencer Museum of Art, through March 12

## Lied Center events

### JANUARY

**22** Ovation! USD 497 Talent Show

**27** The Paludan Sisters present “The Music of the Mind”

**28** Chinese New Year Gala

**29** Russian National Ballet Theatre: “Swan Lake”

### FEBRUARY

**2** “Pippin”

**4** KU Wind Ensemble and Jazz I

**5** Prairie Winds and Sunflower Strings Concert

**9** SUA Tunes at Night

**10** Rebirth Brass Band

**12** Jon Nakamatsu, piano

**15** The Acting Company: “Julius Caesar”

**16** The Acting Company: Marcus Gardley’s “X”

**18** Scholarship concert featuring Carmina Burana

**20** KU Symphonic Band and University Band

**23** Adam Devine

**25** Erik Kaiel/Arch 8

**26** Mr. Ho’s Orchestrotica Quintet

## MARCH

**2-4** Rock Chalk Revue

**5** An Evening with Julia Alvarez

**6** An Evening with Kristin Chenoweth Celebrating the Art of Elegance

**7** SUA Tunes at Night

**8** KU Wind Ensemble

**14** KU Symphony Orchestra

**15** Imani Winds

**28** KU Jazz Ensemble I with special guest Kneebody

**29** SUA Tunes at Night

**31** American Brass Quintet

Students, faculty and staff got a sneak peek of winter in early December, when a light snowfall brought a quiet serenity to the University's bustling campus.



VALERIE SPICHER



## University Theatre

### FEBRUARY

**9-12** "Seminar," by Theresa Rebeck, William Inge Memorial Theatre

### MARCH

**31, April 1-2, 4-6**  
"Anon(ymous)," by Naomi Iizuka, William Inge Memorial Theatre

## Lectures

### FEBRUARY

**23** "Nature's God: The Heretical Origins of the American Republic," Matthew Stewart, Lied Center Pavilion

**24** Humanities Lecture Series Conversation: Matthew Stewart, Hall Center conference hall

### MARCH

**28** "Pursuing Elusive Equity in Higher Education," Jennifer Hammer, The Commons

## Academic Calendar

### JANUARY

**17** First day of spring classes

### MARCH

**20-26** Spring break

## Alumni Events

### JANUARY

**24** KU vs. West Virginia watch parties

**28** KU vs. Kentucky pregame party, Lexington, Kentucky



STEVEN HILL

**28** KU vs. Kentucky watch parties

### FEBRUARY

**1** Great Bend: Kansas Honors Program

**1** KU vs. Baylor watch parties

**4** KU vs. Iowa State watch parties

**6** KU vs. Kansas State watch parties

**6** Pittsburg: Kansas Honors Program

**11** KU vs. Texas Tech watch parties

**13** Beloit: Kansas Honors Program

**13** Iola: Kansas Honors Program

**13** KU vs. West Virginia watch parties

**15** KU Night with the Denver Nuggets, Denver

**15** Paola: Kansas Honors Program



DAN STOREY

**18** KU vs. Baylor watch parties

**22** Atchison: Kansas Honors Program

**22** Holton: Kansas Honors Program

**22** KU vs. TCU watch parties

**23** Axtell: Kansas Honors Program

**25** KU vs. Texas pregame party, Austin, Texas

**25** KU vs. Texas watch parties

**27** KU vs. Oklahoma watch parties

### MARCH

**4** KU vs. Oklahoma State watch parties

**11** KU Night with the Portland Trailblazers, Portland, Oregon

**29** Chanute: Kansas Honors Program

# Jayhawk Walk



## Blast of nostalgia

**H**ad enough of laughing cats, baby rap, cursing British butlers, foul-mouthed South Park kids, heavy metal and bubblegum pop? Then it's high time you Rock Chalk your ringtone with an authentic five-second blast from KU's original "Big Tooter" steam whistle.

Launched in October to announce the debut of Steam Whistle Creative, a student-run advertising agency within the William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications, the ringtone signals your crimson-and-blue allegiance with the coolest call announcer this side of Mount Oread.

The Alumni Association's free KU Alumni App ([kualumni.org/app](http://kualumni.org/app)) includes a tile that leads to the iTunes Store or Google Play, where you can search for "Steam Whistle Creative" to download the \$1.29 ringtone. With the tone on your phone, navigate through "settings" to "sound," select the steam whistle as your ringtone, and forever fuel your nostalgia for running late to class.

There's no word yet on hacks to make the whistle sound at 10 till every hour.

## LPD, #hilarious

**AFTER LAUNCHING** the Lawrence Police Department's Twitter page Dec. 31, 2015, with the usual dry reminders for revelers to designate sober drivers, Officer Drew Fennelly yearned to "find the voice for the Twitter account."

His creativity burst forth three months later, as Fennelly, '09, hunched over his laptop, bemoaning the men's basketball team's shattering loss in the NCAA Tournament. "Sorry, we can't investigate Villanova ripping your heart out of your chest," Fennelly wrote. "The crime occurred outside our jurisdiction. #RCJH"

The post was noticed by the Kansas City Star's sports editor, who shared it with his 10,000 followers, and suddenly @LawrenceKS\_PD zoomed to online fame.

"I felt the same frustration and despair that everybody else did about KU losing that game," Fennelly says. "So I was thinking, how can I express to everyone else how I feel and relate it to the police department?"

He'd found the voice he'd been searching for, and his ensuing parade of comedy gold gained an even wider audience—hello, Jimmy Kimmel—Sept. 29: "We realize politics can make emotions run high, but being mad at a presidential candidate in a debate is NOT a reason to call 911."

Fennelly says he scrutinizes every post for any possible hint of controversy or disrespect, but he otherwise lets the laughs loose almost daily, including an election-day reminder that "Electioneering is not a major at KU," K9 officers posed for cute dog pics, Bad Luck Brian reminding



Fennelly

citizens not to tempt thieves with unattended porch packages, and, best of all, the occasional Saturday-night #LKPDTweetalong, during which he rides with a fellow

officer and tweets the action from a citizen's point of view.

"Humor really is one of the best coping mechanisms for dealing with what we see on a regular basis," says Fennelly, an officer since 2009. "I think you would be hard-pressed to find a police officer without a pretty good sense of humor."

From dry to wry, all in a day's work.

## A recipe for good

**NAMED FOR A JAPANESE** concept meaning "reason for being," Ikigai Noodle—a meal hosted Thursday nights from August to May at Westwood House, home of KU's Lutheran Campus Ministry—is all about destigmatizing the soup kitchen.

Diners build their own ramen bowls using ingredients supplied by Shantel Ringler Grace, '02, who with her husband, Tim, owns the downtown Lawrence restaurant Ramen Bowls. Participants serve themselves and donate \$2 if they like—or nothing at all.

By upending the traditional soup kitchen structure—"volunteers in T-shirts behind a counter serving people"—Grace hopes to create a festive, welcoming atmosphere where people feel good about accepting a little help when they need it.

"Some people don't take advantage of resources because there's a shame factor," she says. "Our idea is, if you want to put a couple bucks in the donation box, that's great. But there's nobody sitting here taking money. Just help yourself?"

STEVE PUPPE



Trendy ramen, nutritious ingredients and thoughtful presentation create a caring vibe, says Sean Norris, campus pastor at Westwood. "She makes everything look really nice. Centerpiece. Candles. She's like Mary Poppins when she walks in here. Things just fall into place."

## End-zone enlistment

**WILFREDO FIGUEROA-RIVERA** was already in uniform when he raised his right hand and took his oath of enlistment in the U.S. Army. But it wasn't an Army uniform he wore the afternoon of Nov. 12.

That's because the sophomore cheerleader was three-quarters of the way through KU's "Salute to Service" game against Iowa State when he trotted away from the west sideline to join his ROTC comrades in the south end zone and fulfill the Army's Oath of Enlistment.

As applause for the cadets filled Memorial Stadium, Figueroa-Rivera quickly rejoined the Spirit Squad and resumed

"I want people to feel like they can come to this fun, open-minded place and it's super-affordable to have this incredibly awesome, hot, nutritious meal," says organizer Shantel Grace (far right) of Ikigai Noodle, a free student-oriented DIY supper at KU's Westwood House.

cheering for the football 'Hawks.

"It was surreal," Figueroa-Rivera says. "For the first few minutes, it was all muscle memory, instinct, because I was thinking about my life ahead of me and all of the things I'm about to do with my life in the military."

After dinner with his Spirit Squad teammates, Figueroa-Rivera enjoyed a long phone conversation with his parents. His father is an Army major at Fort Leavenworth, so both parents offered sage advice from lifetimes of experience.

"There's just a feeling of ... What was the feeling? It was almost like a feeling of welcoming, like you're now part of something that's a lot bigger than yourself and you have expectations to live up to. It was nice to see my family encouraging me to live up to those expectations and make everybody proud.

"Prouder than they already are." Truly worth cheering.



Figueroa-Rivera

## We ♥ Pluto

The planetary postage event of the year, "Views of Our Planets," sadly put the U.S. Postal Service's stamp of approval on Pluto's 2006 downgrade to "minor planet" status: The 16-stamp sheet presents eight images, not nine.

So if beleaguered little Pluto—discovered in 1930 by

Clyde Tombaugh, c'36, g'39—can't play with the big boys, why not a stamp sheet of its own?

And, voila!, the four-stamp "Pluto—Explored!" features images of both the New Horizons spacecraft—which carries the 1991 "Pluto: Not Yet Explored" stamp as well as Tombaugh's ashes—and a striking image New Horizons made of Pluto in 2015. With

color enhancements highlighting surface texture, the image clearly reveals Pluto's now-famous heart-shaped feature, a 1,000-mile-wide

expanse that NASA scientists dubbed the Tombaugh Region.

"Dad put a heart on Pluto!" exclaimed Tombaugh's daughter, Annette Tombaugh Sitze, at the time of the mysterious geologic feature's unexpected discovery.

Go ahead and gloat, Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune. We know the littlest planet of them all has the biggest heart.





STEVE PUPPE

## Budget-challenged

### Governor's budget proposal offers higher-ed initiatives, but fails to restore cuts to KU

As the Kansas Legislature convened in January, leaders at KU and the Kansas Board of Regents had but a short wish list for lawmakers: Restore the mid-year cuts made to KU's budget last May and establish stable funding in the two-year budget covering the 2018 and 2019 fiscal years.

But even those modest requests looked to be a tough sell, as lawmakers started the session with a familiar challenge: Tax revenues are well short of projections, resulting in a budget shortfall of nearly \$350 million that will require more work to balance the budget between now and the end of the 2017 fiscal year in June. The outlook for fiscal 2018 is even more dire, with a budget shortfall currently projected to top \$550 million.

In his State of the State address Jan. 10, Gov. Sam Brownback, R'82, promised a balanced budget that addresses both expenditures and "modest, targeted

revenue measures" such as tax increases to address projected deficits, while also signaling that higher education is among the few areas where he hopes to generate some new spending in the coming year. He called for starting a School of Dentistry at KU Medical Center to address a shortage of dentists in 87 of the state's 105 counties; proposed a new scholarship program to aid Kansas college students who want to teach and urged expansion of an existing scholarship program for college students; and challenged the state's colleges and universities to provide students a chance to earn a four-year degree for a total cost of \$15,000, promising to fund 50 student scholarships for the first institution to achieve that goal.

In a detailed budget proposal presented to the House and Senate budget committees Jan. 11 by Shawn Sullivan, the state budget director, Brownback pledged \$800,000 to pay for the initial planning costs of the dental school, which would be the first in Kansas. His proposed budget also includes \$3 million next year and \$6 million in fiscal 2019 to fund scholarships at Kansas universities for future teachers who agree to work in rural areas, and \$1 million a year, starting in fiscal 2018, to

fund the 50 scholarships for the \$15,000 bachelor's degree.

But the proposal did not address the \$10.7 million hit the University took last May.

"On Jan. 11, the governor released his budget recommendations for the next fiscal year," said Tim Caboni, vice chancellor for public affairs. "While he does not recommend additional cuts to the University of Kansas, his recommendations include the \$10.7 million allotment cut he made to the KU budget last May—essentially making that a permanent annual cut.

"The sudden loss of \$10.7 million has significantly impacted KU and its students and forced the university to make difficult decisions. With that in mind, KU is asking legislators to consider the following two priorities this session: restoration of the 2016 cuts to KU and stable funding for KU moving forward."

Last year's reduction in the state appropriation for KU was part of a \$97 million spending cut that Brownback ordered statewide to bring the budget passed by the Legislature in balance with expected revenues. Those cuts resulted in a 4 percent reduction for most state agencies, including the universities governed by the Board of Regents. However, KU and Kansas State sustained proportionally higher cuts—5.1 percent of the state's appropriation for KU—because lawmakers stipulated that higher education cuts be based on universities' "all-funds operating budgets" instead of only their state general fund allocations. In a joint letter to Jayhawks for Higher Education and their Wildcat counterparts last May, Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little and Gen. Richard Myers, then interim president at K-State, pointed out the flaw in this formula while encouraging advocates to persuade Gov. Brownback to line-item veto that provision.

"This formula penalizes Kansas State University and the University of Kansas,

whose all-funds budgets are higher because of our large research portfolios,” Gray-Little and Myers explained in their letter. “In essence, this formula punishes K-State and KU for conducting research and successfully securing federal research grants that bring new dollars to Kansas. In addition to harming the two universities and the state we serve, this type of funding decision sends a terrible message to the nation that Kansas does not value earning research grant funding and that our state actively penalizes our research universities when they succeed.”

When adjusted for inflation, state support per student at KU has declined 44 percent over the past 17 years. In 2016, the state appropriation of \$236 million for KU remained below pre-recession levels. That continuing decline makes stable funding crucial for KU, administrators say. They hope to persuade lawmakers that the University cannot absorb additional cuts without negatively impacting the students, citizens, communities and companies KU serves.

In his speech, Brownback noted that the annual State of the State address “was once described to me as a beautiful ritual, pageantry, conducted just before the real battle begins. Perhaps it is.”

The governor’s wry delivery of that line seemed to suggest that he expects the battle may be particularly pitched this year.

A significantly reshaped Legislature—59 new lawmakers were sworn in at the start of the session, many of them moderate Republicans and Democrats who ran on a platform of repealing the governor’s tax cuts—is likely to resist many of Brownback’s budget proposals, which rely heavily on one-time funding sources such as raiding the state highway fund, delaying payments to public schools, freezing contributions to the KPERS retirement fund for state employees, and selling off future tobacco settlement money.

The proposal also doubles tobacco and liquor taxes and cancels a planned decrease in the state’s lowest tax bracket, but it leaves largely untouched the 2012 tax exemption for businesses that many blame for several consecutive years of budget shortfalls. Rep. Tom Phillips, a Manhattan Republican, wasted no time in introducing a bill that would repeal the so-called LLC loophole for 330,000 businesses that currently pay no state income taxes, and both Democrats and Republicans on the House tax committee have indicated support for a repeal, which would raise about \$250 million.

*Jayhawks for Higher Education communicate the importance of the University and Higher Education to the Kansas Legislature. Alumni who live in Kansas and want to get involved in the group, which now numbers more than 1,600, can get more information at [kualumni.org/jayhawksforhighereducation](http://kualumni.org/jayhawksforhighereducation).*

## Save the whale

### Gift to lure Melville expert to KU, restore *Moby-Dick* to curriculum

So dedicated is retired English professor Elizabeth Schultz to Herman Melville’s famed 19th-century novel *Moby-Dick*, she recently enticed a friend to read the book by offering to conduct a kind of one-woman master class.

“I’ll talk you through it,” Schultz says she told her friend. “Call me. I will.”

Schultz, who began teaching at KU in 1967 and retired in 2001, is one of the world’s foremost Melville scholars, and she taught his classic novel every one of her 34 years on the Hill. But with the retirement of Schultz and her English department colleague Haskell Springer, in 2003, the

CARLOS VILLALON



Colombia’s Congress on Nov. 30 approved a peace accord engineered by President Juan Manuel Santos, b’73, finally concluding a difficult process that led to a Nobel Peace Prize for Santos [“Peace Prized,” issue No. 6] but struggled to bring an end to the half-century-long civil war that left more than 200,000 people dead.

In August the Santos administration announced that, after years of talks, it had reached a deal with

rebels to end the war. The two sides held a celebratory signing, but voters defied expectations and polls by narrowly rejecting the agreement in October. Days later, the Nobel Committee urged both sides to continue talks, saying they hoped the prize for Santos would “give him strength to succeed in this demanding task.”

Santos followed his brother, Luis Fernando Santos, j’70, to Mount Oread in 1969. As detailed in a cover

story in *Kansas Alumni* in 2011, he embraced social and academic life on the Hill, joining Delta Upsilon fraternity and completing a degree in seven semesters.

At a ceremony marking completion of a new accord meant to address the concerns of voters, Santos urged unity.

“On signing this agreement, as president of all Colombians, I want to invite all, with an open mind and open heart, to give peace a chance.”

## UPDATE

## Hilltopics

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**Winter grads:** More than 1,300 Jayhawks earned their KU diplomas at the end of the fall semester in December. Degrees are officially conferred in January, but winter graduates (who represent 57 Kansas counties, 40 states and 28 countries) are invited to participate in the annual walk down the Hill at Commencement on Sunday, May 14.

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Schultz

tale of Captain Ahab's obsessive pursuit of a fabled white whale fell off reading lists. With a \$1.5 million gift commitment, announced last fall, Schultz hopes to correct that omission by establishing the Herman Melville Distinguished Professorship to bring to KU someone to teach one or more of the great American writers of the mid-19th century, a grand roster that includes Melville, Emily Dickinson, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Henry David Thoreau, Frederick Douglass, Ralph Waldo Emerson and Walt Whitman.

But Schultz is particularly keen to restore to syllabi a book she considers *the* Great American Novel.

"In *Moby-Dick* I think there is not a perspective he doesn't touch on," Schultz

says. "He's fundamentally asking large questions that have to do with the way we live our lives as individuals and as a community of people. To me the most important question we can ask is, 'What is a good life, and how can we live it?' I think we have in *Moby-Dick* a cast of characters that model a variety of kinds of behavior, and in the course of seeing

how people act toward one another in that novel, the reader is asked to evaluate how he or she could do better."

Schultz first encountered Captain Ahab's vengeful quest as an undergraduate at Wellesley College. "I knew it was something amazing," she says, "something the likes of which I had never read before, and I was totally engaged." But she ended up writing her PhD dissertation on a very different kind of writer, Henry James.

At KU she first realized the novel's full power.

"I found my first year of teaching at KU, in the fall of 1967, it was Melville who spoke to my students. I had many who were distressed about the Vietnam War, some of them guys about to be drafted, and they found that Melville spoke to their

condition," Schultz says. "That is to say, they were on a ship of state that was doomed."

The story of an authority figure so blinded by his obsessive need for vengeance that he's willing to endanger himself and those he leads resonated with students then and still resonates now, Schultz believes. She wants to restore the novel to popular readership, yes, but she also sees it as a linchpin in the life of the University.

"I do think that the humanities are being challenged these days, and I would hope that having a distinguished person teaching central American works in the English department would inspire not only other humanists but the whole University campus," she says. "I would hope this would have a trickle out effect, not just a trickle down effect, that the ongoing presence of this professorship on campus would really emphasize the University's commitment to the humanities and the arts and culture in general, and that what courses in history and the classics and languages and philosophy are all about is good and clear thinking. We need it more than ever."

## Radical lit

### Student's Sacco and Vanzetti collection wins national prize

Ninety years after Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti were executed for murdering two men during an armed robbery in Braintree, Massachusetts, people still disagree about the Italian immigrant anarchists' guilt or innocence.

But the historical parlor game (did they or didn't they?) isn't what interests Megan Jones, a graduate student in English who has built a collection of books about the two figures. Her collection won KU's Snyder Book Collecting Contest in April and placed second in the National Collegiate Book Collecting Contest (NCBCC) in October.

"I'm really more interested in what it is about these two men that has captivated



Jones

the imagination of so many people, and why we're so interested in not only preserving their legacy, but why we look back at them as this big question," Jones says. Their arrest came at the height of the Palmer Raids, mass arrests and deportations that occurred during the post-World War I Red scare, she notes. "They weren't the only radicals arrested or accused of crimes or deported or executed during this time. Why are they the ones we talk about, who still captivate the imagination of so many even now? That's a more interesting question to me than who did it."

Jones bought the first book in her collection in 2012. While an undergraduate at Indiana University, she took a class at The Lilly Library, the school's repository for rare books, manuscripts and special collections. Looking for an archive to explore for her class project, she stumbled across Sacco and Vanzetti and remembered a brief encounter with them in a high school history class.

"I saw their picture in the corner of my textbook and I asked my U.S. history teacher who they were, because there was only a tiny short blurb about them," Jones recalls. "And he was like, 'Oh, don't worry; they're not that important.'"

She started reading, finding handwritten letters in the Lilly archives that the anarchists had sent to friends, and quickly became intrigued.

"You get a lot more of a person's personality by reading their handwriting in letters they wrote 90 years ago," Jones says. "I think that's what did it for me."

Seeing these historical artifacts not only

fired her imagination, but also provided material for scholarship. She sought out collections of Sacco and Vanzetti's letters to see what had been published on the subject, and was surprised to find major discrepancies between the published versions and the originals. The edited letters make the two men appear less

militant, Jones says. And less individual.


"Their personalities have both been a little bit erased in favor of making them martyrs for the general leftist anarchist communist radical workers' cause," Jones says. "We don't see as much of their individual personalities, and I think that may be why they're so popular. They're very different people, but they've been linked and glorified in a way that's interesting."

The discovery led to her undergraduate thesis and fueled her collecting. She now has about three dozen books—more than she had before she won the \$600 Snyder prize and \$1,000 NCBCC prize.

"I thought I should spend at least some of the money on getting more books, right?"

But the crown jewel of the collection came to Jones absolutely free: It is a pristine copy of the 1927 John Dos Passos pamphlet, *Facing the Chair: Story of the Americanization of Two Foreignborn Workmen*, from the book collection of the late Melvin Landsberg, the professor emeritus of English at KU who died in March. Jones had contacted the estate to see if the work might be in Landsberg's collection, since he was a Dos Passos scholar and biographer.

It's one of the few Sacco and Vanzetti works she actively tracked down. Most she discovers by happy accident.

"Part of the fun of my collection is I don't really know what all is out there," Jones says. "I'm always finding new things that somehow relate. It's the surprise of it all." 

## Milestones, money and other matters



■ **David Dillon**, b'73, retired chairman and CEO of Kroger Company, heads the search committee chosen in November by the Kansas Board of Regents to find the University's next chancellor. Alumni representatives on the committee include **Greg Ek**, b'76, Wichita, and **Dave Roland**, e'80, Excelsior, Minnesota, who serve on the Alumni Association's national Board of Directors, and **Debbie Foltz Nordling**, d'79, Hugoton, a former Association Board member. Regents also voted to hire R. William Funk and Associates as search consultant. The committee will undertake a closed nationwide search to recruit a successor to Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little, who will step down June 30.

■ **Charlie Rose**, anchor and executive editor of the PBS television news program "Charlie Rose," will receive the 2017 William Allen White Foundation National Citation. Rose will receive the citation on campus on William Allen White Day, April 20.

■ **Robert Sorem**, e'86, g'88, PhD'91, associate professor of mechanical engineering, was presented the 2016 H.O.P.E. Award by the senior class at the KU-Texas game Nov. 19. Sorem has advised the Jayhawk Motorsports Formula SAE racing team for 22 years, winning the Carroll Smith Mentor's Cup in 2009. The H.O.P.E. (Honor for an Outstanding Progressive Educator) was established by the senior class in 1959 and remains the only honor the class gives a faculty member.

# Hilltopics

COURTESY KU MARCOMM (4)



Carta



Nudo



Aakeröy



Nel

## RESEARCH

### Higuchi Awards recognize faculty research gains

**TWO RESEARCHERS FROM KU** and two from Kansas State received the most prestigious award for scholarly excellence that Kansas offers: the Higuchi-KU Endowment Research Achievement Awards.

Named for Takeru Higuchi, the late KU distinguished professor considered “the father of physical chemistry,” the awards, announced in December, recognize exceptional long-term research achievements of faculty members at Kansas Board of Regents universities. The 2016 awardees are:

Judith Carta, professor of special education, senior scientist at the Schiefelbusch Institute for Life Span Studies and director of early childhood research at KU’s Juniper Gardens Children’s Project in Kansas City. She has led an externally funded research program at KU for 31 years, influencing changes in social policy and improving the quality of services for children and families across the nation. Carta received the Irvin Youngberg Award for Applied Sciences.

Randolph Nudo, Marion Merrell Dow Distinguished Professor in Aging and professor and vice chair of research in the department of rehabilitative medicine at KU Medical Center. Nudo’s research focuses on neural repair and neurologic recovery and rehabilitation after stroke.

Nudo received the Dolph Simons Award in Biomedical Sciences.

Christer Aakeröy, University Distinguished Professor of chemistry at Kansas State University. His research on aspects of intermolecular interactions and materials science has attracted major grants from the National Science Foundation, the Department of Defense, National Institutes of Health and the Petroleum Research Fund. Aakeröy received the Olin Petefish Award in Basic Sciences.

Philip Nel, University Distinguished Professor of English at Kansas State, co-founded and directs the Program in Children’s Literature, and his literary research focuses on the understanding of literature written for children. Nel received the Balfour Jeffrey Award in Humanities and Social Sciences.

## CAMPUS

### Conservation upgrades help cut KU’s energy consumption

**GAINS BY THE ENERGY OFFICE** and the Center for Sustainability at KU to reduce campus energy usage are paying off with not only cost savings, but also a

# VISITOR

## Creative control

Zadie Smith, an English novelist and professor in the creative writing program at New York University, delivered her lecture “Why Write?” as part of the Humanities Lecture Series.

**WHEN:** Dec. 1

**WHERE:** Kansas Union Ballroom

**SPONSORS:** Hall Center for the Humanities and Kansas Public Radio

**BACKGROUND:** Smith is the critically acclaimed author of several novels, including the award-winning *White Teeth*, *The Autograph Man*, *On Beauty*, *NW*, and her most recent book, *Swing Time*. She was 21 when she submitted 80 pages of her first novel, *White Teeth*, to an agent, and it was published in full a few years later.

**ANECDOTE:** When asked how she developed her writing style, Smith explained that she was always a voracious reader and influenced by other literary

works. “My first exercises in writing when I was a kid were literal plagiarism,” she recalled. “I would just type out stories, word for word, and then read them out loud to myself or record myself reading them. I think it’s a very good practice, that kind of absolute copying. If you do it for long enough, you learn that way; it’s a kind of rehearsal.”

**QUOTE:** In a time when a writer’s ultimate goal is to be published, Smith reminds her students that creativity “might



Smith

involve something more than finding the perfect audience for the perfect product.”

“I do want them less attuned to the chatter of publishing PR departments and more in touch with the workings of their own minds.”

—Heather Biele

COURTESY HALL CENTER FOR THE HUMANITIES





4,500 LED bulbs alone has saved an estimated \$61,000, according to the energy report, which also details ongoing efforts to identify problem buildings that need further attention. Read the full report at [energy.ku.edu/campus-energy-usage](http://energy.ku.edu/campus-energy-usage).

reduced carbon footprint.

Heating, cooling and lighting the more than 130 buildings on campus takes a toll on the University's budget and the environment. KU spends more than \$15 million annually on utilities such as natural gas, electricity and water, using about 925 million BTUs of energy, which produces more than 160,000 metric tons of carbon emissions each year.

In fiscal 2016, electricity usage dropped by 1.9 million kilowatts and gas consumption dropped by 46 million BTUs, thanks to conservation efforts that seek to bring energy costs for campus buildings to 100 kBTUs per square foot. Energy consumption was reduced from 106 kBTUs in 2015 to 98 in 2016, exceeding that goal. The reductions are enough to power 156 homes and offset greenhouse gas emissions from 520 cars for a year.

The efforts use a combination of equipment upgrades (like replacing burned out halogen, compact fluorescent and incandescent bulbs with LEDs) and behavioral changes (such as the successful Shut the Sash campaign that reminds users to close fume hoods in campus labs to save energy and improve safety). Installation of

## CAMPUS

### Mount Oread to be tobacco-free by 2018

**THE LAWRENCE CAMPUS** is still on track to join the ranks of the nearly 1,500 U.S. colleges that are completely tobacco free, but implementation of the new policy has been pushed back to 2018.

As previously reported in *Kansas Alumni* ["Smoke Out?" Hilltopics, issue No. 2, 2015], Tobacco Free KU, a coalition that includes the human resources department, Watkins Health Services, Recreation Services and the student group BEAK (Breathe Easy at KU), is working to replace the University's existing policy, which bans smoking inside buildings but allows outdoor smoking and permits student housing residents to use smokeless tobacco in their rooms. The new policy, originally set to begin this fall, will ban all tobacco products and e-cigarettes across campus.

An official announcement on the new policy is expected in fall 2017, with implementation scheduled for fall 2018.



## Milestones, money and other matters

■ **Shane McCreery** leads the Office of Institutional Opportunity and Access. The office works to strengthen diversity and inclusion at KU, and investigates discrimination and harassment complaints. McCreery previously directed the Office of Equal Opportunity, Ethics and Access at Illinois State University. He started at KU on Sept. 1.



McCreery

COURTESY KU/MARCOM/IV

■ **Sandra Billinger**, interim associate dean for research and associate professor in the department of physical therapy and rehabilitation sciences, and **Belinda Sturm**, associate professor of civil, environmental and architectural engineering, are the 2016 Edward and Thelma Wohlgemuth Faculty Scholars. The fund seeks to help KU retain promising faculty by recognizing their early career accomplishments and potential for future scholarly contributions. It was established by Dorothy Wohlgemuth Lynch, d'59, in 2000 to honor her parents.

■ **Bozena Pasik-Duncan**, professor of mathematics and courtesy professor in the departments of electrical engineering & computer science and aerospace engineering, is the 2017 Global Chair of the Women in Engineering Committee for the Institute of Engineering and Electronics Engineers. She oversees the world's largest professional organization supporting women in science and engineering.

■ **Rex Buchanan**, '92, in October received the Geological Society of America's Public Service Award for his decades of accomplishments as a leader and communicator on issues related to geology and natural resources. Buchanan retired recently as interim director of the Kansas Geological Survey, which he joined in 1978.

*“Why write? To express the reality of human capacities. You really don't need to be a unique creative genius to do this; you only need to have the language under your control.”*

—Zadie Smith

## Detroit steel

### Jackson a 'special freshman' who dazzles with rare talent

How to upstage Josh Jackson: Score the last-second, game-winning basket against rival Kansas State, and do so by brazenly bolting three, maybe four, strides without dribbling. Safe to say that nothing about the Jan. 3 home Big 12 opener will be long remembered other than junior guard Svi Mykhailiuk Walk Chalking straight down the lane and laying the ball in for KU's 90-88 victory.

And yet it was Jackson, a No. 1 overall recruit and all-but-certain one-and-done superstar, who led all scorers with 22 points, his third 20-point-plus performance in the first 15 games of his college career, and added nine rebounds and six assists. After following that performance with 17 points and 10 rebounds Jan. 7 against Texas Tech, Jackson was named Big 12 New-comer of the Week for the third time, to go along with the Big 12 Player of the Week honor won after scoring 21 at UNLV Dec. 22.

"I think the potential," coach Bill Self says of Jackson, "is off the charts."

As KU prepared to face Oklahoma Jan. 10 in Norman, the Jayhawks, 14-1 overall and 4-0 in the Big 12, were ranked No. 2 in the country, and senior guard Frank Mason III, national Player of the Year candidate and two-time Big 12 Player of the Week, was leading the Jayhawks in scoring at 19.9 points a game, including 26 against Texas Tech.

Junior guard Devonte' Graham led KU with 35 3-pointers, followed closely by Mykhailiuk's 33, and senior center Landen Lucas rebounded from a lackluster early season to post back-to-back

double-doubles against TCU and Kansas State, earning a Big 12 Player of the Week honor of his own.

Program and individual milestones are also garnering well-deserved attention. Self, in his 24th season as a head coach, won the 600th game of his career with KU's Dec. 6 victory over UMKC, his 400th at KU with the win at Oklahoma (a victory likely to elevate the Jayhawks to No. 1 after Baylor's loss at West Virginia) and on Dec. 21 Self was announced as a first-time nominee for the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

The victory over Texas Tech, the Jayhawks' 48th-consecutive in Allen Field House, made KU the second team in NCAA Div. I history to reach 2,200 wins, and the Nov. 18 victory over Sienna was the 207th for Self in Allen Field House,

betting Ted Owens on the all-time field house list.

But, short of a national championship, 2017 will likely be remembered as the season Josh Jackson was a Jayhawk.

As Self has noted, it's impossible to become the best ever at a school where Wilt Chamberlain, '59, and Danny Manning, c'92, played. And in the era of single seasons for freshman elites, Jackson won't leave with any career records.

But his talents seem to surpass even those of another recent top-ranked recruit, Andrew Wiggins, '17, and game-by-game displays of athleticism, court vision, shooting, passing, rebounding and acrobatic and powerful dunks are earning the 6-8 guard from Detroit, in Self's estimation, "a chance to be one of the special freshmen the program's probably ever known."

Says Self, "I think his vision is probably the best thing. He's inside a zone. I haven't seen him be inside a zone before he got here, and man, he's good in there."

Jackson, who sports a winning smile and easygoing manner, says he's inspired by Oklahoma City Thunder All-Star guard Russell Westbrook—"I've heard [West-



Josh Jackson (11), a likely lottery pick in the June NBA draft, and Frank Mason III (0), a contender for National Player of the Year, combined for 37 points in KU's 90-88 victory over Kansas State Jan. 3 in Allen Field House.

brook] say, 'I dunk the ball so hard so nobody challenges me when I go to the basket,' so that's what I'm trying to do"—and he's eager to use his time here wisely.

"[Self] knows that I'm kind of a special player, and he still never takes it easy on me, doesn't kiss my butt," Jackson told the Kansas City Star. "He's really hard on me sometimes. I think I need that."

Self agrees. He says Jackson's coachability is similar to what he saw in Wiggins and Joel Embiid, '17.

"He wants somebody to correct him," Self says. "Now, I'm not saying he wants to be jumped, but I'm saying he'd like somebody to coach him and correct him and be constructive and at the same time push him and try to get the most out of him. He likes that. He didn't come in here thinking that he was where he needed to be. He came in here thinking, 'I'm picking this place because I'm *not* where I need to be.' I think sometimes that gets lost.

"Josh is one of those guys who is—even though he's really, really bright—he knows he doesn't know. It's amazing to me, when we do a scouting report, he hangs on every word. I ask Josh a lot of questions to see if he'd know the answer, and half the time he does and half the time he doesn't, and he's totally intrigued on why he doesn't."

## To the bitter end

### After winning first Big 12 title, volleyball drops NCAA thriller

The sweet memory of their thrilling five-set victory last season over powerhouse USC, a match that launched KU volleyball to its first Final Four in the NCAA Tournament, is preserved for the ages with a huge photograph displayed in a Horejsi Family Athletics Center hallway. That match's magic could not be repeated, though, as the Jayhawks, winners of their first Big 12 title, were ousted by Creighton in this season's second round.

The fourth-ranked Jayhawks (27-3) entered the Dec. 2 showdown with Creighton (28-6), one of the hottest teams in the country with 15-consecutive

*"His vision is probably the best thing. He's inside a zone. I haven't seen him be inside a zone before he got here, and man, he's good in there."*

—coach Bill Self on freshman guard Josh Jackson

victories, with an 8-0 record in five-set matches, including a Sept. 8 victory at Creighton.

In their NCAA match, KU won the opening set 25-21. Creighton responded with 25-20 and 25-17 victories in the second and third sets. Down 2-1, KU played its best volleyball of the night in the fourth set, winning the first four points and cruising 25-16 to force the deciding set.

Junior right-side hitter Kelsie Payne, named first-team All-American for the second consecutive season, scored seven kills in the final set (and 26 for the match), and KU led 10-9, but it was not enough, as the Bluejays had their first match point at 14-12. KU rallied to fend off six match points, but the Jayhawks couldn't stop No. 7: Although fifth sets are played to 15, this one was decided at 20-18.

"It was a special atmosphere in there, a special effort from both teams," said coach Ray Bechard. "I'm as proud as I can be for our group, but pretty devastated that we couldn't flip the score."

After beating Big 12 powerhouse Texas Oct. 29 to secure a tie for the conference lead, the Jayhawks took sole possession of the Big 12 lead with a 3-1 victory Nov. 5, on a night that Texas was idle, at Oklahoma. A five-set victory over Iowa State Nov. 19 in Horejsi secured the Jayhawks' first Big 12 title.

"We are the aggressors now," senior libero Cassie Wait—an honorable mention



Senior Cassie Wait (5)—with (l-r) junior Addison Barry and senior Maggie Anderson—was named Big 12 Volleyball Scholar-Athlete of the Year. A three-year starter, the Big 12 Libero of the Year completed her final season while enrolled in the School of Law.

All-American, Big 12 Libero of the Year, Big 12 Volleyball Scholar-Athlete of the Year and first-year KU law student—said of the growth of KU volleyball since her arrival. "We're in control of the play every single time. If we do our jobs every time we step out on that court, we have the power to win every match."

Along with Wait's honors, others for KU included Big 12 Player of the Year for Payne; junior Ainise Havili becoming the first back-to-back winner of Big 12 Setter of the Year; Bechard as conference Coach of the Year for the second-consecutive season and the fourth time in five years; and junior outside hitter Madison Rigdon joining Payne, Havili and Wait on the All-Big 12 First Team.

Wait, senior Maggie Anderson, junior Kayla Cheadle, redshirt freshman Patricia Montero and senior Tayler Soucie were also named to the Academic All-Big 12 first team.

## Sports



Sophomore Libby Walker won the 1,000-yard freestyle at the Jan. 7 USD Shootout, and a day earlier placed a close second to junior teammate Madison Straight in the 400-yard IM at a double-dual hosted by UCLA.

## Pool hustlers

### Energetic swimmers cruise at four-team meet in San Diego

Swimming powered into its 2017 nonconference season with a memorable West Coast trip, including a dominating victory in the Jan. 7 USD Shootout. With four event victories and 53 points, the Jayhawks topped runner-up North Texas by 25 points.

KU started the four-team meet with a second-place swim in the 400-yard medley relay. That was followed by a victory in the 1,000-yard freestyle by sophomore Libby Walker, with freshman Jenny Nusbaum close behind in second.

Nusbaum then won the 200-yard freestyle, and junior Madison Straight, coming off a victory in the 400-yard

individual medley a day earlier in a double-dual at UCLA, took second in the 200 IM.

Senior Pia Pavlic out-touched San Diego's Dani Taylor by one-hundredth of a second in the 50-yard butterfly, senior Yulduz Kuchkarova won the 50-yard backstroke, sophomore Haley Bishop placed second in the 50-yard breaststroke and 50-yard freestyle, and the Jayhawks closed out the busy trip with a victory in the 400-yard freestyle relay.

"The whole team is doing so good right now, not only at meets, but what's even more important, at practices," Pavlic said. "We are less than 50 days away from our conference meet [Feb. 22 at Texas] and we all carry a lot of energy in each practice, which is really what matters the most. This team has an unlimited amount of potential, so with time and a little bit of rest, we'll light it up at Austin."

## UPDATES

Sophomore **Anastasia Rychagova**, ranked No. 65 nationally in women's tennis, won her singles match and both doubles matches on Jan. 7, the final day of the Maui Invitational. The Jayhawks were 21-6 in three days of competition against Hawaii and Washington State. The Jayhawk Tennis Center at Rock Chalk Park opens Jan. 20 with a match against Saint Louis. ...

Football's incoming recruits include a former starting quarterback for Washington State, junior **Peyton Bender**. Coach **David Beaty**, who received a contract extension through 2021, indicated that the QB job would likely be decided between Bender and sophomore **Carter Stanley**, who led KU to a 24-21 victory over Texas Nov. 19. ... Sophomore defensive end

**Dorance Armstrong Jr.** was a unanimous selection as first-team All-Big 12. Senior safety **Fish Smithson** was also named first-team All-Big 12, and sophomore defensive lineman **Daniel Wise** was recognized by ESPN. ...

Big 12 cross-country champion **Sharon Lokedi**, Big 12 Women's Runner of the Year, ran fifth at the Nov. 19 NCAA Championships in Terre Haute, Indiana, the best NCAA finish by any KU cross-country runner since **John Lawson**, j'92, won the men's title in 1965. ... After placing second in the Big 12's regular season, its best conference performance since 2004, the soccer team opened the NCAA Tournament with a 1-0, double-overtime victory over Missouri Nov. 13 at Rock Chalk Park. The game-winner was a close-range strike by



Lokedi

junior **Lois Heuchan**, off a pinpoint pass by sophomore **Grace Hagan**. The Jayhawks were eliminated five days later by NCAA semifinalist North Carolina. ...

**Brandon Rush**, named to the Final Four All-Tournament Team after KU's championship run in 2008, will have his No. 25 jersey retired during the Feb. 22 men's basketball game against TCU. "This is a big, big deal to have your number retired in the rafters of the field house," said

Rush, who now plays for the Minnesota Timberwolves alongside former KU teammate **Cole Aldrich**, c'13, and **Andrew Wiggins**, '17. ...

Sophomore **McKenzie Calvert** was named Co-Big 12 Player of the Week Dec. 27 after scoring 30 points in women's basketball's 90-84 victory over UC Riverside. Junior guard **Jessica Washington** scored 16 in KU's 75-51 rout of Arizona Dec. 17.

# Sports Photographs by Steve Puppe



New Stanford coach and former KU great Jerod Haase, b'97, g'01, returned to Allen Field House (above) Dec. 3. "He'll be the most-loved head coach in the building," coach Bill Self (far left) said before KU's 89-74 victory. "He deserves that." Other action for the Jayhawks included tipoff of the Sunflower Showdown Jan. 3 against Kansas State (top), Landen Lucas (33) and Svi Mykhailiuk (10) hustling for a rebound (above left) Jan. 7 against Texas Tech, and Devonte' Graham, Carlton Bragg Jr. and Lagerald Vick (left) celebrating a 30-point victory Nov. 29 over Long Beach State.



# Champion for Change

**I**n late November, as campus slowed its pace and students departed for Thanksgiving break, Shegufta Huma made the familiar, two-and-a-half-hour drive from Lawrence to her hometown of Bel Aire, a small suburb northeast of Wichita.

“It was the first time I went back all semester,” she admits. “I just haven’t had the time.”

While most parents would disapprove of their youngest child’s extended absence from home, Huma’s family likely was understanding. The political science major, who also graduates this spring with a minor in Spanish, had just been named the University’s 27th Rhodes Scholar after a whirlwind weekend in Chicago.

“I was kind of in a daze,” she says, describing the moment she won the prestigious award. “I just texted my sister, who was with my parents, and said, ‘GOT IT’ in all caps.”

Of course, a phone call to her parents soon followed, and Huma heard firsthand the joy and excitement in their voices.

Family has always played a significant role in the young scholar’s life. Born in Bangladesh in 1994, Huma moved to the

## Rhodes Scholar cements her role as an advocate for marginalized communities

Wichita area with her father, mother and older sister just a month shy of her second birthday. They joined Huma’s aunt, her mother’s younger sister, who lived nearby with her husband and family.

“Growing up in Wichita was pretty interesting,” Huma recalls. “Coming of age in the post-9/11 political climate, in a place like Kansas, really forced me to confront a lot of realities not only about myself, but also about other people from marginalized communities.”

Huma had just turned 7 when the Sept. 11 attacks occurred. That tragic sequence of events—and the anti-Muslim response that unfolded in its wake—helped shape her desire to become a vocal advocate for immigrants and other marginalized communities. Now, 15 years after that fateful day, Huma is poised to take a major step toward accomplishing that goal as she joins 31 U.S. Rhodes Scholars next year at Oxford University in England, where she will pursue two years of graduate studies in public policy, social justice and human rights.

by **Heather Biele**

Photographs by Steve Puppe

**H**uma proudly asserts that she inherited her fighting spirit from her parents. Her mother and father grew up in Bangladesh during a particularly tumultuous time in their country’s history, when genocide, deportations and other atrocities led to the Liberation War of 1971.

“My parents came of age during a time of bloody revolution,” Huma says. “My dad, in his college days, was a political activist and very much involved with resistance efforts in Bangladesh.”

Following in her father’s footsteps, Huma established herself as a leader at a young age, serving as president of the Muslim Club at Wichita East High School and vice president of Model United Nations, an academic simulation program for high school students who want to learn



about global issues and policymaking. She did all this while excelling in the school's International Baccalaureate program, a grueling academic endeavor for even the highest-achieving students.

"Educators in my life have been very influential in terms of making me care and dedicate myself to my academics," Huma says. "Even as far back as elementary school, I had educators—some of whom I still keep in touch with—who saw something in me that I didn't really see in myself at that time. They not only celebrated that, but they also helped me in whatever way they could to further my prospects in terms of school and a career."

One of those instructors is Jennifer Fry, who taught English at Wichita East High School. "When you combine her personal life story with her scholarly passion, that's what especially sets her apart," says Fry. "Life was not easy as a first-generation Muslim female student, and it continues to be challenging. She's very, very committed and passionate about making a difference.

"She's someone who makes you think about things in ways you hadn't thought of before," says Anne Wallen, who works closely with Huma in the University Honors Program. "And she does it in a way that is disarming and surprising and just really delightful."

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That also requires a high degree of bravery and courage. And she's up to the task."

Bolstered by the support she received from her high-school teachers, Huma carefully researched her options—and considered her close ties with her family—before selecting KU to further her studies. "It was close enough to home that my parents felt secure with the decision and that they would still have access to see me," she explains. "But it was also far enough away from home that I felt like I would be able to have the college experience and gain some more independence. I also decided to come here because I was accepted into the Honors Program. I knew the Honors Program was a community that I would want to be a part of if I was going to go to a huge research institution like KU."

The University Honors Program provided the close-knit community Huma hoped for. From her first moments on campus, even before she was fully entrenched in the program, she understood its value. "It allowed me to continue having the type of supportive communities that I was accustomed to," she says. "It allowed me to have that in college, which was not something that I was expecting. I was able to take honors courses that were oftentimes very small; some classes were even smaller than classes I took in high school. I felt that I was really able to connect to a lot of my professors in very personal and meaningful ways."

Anne Wallen, assistant director for national fellowships and scholarships and director of the University Honors Program, describes the program as a liberal



arts college experience within a large research university. “Our students come in more likely to want to really hit the ground running, doing research and being very involved in student government and organizations,” says Wallen, c’03, who has worked closely with Huma for the past two years. “Our students are more likely to study abroad. Our job is to provide resources to help them make all of those things happen.”

Huma took advantage of many opportunities the University Honors Program provided. She immersed herself in student government and several other organizations, serving as president of the Muslim Student Association and a student senator for the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences and eventually being elected as vice president of University Senate. She also was one of 20 sophomores selected for the University Scholars Program. During the spring semester of her sophomore year, she helped found the Imagine Coalition, recognizing a need for change in the way Student Senate served the University.

“We decided to create our own coalition, because student government as it existed was not serving the needs of marginalized students,” says Huma, who helped manage the coalition’s campaign that ran on a platform of diversity, equity and inclusion.

But Huma’s newfound role as a leader on campus didn’t come without challenges. “I definitely faced a lot of backlash from people, both within and outside of this institution, for daring to criticize anything that is wrong in the status quo—for daring to want to change the ills that are plaguing this institution,” she says. “My colleagues and I dealt with a lot of backlash, because our platforms were based on social justice and equity.”

Precious Porras, director of KU’s Office of Multicultural Affairs, witnessed the tremendous impact Huma made during the election. “She was a key driving force in organizing a lot of that campaign and pushing forward,” Porras says. “While they ultimately lost, I think she really branded herself as a leader on campus, especially in terms of being a voice for marginalized students.”

**“Life was not easy as a first-generation Muslim female student, and it continues to be challenging. She’s very, very committed and passionate about making a difference. That also requires a high degree of bravery and courage. And she’s up to the task.”** —Jennifer Fry

Huma used her powerful voice to speak out against several other injustices on campus that year. While the Imagine Coalition campaign was underway, anti-Muslim social media posts created by four KU fraternity members and other students surfaced online. As president of the Muslim Student Association at the time, Huma worked to educate the University community about the harmful effects of these actions and to prevent similar events in the future.

“She immediately responded to and mediated—I think in a very respectful manner—a conversation between Greek life and the interim provost on how best to respond and resolve that event,” says Porras. “It was resolved in a manner which most students would not have the maturity to approach. She’s consistently committed to giving voice to the voiceless with such grace and maturity.”

Although Huma had grown accustomed to anti-Muslim incidents on campus and in her everyday life, nothing could have prepared her for the kind of harassment she received the following spring. While serving as an intern at the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights in Washington, D.C., during the 2016 U.S. presidential campaign, she publicly criticized pro-Trump and anti-Muslim comments that were written in chalk on the sidewalks of KU’s campus.

“After that I probably received the most backlash I’ve gotten in my life,” Huma recalls. “I wasn’t even on campus, and I was receiving hundreds and hundreds of hateful messages online from people wanting me raped, dead or deported, things like that.

“It just changed everything. I was very

personally confronted with the bigotry. That *really* catalyzed my desire to want to dedicate everything to fighting towards social justice for the communities that I’m a part of and working in coalition with other marginalized communities across the world.”

**D**espite the difficulties Huma has endured, she hasn’t let up in her commitment to the causes she believes in. Last year, she became the University Honors Program’s first peer outreach advisor to ensure that all KU students are aware of the multitude of fellowships and scholarships available to them.

“As someone who has been a beneficiary of the system,” Huma says, “I felt it was really important to pay it forward and really spread the word to other people who could benefit from the fellowship and scholarship process at KU.”

Huma also accepted a position last fall as a peer educator for the Office of Multicultural Affairs, conducting training and workshops on social justice education and cultural competency for her peers and student organizations on campus.

Working closely with the University Honors Program and the Office of Multicultural Affairs was a natural fit for Huma, who says both organizations provided an immense amount of support during her struggles at KU.

“The University Honors Program has been very supportive of me not only in my academic life and academic triumphs, but also in a lot of the hardships that I faced at KU,” says Huma. “Whenever it felt like I haven’t had institutional support for causes

that I've advocated for, the support system that I have in the University Honors Program has never failed to help lift me up and carry me through whatever issues I was struggling through."

Those who know Huma well know that much of her strength comes from within. "She's just extremely determined and dedicated," says Wallen, who guided Huma through the application processes for the Rhodes and Truman scholarships, both of which she was a finalist for. "She's been through a lot, especially in the past year. She's just sort of reached this point where she has accepted that she's going to have challenges, but the things she cares about are important enough that she's willing to fight through it. And that's what she's going to do: She's going to keep fighting."

Hannah Britton, associate professor of political science and director of the Center for the Study of Injustice at the Institute of Policy & Social Research at KU, has also witnessed Huma's strength in the face of adversity. As one of Huma's instructors in fall 2015, during a time when the University was rocked by protests and reports of racism and discrimination following the Nov. 11 town hall forum on race, respect, responsibility and free speech, Britton saw

a rare form of leadership emerge from her student.

"She's one of the strongest leaders and agents for change I have encountered," Britton says. "She stands up for things she believes in, even at great personal cost to herself."

Britton has no doubt Huma will continue to persevere with great strength and purpose as she advocates for systemic change across the globe.

"She has a very strong vision for what she thinks the world should look like," Britton continues. "And unlike a lot of students, she also has very clear plans. She says more than just, 'I want to make a difference.' She really *will* make a difference."



With most of her political science coursework behind her, Huma will dedicate her remaining time at KU to planning her studies at Oxford University, where she'll pursue a master's degree in refugee and forced migration studies during her first year, followed by a year earning her master's degree in public policy.

"I'm really hoping that Oxford can open

the door for me to be able to work with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees," says Huma. "That would be amazing. Maybe someday work in the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees, & Migration."

As evidenced by her unshakable leadership and advocacy for marginalized communities on campus, Huma has already laid the foundation to make those goals attainable. She will walk away from KU knowing that she never gave up, that she provided a voice for those who may not have had the courage to speak for themselves.

"I hope that future Jayhawks can see that if you really stay true to the values that you hold dear and fight for the causes that you believe in, it will be worth it and things will work out for you," says Huma.

"Sometimes when it feels like you are facing hurdle after hurdle, setback after setback, for advocating for the causes that you believe in, it can be really easy to be dogged down and to give up," she continues. "But as I have experienced with this entire process of winning the Rhodes Scholarship, I really do think that eventually the universe will reward you for your efforts." —



# The Fred Ellsworth MEDALLION



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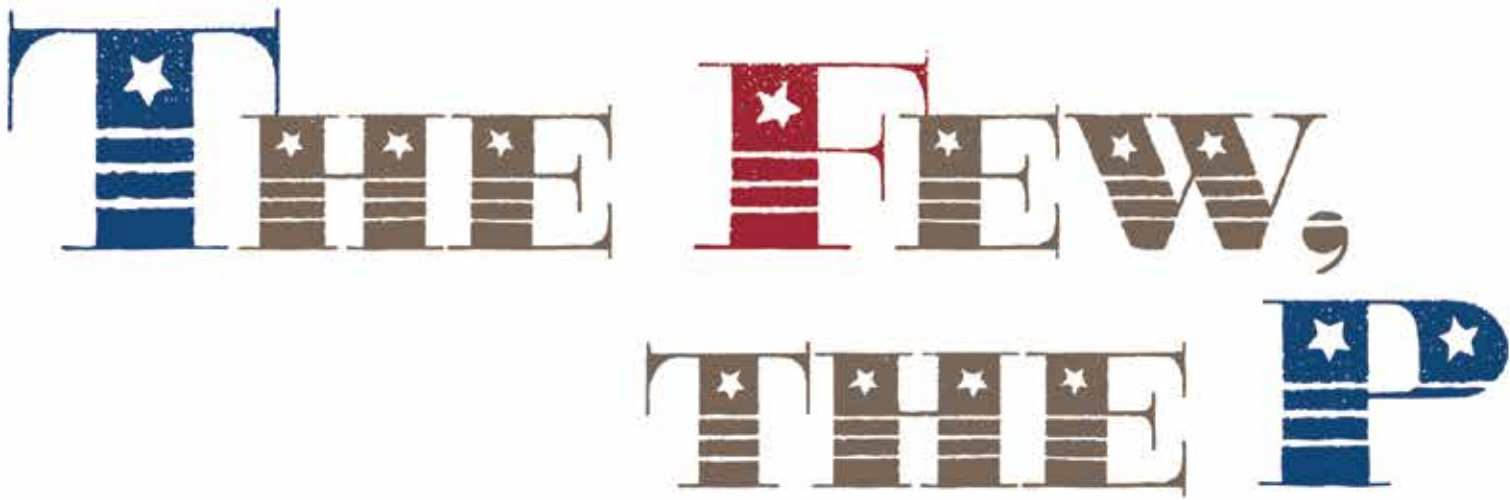
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## Jayhawk officers singled out for the Leftwich Trophy, the Marine Corps' highest honor for infantry leadership

by **Chris Lazzarino**

**E**ach element of the U.S. military bestows within its ranks awards and honors unique to the branch. For the U.S. Marine Corps, none has higher status than the Leftwich Trophy, which once a year honors the infantry captain “who best exemplifies outstanding leadership within the Ground Combat Arms community.”

A point of pride for the few and the proud is that every Marine is infantry. While true in spirit, not all Marines become infantrymen; those who serve in different areas of expertise are not eligible for the Leftwich Trophy.

“In the Marine Corps there’s one trophy that matters. One. And that’s the Leftwich Trophy,” says Martin Minnich, c’06, a retired Marine officer now studying mathematics in San Luis Obispo, California. “It is the pinnacle. If you’re a Marine officer and you’re awarded the Leftwich Trophy, you are in a long legacy of great, and I mean absolutely great, U.S. Marines.”

Mike Denning, c’83, director of KU’s Office of Graduate Military Programs, president of the Alumni Association’s KU Veterans Alumni Network and a former Marine Corps aviator who retired as a colonel after 27 years of service, was thrilled when he learned that Ryan Sparks, c’97, a now-retired Marine captain, had been awarded the 2011 Leftwich Trophy—and a Silver Star—for his actions at the 2010 Battle of Marjah.



“Marines doing the right thing,” Denning says. “That’s what the Leftwich Trophy is recognizing, those captains in command who are making decisions and taking action, demonstrating the leadership that has strategic consequences for our nation.”

As thrilled as Denning and his fellow veterans on Mount Oread were to learn about Sparks’ honor, the next piece of news almost stopped them cold: Five years later, in May 2016, Capt. Thomas Morrow, c’06, was also awarded the Leftwich Trophy, for leadership of a training deployment that saw his Marines dispersed across eastern Asia and the Pacific.

“The fact that KU, over the period of the last five years, had two of these guys ... well, you would expect for that to be Naval Academy,” Denning says. “Two Jayhawks with the Leftwich Trophy? That’s why this is really a great story.”

**F**eb. 12, 2010: Capt. Ryan Sparks stands before the men of Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment. Tomorrow begins the largest assault of the

# ROUND



long war in Afghanistan, against Taliban fighters, narcotraffickers and other assorted ruffians burrowed into Marjah, in the large southern province of Helmand.

Two and a half months earlier, on Dec. 1, 2009, President Barack Obama announced that 30,000 additional troops would head for Afghanistan; less than six hours after the president's West Point speech, Bravo Company's advance team had already departed Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. The rest soon followed.

"We were the first," Sparks says. "Packed, ready to go, and we were gone."

Sparks suspected that they were headed to Marjah—a command and control hub for opium traders and terrorist networks, a safe haven for foreign fighters flooding the area—and he was right.

Bravo Company was ready to join the fight.

"I had been building this company, 200 Marines, for a year," Sparks says, explaining that at various times he guessed incorrectly that they'd be deployed to Iraq or Japan. "We're watching CNN every

night to see what was going to happen."

At Camp Dwyer, in southern Helmand Province, battle planners produced a map of the region and drew a circle around Marjah. Various Marine companies would assemble at staging areas around the perimeter and attack the city from the outside. One company of Marines would be ordered to go in the opposite direction.

"Who's doing that?" Sparks recalls asking the officers in charge of staging the fight to come. "They're like, 'Well, that's you. You're going to fly in with your 200 Marines and 100 Afghan soldiers, in the middle of the night. We're going to plan to not be able to resupply you for two days and you're going to fight your way out.'"

Under a brilliant desert sky, the men of Bravo Company listen intently as Sparks, a recruiting-poster Marine, his

captain's bars glistening in the sun, clicks off a few highlights of the company's preparation, much of which had been more cerebral than physical, including Kantian and utilitarian ethics, theories and philosophies on life and death, explorations of Judeo-Christian and Muslim values.

"Trust me," Sparks says, as captured by freelance videographer Ben Johnson, who later turned months of footage into "The Battle for Marjah," an HBO documentary, "this is going to be chaotic."

As these men had learned at the outset of their assembly as Bravo Company, their leader—one of the first Marines sent to Afghanistan in fall 2001, as an enlisted member of Marine Force Recon—was more than a man of action. He also brimmed with intelligence and reflection.

At Fallujah in 2004, the 3rd Battalion of the 1st Marine Regiment, Sparks' unit at



COURTESY MARINE CORPS ASSOCIATION

STEVE PUPPE



Ryan Sparks (left and above) received the Leftwich Trophy May 5, 2011, from Gen. Joseph F. Dunford Jr., then assistant commandant of the Marine Corps. The trophy (detail, p. 27) was created by Felix de Weldon, designer of the revered U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial, which depicts Marines raising the flag on Iwo Jima.

the time, endured five months of daily gunfights, "but it wasn't like a full-on attack." Then came two months of all-out urban combat, during which Sparks' battalion was "the main effort," or primary war fighters given the critical missions upon which the success of other aspects of the battle would hinge. "A very intense deployment," Sparks summarizes dryly. Six months after returning to San Diego, 3rd Battalion deployed again, this time to

a western Iraqi city called Haditha.

The commander of Lima Company and his officers, including Sparks, used the short stateside turnaround to begin combat training anew, consciously pushing their Fallujah experience aside in favor of picture-perfect training-manual techniques. Fallujah, they predicted, had been too much of an outlier, and Marine units that replicated the unique intensity of that battle would likely make mistakes.

They were, unfortunately, correct. A detachment of Marines from neighboring Kilo Company, which had undergone a leadership turnover before heading to Haditha, killed two dozen unarmed men, women and children, allegedly in retribution for an attack on a Marine convoy.

"In Fallujah, not that killing civilians was OK, but there just weren't any there," Sparks says. "And so the conditioned responses were different and the threat was a lot different. So we went back and kind of reset everybody. Our guys were very successful there. We didn't lose a single Marine on that deployment."

When finally given command of his own company, Sparks knew that the first test of his leadership would be in the training, all of which came to a head as his company

assembled for the final time before boarding assault helicopters and flying straight into the heart of a fight around which the others circled.

Sparks reminds his men about their lessons in “the gift of aggression.” When the enemy chooses to engage U.S. Marines, he is choosing to die. “Destroy him,” Sparks says flatly. “Immediately.” The captain also cautions, “I guarantee you we will lose Marines. I guarantee you that we will. Don’t let emotions control you.”

He is not ranting, frothing, fist pounding or foot stomping. He is crisp and cool.

“What happens over the next five days,” Sparks says, “will be a cornerstone of your memory for the rest of your life.”

*In the early morning hours, Company B conducted a low-light heliborne assault to seize the Taliban stronghold in the Koru Chareh village. ... Undaunted by [enemy fire], Captain Sparks moved from position to position, covering hundreds of meters of open terrain in order to effectively direct his platoons. With complete disregard for his own safety, Captain Sparks led his company from the front, refusing to lose momentum and cede the initiative to the enemy.*

—Citation for the Silver Star, awarded Sept. 28, 2011

For his “calm demeanor, confidence under fire, and exceptional tactical prowess,” as well as “bold leadership, determination, and complete dedication to duty,” Sparks was awarded the Silver Star, the U.S. military’s third-highest decoration for valor in combat. Only four were awarded from the Battle of Marjah, and Sparks was the lone officer so honored.

“That was probably the worst day of my life; you rely on great leaders like Capt. Sparks to help you get through the day,” Staff Sgt. Kevin Irons told a Marine Corps reporter at Sparks’ Silver Star ceremony. “He’s an incredible leader and definitely deserves this award. Every day he inspired us all to get the job done and worked hard to get us all home safely.”

And then came an honor not loftier, but still more rare: the Leftwich Trophy, given once a year since 1979, in honor of Navy Cross winner Lt. Col. William G. Leftwich,

***“In the Marine Corps there’s one trophy that matters. One. And that’s the Leftwich Trophy. It is the pinnacle. If you’re a Marine officer and you’re awarded the Leftwich Trophy, you are in a long legacy of great, and I mean absolutely great, U.S. Marines.”***—Martin Minnich



who was killed while leading an extraction mission during his second combat tour in Vietnam.

“There’s so many lessons out of that award for me,” Sparks says of the Leftwich Trophy. “There’s no way to earn or aim for the greatest things you’re going to achieve. That’s number one. Two, that’s a leadership award specifically, but there’s also no way to do it on your own. My team won that award.

“You focus on other people. As a company commander, probably more than any other time in my life, I spent all my energy and all of my time and all of my passion toward making my Marines better, enabling them, spending time with them, mentoring them, coaching them, making the team better. And then when we were in combat, making it a real thing, being with the people there.”

**T**homas Morrow, a captain when he received the Leftwich last spring and now a major, was in the middle of a two-week training exercise with the Marines of Weapons Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines, at Marine Corps Base Hawaii when he received a call from another battalion captain, informing him that he had won the Leftwich Trophy.

“I didn’t believe it. I thought he was joking at first,” Major Morrow says from his office at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, where he is now the 2/3’s battalion operations officer. “I didn’t think that I individually deserve this, and I still don’t,

because it’s never just me. It’s the team that provided this. I hope they really understand it’s about their efforts, and not necessarily mine. I’m just the face, and not a good one at that.”

The 2015 deployment for which Morrow was singled out saw Weapons Company strewn across its Asia-Pacific area of operations. While the bulk of the battalion trained with their South Korean counterparts, Morrow’s company sent a mortar team to Okinawa and a scout sniper and mortar detachment joined a three-month exercise with troops from Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand. Morrow’s Marines were also dispatched to mainland Japan and the Philippines.

Morrow, according to commanding officer Lt. Col. Ryan Hoyle, as quoted in the Marine Corps Times, “built the best infantry company I’ve observed while serving in five different infantry battalions over 20 years.”

The son of a retired Marine infantry officer, Tom Morrow came to KU from Libertyville, Illinois, north of Chicago. He had hoped to land a Navy ROTC scholarship, but instead won only a stipend that helped with expenses but did not cover tuition. He carried on, and quickly embraced the infantry, not to follow his father’s lead but in pursuit of what he judged to be his strengths and passions.

“The things that associate themselves with being an infantryman are the things I ended up liking,” Morrow says. “The physical aspect of it, the challenge of the austerity, just you and your Marines

solving problems and tackling challenges. That met my personality.”

Martin Minnich, then a 28-year-old freshman, had already spent 10 years as an enlisted Marine, and attended KU as part of the Marines’ Enlisted Commissioning Education program. Despite the age gap, he developed unexpectedly close comradeship with a few fellow Navy ROTC freshmen, including Morrow.

“Right from the beginning of the program, Tom Morrow was mature, he had a goal before him and he never wavered from that goal,” Minnich says. “You’ll find that the majority of candidates KU sends [to Officer Candidate School] are going to be in the top 10 percent of that program. It’s not just that they’re out there winning the Leftwich Trophy, but they’re out there at every event that they’re participating in and making a solid reputation for the school. KU has a very, very good reputation for putting out quality Marines.”

As a second lieutenant, Morrow in October 2007 was in charge of a joint security station, partnered with Iraqi police, in northern Ramadi. As a first lieutenant, he commanded a combined anti-armor platoon that patrolled a wide range of Afghanistan’s Helmand Province.

Along the way, he was careful to absorb lessons from officers he respected as well as those he viewed as less than ideal.

“Strangely enough,” Morrow says, “one of the things that shaped who I am as a leader are the bad examples I’ve had, both in and outside of the Marine Corps, people you look at and you say, ‘I do not want to replicate whatever he was or did.’ So you see what’s wrong to be able to do what’s right.”

Like Sparks, Morrow drew upon his KU liberal arts education in training young Marines under his command, most notably the “What is the good life?” explorations he encountered in Western Civ I and II.

“I have since related ‘What is the good life?’ to what we often think of as providing ‘the why’ behind our actions,” Morrow says. “I have subordinate leaders who are smarter than I ever was or will be, but I can challenge them with those things that



MARINE CORPS PHOTO BY CPL. NATALIE DILLON

were provided to me by KU. Why are they doing this? What are they looking to provide? And not to themselves or their families, but to their country.

“We’re all trying to provide a good life, to either Americans or the people we’re defending abroad, so in a kind of round-about way, I reach back to that: What is the good life?”

**E**xceptional leaders of fighting men and women extend their leadership beyond the battlefield. Of particular recent interest to Sparks is *Tribe*, a slim, thoughtful book by author and war correspondent Sebastian Junger.

“Today’s veterans often come home to find that, although they’re willing to die for their country, they’re not sure how to live for it,” writes Junger, who contends that loss of tribal identity is as much a cause of psychological collapse as are vivid combat memories. “It’s hard to know how to live for a country that regularly tears itself apart along every possible ethnic and demographic boundary. ... It’s complete madness, and the veterans know this.”

Among Junger’s suggestions is that we devote Veterans Day to community forums where veterans are invited to stand and say whatever is on their minds, to finally be heard, and that as a price of



COURTESY, MARINE CORPS ASSOCIATION

Tom Morrow at Marine Corps Base Hawaii (top), during the world’s largest international maritime exercise, Rim of the Pacific 2016, and receiving the Leftwich Trophy (above) from Gen. Robert B. Neller, commandant of the Marine Corps, on May 5, 2016.

citizenship, their fellow Americans attend and give those voices the respect they deserve. The notion intrigues Sparks, who remains in regular contact with his former Marines to encourage them in their civilian lives.

Despite his best intentions, his leadership is sometimes no longer enough to see his Marines through to safety.



“I’ve lost guys to suicide, and continue to,” he says. “Eventually I’ll lose more guys to suicide than I have enemy fire, I’m sure.”

Sparks’ dedication to enlisted Marines is so intense that it drove him to become an officer in the first place.

Splitting his time between his parents’ homes in Overland Park and San Diego, Sparks grew up a sun-bleached surfer. His wheels at KU were the VW van he drove here from the beaches of Southern California. “I was,” he says with a smile, “the only member of the KU surf team.”

But a serious streak lurked within. Sparks’ grandfather, Vincent Smiley, a torpedo bomber pilot in World War II, was awarded the Navy Cross for extraordinary heroism in the July 28, 1945, attack on the Japanese fleet at the heavily fortified anchorage near Honshu.

“With a grandfather like that,” Sparks says, “I always had an inclination to serve.”

He applied for the Marine Corps’ Platoon Leaders officer commissioning program while at KU, with the hope of becoming a Marine aviator, but was denied. The official reason was, incredibly, for dandruff; in reality, it was the height of the mid-1990s drawdown, and the Marine Corps was not inclined to grant waivers to its strict entrance regulations.

So Sparks embraced his KU experience, including a Study Abroad year at the University of Exeter, and after graduation he spent a year “just trying to figure it out.” He took a series of odd jobs—Sparks put himself through school by working summer construction—and when he finally tired of Lake Tahoe, where he was a snowboard instructor, Sparks returned to Lawrence, walked into the Marine Corps recruiting office at 23rd and Louisiana streets and enlisted. “A very rare path,” he says of a college graduate joining the Marines’ enlisted ranks.

He intended to get the military out of his system by serving for a few years before returning to KU for law school and an eventual career in politics. First, though, he had to see his enlistment through, and Sparks realized that the best way to loosen the grip of strict regulations was to be the best. He was No. 1 in boot camp, No. 1 at infantry school, and, when

he found himself seeking a fresh challenge, he joined the elite Marine Force Recon.

On Sept. 11, 2001, his Force Recon unit was already deployed in Australia, and they were the first American forces sent into the fight, securing an airfield in Pakistan to prepare for the arrival of Air Force combat search and rescue teams that would precede Army Rangers and Green Berets headed to Afghanistan.

Sparks returned from Afghanistan in March 2002 and left the Marines three months later. He returned home to Kansas City, but, rather than applying to law school, Sparks found himself back in a Marine Corps recruiting office.

“I’m one of the 1,000 combat vets in the entire U.S. military. I think I should go,” he told the recruiter. “You have war on the horizon. I think I should come back.”

He was accepted for pilot training, but, after completing Officer Candidate School, Sparks wrote to the commandant of the Marine Corps, asking to be let out of his flight contract.

“I’m a Force Recon combat vet. I should be leading infantrymen,” Sparks says. “I know that people will die who shouldn’t die if I don’t do this.”

This time Sparks got his waiver, and by November 2004 he was in Fallujah as a second lieutenant in charge of a huge combined anti-armor platoon of more than 90 Marines. By the time he reached his fourth combat deployment, at the Battle of Marjah, Sparks had years of experience in preparing Marines for combat, so when Bravo Company assembled before dropping into the center of Marjah, Sparks relied on no notes.

“It’s kind of how you know you’re in the right place, right? You reach a level of mastery where you don’t have to craft anything. That’s all free flow.”

His pre-combat speech was about more than the battle his men would soon face. It was also about how his Marines should conduct themselves in a manner that would allow them to return with honor. As seen in the documentary, a neighboring company dropped explosives on a house harboring three families, injuring 11 and killing four children; Sparks’ Bravo team, trained in “a culture of ethical response,”


did not inflict a single civilian casualty in its seven-month deployment.

Sparks, who now leads a technology implementation team for Chase Commerce Solutions in New York City, returned in November to KU, where he met with the KU Veterans Alumni Network, attended Marine Corps birthday celebrations at the Dole Institute of Politics and Salute to Service ceremonies during the football game against Iowa State, and visited the Center for Business, Industry and National Security at the School of Business, a fledgling program led by lecturer Tom Jindra, g’01.

Among other activities linking military and civilians, Jindra’s KU program brings together midcareer soldiers with executives from business, industry, the federal government and academia. The goal is to develop leadership skills by sharing insights and expertise while also gaining appreciation for colleagues from different career fields.


“When they work together on common issues,” Jindra says, “they begin to understand one another. It’s a way to connect, and those connections are awfully important.”

Says Sparks, “Tom Jindra’s program is fantastic. There needs to be more things like that.”

And more leaders like Sparks and Morrow, a mission KU accepts gladly. 



## More online

“The Battle for Marjah,” an award-winning documentary featuring Capt. Ryan Sparks and the Marines of Bravo Company, can be seen in its entirety at [youtube.com/watch?v=b9Pq5JZ2Fd8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b9Pq5JZ2Fd8). 





**In his first feature film  
as writer and director,  
Paul Shoulberg  
creates a monument  
to family and faith**

**by Steven Hill**

Portrait by James Brosher

**E**VERY CULTURE HAS ONE:  
A CREATION MYTH, A  
FOUNDATIONAL STORY  
THAT EXPLAINS HOW IT ALL BEGAN.  
ADAM MEETS EVE. VISHNU  
AWAKENS. RAVEN TRICKS MAN.

Many families have their own creation story, the tale of how Mom and Dad met. Growing up, Paul Shoulberg believed that his family's was nothing special.

"I always knew that my dad had been a priest and my mom was a nun and they met and fell in love and quit doing that and had a family," says Shoulberg, c'04. "I thought it was pretty normal. But as far back as I can remember, people would be like, 'Oh, my God, that's a hell of a story. That's a crazy story.'

"And when I started to write they were like, 'Well, why aren't you writing that?'"

It took time—and the death of his father—but Shoulberg eventually saw the dramatic possibilities of a love story whose plot twists include a special dispensation from the pope. "The Good Catholic," his first feature as both writer and director, is loosely based on the courtship of his parents, Don, PhD'75, and Gini Shoulberg, g'72, who married in 1971. Rather than a true-to-life retelling of their relationship, the film, set in the present day and shot in Bloomington, Indiana, is instead a loving homage to Don, who died in March 2013, just as production was beginning on "Walter," Paul Shoulberg's first script to be made into a feature-length movie.

"His death led directly to this film," says Shoulberg of his father, who worked at



**“There’s a heart to this story that just grabs you immediately. It tackles these very large issues of love and faith and family in a way that only Paul’s writing can—which is to hit you as incredibly funny one moment and the next moment, when you least expect it, bring you down to this very contemplative place.” —Zachary Spicer**

deal with the influence exerted by his fellow priests, a strict, by-the-book father played by Glover and a more irreverent, worldly priest played by McGinley.

“I’ve read everything Paul has ever written, and something just shone out of this story that wasn’t there before,” says Spicer, who co-founded a production company, Pigasus Pictures, to produce the movie. “There’s a heart to this story that just grabs you immediately. It tackles these very large issues of love and faith and family in a way that only Paul’s writing can—which is to hit you as incredibly funny one moment and the next moment, when you least expect it, bring you down to this very contemplative place.

“That heart and that connection with his father made us know we had to take a chance and make this movie.”

The central question of the film is not what makes one a good Catholic, Shoulberg says. “The question is what makes you a good human, and by good I don’t mean virtuous. What makes you useful to the world? What makes you somebody that can be good to other people? The thought is, you’re not really

KU’s Student Health Services and taught in the School of Social Welfare before going into private practice as a marriage and family therapist. Though he was thrilled to watch his “Walter” script brought to the screen by another director, the process also made Paul realize that he wanted to not only write, but also direct. If he was going to commit the time and energy needed to pull that off, he decided, it had to be a story that meant a lot to him.

“I couldn’t think of anything more important than delving into something based on my dad, to deal with all the stuff you have to deal with when you lose a parent,” Shoulberg says. “His death really

made me think, ‘You’re not here forever, and if you’re going to create something, it has to be a story you’ll always be glad you told.’”

Starring veteran actors Danny Glover and John C. McGinley alongside relative newcomers Zachary Spicer and Wrenn Schmidt, “The Good Catholic” crackles with sharp dialogue, sexual tension and intense emotion as Daniel, a young Catholic priest played by Spicer, grapples with his commitment to God and the church after encountering Jane, a free-spirited singer, during a late-night confession. As their relationship deepens, Daniel must confront his own doubts and

COURTESY PIGASUS PICTURES (3)



Paul Shoulberg with actor and Pigasus Pictures co-founder Zachary Spicer on the set of “The Good Catholic.” “Paul took a huge chance on me as an actor,” Spicer says, “and I guess we took a chance on him as a director. But the quality of his storytelling is such that it just didn’t seem that big a chance to me.”

...serving anyone if you're not being true to yourself. Can you really see God if you're not following your heart?"

Can a person serve God without following their heart? That was among the questions faced by Don, a Roman Catholic priest and master's student at Duke Divinity School, and Gini Hartigan, a Dominican nun and teacher, who met in Durham, North Carolina, in 1967. They were introduced by a priest on the church steps before Mass.

Afterward, Don joined Gini and the other sisters at the convent for breakfast. "He stayed several hours, just talking to everybody, and we had a wonderful discussion," Gini Shoulberg recalls. "When he left—they teased me about it later—I said, 'I could talk to him forever.'"

Over the next two years they grew close. "He became a soul mate," Gini says. "He and I were on the same wavelength spiritually. I just thought, 'This is good.' We were just very close friends."

In May 1969, Gini was asked to leave her job teaching junior high school and join an experimental community her order was starting. Don won an internship in Houston to study marriage and family counseling. She loved her job, loved the parish, loved Durham. When she sought his advice, he confessed that he had strong feelings for her that were troubling him.

"I went on about how feelings are just feelings, you don't have to act on them," she says. "And that's how it ended. But that night, it just exploded." She'd decided to become a nun at age 12, she explains, and feelings repressed through high school and college now burst forth.

"It panicked me. I thought, 'I'm supposed to be a nun; I can't be feeling like this.'"

Don left for Houston, Gini stayed in Durham, and over the course of the next year apart they wrestled with what to do.

Don decided first. "He said, 'I'm leaving the priesthood. I want to be married,'"



Gini and Don Shoulberg after their move to Lawrence in the early 1970s. Don and Paul at Paul's wedding in 2005.



Gini recalls. "I said, 'I can't let you do it.' And he said, 'You don't have a choice what I do; you gotta make your own decision.'"

It took her a couple of months longer to find her answer. The turning point came when she spoke to a Presbyterian minister, a former Duke classmate of Don's.

"The first question he asked me, he said, 'Leave the church aside, leave Don aside, leave everything aside: What do *you* want to do?'"

These were the days after Vatican II, the

Vatican council that modernized many of the Roman Catholic Church's teachings. But for those raised in the church and educated in Catholic schools, some of the old teachings died hard.

"I said, 'I want to be married, but if I do God won't love me,'" Gini recalls. "And those words freed me completely, because I knew that was ridiculous. I was earning God's love, because that's how we were brought up: You have to earn it because you're really a bad person."



Zachary Spicer, Paul Shoulberg and David Anspaugh. Enlisting the director of Indiana's two most well-known films, "Hoosiers" and "Rudy," as executive director for "The Good Catholic" was a key step forward for the Bloomington-based production.

Gini finished the school year, resigned her job and left her vows. Don announced his intention to leave the priesthood, which required permission from the pope. She flew to Houston to meet him, and together they drove to Lawrence, where he'd landed a job at KU, to begin their life together.

Don worked at Watkins Memorial Hospital and taught in the School of Social Welfare until 1982, when he joined the Menninger Clinic in Kansas City. He moved to private practice in 1990. Gini taught, first at Pinckney Elementary School and later at St. John Catholic School, where she retired in 2013 after 50 years of teaching.

Together they raised three children: Jennifer, b'94; Erin; and Paul.

"We left our vows, but we never left the church," Gini says. As a priest, Don had been known for his counseling in the confessional. "He continued the work he was doing as a priest, and I continued the work I'd been doing as a teacher. That didn't change. I'd loved living in community, and he became my community. When he died, that was one of my losses. I missed that faith community."

Heady. Intellectual. A ceaseless reader who loved big ideas and dirty jokes, philosophical discussions and salty language. A man with endless patience, a sunny outlook and a nearly Olympic talent for listening—along with a wicked mischievous streak. That was Don Shoulberg.

"When the children were little, and they would start acting out at dinner, he'd laugh so hard," Gini says. "I'd take my plate and come in here, close that door. I didn't want them to see me laughing, because I felt like somebody had to maintain some control. But Don was one of them."

While earning his bachelor's in theatre and film, Paul Shoulberg made enough short films to satisfy requirements for his major, but his real love was screenwriting. Even when he dropped out for a while, after changing majors several times, he kept writing screenplays, posting his work to a website that offered peer reviews. When he came back to KU, he pressed his scripts on theatre actors, hoping to interest them in a reading. No one returned his calls. He was

on the brink of giving up when someone—he thinks it might have been Don—suggested that he talk to Kevin Willmott, professor of theatre and film.

"I remember standing in line outside his door," Shoulberg recalls. "There was always a line. I stood in line, not being a theatre student, never having met him, and I waited through his entire office hours and couldn't get in because there were too many people. I went back and finally got in, and he was really nice."

Willmott read one of Shoulberg's scripts, and he liked what he saw.

"He was just one of those students that you know right away is special," Willmott says. "He had the thing it takes to get there. He was just a great writer: smart and funny and sophisticated. And he had a voice, even at KU. I knew that it was just a matter of time for him."

"He said, 'You've got something. You're good at this. Here's some thoughts. Work on it and come back,'" Shoulberg says of that first script. "He kept telling me to come back, and I did that for three years. I don't think I ever took a class with him, because I was meeting with him a couple of times a month in his office and getting the best education I could get. I owe so much to him, because I was about to give up and he repeatedly told me, 'You have the ability to do this.'"

Through playwriting classes with Paul Lim, c'70, g'74, founder of KU's English Alternative Theatre, Shoulberg discovered the allure of writing for the stage. "What I loved was that for no money you could find five actors and have a production," he says. "It was so much easier than making a film." That led to graduate school at Indiana University, where he completed an MFA in playwriting. His work won several honors, including the Kennedy Center's 2007 Mark Twain Playwriting Award for Comedy. But critiques from his fellow students and teachers led to a realization.

"The response I was getting to my plays was, 'These are like movies on stage.' And I was like, 'Yeah, because movies are better.' And they were like, 'Then why are you writing plays?' So I kinda came back to film."

After finishing "The Good Catholic"

script, Shoulberg again sought out Willmott. He was determined to make the film, even if he had to fund it with Kickstarter and do it with volunteers on a bare-bones budget. Willmott, who has directed nearly a dozen of his own films, including “CSA: The Confederate States of America” and “Jayhawkers,” helped show him how it could be done.

“We talked about how hard it is to get something smart through the Hollywood system,” Willmott says. “How, if it comes down to that—if it comes down to raising money and making the film on your own—you should do that. And I think he was prepared to do that when he got lucky.”

Luck, fortune, kismet: These are not prominent gods in Paul Shoulberg’s pantheon. “He may quite possibly be the most cynical person I know,” says Zachary Spicer. “He worries about the worst possible scenario of everything all the time. Up to the point that Danny Glover got on the set, Paul still didn’t believe the movie was going to happen.”

Yet, Willmott explains, every independent filmmaker needs a bit of luck.

“Luck in the sense that there’s a lot of really great writers out there—and Paul is definitely one of them—but the thing you’re always looking for is you’ve got to get it to the right person. If you’re lucky enough to do that, then something can happen.”

For Shoulberg and his creative partners at Pigasus Pictures, a big break came when David Anspaugh, director of “Hoosiers” and “Rudy,” signed on as executive producer.

**“He was just one of those students that you know right away is special. He had the thing it takes to get there. He was just a great writer: smart and funny and sophisticated. And he had a voice, even at KU. I knew that it was just a matter of time for him.” —Kevin Willmott**

But that was far from the only stroke of good fortune, Spicer notes.

“David Anspaugh said that when he directed ‘Rudy,’ everything looked like it was going to fail but at the last moment something always saved the situation. That happened throughout the process of making this entire movie. So many things could have gone terribly wrong for us and turned the movie into a disaster, but at the end every single time something always swooped in and saved the movie.”

Landing Glover and McGinley. Securing help from the City of Bloomington in filming certain key scenes. Convincing investors to open their checkbooks at critical moments. The specifics of their deliverance from disaster varied, but one thing was constant, Spicer says.

“If it weren’t for the personal aspect of this story—that we’re making it for Paul’s dad—the film wouldn’t have gotten made. That got people on board. Because they understood, there’s no determination like the determination of a child who wants to honor their parents.”

The natural state of an independent film is to not exist. Paul Shoulberg says he read

that somewhere, and it’s the sort of creation story that rings true to him, a man who left the church at 16 but who nevertheless grew to understand and appreciate the role that faith played in his father’s life.

“I’ve never been particularly religious, and I’m still not, but as my father was dying, I really learned a lot about what religion has offered him, and I developed a real respect for how he embraced it and used it to be a better person,” he told the Lawrence Journal-World in a March interview. “To see how a really smart, progressive, loving guy can find meaning in religion did give me respect for it. And that was something I hadn’t really learned yet.”

With “The Good Catholic,” Shoulberg also learned to trust his own instincts as a screenwriter.

“When I was writing, I just felt I needed to be honest with these characters. And as a result it’s the most gentle script I’ve ever written.” The film is more of a “slow burn” than his previous work, Shoulberg says.

“I usually don’t have that much discipline. I like to come at you right away, the typical film thing where you really want to get everyone’s attention right out of the gate and really push and push.”

Although the film wrestles with big philosophical ideas like love and faith and the nature of true calling, there is a human scale to the plot and a genuineness to the characters that firmly grounds the movie’s spiritual questions in everyday life.

Paul likes that, and he thinks his father would have liked it too.

“I didn’t want it to turn into something not real,” he says. “I had to honor my father’s story.”



## Screen Shot

“The Good Catholic” will premiere in February at the Santa Barbara International Film Festival in California, with additional festival screenings planned. For more information on the film, visit [thegoodcatholicmovie.com](http://thegoodcatholicmovie.com) or follow “The Good Catholic” on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @tgcmovie.

# Association

LISA SCHELLER/KU ENDOWMENT



## Masters of tradition

### 2017 Rock Chalk Ball to highlight a timeless golf classic

The Master's Tournament provides plenty of golf's richest traditions: distinctive green jackets, an honorary opening tee shot and uniquely costumed caddies. This year, Kansas City-area alumni will celebrate a twist on a classic Jayhawk tradition, as the 22nd-annual Rock Chalk Ball brings a taste of the legendary golf tournament to the Overland Park Convention Center April 29.

"We are working to create an event that highlights those who have impacted the KU community over the years and are true 'Masters of Tradition,'" says Kelsey Hill, c'12, assistant director of Kansas City and Wichita programs. "We hope this is a theme with which attendees can really get creative and have fun."

Hosted by the Alumni Association and the Greater Kansas City Network, the annual event 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.

Alumni are encouraged to perfect their swings and gear up in golf attire for this year's celebration, which will feature silent and live auctions and the music of the Karen Davis Project. Brian Hanni, j'02, the play-by-play voice of the Jayhawks, will serve as emcee.

Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little and Shade Little are honorary chairs of this year's event, a fitting tribute as Gray-Little announced in September that she will step down June 30 after serving the KU community for the past eight years.

Sasha Flores Boulware, c'98, g'00, and Jason Booker, b'99, will lend their services to the ball as network co-chairs. Boulware is a Presidents Club member and a longtime ball participant. She has served on the Greater Kansas City board since 2000. Booker is a Life Member and a Presidents Club member and has participated in the ball since 2008. He is entering his second year on the board.

#### A NOTE FROM HEATH

### School of Engineering merits KU pride throughout the region

One of the Alumni Association's most critical roles is to inform, engage and mobilize the KU community to strengthen the University. As graduates, donors and members of the KU Alumni Association, you can attest to the power of a KU education. As "shareholders" of the University, you also understand that your support and service help increase the value of the KU degree.

Therefore, I want to highlight our world-class School of Engineering and enlist your help to educate your peers and recruit the next generation of Jayhawk engineers! To be an effective advocate, all you need is the ability to articulate the facts, along with a little Jayhawk enthusiasm:



Peterson

- The KU School of Engineering has produced true giants in business, including Alan Mulally, e'68, g'69, former CEO at Boeing Commercial Airplanes and Ford Motor Company, who was widely credited for his innovative leadership helping Ford thrive after the devastating losses during the Great Recession and is now on the board of directors for Google's parent company, Alphabet; and Brian McClendon, e'86, vice president of advanced technologies for Uber and formerly one of Google's most influential engineering executives, who developed the digital mapping software that became known as Google Earth. They are only two of countless engineering alumni around the world who have led their industries.

- The KU School of Engineering is the top-ranked program in the state of

—Continued on p.40





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# Association

## Sweepstake wins

Thanks to everyone who entered the Alumni Association's Membership Mania Sweepstakes. The following winners renewed or upgraded their memberships, purchased a gift membership or made a year-end contribution to the Association to enter the drawing:

- **Grand Prize:** \$1,000 Visa® gift card, 2016-'17 KU men's team autographed basketball and four tickets to the KU vs. West Virginia basketball game  
*Carole Haggard, g'94, Olathe*
- **Second Prize:** 60-inch Samsung® flat screen television  
*Wendy Rohleder-Sook, c'98, l'01 Hays*
- **Third Prize:** Yeti® Jayhawk cooler and two tumblers  
*Jason Scheiderer, Kansas City*
- **Fourth Prize:** Bose® Bluetooth speaker  
*Karen Pershall-Wilder, PharmD'08 Olathe*
- **Fifth Prize:** \$100 Visa® Gift Card  
*William Nye, c'70 Falls Church, Virginia*

## Top honors

### Kansas Alumni, programs recognized with regional awards

Alumni Association programs and *Kansas Alumni* magazine earned five awards in the eight-state District VI 2016 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, Alumni Programs for Special Constituencies, Home for the Holidays. The project included Joy Maxwell, c'03,

### A NOTE FROM HEATH —continued from p.38

Kansas, and KU is the only AAU university in the state.

- In Kansas, KU Engineering students have the highest ACT/SAT averages and the highest graduation rates.
- KU Engineering students benefit from the best student-to-faculty ratios in the state.
- In addition to tutelage from outstanding faculty, KU Engineering students also take classes and conduct research in some

of the newest and most advanced facilities in the nation.

You should be proud that the KU School of Engineering provides the "total package" for future engineers, not to mention all the other benefits associated with being a Jayhawk! Thank you, as always, for your support of our proud University, and for strengthening our alma mater by helping us recruit students!

Rock Chalk!

—Heath Peterson, d'04, g'09  
KU Alumni Association President

j'03, director of legacy relations, and Brad Eland, b'09, g'11, vice president of alumni programs.

- Gold, Diversity Programs, KU Black Alumni Network Leaders and Innovators. Jacey Krehbiel, d'12, g'16, assistant director of alumni programs, and Eland worked with network volunteers.

- Silver, Editorial Design, "Lifeline," *Kansas Alumni*, issue No. 3, 2016. Susan Younger, f'91, creative director, provided the illustration.

- Gold, Best Articles of the Year, "Mission: Relief," *Kansas Alumni*, issue No. 2, 2016. The cover story, by Associate Editor Steven Hill, profiled William McNulty, c'01, founder of Team Rubicon, a disaster relief organization led by military veterans and emergency first responders. It now advances to compete in the Best Articles of the Year category of CASE's international competition this spring.

- Gold, Periodical Staff Writing, *Kansas Alumni* writers and editors. Contributors include Jennifer Jackson Sanner, j'81, editor; Chris Lazzarino, j'86, associate editor; Hill; and Heather Biele, staff writer.



## Finals Dinner



Therapy dogs, massage and a dinner buffet are excellent antidotes for stress. Finals dinner, hosted by the Student Alumni Association, is designed to give students a break from the stress of studying and upcoming exams.



## The KU Black Alumni Network

### Mike and Joyce Shinn

# Leaders and Innovators Award

The KU Black Alumni Network is proud to honor African-American alumni who have distinguished themselves and made a difference through demonstrated leadership and/or innovation to the University, their profession or society at large. The project acknowledges the contributions of individuals who have made their mark in varied ways and highlights in photographs and text the accomplishments of our honorees.

Recipients are selected from nominations submitted to the KU Black Alumni Network Mike and Joyce Shinn Leaders and Innovators Award Committee.

**The committee will accept nominations for the 2017 awards through Feb. 17, 2017.**

To nominate an individual, please complete the nomination form online at [kualumni.org/kublackalumni](http://kualumni.org/kublackalumni).



## Life Members

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

- |                                |                              |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Andrew L. Allen                | Gerald T. Elliott            |
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| Altomare                       | Brian L. Filinger            |
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| John D. Blankenship            | Melissa Thomas Furman        |
| Gregory L. Blaske              | Andrew K. Gaddis             |
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| Dell-Steinbeck                 | Sarah A. Hutton              |
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| Dillon                         | Molly E. Iler                |
| Merilyn K. Douglass            | Renee E. Jones               |
| Whitlee A. Douthitt            | Zachary C. Jones             |
| Courtney Driscoll              | Emily Enright Johnson        |
| Brian S. Duerksen              |                              |
| Amanda Kerley Dulaney          |                              |

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Presidents Club members enjoyed the pregame tailgate reception Dec. 3 in the Adams Alumni Center before the KU vs. Stanford game.

# Association

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—Continued from p.41

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Kathy Kilo Peterson

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# Nominate



## an Association member to serve on the board

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

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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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# Class Notes by Heather Biele

**55 Stan Hamilton**, j'55, an author and retired journalist who lives in Lawrence, contributed an essay titled "Wanderlust Satisfied (Temporarily)" to the book *Drive-In Movies and General Stores: Tales from the Good Old Days in Northeastern Kansas*, which was published by Hometown Memories of Hickory, North Carolina.

**56 Carl Blair**, f'56, an artist and former instructor at Bob Jones University in Greenville, South Carolina, will be honored this spring by 55 artists at an exhibition at the Metropolitan Arts Council, where he also will showcase his own work.

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

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

**58 Jan van Sant**, g'58, PhD'63, is on the board of directors of Senior Quality Lifestyles Corporation in Houston. He is retired from a 34-year career in the oil industry.

**61 Nancy Topham Chadwick**, c'61, is trustee emeritus at Palomar College in San Marcos, California. She is retired from the University of California and resides in Oceanside.

**David Edgell**, b'61, received a faculty book award from East Carolina University in Greenville, North Carolina, for publishing *Managing Sustainable Tourism: A Legacy for the Future*. He's a professor of tourism, trade and economic development at the school.

**Clark Stewart**, b'61, g'63, is president of Butler National Corporation in Olathe, where he makes his home with **Sue Antenen Stewart**, d'64.

**63 Luther Fry**, c'63, m'67, owns Fry Eye Associates in Garden City. He has performed more than 42,000 cataract surgeries during his 40-year career as an ophthalmologist.

**Douglas Neckers**, PhD'63, won the 2016 Theodor Förster Lecture Prize. He is McMaster Distinguished Research Professor Emeritus of photochemical sciences at Bowling Green State University and CEO of Spectra Group.

**64 Janice Wheaton**, c'64, lives in Madison, Wisconsin, where she retired as assistant dean of students at University of Wisconsin-Madison.

**67 Daniel Leonard**, d'67, owns Wallowa Lake Lodge in Joseph, Oregon, and is facilities chairman of the board of managers for the property. He and his wife, Joyce, were recently honored by AARP as finalists for the Washington State Volunteers of the Year Award.

**68 Rick Geary**, f'68, g'70, is a cartoonist and illustrator who lives in

Carrizozo, New Mexico, with his wife, Deborah.

**Tom Geraghty**, c'68, m'72, a recently retired plastic surgeon, is president of the KU Medical Alumni Association board. He is also chairman emeritus of Medical Aid for Children of Latin America and a city councilman in Mission, where he lives with his wife, Judy.

**Richard Shrout**, c'68, is a founding partner at Potomac Indexing in Gaithersburg, Maryland, where he lives.

**70 Kenneth Lee Washington**, j'70, wrote *Joe's Tap: The Story of Maurine and Tales of the Other Cape May*, which was published in August by iUniverse.

**71 Dee Wallace Stone**, d'71, stars in "Just Add Magic," a new series on Amazon. She is an author and actress in Woodland Hills, California.

**72 Clifford Otto**, b'72, is CEO of Saddle Creek Logistics Services and serves on the board of trustees of Florida Polytechnic University in Lakeland, Florida, where he makes his home.

**73 Everett "Kit" Moulton III**, c'73, m'80, an ophthalmologist in Fort Smith, Arkansas, wrote *Annabella*, which was published in January 2016.

**Krishna Sreedhar**, '73, lives in Kerala, India, where he's a retired psychotherapist.

**74 Mary Anne Modrcin**, n'74, is dean of nursing and vice president for extended learning sites at Lincoln Memorial University in Harrogate, Tennessee.

**75 Lewis Armstrong**, g'75, is retired and lives in Fayetteville, Georgia. He is working on a cookbook and an autobiography and continues to be involved in local veterans' programs.

**Barry Rose**, c'75, m'79, wrote *The Cutting Edge of Compassion: How Physicians, Health Professionals, and Patients Can Build Healing Relationships Based on Trust*, which was published in September. He's chief of orthopedic surgery and surgical division head at Palo Alto

Foundation Medical Groups in San Francisco.

**76** U.S. Sen. **Jerry Moran**, c'76, l'82, in November was elected to another six-year term in the U.S. Senate. He and his wife, Robba, live in Manhattan.

**Ridley Pearson**, '76, an author who lives in St. Louis, wrote *Lock and Key: The Initiation*, which was published in September by HarperCollins. It's his first book in the Lock and Key trilogy for young adults.

**Paul White**, b'76, g'79, is vice president of real estate at Kiewit Corporation in Omaha, Nebraska. He and **Kristine Howard White**, b'76, live in Papillion.

**77** **Steve Bump**, c'77, manages corporate health and safety at NV5 in Richland, Washington, where he resides.

**78** **Mark Huber**, c'78, lives in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where he coordinates safety at Pennoni Associates Inc.

**Richard Kramer**, d'78, g'87, directs student activities and athletics for the Shawnee Mission school district. He makes his home in Lenexa.

**Craig Sherwood**, f'78, lives in Kirkland, Washington, where he's president of Craig Sherwood and Associates.

**79** **Lee Green**, b'79, l'86, is an attorney and semi-retired professor of business and economics at Baker University.

**Diane Bergquist Lindeman**, d'79, g'83, g'06, directs student financial aid for the Kansas Board of Regents in Topeka.

**James McCarten**, b'79, was named Atlanta's 2017 Lawyer of the Year in litigation and controversy-tax by *Best Lawyers of America*. He's a partner at Burr & Forman.

**80** **Mark Burlingame**, '80, is a manager at Just Energy. He makes his home in Houston.

**Linda Zarda Cook**, e'80, joined the board of directors of Bank of New York Mellon. She's a managing director and member of the executive committee at EIG Global Energy Partners and CEO of Harbour Energy.



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**Rolfe Mandel**, g'80, PhD'91, a distinguished professor of anthropology at KU, has been named interim director of the Kansas Geological Survey. He's also a senior scientist and executive director of the Odyssey Geoarcheology Research Program at KGS.

**81** **Monte Vines**, l'81, is an attorney at Adams Jones Law Firm in Wichita, where he lives with **Kimberly Gee Vines**, l'83.

**Lynette Woodard**, c'81, a former KU All-American and Olympic gold medalist, is assistant coach of women's basketball at Winthrop University in Rock Hill, South Carolina. She recently received a scholarship from the National Basketball Retired Players Association and plans to pursue a master's degree in business administration at Kaplan University.

**82** **Steven Koppes**, g'82, lives in Lincoln, Nebraska, where he directs research communications at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

**Julene Tedlock Miller**, c'82, l'85, is general counsel for the Kansas Board of Regents in Topeka. She commutes from Lawrence.

**David Schoech**, p'82, a pharmacist at Mercy Hospital Columbus, received the Bowl of Hygeia Award from the Kansas Pharmacists Association for his commitment to community service. He lives in Columbus.

**Desmond Williams**, g'82, PhD'83, directs programs in pharmaceutical science at the University of South Australia in Adelaide, South Australia.

**83** **Craig Adams**, e'83, g'88, PhD'91, is Oliver L. Parks Chair and professor in the department of civil engineering at Saint Louis University in St. Louis.

**Deepak Ahuja**, c'83, m'87, is regional medical director at UnityPoint Health-Trinity. He lives in Rock Island, Illinois.

**Christopher Peters**, c'83, m'89, owns Corridor Surgery and Vein Center in Coralville, Iowa, where he makes his home.

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Guests viewing original documents related to Forrest "Phog" Allen in KU University Archives. Thanks to support of KU Libraries friends, more than 66,000 materials related to Phog will soon be available online.

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**David Robinett**, c'83, is chief marketing officer at #250. He and **Pilar Jacobson**, '93, a clinical psychologist, live in Overland Park with their daughter, Carly. Their son, Luc, is a junior at KU.

**84 Ronald Ragan**, p'84, g'97, PhD'98, makes his home in High Point, North Carolina, where he's dean and professor at the School of Pharmacy at High Point University.

**Brett Reber**, c'84, is on the national board of directors of Pheasants Forever

and Quail Forever. He's an attorney at Wise & Reber in McPherson.

**85 Fritz Edmunds Jr.**, j'85, l'95, is executive managing director at Frontier Investment Banking in Leawood. He resides in Overland Park.

**Kathy Greenlee**, b'85, l'88, is vice president of aging and health policy at the Center for Practical Bioethics in Kansas City. She makes her home in Lenexa.

**Steven Martin**, c'85, is senior vice president of strategic alliances and

entertainment at Caruso Affiliated in Los Angeles. He lives in Pasadena.

**Robin Rusconi**, b'85, l'88, is executive director of Midwest Biomedical Research Foundation in Kansas City, where she makes her home.

**James Thornton**, p'85, is a contract pharmacist for the Department of Veterans Affairs Consolidated Mail Outpatient Pharmacy in Leavenworth. He lives in Shawnee.

**James Traylor**, c'85, m'86, manages radiology IT and quality at the University

## PROFILE by Heather Biele

### Artists in Philly thrive with boost from alumna

Erica Hawthorne-Manon's 2006 album, "Spoke Inward," almost didn't happen. The spoken word artist, who goes by the stage name RhapsodE, had spent hours in a Philadelphia studio perfecting her creative debut—a soulful blend of poetry with hip-hop and jazz beats—only to find she would need an additional \$1,000 to complete the project.

"I had to put the release on hold and make some more money," she recalls.

Hawthorne-Manon, j'02, was able to gather the funds she needed, but the experience left her wondering how many of her creative peers struggled financially.

For the next three years, Hawthorne-Manon managed her career as a performance artist while juggling a full-time gig as a college prep counselor at Swarthmore College. Heeding a friend's suggestion, she applied for a challenge grant through the Knight Foundation, an organization that offers funds to artists, entrepreneurs, educators and other innovators who strive to bring positive change to their communities.

"My idea was really simple," Hawthorne-Manon says. "They give me money and I'll give it out in smaller increments. Huge grants are great, but what artists really

need are small funds to keep their projects going."

Her proposal was accepted, and in 2012 she received \$60,000 to launch Small but Mighty Arts, a volunteer-run nonprofit that awards micro-grants from \$50 to \$1,000 to local artists to help them finance their projects and reach their creative goals.

Since receiving the Knight Foundation grant, Small but Mighty Arts has evolved to provide more than just monetary solutions for struggling artists. The nonprofit works with other community organizations to create new programs and resources, including networking events and other professional opportunities.

"We do every program with a community partner, which is really important," Hawthorne-Manon says. "We match them with artists they want to work with. Many artists who participate are then tapped to do other projects."

Also important, she says, is that these community partners provide artists with a fair wage for their work.

Small but Mighty Arts recently partnered with a community development



In 2015, Erica Hawthorne-Manon received the KU Black Alumni Network's African-American Leaders and Innovators award for her contributions to Philadelphia's art community.

group to help revitalize the 52nd Street commercial corridor in West Philadelphia. "They wanted to paint meters that couldn't be replaced," she explains. "So we identified artists to paint and design those meters. The artists talked to community members and got their ideas. They turned out beautifully."

Showing no signs of slowing down, Small but Mighty Arts distributed 11 micro-grants to artists this year and added seven new community partners. "I want to continue to grow," Hawthorne-Manon says. "The more partners we have, the more artist connections we're making."

# Class Notes

of Kansas Hospital. He and his wife, Tina, live in Kansas City.

**86 Karen Mayberry**, l'86, is an appellate military judge for the U.S. Air Force Court of Criminal Appeals in Maryland. She resides in Alexandria, Virginia.

**Frank "Wes" Naylor III**, '86, lives in Winter Park, Florida, where he's president and managing partner at Coe & Naylor Group. He's a retired captain in the U.S. Navy.

**87 Gary Amble**, c'87, is a meteorologist at KCTV5 in Fairway. He and his wife, **Lori**, assoc., live in Shawnee.

**Robert Fee**, c'87, is president and chief operating officer at Fee Insurance Group in Hutchinson. He also serves on the board of directors for the Kansas Association of Insurance Agents. Bob and **Annie Burger Fee**, b'89, have four children and live in Hutchinson.

**Danielle Morlock Fournier**, c'87, is a human resources generalist at Alan

Plummer Associates in Fort Worth, Texas.

**Timothy Summers**, l'87, is president of Aegis Specialty Insurance Services in Sunnyvale, California. He resides in Redwood City.

**Martin Upchurch**, e'87, is an industrial hygienist at S-E-A in St. Louis. He lives in Maryland Heights, Missouri.

**88 Bryan Becker**, m'88, is vice president of integrated care at DaVita Kidney Care in Vernon Hills, Illinois. He lives in Hinsdale.

**Sally Streff Buzbee**, j'88, is senior vice president and executive editor of the Associated Press. She first joined the news network in 1988 as a reporter and later became vice president and chief of bureau in Washington, D.C., positions she held for the past six years.

**Ervin Cash**, e'88, is president and CEO of SloanLED in Ventura, California. He lives in Santa Barbara.

**Kurt Caywood**, c'88, is vice president of audience at Morris Publishing Group in Augusta, Georgia.

**Donna Hines Rayson**, a'88, is an architect at Schwerdt Design Group in Topeka. She and her husband, Paul, live in Ottawa and have four children.

**Matthew Tidwell**, j'88, directs the integrated marketing communications master's program at KU's Edwards Campus in Overland Park.

**89 Daniel Crossman**, '89, is special teams coordinator for the Buffalo Bills football team in Orchard Park, New York.

**Mark Heinrich**, g'89, manages strategic sourcing and supply chain at Microsoft in Redmond, Washington. He makes his home in Bellevue.

**Neil LaBute**, g'89, is a playwright and film director. His latest play, "Fat Pig," was featured at the Center for Performing Arts in University Park, Illinois, in October.

**Craig Likhite**, '89, is on the board of directors of Foundation 65, an educational foundation for the Evanston-Skokie school district in Illinois. He's vice president and



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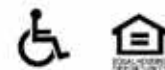
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creative manager/recruiter at Cramer Krasselt in Chicago.

**Molly Brooks Seitz**, f'89, is on the sales and marketing team at nuvu in New York City.

**90 Stewart Bailey**, j'90, in October was inducted in the Topeka High School Graduate Hall of Fame. He lives in Valley Village, California, where he's an executive producer for the NBC show "Last Call with Carson Daly."

**Gregory Rockers**, p'90, '94, is president of JCB Laboratories in Wichita. He lives in Augusta.

**Eric Stasen**, j'90, manages industrial sales at BlueInGreen in Fayetteville, Arkansas.

**Jon Trevisani**, m'90, is a plastic surgeon and founder and medical director of the Aesthetic Surgery Centre in Maitland, Florida.

**Marti West**, '90, lives in Minburn, Iowa, where she's a business systems consultant at Wells Fargo.

**Joel Zeff**, j'90, is a public speaker and improvisational comedian in Coppell, Texas. He recently performed with the Almost Legendary Improv Jam in McKinney.

**91 Lorien Foote**, c'91, wrote *The Yankee Plague: Escaped Union Prisoners and the Collapse of the Confederacy*, which was published in November by the University of North Carolina Press. She's a professor of history at Texas A&M University.

**Jean Redeker**, j'91, PhD'08, is vice president of academic affairs for the Kansas Board of Regents in Topeka. She commutes from Lawrence.

**Andrew Strayer**, PharmD'91, makes his home in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, where he's vice president of clinical programs at Cempra Inc.

**Tiffany Torgler Wingo**, c'91, g'95, l'95, is an attorney at Berger Estate and Elder Law in Leawood, where she makes her home with **Douglas**, l'94.

**92 Wendy Bantam**, f'92, is a traveling artist and created the Outlook Program, which connects artists to local nonprofit organizations. She lives in Lincoln, Nebraska.

**Johna Priest Cabrera**, h'92, is an occupational therapist in Loveland, Colorado, where she makes her home with **Anthony**, e'90, m'94.

**Steven Hattamer**, m'92, is chief of anesthesia at North American Partners in Anesthesia in Nashua, New Hampshire.

**93 Kimberly Hays**, l'93, lives in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where she's an attorney and practices family law.

**Elizabeth Miller**, b'93, l'97, g'97, is an attorney at Spencer Fane in Overland Park. She's part of the employee benefits practice group.

**94 Jeffrey Johnson**, c'94, received the 2016 Outstanding Publication of the Year Award by the Journal of Organic Chemistry. He's a chemistry

professor at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill.

**James Persinger**, g'94, PhD'00, professor and chair of the department of psychology at Emporia State University, received the Lifetime Achievement Award in October from the Kansas Association of School Psychologists.

**95 Mario Gomez**, c'95, g'98, is co-founder, chief technology officer and president of product at Quoine in Singapore.

**Angela Peirce Lolley**, d'95, was one of

100 St. Louis-area educators to receive the Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award in October. She teaches in the Parkway school district in St. Louis.

**Arthel McDaniel III**, c'95, was named one of 2016's Most Influential Minority Lawyers by the Los Angeles Business Journal. He's a business attorney and principal at Polsinelli in Los Angeles.

**Patricia Heyka Wooster**, c'95, '97, wrote *Ignite Your Spark: Discovering Who You Are from the Inside Out*, published by Simon Pulse/Beyond Words. She lives in Wesley Chapel, Florida.



**96 Mitch Germann**, c'96, leads global communications for Nike's Jordan brand in Beaverton, Oregon.

**Jacqueline Osland**, m'96, is a general surgeon at Jefferson Healthcare Surgical Associates in Port Townsend, Washington, where she makes her home.

**Blake Vande Garde**, c'96, f'01, '04, is a patent attorney at Erickson Kernell

## PROFILE by Steven Hill

### Children's champion earns lifetime advocacy award

In the early 1980s, when Nadine Mathis Basha began working to bolster child care regulations in Arizona, one of the state's giants in the field was Martha K. Rothman. Smart, well-prepared and tireless, Rothman was both inspirational and intimidating.

"She was always so together and so on point, and I was such a novice," recalls Basha, d'71, of the crusader who became her colleague and friend. "If you want to be an advocate for kids, you just can't ever give up—and she never did."

Three decades into her own "journey of endless advocacy," Basha in December received the Martha K. Rothman Lifetime Achievement Award, one of the Champion for Children & Families honors given by Child & Family Resources of Tucson. It recognizes Basha's career helping children, from early successes such as the 1988 founding of Children's Action Alliance (an advocacy group that works as a "power broker for children") to leading the charge on Proposition 203, a 2006 Arizona ballot initiative that created a cigarette sales tax to fund quality childhood development and health programs for kids from birth to age 5. In fiscal 2016, the tax generated

\$124 million, distributed by the First Things First board—which Basha chairs—to early childhood programs statewide.

The ballot initiative passed, she believes, because the campaign focused on fairness.

"We like to think life is like a Monopoly board and all kids get to start at Go with \$200 in their pocket," Basha says. "But the reality is there are many children who are never on the board and never have \$200 to see what they can accomplish. My goal is fairness and opportunity for all children. That's where I get my energy."

Basha has served on many state and local boards and started a business, Summa Associates, a consulting and management firm that helps employers promote work-life balance with child care and other family-friendly employee programs.

Overlapping her career and volunteer work is a passion for education.

"At Nadine's core, I think, is this real genuine belief that as a society we will be judged over the span of history on how we support our most vulnerable in our children," says Sam Leyvas, CEO of First Things First. "When you come to this work with that core belief, I don't think you have a choice. I think this is a calling for Nadine."


The Rothman honor is one of many Basha has received, including the Experi-



COURTESY NADINE MATHIS BASHA

Frustration with her state legislature's infrequent attention to the needs of children pushed Basha into advocacy. "I really believed Arizonans felt differently about children and children's issues."

.....  
ence Matters Changemaker Award earlier in 2016. Both cite her prescient focus on early childhood programs before research proved the link between a child's early years and long-term success.

"In my own journey, the more I learned, the more I knew how important a child's early years are," she says. "Every child deserves the opportunity to start school ready to succeed." 

## Class Notes



in Leawood. He and **Nicole Copple Vande Garde**, n'96, live in Overland Park.

### MARRIED

**Kevin Olson**, c'96, to Rebecca Fromer, Oct. 30 in Washington, D.C. He's a senior attorney at IBM in Somers, New York. They live in New York City.

### BORN TO:

**Alayna Miller Hoenig**, b'96, '97, and her husband, John, son, Landon, July 14 in Plano, Texas.

**97 David Eagan**, b'97, is global director of customer success and service delivery at Gresham Computing in London.

**Jerod Haase**, b'97, g'01, is head coach of men's basketball at Stanford University in Stanford, California, where he lives with **Mindy Meidinger Haase**, c'97, '98. Jerod played basketball at KU from 1994 to '97.



**98 Kathleen Gunja Nelson**, c'98, b'98, l'01, is assistant general counsel at American Century Investments in Kansas City. She lives in Leawood.

**Bret Rhodus**, b'98, is managing partner at CCP Strategies in Overland Park. He resides in Lenexa.

**Kristin R.B. White**, c'98, was named one of 2016-'17 Who's Who in Energy by the Denver Business Journal. She's an attorney and manager of Jackson Kelly in Denver.

**99 Erika Nutt Donner**, s'99, s'03, l'03, is an associate attorney at M. Sue Wilson Law Office in Minneapolis. She lives in Champlin, Minnesota.

**Douglas Holtzman**, b'99, is CEO of ONtrac Sports & Entertainment in Norcross, Georgia. He makes his home in Brookhaven with his wife, Christina, and their two daughters.

**Angus Mugford**, g'99, PhD'05, is president of the Association for Applied Sport Psychology. He lives in Bradenton, Florida, where he's director of high

performance for the Toronto Blue Jays baseball team.

**David Roumanie**, g'99, is a plant controller at Federal-Mogul in Saint-Jean-de-la-Ruelle, France.

**Michael Stevenson**, m'99, resides in Oklahoma City, where he's associate medical director at the Oklahoma Blood Institute.

U.S. Rep **Kevin Yoder**, c'99, l'02, in November was elected to another term in Kansas' 3rd Congressional District. He and **Brooke Robinson Yoder**, l'05, live in Overland Park with their two daughters.

**00 Sridevi Donepudi**, m'00, is assistant chief medical information officer at Christiana Care Health System. She lives in West Chester, Pennsylvania.

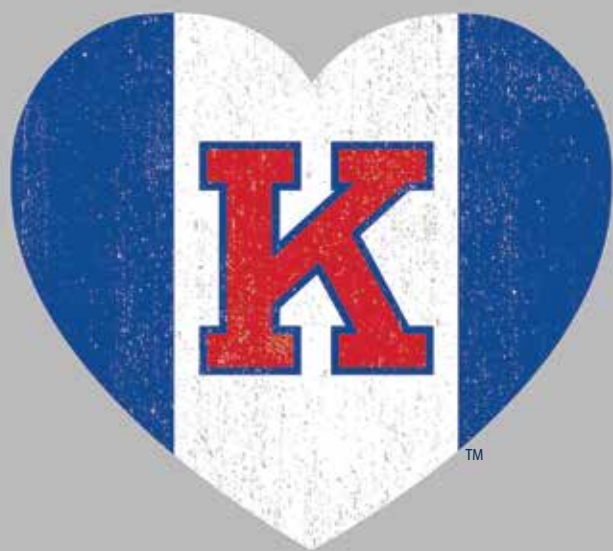
### BORN TO:

**Brad Westerbeck**, d'00, and his wife, Mandy, daughter, Quinn, June 24 in Folkston, Georgia, where she joins a brother, Greyson, 6.

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**01 Benjamin Gripka**, b'01, '09, makes his home in Lenexa, where he's president and founding software engineer at Sigma Sourcing.

**Rodney Hanley**, PhD'01, is provost and vice president of academic affairs at Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee.

**Samuel MacRoberts**, c'01, l'06, lives in Kansas City with his son, Ralph, 2, and his daughter, Eleanor, who was born Oct. 24.

**Andrew Saeger**, f'01, is a designer and illustrator in Seattle.

**David Tappan**, g'01, is principal of Shawnee Mission North High School in Mission.

**02 Jack Brooks**, c'02, l'05, is a captain in the U.S. Air Force. He lives in Surprise, Arizona.

**Breeze Luetke-Stahlman Richardson**, c'02, directs communications for the Kansas Board of Regents in Topeka. She resides in Lawrence.

**Eric Snider**, c'02, is an attorney and

senior associate at Smith Moore Leatherwood in Raleigh, North Carolina, where he makes his home.

**03 Lucas Bell**, c'03, is executive vice president of Illinois Realtors in Springfield, Illinois.

**James McLaughlin**, c'03, l'06, is senior vice president and senior counsel at Envestnet Asset Management in Chicago, where he resides.

**Adam Murray**, c'03, manages sales at Taylor Forge Engineered Systems in Paola. He lives in Overland Park.

## PROFILE by Chris Lazzarino

### Doctoral degree affirms coach's education values

Dallas Baptist University's men's basketball team last season led the Heartland Conference in points (87.5), three-point field goals (9.9) and assists per game (17.3), and the Patriots qualified for the NCAA Div. II Tournament for the second time in program history. And yet a statistic more meaningful for 12th-year coach Blake Flickner is his program's graduation rate: 100 percent for players who complete their eligibility at DBU.

Impressive, but players are not Dallas Baptist's only academic achievers: Flickner, b'98, in December earned a doctorate in education degree in an accelerated program offered by the southwestern Dallas school.

"The way it was almost entirely online, it fit well," he says. "I was able to do it from hotel rooms while I was out recruiting or on the road with our team. I got a lot of reading done on the bus and I was doing homework right alongside our players at study hall. It worked out great."

In keeping with his university's mission of encouraging "servant leadership," or the concept of leaders putting the well-being of others ahead of themselves, Flickner used his dissertation research to examine

academic opportunities available to athletes at NCAA Div. II schools. Flickner says his research indicates that while most coaches think they are living up to their profession's ideals, they might not be as successful as they, their schools or the NCAA claim.

"There's a lot of data that shows it's not as much about education as it should be, or at least the players aren't benefitting from the educational side of it as much as they should be," he says. "The NCAA puts out statistics that show student athletes have higher graduation rates than their peers, but if you dig a little deeper, there's a lot of questions about that."

"We didn't solve the world's problems, but we started to ask some of the questions that I think are good to be asked."

Flickner played two seasons at Mesquite's Eastfield College for his father, Bob, g'74 [Profile, issue No. 6], who spent two years as a graduate assistant for coach Ted Owens. When it came time to complete his undergraduate degree, Blake came to KU and spent two seasons as a team manager, then returned to Eastfield as a volunteer assistant coach while earning a master's degree in Christian education.

After stints at Colorado State and



Dallas Baptist basketball coach Blake Flickner advises his players, "Don't be fooled into thinking a bachelor's is enough. Let's start thinking bigger than that."

Navy, Flickner jumped at the opportunity to help DBU relaunch a men's basketball program.

"It's just ideal for me," Flickner says. "I knew early on that as much as I admired the coaches I had been around, it was not for me to spend the next 20 or 30 years trying to be a high-major head coach."

"I wanted to find a smaller school where I can pour into guys who love this game, help them grow spiritually, help them grow as a basketball team, and then this opened up, and it's amazing. I feel like I'm living a dream. I feel very blessed."

COURTESY DBU ATHLETICS

## Class Notes

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### BORN TO:

**William Salyers**, m'03, g'09, and his wife, Vanessa, daughter, Harlow, Sept. 6 in Wichita, where she joins a brother, Jacobi, 7, and two sisters, Camden, 5, and Emory, 2. William is an assistant professor at KU's School of Medicine in Wichita.

**04 Kyle Binns**, b'04, l'07, is an attorney and member at Lewis Rice in Kansas City. He makes his home in Overland Park.

**Clay Britton**, c'04, l'09, is assistant U.S. attorney for the Department of Justice in Kansas City.

**Holly Cranston**, m'04, received the 2016 Dr. Kenneth K. Bateman Outstanding Alumni Award during Pittsburg State University's homecoming celebrations in October. She's a physician in Weir.

**Kristin Keeney Forbes**, c'04, j'04, is a graphic designer and owns Kristin Forbes Creative in Oceanside, California, where she lives with **Jefferson**, c'05, g'10.

**Adam Graff**, m'04, is a psychiatrist and department chair at Flagstaff Medical

Center in Flagstaff, Arizona. He was recently named 2016 Nathan Avery Physician of the Year.

**Jennifer Gunby**, b'04, e'04, was named one of "40 Under 40" by Midwest Energy News. She's the senior city adviser and community energy program manager for the Institute for Market Transformation in Kansas City.

**05 Michael Allen**, l'05, is senior deputy district attorney for the 4th Judicial District in Colorado Springs, Colorado. He and his wife, Heidi, live in Monument.

**Dereck Totten**, c'05, m'13, g'16, is a physician at Citizens Medical Center in Colby, where he resides with **Kysha Nichols Totten**, m'13.

### MARRIED

**Sarah Moon**, j'05, to Richard Powers, Oct. 1 in Overland Park, where they make their home.

**06 Jesse Brinson**, c'06, is a youth minister at Call to Greatness

Ministries in Lawrence.

**Bob Fuladi**, PharmD'06, is vice president and chief operating officer at Mission Health Care Pharmacy Corporation in Oxnard, California. He lives in Montecito.

**Jennifer Thomas Gomez**, g'06, is assistant director of development services for the City of Missouri City in Texas.

**Allison Johnson**, a'06, is a project architect at HOK in St. Louis. She lives in Wildwood, Missouri.

**Quinton McElhaney**, l'06, is a project manager at Advanced Discovery in Lenexa.

**Andrew Rebar IV**, c'06, is a line shift leader at Procter & Gamble in Kansas City. He and his wife, Amber, live in Shawnee with their two sons.

**Erinn Roos-Brown**, c'06, lives in Kansas City, where she is a humanities curator at Mid-America Arts Alliance.

**David Rowe**, l'06, is a program manager of Smart Cities at ECCO Select in Kansas City, where he resides.

**Emily Huffhines Webster**, j'06, and **Mark**, c'06, live in Leawood with their two children, Caroline, 3, and Andrew, who's nearly 1. Mark is an attorney at Lathrop & Gage, and Emily is a brand manager at Sullivan Higdon & Sink.

### BORN TO:

**Laura Wolowicz Crook**, d'06, g'08, and **Jeret**, d'06, son, Henry, Sept. 26 in Dallas, where he joins a sister, Caroline, who's nearly 2.

**07 Steven Adkins**, c'07, is a provisioning manager at TollFreeForwarding.com in Los Angeles. He lives in Culver City, California, with his wife, Amy.

**Kimberly Karfonta Carnley**, j'07, is assistant city attorney in Stillwater, Oklahoma.

**Chris Jameson**, b'07, makes his home in Atlanta, where he's regional vice president at SmartTrust.

**James Lowery**, '07, is a winemaker and owns KC Wineworks in downtown Kansas City.

**Lauren Marino**, c'07, l'10, is an attorney at Ogletree Deakins in Washington, D.C. She lives in Arlington, Virginia.

**Jason Oropeza**, f'07, is assistant chief counsel at the Office of the Principal Legal Advisor for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Immigration and Customs Enforcement in Kansas City. He resides in Overland Park.

**Karl Rubis**, g'07, '12, is the historian for the U.S. Army Ordnance Corps and School in Fort Lee, Virginia.

**Joseph Spellman**, '07, is a project manager at Americo Financial Life & Annuity in Kansas City. He makes his home in Eudora with his wife, Kristy, and their two daughters.

**Robert Williams**, b'07, f'14, lives in Phoenix, where he's an attorney at Gust Rosenfeld.

#### MARRIED

**Benjamin Ryan**, d'07, g'12, to Samantha Wolf, Oct. 22 in New York City, where they make their home. Ben teaches English at Success Academy charter school in East Harlem.

#### BORN TO:

**Brian McTaggart**, c'07, and his wife, Kari, son, James Hudson, Sept. 20 in Chicago, where Brian is a surety account executive at Aon.

**08 Elizabeth Austin**, c'08, manages digital marketing at StorAmerica Management in Irvine, California. She and her husband, Dylan, make their home in Laguna Niguel.

**Lizzie Greco**, f'08, owns Craftbelly Paper & Pattern in Denver, where she lives.

**Kyle Kitson**, c'08, f'13, is an attorney at Littler Mendelson in Kansas City. He resides in Mission.

**Jane Rozelle**, c'08, lives in Dallas, where she's social editor at PaperCity Magazine.

#### MARRIED

**Richard Nathan Rytting**, g'08, to Tuyen Kim Thi Vo, Oct. 15 in Kansas City. He's a speech-language pathologist at Flint Hills Special Education Cooperative in Emporia.

**Leah Spare**, d'08, '09, to Joel Burzinski, June 24 in Lawrence. She teaches science at Turner Middle School in Kansas City, where they make their home.

#### BORN TO:

**Jessa Kuhlman Wilkens**, c'08, n'10, and her husband, Ben, son, Jack, Sept. 23 in Dighton, where he joins two brothers, Luke, 4, and Evan, who's nearly 2.

**09 Aislinn Addington**, g'09, PhD'16, directs Abby's House, a center for women and families at Western Oregon University in Monmouth, Oregon.

**Bassem Chahine**, '09, lives in Lawrence, where he owns the Lawrence Hookah House and Euphoria Hookah Lounge. He also owns hookah houses in Topeka and Emporia.

**Joel Grillot**, g'09, is an interrelated resource teacher for Lawrence public schools. He makes his home in Lawrence.

**Jena Gunter**, c'09, lives in Lawrence with her son, Hayden, 5, and her daughter, Storey, who turns 1 in April.

**Brandon Hidaka**, c'09, PhD'15, was one of five medical students nationwide to receive the 2016 Pisacano Scholarship. He will receive his doctorate in 2017 and plans to specialize in family medicine.

**Bradley Montgomery-Anderson**, g'09, PhD'09, received the 2017 Leonard Bloomfield Book Award in January. He wrote *Cherokee Reference Grammar*, which was published in March 2016 by University of Oklahoma Press. Brad is an associate professor at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Oklahoma.

**Nick Oldfather**, d'09, g'12, lives in Chicago, where he's a senior manager at Genesco Sports Enterprises.

**Arturo Ramos**, e'09, is lead solution architect at OpenLink Financial in Houston. He resides in League City, Texas.

**10 Damian Green**, g'10, is a G-4 staff officer in the U.S. Army.

**Ashlynn Haynes**, a'10, is creative director of design and owner of Paper Laundry in Denver.

**Kingsley Okonkwo**, m'10, is a pediatrician at Driscoll Children's Hospital in Corpus Christi, Texas, where he lives.

**Kevin Osborn**, PhD'10, is chief information officer and associate provost for information systems at Fuller Theological

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## Class Notes

Seminary in Pasadena, California. He and his wife, Michelle, make their home in Valencia.

**Rachelle Pauly**, d'10, g'13, works for Kansas Athletics, where she is assistant coach of rowing. She was a member of the team as a student from 2007 to '11.

**Dagoberto Rodriguez**, l'10, is an attorney at Rodriguez & Sanabria in Manassas, Virginia.

**Robert Stracener**, c'10, e'16, is an engineer at Hyde Engineering & Consulting. He lives in San Diego.

### BORN TO:

**Elizabeth Robb Lang**, d'10, g'12, and her husband, Isaah, son, Cameron, Nov. 6 in Wichita, where Elizabeth teaches sixth-grade mathematics.

**11 Katherine Courtney**, e'11, is a software engineer at IBM in Littleton, Massachusetts.

**Kevin Neslage**, c'11, is an associate attorney at Hinshaw & Culbertson in Coral Gables, Florida, where he resides.

**Grace Peterson**, c'11, coordinates visual arts for Salina Arts and Humanities. Her exhibition "Material Communion" was displayed last fall at Kansas Wesleyan University in Salina.

**Sonia Schwartz Rubens**, g'11, PhD'15, is assistant professor of psychology and director of the Child and Adolescent Resilience Lab at the University of New Orleans.

**Austin Smith**, b'11, is an associate attorney at Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton in Dallas. He's part of the firm's complex commercial litigation team.

**Kristie Stremel**, c'11, is a singer and songwriter. She has released more than 75 songs and tours regularly throughout the United States.

**Matthew Thiessen**, j'11, is a videographer, editor and producer at Kroenke Sports & Entertainment in Denver. He and **Kelsey Smith Thiessen**, c'11, make their home in Castle Rock, Colorado.

### MARRIED

**Tyler Metzger**, d'11, g'13, and **Tatyana Fastovski**, c'15, Nov. 5 in Kansas City. They live in Overland Park with their

daughter, Katerina, who's nearly 2.

**Stephanie Waugh**, j'11, and **Philip Bennett**, g'13, Sept. 17 in Kansas City, where they make their home.

**12 Paige Blevins**, c'12, l'15, is a law clerk for Chief Justice Lawton Nuss at the Kansas Supreme Court. She lives in Topeka.

**Joseph Boothe**, c'12, is a writer and producer. His short film, "The Morning After," is part of a group project shot this winter in Texas.

**Jarred Harrington**, c'12, lives in Washington, D.C., where he's an economist in international pricing at the U.S. Department of Labor.

**Andy Kriegh**, c'12, g'14, is operations lead at Brio Partners. He lives in Lawrence.

**Jacqueline Mocnik-Boyd**, c'12, is an executive administrative assistant at the American College of Clinical Pharmacy in Lenexa. She commutes from Lawrence, where she lives with her husband, Ryan.

**Kassie Altergott Murphy**, c'12, manages property for Newmark Grubb Zimmer in Kansas City. She and her husband, Brice, live in Overland Park.

### MARRIED

**Garrett Lent**, j'12, to Sarah Doyle, Sept. 24 in York, Pennsylvania. He's an attorney at Post & Schell in Harrisburg. They make their home in Manchester.

**13 Ashley Haden-Peaches**, s'13, is lead community health worker at Rodgers Health in Kansas City, where she and **Lacy Haden-Peaches**, assoc., live.

**Lauren Gaylor Hughes**, c'13, l'16, lives in McPherson, where she's an associate attorney at Wise & Reber.

**Amy McAfee**, d'13, is a physical therapist at Mid-America Orthopedics. She resides in Council Grove.

**Andrew Tate**, PharmD'13, is project manager of field operations at ScriptPro in Mission. He and **Sarah Luby**, PharmD'13, a clinical pharmacist at the University of Kansas Hospital, live in Prairie Village.

### MARRIED

**Dana Wilensky**, b'13, to Ryan Katz, Nov. 5 in Minneapolis. She is a certified public

accountant in Kansas City, where they live.

**14 Sean Tapia**, a'14, j'14, g'16, makes his home in Chicago, where he's an associate planner at Houseal Lavigne Associates.

**Victoria Whitehead**, l'14, is a public defender for the 10th Judicial District in Johnson County. She lives in Lawrence.

### MARRIED

**Lauren Brown**, d'14, and **Zachary Korte**, c'14, June 4 in Lawrence. She teaches first grade at Heatherstone Elementary School in Olathe, and he works for Aero Transportation Products in Independence, Missouri.

**15 Amanda Angell**, l'15, lives in Omaha, Nebraska, where she's an associate attorney at Koley Jessen.

**Jiwon Choi**, DMA'15, is a staff accompanist at Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville.

**Austin Lear**, b'15, g'16, is an assurance associate at RSM US in San Francisco. He makes his home in Walnut Creek, California.

**Colby Soden**, e'15, lives in Englewood, Colorado, where he's a software engineer at S&P Global.

**Samuel Storrs**, l'15, is counsel at Unite Private Networks in Kansas City. He resides in Mission.

### MARRIED

**Haley Burgess**, h'15, and **Robert Strube**, '15, Oct. 1 in Scott City, where they live.

**Lauren Pipkin**, PharmD'15, to Nathan Dick, Oct. 15 in Lawrence, where they make their home.

**16 Stephen Duerst**, l'16, is a lobbyist and attorney at Federico Consulting in Topeka.

**Matthew Fieser**, e'16, is an aerospace systems engineer at Vencore Inc. in Chantilly, Virginia. He lives in Reston.

**Ashlyn Hazard**, b'16, lives in Kansas City, where she's a marketing analyst at Quest Diagnostics.

**Ashlie Koehn**, c'16, was named a Schwarzman Scholar and will receive a year of graduate study in China. She is an

economist at the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

**Nathaniel Lohmann**, c'16, teaches science in the Douglas County school district in Colorado. He lives in Parker.

**Kinsey McKenrick**, f'16, is an associate attorney at Richards, Layton & Finger in Wilmington, Delaware. She resides in Bear.

**Droste Milledge III**, b'16, lives in Dallas, where he's a financial analyst at BDO.

**Sage Morander**, b'16, is an account executive for the Springfield Thunderbirds hockey club in Springfield, Massachusetts.

**Autrin Naderi**, j'16, coordinates accounts at MMGY Global in Kansas City, where she makes her home.

**Micah Roman Schloegel**, PhD'16, is a reading specialist in the Shawnee Mission school district.

#### MARRIED

**Haley Bainbridge**, PharmD'16, and **Colton Christensen**, PharmD'16, June 12 in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic. They make their home in Bloomington, Illinois.

## PROFILE by Heather Biele

### Artist finds creative calling through friend's illness

During a particularly rough time in her childhood, when bullying had gotten the best of her, Stacey Leslie Lamb told her mother she wasn't going to school anymore. She retreated to her bedroom, where her collection of Charlie Brown comic books awaited, and she began sketching her favorite character, Snoopy.

"I don't know what happened, because I had never really been that interested in drawing," Lamb, f'82, recalls. "I always say something magical happened."

When she returned to school with her Snoopy sketches in hand, the young boy who had ridiculed her took notice and praised her drawings. "From then on I was no longer Stacey the fat kid," Lamb says. "I was Stacey the artist."

Lamb continued drawing and eventually landed her dream job as an artist and designer at Hallmark in Kansas City. She worked for the greeting card company for 31 years before an unexpected layoff three years ago shook her to the core.

"It was bad," Lamb says. "I'm a pretty upbeat person, and for the first time in my life I felt a lot of really weird emotions that I had never felt, like betrayal."

Months later, as Lamb was still reeling from the shock of losing her job, one of her longtime friends, Cheryl Wonnell, assoc., was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia. Determined to get out of her funk, Lamb offered to drive her friend to her doctor's appointments. When Wonnell's treatment plan called for a bone marrow transplant and 100 days in a germ-free environment, Lamb knew she had to do something special.

She illustrated 100 index cards with inspirational messages for each day of Wonnell's treatment and gave them to her with clothesline and several clothespins to display the cards. "I gave her the cards as a gift to decorate her room," Lamb explains. "But as her clothesline became fuller and fuller, it became apparent that she was going to go home soon. So it became this countdown."

The uplifting creations cheered Wonnell and also caught the attention of her doctor, whose research supported the power of positivity on patient recovery. He encouraged Lamb to market her cards.

Lamb immediately went to work and sold her first batch of Happy Countdown Cards to Wonnell's doctor, who placed them on his patients' beds when they started treatment. She



STEVE PUPPE

"These cards were meant to cheer up Cheryl, and they cheered me up, too," Stacey Lamb says. "They totally changed me and helped me move forward."

also made a deck with 25 "do good, feel good" cards for the holidays. "I made 120 boxes, and I sold out in four days," she says. "I thought, 'OK, we're on to something.'"

Today, Lamb's cards can be found in seven hospitals across the country and in the hands of those counting the days to a wedding, birth, retirement, vacation or graduation. She also sells decks with jokes and tips for healthy living. All of her cards can be purchased at [happycountdown-cards.com](http://happycountdown-cards.com), the website her husband, Brent, c'84, created.

"We're spreading happy," Lamb says. "It started out as a gift from one friend to another. Now it's just blossomed, and people are loving it."

# In Memory

**30s Dorothy Caldwell Varnum, c'38,** 1999, Oct. 15 in Collingswood, New Jersey. She taught English and journalism. Surviving are a son, Robert, m'69; six grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

**40s Gladys Blue Bayles, f'47,** 92, Sept. 10 in Leawood, where she was an artist and community volunteer. She is survived by a daughter, Martha Bayles Bacon, '73; three sons, one of whom is Robert, '02; 12 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

**William Beeson, c'48, l'50,** 89, Sept. 27 in Overland Park. He had a 44-year career with Lawrence-Leiter & Company. Survivors include two sons, John, b'72, and Michael, d'75; two daughters, Sally Beeson Hoag, c'80, and Margaret Elaine Beeson Blaise, b'82; 10 grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

**Earl Clark, c'42, m'45,** 95, April 11 in Wichita, where he was a pediatrician. Surviving are two sons, one of whom is Howard, c'75, d'79; a daughter, Ann Clark Patton, c'79; 10 grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

**Winifred Hill Gallup, f'41,** 95, Sept. 19 in Lawrence, where she was an organist and member of the Lawrence Civic Choir. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. She is survived by two daughters, Nancy Gallup Penland, c'67, m'79, and Cynthia Gallup Pine, '71; six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

**James Good, c'42, m'62,** 95, Sept. 4 in Republic, Missouri. He was a retired pathologist. Surviving are four sons, three of whom are James Jr., c'68, m'72, Michael, '70, and Stephen, '73; a daughter; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

**Muriel Stember Hannig, c'46,** 91, Sept. 17 in Sedona, Arizona. She was a researcher at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, and also volunteered in her community. Survivors include two daughters; a sister, Beverly Stember West,

d'49; two grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

**Roy Harmon, c'43, g'48,** 95, Nov. 5 in Wichita, where he taught at Wichita North High School for 30 years. Surviving are three daughters, Mary Harmon Richards, d'70, Jeannie Harmon Miller, d'71, g'76, and Carol Harmon Winters, c'80; a sister; a brother; and seven grandchildren.

**Kenneth Lewis, c'41,** 97, Nov. 7 in Des Moines, Iowa, where he managed Master Builders of Iowa. He is survived by two sons, one of whom is Peter, '74; and three grandchildren.

**Alberta Cornwell Mahoney, c'47, c'49,** 90, Oct. 22 in Kansas City. She was a homemaker. Surviving are four daughters, Anne, g'75, Colleen Mahoney Martin, l'79, Maureen, l'84, and Molly, '85; a son, Bill, l'89; a brother, Charles, d'65; and 10 grandchildren.

**James Mitchell, b'40,** 98, Oct. 18 in Overland Park, where he was a retired colonel in the U.S. Army Reserves. He also raised cattle on his family's ranch. Survivors include a stepson, John Lester, m'70; a stepdaughter; a brother, Wiley, b'43, g'47; five grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

**Anita Stewart Roland, n'41,** 96, Oct. 13 in Rapid City, Michigan, where she was a homemaker. She is survived by three sons, David, c'65, Stewart, c'68, and Scott, c'71, g'74; a daughter, Anita Martin Uden, s'72; seven grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

**Robert Stoffer, m'48,** 90, Oct. 16 in Topeka. He was a physician. Survivors include a son, Robert Jr., m'75; a daughter; a sister; eight grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

**Lucy Hunter Thomas, c'46,** 91, Oct. 3 in Los Alamos, New Mexico, where she taught business at Los Alamos High School. She is survived by two sons, one of whom is Jerry, c'69, g'70; three daughters; 10 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

**David Whyte, e'45,** 91, Oct. 12 in Roseville, California, where he was a

retired civil engineer. His wife, Carol, a daughter, a stepdaughter, a stepson and a sister survive.

**50s Richard Beach, a'50,** 92, Oct. 17 in Georgetown, Texas. He had a longtime career in architecture and construction management. Surviving are two sons, Christopher, c'71, and Douglas, c'72; a daughter; 10 grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

**David Burgett, b'56,** 81, May 25 in Medford, Oregon. He retired after 38 years as a CPA and partner at Coopers & Lybrand. Survivors include his wife, Betsy, and two sons.

**Robert Cebula, c'51,** 87, Oct. 2 in West Brookfield, Massachusetts. He was a funeral director and later became an insurance agent. His wife, Eleanor, three sons, a daughter, a stepdaughter, a sister, a granddaughter, two step-grandchildren and two step-great-grandchildren survive.

**Warren Chinn, e'58,** 79, Sept. 12 in Palo Alto, California, where he had a 34-year career at Booz Allen Hamilton as a management consultant. His wife, Carol, a son, two daughters and six grandchildren survive.

**Ervin Colton, g'52,** 89, Oct. 30 in Milwaukee, where he owned Cerac Inc. He is survived by two sons, Michael, b'78, and Mitchell, c'80; two daughters; three stepsons; a stepdaughter; two brothers; 19 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

**Gary Davis, c'54, l'57,** 85, Sept. 27 in Oklahoma City. He had a longtime career as an attorney in the oil and gas industry. Survivors include his wife, Sara "Sally" Bunger Davis, '54; a son, Gary Jr., c'77; two daughters; a sister; and eight grandchildren.

**James De Coursey Jr., l'59,** 84, Oct. 17 in Topeka, where he served as lieutenant governor of Kansas in 1968. He later had a career in banking. He is survived by his wife, Joyce, assoc.; three sons, one of whom is Timothy, '83; a daughter; and eight grandchildren.

**Judd Durner, b'58,** 80, Oct. 31 in Wichita. He was president of the State Bank of Burrton and also served as mayor of the City of Burrton. Survivors include

his wife, Rosie; a son, Josh, '98; a sister, Gay, d'65; and a grandson.

**Thomas Emery, c'57**, 80, Nov. 7 in Cameron, Missouri. He had a 45-year career as a dentist. Surviving are his wife, Deborah; three sons, one of whom is Derek, c'06; two daughters; a brother, Dennis, '61; several grandchildren; and a great-grandson.

**Gretchen Anderson Ferrell, c'52**, 86, Sept. 12 in Topeka, where she owned an antique store. Two sons, five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren survive.

**Walter Scott Hayden, e'56**, 82, Oct. 2 in North Hollywood, California. He was a business management analyst at Lockheed Martin. A daughter, a son and three grandchildren survive.

**Marian Rippeteau Klise, c'50**, 87, Oct. 21 in Salt Lake City, where she owned Rock Tools Inc. She is survived by her husband, Kenneth, a son, a daughter, two stepdaughters and 10 grandchildren.

**Robert Kraus, c'58**, 81, July 19 in Bella Vista, Arkansas. He played football at KU and was co-captain of the team for three years. Surviving are his wife, Conney; two sons, Korbin, j'81, and Paul, '87; a daughter, Stephanie Kraus Wuthrich, f'90; a stepson; two stepdaughters; 12 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

**Donald Lumpkin, b'57**, 81, April 21 in Phillipsburg, where he was a grocer and ran his family's business, Lumpkin's IGA. He is survived by his wife, Brenda, a son, a daughter, five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

**Jack Moore, b'55**, 84, Aug. 16 in Lawrence, where he owned General Appliance and later worked at a bank. Surviving are his wife, Mary Jane Conklin Moore, '57; two daughters, Julia Moore McDonald, c'79, and Joanne Moore Renfro, f'82; a son; a brother, Sam, b'52; and six grandchildren.

**Paul Pfortmiller, b'51**, 90, Nov. 1 in Bel Aire. He managed a medical office. A son, two daughters and four grandchildren survive.

**Ronald Rentz, e'59**, 84, Sept. 30 in Garland, Texas. He served in the U.S. Air Force and was a retired programmer. Surviving are his wife, Dorothy Nitcher Rentz, '59; three daughters; a son; and

seven grandchildren.

**Irving Ringdahl, m'57**, 92, Oct. 24 in Loveland, Colorado. He was a child psychiatrist and founded the child psychiatry residency program and inpatient child psychiatry department at the University of Arkansas Medical Center. Surviving are his wife, Almina, two sons, two daughters, two brothers, three sisters, 11 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

**Evan "Dave" Ritchie, b'50**, 90, Oct. 27 in Wichita, where he worked in construction and real estate with Ritchie Corporation and Ritchie Development. He is survived by his wife, Marilyn Thompson Ritchie, '52; two daughters, Julie Ritchie Gladden, j'77, and Jan Ritchie Dorian, '79; two sons, one of whom is Jack, b'81; 11 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

**Rev. Margaret Foster Ruth, f'52**, 88, Oct. 3 in Kansas City, where she was an Episcopal deacon. Surviving are two daughters, Rebecca Ruth Hart, '78, and Alice Ruth Alvarez, '85; a son; 11 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

**Lila Hyten Stites, d'50**, 88, Sept. 22 in Manhattan, where she was a homemaker and also co-owned Creative Travel. She is survived by her husband, John, b'50, l'56; two sons, Tim, '80, and Jerry, '94; and three grandchildren.

**Jay Warner, b'55**, 83, Oct. 5 in Kansas City, where he was a retired insurance broker. He is survived by a daughter, Ann Warner Alexander, f'86; four sons, two of whom are Syd, c'92, and Peter, j'93; and eight grandchildren.

**Carol Helmers Winslow, c'50**, 88, Sept. 24 in Mission. She was a financial administrator at Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral in Kansas City. Survivors include three sons, Jeff, c'77, Jay, '77, and John, '82; seven grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

**Mary Lu Valk Winters, d'55**, 83, Oct. 27 in Kansas City. She worked at Hallmark for several years and also was a homemaker. Surviving are her husband, Joe, a'56; a son; a daughter; two granddaughters; and a great-grandson.

**Ray Wyatt, f'58**, 80, Oct. 6 in Wichita, where he was a service group manager at

the Boeing Company. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment.

**60s Royce Angell, a'67**, 80, Oct. 13 in Liberal, where he was an architect. He is survived by his wife, Judith Black Angell, d'67; a son, Kevin, '96; a daughter; a brother, Wayne, g'53, PhD'57; a sister, Lynda Angell Williams, c'62; four grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

**Ronald Boyd, '64**, 75, Oct. 19 in Merriam. He managed sales at IBM and owned Boyd and Associates.

**Gary Burnidge, '61**, 76, Oct. 27 in Grove, Oklahoma. He was an oral surgeon. Surviving are his wife, Joy; four daughters, three of whom are Kirsten, c'88, Keri, '92, and Briana, '13; two stepsons; a stepdaughter; a brother; two sisters; and 10 grandchildren.

**Mathew Cabot Jr., b'63**, 78, Oct. 13 in Los Altos Hills, California, where he was an information technology consultant at Allin Consulting and also designed sets for children's theatre. He is survived by his wife, Christine, assoc.; two daughters; three sons; two sisters; and 14 grandchildren.

**Sondra Youle Cole, d'61**, 77, April 30 in Arlington, Texas. She was a psychotherapist. Survivors include a son, a daughter, two sisters and two grandsons.

**Brian Conner, c'68, m'72**, 70, Oct. 27 in Salina, where he was an ophthalmologist. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth Cushing Conner, d'68, g'72; and a son, David, e'01, '02.

**Robert Davis, b'66**, 72, Sept. 29 in Overland Park, where he was associate chief of appeals at the Internal Revenue Service. Surviving are his wife, Margaret Bybee Davis, c'66, '98; a daughter, Kimberly Davis Hoffman, s'90, s'96; a brother; and two grandchildren.

**Bruce Eggert, b'68**, 70, Oct. 16 in Hinsdale, Illinois. He was regional director of customer service at Unisys Corporation for more than 35 years. Survivors include his wife, Barbara Stein Eggert, c'70; a daughter; a son; a sister; two brothers; and a grandchild.

**David Folkerts, b'61, g'63**, 78, Oct. 12 in Great Bend, where he was an accountant

## In Memory

and partner at Maneth and Folkerts. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. He is survived by his wife, Cecile Samson Folkerts, '62; a son, Bryan, c'91; two daughters; three brothers, one of whom is Larry Keenan, c'52, l'54; two sisters; 10 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

**Marilyn Hawkins Hall, g'66, EdD'75**, 86, Sept. 13 in Hays. She was a special-education teacher before becoming a marital counselor. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Surviving are her husband, Vance; two daughters, Debra Clark Goodman, '78, and Julie Clark Adams, '84; a son, Douglas Clark, c'77, g'85; three stepdaughters, one of whom is Laurel Hall Stitzhal, '87; a sister, Fran Hawkins Rast-Nelson, d'60; 18 grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

**James Henry, d'69, g'70, EdD'76**, 82, Oct. 11 in Lawrence, where he was retired director of placement at KU's College of Liberal Arts & Sciences. He later became a city commissioner and served a one-year term as mayor of Lawrence. Survivors include his wife, Kay, assoc.; two daughters, Barbara, c'83, and Jennifer Henry McWilliams, '83; two sisters; and two grandsons.

**Charles Hobbs, PhD'60**, 81, Sept. 11 in St. Louis, where he retired after a 35-year career as an organic research chemist at Monsanto. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Surviving are his wife, Vi; a son, Douglas, c'83, l'86; a daughter, Deborah Hobbs Tremain, '86; and three grandchildren.

**Sherry Kay McCandles Holmes, c'61**, 77, Sept. 14 in Prairie Village. She worked at KU Medical Center and the National Institutes of Health in Washington, D.C. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. A son and a grandson survive.

**Daryl Hughes, e'68**, 71, Oct. 18 in Brevard, North Carolina. He was a senior staff engineer at Shell Oil Company for more than 28 years. Surviving are his wife, Elma; six brothers, three of whom are Harold, '80, Michael, c'84, and Daniel, '87; and a sister.

**Nancy Chambers Jones, d'68**, 70, June

21 in Branford, Connecticut, where she retired after a long career in teaching. She is survived by two sons; a brother, Bill, c'65, l'68; and four grandchildren.

**Charles LaPage, b'60**, 82, Aug. 20 in Anchorage, Alaska. He was a certified public accountant and also served the City of Valdez, Alaska, as a councilman and mayor. A daughter, a son, a brother, two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren survive.

**Gloria Mays McCord, d'63**, 75, Sept. 15 in Sierra Madre, California, where she was an actress, playwright and filmmaker. She is survived by her husband, Berry, c'62, m'66; two sons; two sisters, one of whom is Kala Mays Stroup, c'59, g'64, PhD'74; and a brother, John, c'65.

**Daniel McCue, p'67**, 73, Oct. 8 in Blue Springs, where he was a pharmacist. Surviving are his wife, Emily, three sons, three daughters, a sister, a brother and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**Stuart Moore, c'66**, 73, Sept. 12 in Raytown, where he sold antiques and collectibles. He is survived by two sisters, one of whom is Elaine Moore McGinn, n'68; and a brother.

**Donald Moreland, m'63**, 80, Sept. 21 in Tyler, Texas, where he was a family practitioner. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Survivors include two daughters, two sons, a sister, seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

**Darrell Nelson, b'68**, 78, Sept. 16 in Topeka. Surviving are a daughter, Darla Nelson-Metzger, d'96; three brothers, one of whom is Larry, g'72; six sisters; and five grandchildren.

**Rudolph Oberzan, g'67**, 74, Oct. 4 in Lawrence. He managed sales for several prefabricated-home companies. Survivors include two sons; a daughter; three brothers, Joseph, '65, John, j'70, and Thomas, s'73, s'75; a sister, Ann Oberzan Look, '78; and two grandchildren.

**Patricia Brady Raney, b'64**, 74, Oct. 8 in Overland Park, where she was the purchasing administrator at Johnson County Community College. A son, a daughter and five grandchildren survive.

**Betty Thoman Roberts, d'67**, 94, Oct. 25

in Kansas City, where she was an elementary school teacher. A daughter and granddaughter survive.

**Jane Barricklow Rousser, g'67**, 74, Oct. 28 in Riverside, California, where she taught elementary and middle school for 30 years. Her husband, Wesley, and a daughter survive.

**Jerry Salisbury, e'64**, 78, Sept. 22 in San Antonio, where he was a petroleum engineer. His wife, Judy, a son and three grandchildren survive.

**Victor Zuercher Jr., d'63**, 75, April 16 in Honolulu, where he was a dentist. A son, a sister and three grandchildren survive.

**70s Deborah Kruskop Brodbeck, c'77**, 61, Sept. 28 in Derby, where she retired after 30 years with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. She is survived by a son, Nicholas Menefee, e'06; two sisters, one of whom is Karen Kruskop Selig, d'75; and a brother.

**Edward Dosh, l'77**, 67, Sept. 27 in Joplin, Missouri. He had a law office in Parsons and also served as the city attorney of Chetopa. Survivors include two brothers.

**David Gentry, b'74, g'76**, 64, Oct. 7 in Pontiac, Michigan. He was retired from a career in accounting and finance. Surviving are his wife, Debra; his father, Kale, c'56, m'60; two daughters; his stepmother; a stepsister; a stepbrother; and four grandchildren.

**Rev. Leslie Burtner Gregory, c'70**, 67, Sept. 24 in Dalhart, Texas, where she was an Episcopal priest and served in several churches and prisons. She is survived by her husband, Alan, '85; a daughter, Alexandra Gregory Parker, u'12; and two brothers, Dale Jr., c'64, g'66, and Charles, c'65.

**Linda Gail Johnson, j'75**, 63, Oct. 31 in Cottonwood, Arizona. She was an advertising copywriter at Nestlé Purina PetCare Company in St. Louis. Surviving are her mother; two sisters, Jean Johnson Rose, a'78, and Terri, c'80; a brother, Mark, c'82; her stepfather; a stepsister; and a stepbrother.

**Joseph King, a'70**, 68, Aug. 19 in Lawrence, where he was an architect. He is survived by his wife, Lucille Resnik King, c'70, a'87; a son, Zachary, e'07; a daughter,



Alison, c'11; and two sisters, Sarah King Couch, d'67, and Christine, c'73.

**Becky Kunz Lovett, f'75**, 63, Sept. 12 in Ewing, New Jersey, where she was an occupational therapist. Surviving are her husband, Donald; a son; two daughters; her mother, Nadine Kunz, c'42; and two brothers, William, b'72, g'75, and Stephen, m'74.

**Michael Riedel, c'77**, 62, Sept. 27 in Liberal, where he was an environmental specialist at Panhandle Eastern Pipeline Company. His father and a brother survive.

**Rev. Eugene Schmidt, '75**, 87, Sept. 22 in Topeka. He was a Lutheran pastor and served in several churches and schools. Surviving are a son, Stephen, '79; two daughters, Sheryl Schmidt Speelman, d'80, and Suzanne Schmidt Peterson, c'88; a brother; six grandchildren; and a great-granddaughter.

**Phyllis Lamb Smith, d'72**, 67, Oct. 9 in Wichita. She is survived by two daughters, Dana Wilkinson Palmer, d'93, and Stephanie Wilkinson Hargett, c'04; a son; a stepson; a brother; and four grandchildren.

**Kirk Starks, c'78**, 62, Aug. 9 in Corinth, Texas, where he worked in residential and commercial real estate. He is survived by his wife, Judy; a son; a stepson; a stepdaughter; his mother; two brothers, Gregory, b'73, and Jon, c'80; and a granddaughter.

**80s Mark Chaney, '85**, 53, Oct. 11 in Lawrence. He worked in account sales at Sports Radio 810 WHB in Kansas City. Survivors include two daughters, Emily Chaney Elliott, '06, and Sarah Chaney-Lundquist, '06; two brothers; and three grandchildren.

**Kevin Koch, l'80**, 61, Oct. 2 in Oro Valley, Arizona, where he was an attorney. His wife, Beth Morton Koch, c'80; two sons; a brother; and a sister survive.

**J. Darrell Preston, c'83, j'83**, 55, Oct. 24 in Dallas, where he was a business journalist at Bloomberg News. He is survived by a daughter and two brothers, Glenn, c'86, g'89, and Steven, '87.

**Cynthia Kobett Richey, c'85**, 78, Sept. 28 in Overland Park. She was a librarian

and a member of a community orchestra. Surviving are her husband, William, e'51; four daughters, one of whom is Suzanne Sinderson Hendee, c'85; two stepdaughters, one of whom is Alison Richey Pearse, d'77; and 10 grandchildren.

**90s Slade Adams, d'97**, 42, Oct. 10 in Wichita, where he was a professional golfer. He played golf for KU and was the Big Eight champion in 1995. In 1997, he competed in the U.S. Open. Surviving are his wife, Gina, three daughters, his parents and a brother.

**10s Matthew Lewellen, '11**, 27, Nov. 4 in Jordan. He was a Green Beret in the U.S. Army and received numerous awards for his service, including the Bronze Star Medal. Surviving are his parents, a brother and a sister.

#### UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

**Surendra Bhana, g'68, PhD'71**, 77, Sept. 24 in Lawrence, where he was professor emeritus in the department of history. He is survived by his wife, Kastoor Jeena Bhana, PhD'70; two daughters, Hershini, c'92, and Palvih, j'02; a son, Hemant, '97; and three grandchildren.

**Roy Creek**, 98, Oct. 10 in Lawrence. He was a retired colonel in the U.S. Army and spent 15 years as a hospital administrator at KU Medical Center. Survivors include his wife, Florine; a daughter, Cynthia Creek Maude, j'71; three sons, one of whom is Condy, d'77; 11 grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren.

**Margaret Schutz Gordon, assoc.**, 95, Oct. 3 in Kirkwood, Missouri. She was professor emerita in the School of Social Welfare, and in 1983 she was inducted in the KU Women's Hall of Fame. Three stepsons, a stepdaughter, five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren survive.

**Stuart Levine, assoc.**, 84, Oct. 29 in Lawrence, where he was professor emeritus of American Studies and authored and edited several publications, including the American Studies journal, which he founded. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Survivors include his wife, Susan Fleming Matthews Levine, PhD'80; two sons,

Aaron, c'87, and Allen, c'89; a daughter; a sister; three grandchildren; and a great-grandchild.

**Jack Riegle, '61**, 82, Aug. 15 in Lawrence, where he had a 38-year career as a civil engineer with KU Campus Operations. He later became a technical director and set designer for Theatre Lawrence. Surviving are his wife, Ines; two sons, one of whom is Steven, '95; two brothers, one of whom is Robert, a'49; two sisters; two granddaughters; two step-grandchildren; and two step-great-grandchildren.

**Robert Primo Sherman, m'63**, 82, Aug. 3 in Kansas City. He was an internist and pulmonologist and an associate professor of clinical medicine at KU's School of Medicine from 1970 to '80. Surviving are three sons, one of whom is Paul, '88; a daughter; and five grandchildren.

**George Worth, assoc.**, 87, Oct. 7 in Lawrence, where he was an English professor and chaired the department from 1964 to '79. In 1994, he received the Chancellors Club Career Teaching Award. He is survived by a daughter, Theresa Worth Wilkinson, '78; a son, Paul, j'80, g'86; four granddaughters; and five great-grandchildren.

#### ASSOCIATES

**Marlene Boster, assoc.**, 84, Nov. 6 in Wichita. She is survived by her husband, D. Wayne, e'61; a daughter; a sister; and a granddaughter.

**Sarah "Sally" Whitcomb Lieurance, assoc.**, 97, Sept. 6 in Williamsburg, Virginia. She was a registered nurse and a flight attendant. Surviving are two sons, Newton Jr., c'66, and John, e'70; a daughter, Darline Lieurance Rowe, d'71; a brother; five grandchildren; and several great-grandchildren.

**Gwendolyn White Mitchell, assoc.**, 93, Sept. 24 in Lawrence, where she was a homemaker and community volunteer. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. She is survived by her husband, Wiley, b'43, g'47; two daughters, one of whom is Nancy Mitchell Moore, '70; two grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

# Rock Chalk Review

STEVE PUPPE



## In the sweet spot

**Book explores Radiohead's balance of artistic success with popular commercial appeal**

Shortly after Oxford University Press' November publication of *Everything In Its Right Place: Analyzing Radiohead*, Brad Osborn, assistant professor of music theory, was asked to discuss his book at a Kansas City advertising agency. His speech, "Radiohead is my favorite brand," explored the English rock band's blend of artistic and commercial success as an inspiration for other long-running creative endeavors.

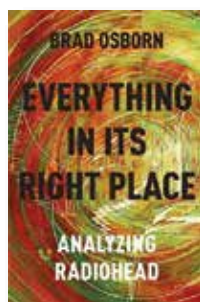
"It was all about how Radiohead keeps some core principles the same but evolves the sound from record to record. That's how they remain relevant," Osborn says. "They keep a core Radiohead-ness, if you will, but constantly try something new, and slowly, glacially, evolve their sound."

Osborn came to KU in 2013 from the

University of Washington, where he completed a dissertation on experimental rock music after 1990. He now teaches music theory to all freshman music majors, and enlivens the difficult course, "kind of mathematical in nature," with pop-music elements that are easily relatable to 18-year-olds.

"My goal," Osborn says, "is to teach them how Beethoven and popular music really aren't that different if you're looking at structural principles of the music."

When he arrived at KU, Osborn learned that he had six years to complete one of two tenure requirements: six major articles



*Everything In Its Right Place: Analyzing Radiohead*

by Brad Osborn

Oxford University Press, \$24.95

Brad Osborn studies "compositional complexities" of rock music recorded after about 1990. "But," he says, "I'm starting to shift my work more toward analyzing the cultural aspect, along with the music."

or one book. He decided immediately to devote himself to a book on Radiohead, whose music he briefly explored in his dissertation.

Osborn says that the deeper he immersed himself in Radiohead's extensive catalog of music during his research and writing, the more he respected artistry that hits what he views as "that sweet spot between convention and experimentation." Radiohead, Osborn contends, does that better than any band since the late-era Beatles.

"I did not go into this thinking that Radiohead was necessarily as historically significant as I found them to be, ultimately."

After completing one last Radiohead article, three years in the making, Osborn plans to focus his research on a particular "melodic motive" that for decades has been used in film music to signify melancholy, longing, nostalgia or remembrance.

The musical figure is a two-note passage that hangs on a dissonant leading tone before finally falling down. It was heard, for instance, at the end of "Laura Palmer's Theme" from "Twin Peaks," and is commonly heard when a two-syllable name is included in "Happy Birthday to You."

Osborn says he has analyzed the emotive passage in about 100 films, from 1930s classics to, most recently, a weekend viewing of "Selma."

"It's a heart-wrenching movie, so of course I'm waiting for the composer to use that motive," Osborn says. "And just near the end of the film, Lyndon Johnson signs the Voting Rights Act; cut to a shot of Martin Luther King's face and there it is, the motive."

*“If you think you need to be something by the time you graduate, tell yourself you want to be enlightened.” —Robert Day*

“I know that might ruin it, when you’re waiting for something to appear, but it’s also kind of gratifying, to have this theory—Will it happen in this movie?—and, sure enough, it does.”

Everything in its right place, musically and otherwise.

—Chris Lazzarino

## Old school

**Memoir explores writer’s life on both sides of the classroom**

Robert Day’s literary tributes to the professors he encountered at KU during the 1960s are among the most popular pieces *Kansas Alumni* has published over the past decade. *Affection* is not quite adequate to describe the feeling that Day, c’64, g’66, expresses for mentors like Ed Ruhe, Ed Wolfe, Carroll Edwards and Charlton Hinman in essays that artfully move between the innocence of the student and the wisdom of the elder looking back on his callow youth. *Appreciation*—a deep, abiding gratefulness—marks those well-crafted remembrances, which don’t simply extol the example these master teachers set, but suggest how their influence rippled across his own teaching and writing career.

*The ABCs of Enlightenment: A Memoir of Learning and Teaching* closes the circle by collecting six of these stellar essays on learning (five of which originally appeared in *Kansas Alumni*) with seven pieces on teaching. The title essay, framed as a first-day-of-class lecture to freshmen, urges students to embrace learning for the sake of learning rather than career advancement. “If you think you need to be

something by the time you graduate,” he advises, “tell yourself you want to be enlightened.”

“Tales Out of School,” “The Myth of Good College Teaching” and “Famous Education” take a more critical look at academia, but the pointed criticism plays well with Day’s pointed humor. Writing about the rich undergraduate prize awarded by Washington College, where he taught for many years before retiring, Day recounts the media circus that ensued each spring.

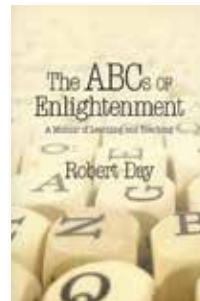
“My college keeps the winner secret, but that year we had to tell the television people, so they could point the cameras in the right direction to catch (a la ‘The Price Is Right’) screams, gasps, jumping up and down, whoopie, whatever. As it turned out, we did not make the evening news. The woman who won was not animated enough for the camera. For my part, when they pointed the camera my way, I said the prize was larger than my salary

that year. I was quite animated.”

In putting together *The ABCs of Enlightenment*, Day was struck to discover how much his learning shaped his teaching. “I learned because I was included in the learning: My best teachers brought me into their intellectual lives,” he writes. “It seemed natural to do the same for my students, and in so doing, like my teachers, I joined what Borges called *el salon de estudiantes* instead of *el salon de profesores*.”

As more than one writer notes in the introductions and afterwords salted throughout this delightful collection, Day’s high esteem for his teachers has been returned to him many times over by those he taught. No wonder: Even as a professor, Bob Day is a student at heart.

—Steven Hill



*The ABCs of Enlightenment: A Memoir of Learning and Teaching*

By Robert Day

Serving House Books, \$10



Robert Day

DAN STOREY

## Family ties

**Legacy of corruption and control at core of author's latest novel**

In *The Roanoke Girls*, author Amy Vickery Engel spins a troublesome tale of family dysfunction and secrecy as told by Lane Roanoke, a young girl who uncovers the truth about her family and flees, only to return years later after the disappearance of her cousin.

Engel has published young adult novels, but this is her first for the adult fiction market. The story begins as 15-year-old Lane is sent to Osage Flats, a small, rural town in Kansas, to live with her maternal grandparents and her cousin, Allegra, after her mother's suicide. Although Lane knows little about her family—her mother had broken ties as a teenager and never spoke about them—she quickly adjusts and becomes entrenched in small-town life, forming a sisterly bond with Allegra and developing a tumultuous relationship with a young man named Cooper.

For Lane, life on the Roanoke farm has its perks, but she soon discovers that the sprawling estate harbors secrets that span generations. She escapes before she, too, becomes one of its victims.

Eleven years later, while Lane is living in Los Angeles, she's contacted by her grandfather, who pleads with her to come back to Osage Flats after Allegra disappears. Overcome with guilt for having left her cousin behind years ago, Lane returns, determined to uncover the truth about Allegra—a difficult task in a small town so adept at keeping secrets.

Engel, c'93, aptly takes readers on Lane's journey by shifting seamlessly between the



STEVE PUPPE

young girl's summer at the farm to present day, which finds Lane broken, seemingly beyond repair, struggling to come to grips with her family's history and her place in it. Interspersing chapters told from the perspective of relatives who came before Lane, *The Roanoke Girls* carefully reveals the casualties of love and loyalty and provides an uncomfortable glimpse into one family's heartbreaking dysfunction.

—Heather Biele

Students in the University's new Emerging Scholars Program work approximately seven hours a week with their research mentors. "It's not overbearing," says John Augusto. "They can still balance it with their coursework and their commitments to other student organizations."

research," says John Augusto, g'95, PhD'09, director of the Center for Undergraduate Research, "but we didn't have a whole lot of programming and a whole lot of efforts for students who are just getting started in research."

Augusto explains that the program was also driven by a need to include more first-generation and low-income students in research, a challenge he sees not only at KU, but also at other universities nationwide. "If you have to choose between volunteering and doing research or working a part-time job, you have to choose working the part-time job," he says. "We understand that."

As participants, students work approximately seven hours a week for an hourly wage. In addition to duties assigned by faculty mentors, students also must attend monthly professional development workshops with other Emerging Scholars and staff from the Center for Undergraduate Research.

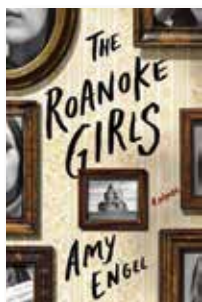
## First-year edge

**New program offers students early start to conduct research**

Students now have the opportunity to conduct research during their first year at the University, thanks to a new, federally funded work-study program at the Center for Undergraduate Research.

The Emerging Scholars Program, which launched in August, pairs first-year students with faculty mentors who need assistance on research and creative projects. More than 100 students initially applied for the program, and 50 were selected to participate.

"We had a lot of programs and efforts for students who were already doing



*The Roanoke Girls*  
by Amy Engel  
Crown Publishing,  
\$25

Augusto and his team took cues from several universities that offered similar work-study programs for students, including the University of Michigan, which has operated the successful Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program for 20 years. When KU launched its program, an overwhelming number of faculty members answered the call to participate.

“We had over 80 applications from faculty,” says Augusto. “We had to turn faculty away.”

Faculty create job descriptions for their research positions and are paired with students based on their interests.

“A number of faculty have said that the reason they are in this program is because they got this experience when they were an undergraduate,” Augusto explains. “So 10, 15, 20 years ago, somebody saw them as a freshman and said, ‘Hey, you’d be good in research,’ pulled them in, got them excited about studying chemistry or doing research in sociology, and that really shaped their experience going forward.”

Cecelia Menjivar, Foundation Distinguished Professor in the department of sociology, works closely with Kansas City freshman Giselle Almodovar, who assists in creating a database of articles that examine immigrants and immigration laws in the media.

“I think it is a great opportunity to involve undergraduates in research very early in their academic careers so that they learn important research skills through hands-on projects,” Menjivar says. “These experiences complement nicely what they are learning in the classroom.”

In the future, Augusto would like to see the Emerging Scholars Program expand if funding allows. He also hopes to offer a credit-only option for all students, in addition to the work-study option for first-year students.

“Students come to KU for great reasons,” he says, “like we have their major, or they meet a professor and they get excited about studying a particular subject matter, or maybe because of our great volleyball team or great basketball team.

“I want them to come to KU because they can do research. We talk a lot about

that in the admissions process. This gives us a way to walk our talk, which is saying ‘Yeah, we talk about the importance of undergraduate research and for students who want to do that, you can do that as early as your first year.’”

—Heather Biele

## What about Bob?

### Novel’s dark humor overcomes suburbia-gone-bad conventions

Bob Patterson has it all: a wonderful wife, two good kids, a sprawling home in Kansas City’s suburban countryside, loads of dough. Most delightfully for Bob, the one thing he doesn’t have is an urge to upset the smooth currents of his satisfyingly unchallenging life.

“Even though I’m not that smart or successful, everyone thinks I am,” Bob explains in *The Coaster*, the debut novel by Kansas Citian Erich Wurster, b’85, l’88. “My entire life feels like a lie. Not a big, interesting, book-worthy lie, as if I’ve got a secret family locked in the dungeon under my house. Just a series of small, meaningless deceptions to hide my true self from others. Maybe ‘lie’ is a little strong. Let’s say people only know the me I pretend to be.”

Bob’s smarmy fraternity brother, Dave “Corny” Cornwallis, explains a few rounds into a momentous night of debauchery that Bob is a “coaster.” CEOs who swing big deals are “the engines,” and, one level down, their lieutenants are the “propellers,” Corny continues. Because those alpha males need subservient buddies, pleasant and ever-helpful “coasters” like Bob occupy the next rung down on the ladder.

But Bob won’t be a coaster much longer.

When patriarch and civic pillar Samuel Bennett dies of a heart attack, the reading of his will reveals a shocking turn: Ol’ Sam passed over his talented daughter Sarah, president of The Bennett Company, and instead named son-in-law Bob as trustee of his immense wealth. Sarah holds no grudge. She wants more for her man than

he apparently wants for himself, and she is glad to see heavy responsibility thrust upon his sloping shoulders.

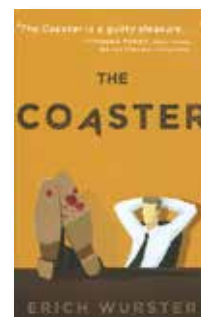
But the unpaying trustee gig isn’t easy, as Bob had hoped. Investment proposals being considered at the time of Sam Bennett’s death must begin anew, and the coaster finds himself stuck in a ceaseless eddy of PowerPoints and pitchmen.

Enter Sanitol Solutions, a freakishly good cleaning system, and toothy front-man Tom Swanson, both seemingly too good to be true. The coaster’s dormant business instinct slowly sheds its slothish shroud, prodding Bob to look closer, and closer still. Industrial espionage, personal betrayals, blackmail, a handy quiver of tranquilizer darts, kidnapping, murder, another murder, gruesome gory stuff and a dash of high-tech gadgetry, all methodically stirred in a chilled shaker of wise-cracks and observational humor, finally reveal Bob Patterson to be a coaster only to his own—and his wife’s—engine and propeller.

As is common with crime thrillers built on humor, *The Coaster* is more about people than plot. Structural defects, though, are forgiven for Wurster’s dark comedic talent, memorable for its delicious doses of immaturity: a wise guy vs. wiseguys. Like its namesake, there lurks within *The Coaster* more than suspected, especially the unexpected reward of a suburban crime spree story in which husband and wife fight through to salvation by trusting, rather than murdering, one another.

Tom Swanson never comprehended what Sarah Patterson knew all along: The coaster is not what he pretends to be.

—Chris Lazzarino



*The Coaster*  
by Erich Wurster  
Poisoned Pen  
Press, \$15.95

# Glorious to View photograph by Valerie Spicher



..... The bronze likeness of legendary law dean  
..... "Uncle Jimmy" Green and a student, crafted by  
..... sculptor Daniel Chester French and dedicated  
..... to the University in 1924, weathered blustery  
..... winds and a fine dusting of December snow. ....



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