

KANSAS ALUMNI

No 4, 2017 ■ \$5

Chancellor Douglas Girod

*KU Med's popular leader
named University's
18th chancellor*

- NEW ASTRONAUT
- CHEESE WHIZ
- A LONG WALK

Fact:

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Jennifer Branch, wife, mother, nurse, PKD survivor, kidney recipient



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COVER STORY

Bright Outlook

As a leading cancer surgeon, Doug Girod learned that putting the patient first is good medicine. Focusing foremost on the student experience as chancellor, he believes, will also bring good things to the University.

By Chris Lazzarino

*Cover photograph
by Steve Puppe*

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Fly High

Meet KU's newest star voyager, NASA astronaut-in-training Loral O'Hara.

By Chris Lazzarino

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Sweet Dreams Are Made of Cheese

How did cheesemonger Sara Knickerbocker ace her industry's toughest test? With serious study and a healthy appetite for fun.

By Steven Hill

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Back to School

The Commencement walk is the last leg in a long journey for graduates. For one woman, it was a trip decades in the making.

By Cyd Silvius Alloway



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Lift the Chorus



Thank you, BGL

THE COVER GIRL on your recent issue exemplifies courage, dignity and grace under pressure.

I was fortunate enough to meet and converse with Chancellor Gray-Little several times, and I was always charmed. My only regret is that I never had the opportunity to take a class from her.

Thank you, Madam, for all that you have done for the University of Kansas.

You will be missed.

Linda Kerby, n'70, c'87
Overland Park

Personal touch

THE FIRST WORD article in issue No. 3 regarding the book on former Chancellor Franklin D. Murphy [*The Making of a Leader: Franklin D. Murphy, The Kansas Years* by Nancy Kellogg Harper] brought back my own memories of him. In summer 1956, I was a junior at Washington High School in Washington, considering college alternatives. Our family attorney, Farel Lobaugh, l'1920, was an active KU alumnus and wanted me to consider KU. He

mentioned that he was attending a meeting on the Lawrence campus and invited me to go along for a tour.

I was invited to his luncheon meeting, which Chancellor Murphy was chairing. I don't recall all those to whom I was introduced in addition to Dr. Murphy, but I do remember meeting Alumni Association director Fred Ellsworth, c'1922, and Joyce Hall, one of the founders of Hallmark. I still remember the lunch entrée (chipped beef), which seemed an odd choice for such an auspicious meeting.

I did enter KU as a freshman in fall 1957, and over the next several years I occasionally considered stopping in to Strong Hall to reintroduce myself to Dr. Murphy, but on

further reflection I thought him too busy to bother.

In 1960 Dr. Murphy left to become chancellor of the University of California-Los Angeles, and I had no further contact with him, until he returned for the dedication of the hall named in his honor. I attended the event and stepped up to congratulate him. Knowing that about 9,000 students attended KU during his tenure, I did not expect him to remember me. However I was quite surprised when, after I introduced myself, he said "You're from Washington, Kansas." That he remembered such a detail was testimony to his great abilities as a leader not only at KU, but at UCLA, The Times-Mirror Co., and the many boards on which he served over his career.

Merlin L. Stigge, b'61
Las Cruces, New Mexico

AFTER READING the article on Franklin Murphy in the current issue of *Kansas Alumni*, I realize that we KU students in the 1950s did not fully appreciate the man at the helm of the University.

Of course, I received my aerial photo of the KU campus (diplomas came after turning in the cap and gown) from his hand, but my best memory of him is from the senior breakfast at the Kansas Union Ballroom.

Not being smokers, my roommate and I were having trouble lighting the traditional corncob pipes as directed. Dr. Murphy leaned over from the head table and coached us to success. We appreciated the personal attention from him.

Carol Ann Houston

Schneider, j'58,

Holiday Island, Arkansas

All's well that ends well

Cleveland pharmacist John Musser on May 17 was halfway to Cincinnati, where he planned to help his daughter move into her new home, when he pulled off Interstate 71 for lunch at Arby's. On a sink in the men's room, he spied a ring: University of Kansas, Class of 1952, inscribed with the initials "SJT."

Musser found the Alumni Association online and, heeding his grandmother's advice to "always start at the top," he emailed President Heath Peterson, d'04, g'09, seeking help to find the owner.

"The joy 'SJT' will have should be great," Musser wrote of his quest, adding, "The joy I will have will be great," and, "It's the right thing to do."

Peterson turned to Stefanie Shackelford, vice president of alumni records, who found Sidney J. Teaford, b'51, of Springfield, Virginia, in the alumni database. He appeared to be the likely owner, despite the ring's Class of 1952 inscription.

After the Association helped Musser and

Teaford connect, Teaford supplied the magic word Musser wanted to hear to confirm the ring's ownership—Arby's—and soon his treasured KU memento had returned from its wayward journey.


"I never take the ring off because I have a big knuckle," says Teaford, retired from more than 30 years as an officer in the U.S. Navy. "But ice cream had gotten on my hands, so I took it off to wash. I left it on the sink and forgot about it."

To show his gratitude for his ring's return, Teaford sent Musser a \$50 gift card, which Musser used for an anniversary dinner with his wife.

"All's well that ends well," Teaford says. "And I couldn't be happier."

Neither could we, Sid, especially as we welcome a kind and thoughtful honorary Jayhawk to the flock.

"When I saw it was from the class of 1952, I realized that whoever owned that ring had worn it for 65 years," Musser says. "I pictured how that man must have felt when he realized it was gone, so I wanted to do what I could to get it returned."

The right thing to do, indeed. 

—Chris Lazzarino

July 2017

KANSAS ALUMNI

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UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES



COURTESY SCOTT SEYFARTH



Scott Seyfarth (center above), organized the “Bathrobes and Baseball Caps” graduation procession (left) in December 1983, with the help of Jim and Diane Mielke. This year, the three reunited when Seyfarth greeted the Class of 2017 as the Association’s national chair.

As Scott Seyfarth, the Alumni Association’s 2016-’17 national chair, welcomed the Class of 2017 to the KU alumni family May 14, he couldn’t help but exult in his own unlikely journey from Commencement desperado to dignitary.

His first walk down the Hill was far from regal. On Dec. 17, 1983, Seyfarth and classmate Steve Sachs organized “Bathrobes and Baseball Caps,” an irreverent procession for December graduates sponsored by the “Class of 1983 1/2,” after learning that at that time there were no ceremonies for mid-year graduates. At high noon on a frigid Saturday, more than 50 hardy souls dressed in unceremonial garb processed from the Campanile as “Pomp and Circumstance,” broadcast by KLZR radio, blared from boom boxes lining the sidewalk.

Seyfarth, b’83, and Sachs, b’83, both worked as orientation assistants, and as Seyfarth recalls, they often vented their disappointment to then admissions director Linda Thompson (now Robinson), d’72, g’76, and assistant director Diane Mielke, g’81. “Diane got sick of hearing me gripe,” he recalls, “so she finally said, ‘Well, Seyfarth, stop whining and do something about it.’”

The two enterprising accounting majors created “Bathrobes and Baseball Caps” and recruited Robinson and Mielke to participate. Mielke’s husband, Jim, then associate professor of anthropology, offered satirical yet sincere congratulatory remarks on behalf of

the faculty, and he and Robinson wore academic gowns, adding a touch of class and credibility to the ragtag march.

Years later, Seyfarth was delighted to learn that as KU’s national alumni leader, he would continue the tradition of greeting the newest Jayhawk graduates. Before the May 14 ceremony, he arrived in Strong Hall to dress for the occasion.

After he had put on his regalia, he walked Jim Mielke, now associate dean of the College and professor of anthropology, and Diane, who also were marching in the procession. The surprise reunion left the three momentarily speechless. “We stared at each other for literally 10 seconds,” Seyfarth says, “and Diane just looked at me with this proud, motherly expression on her face. Then she said, ‘Can I have a hug?’”

“I said, ‘Did you ever dream that 34 years later I would finally get my cap and gown?’”

Diane then regaled Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little and others with the tale of Seyfarth’s 1983 exploits. “This young man is responsible for the graduation ceremonies we have in December,” she told them.

Diane calls the moment “very wonderful” and adds, “We declared that we all look exactly the same” after 34 years.

Fifty years have flown since Cyd Silvius Alloway began her freshman year. After following life’s detours, she returned to the Hill a few years ago, to complete her bachelor’s degree, and in May she finally made her way from the Campanile into Memorial Stadium. As Alloway, j’17, describes in her heartfelt essay, the transformation and triumph were well worth the wait.



DOUG GIBB

On the Boulevard



Nearly 5,000 graduates made the momentous walk down the Hill and into Memorial Stadium May 14 as the University celebrated its 145th Commencement. Jayhawks were inspired by remarks from William McNulty, c'01, a former Marine and founder of Team Rubicon, an international disaster relief corps of volunteers. McNulty received an honorary doctorate during the ceremony. Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little presented McNulty's doctoral hood.

Exhibitions

“Engaged: Campus and community scholars working together for the public good,” Haricombe Gallery in Watson Library, through Aug. 11

“American Dream,” Spencer Museum of Art, through Sept. 3

“And Still We Rise: Race, Culture, and Visual Conversations,” Spencer Museum of Art, through Sept. 17

“Narratives of the Soul,” Spencer Museum of Art, through Sept. 17

“Separate and Not Equal: A History of Race and Education in America,” Spencer Museum of Art, through Oct. 1

“The League of Wives: Vietnam’s POW/MIA Allies & Advocates,” Dole Institute, through December

Lied Center events

JULY

27 An Evening with Lyle Lovett and His Large Band

SEPTEMBER

22 Black Violin

24 Kenny Rogers’ Final World Tour: “The Gambler’s Last Deal” with special guest Linda Davis

28 KU Symphony Orchestra with special guest Simone Porter, violin

29 Tango Buenos Aires: “Spirit of Argentina”

OCTOBER

5 Juilliard String Quartet

8 Underwater Bubble Show

14 All The Way Live!

17 United States Air Force Concert Band & Singing Sergeants



McNulty

- 20** "Dirty Dancing"
- 21** Béla Fleck and Abigail Washburn
- 22** Chen Guang, piano
- 29** Susan Werner, singer-songwriter

Academic Calendar

JULY

- 28** Summer classes end

AUGUST

- 19** Hawk Fest, Traditions Night
- 21** Fall classes begin

Alumni Events

JULY

- 17** Happy Hour, 10 Barrel Brewing Company, Portland, Oregon
- 19** Dallas: Jayhawks & Java
- 19** Houston: Jayhawks & Java
- 19** Happy Hour, Fremont Brewing, Seattle
- 20** Happy Hour, Hayden Rooftop Bar, New York City
- 20** Denver: Jayhawks & Java
- 20** KU alumni online networking
- 21** Happy Hour, Roy-Pitz Barrel House, Philadelphia
- 22** Summer Barbecue, Arlington, Virginia
- 22** Omaha Jayhawks Golf Tournament, Miracle Hill Golf Course
- 26** KU Night with the Isotopes, Albuquerque, New Mexico
- 26** Beer vs. Wine Smack-down, Scardello Oak Lawn, Dallas

- 27** KU alumni networking, Los Angeles

AUGUST

- 8** KU Night with the Richmond Squirrels, Richmond, Virginia
- 16** Houston: Jayhawks & Java
- 17** KU alumni online networking
- 17** KU Kickoff, Wichita
- 19** Baltimore-Annapolis Annual Picnic

- 25** KU Kickoff at Corinth Square, Prairie Village

- 26** Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity, Colorado Springs, Colorado

SEPTEMBER

- 2** KU vs. Southeast Missouri State, member tailgate, Adams Alumni Center

- 9** KU vs. Central Michigan, member tailgate, Adams Alumni Center

- 16** KU at Ohio, member tailgate

- 20** Dallas: Jayhawks & Java

- 21** COOP Ale Works Tour, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

- 21** Denver: Jayhawks & Java

- 21** KU alumni online networking

- 23** KU vs. West Virginia, member tailgate, Adams Alumni Center



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



Jayhawk Walk



Portage at your own risk

KU's Concrete Canoe Team members ("dedicated to disregarding convention by making sidewalks float in style," is their motto) rocked a first-place finish in April at the Mid-Continent Regional Concrete Canoe Competition.

Sponsored by the American Society of Civil Engineers, the contest challenges engineering students to build concrete canoes within an exacting set of rules. Teams earn points for a technical paper and oral presentation explaining the design and construction, and for the overall quality of their canoe.

Then comes the "swamp test": The boat must refloat after total submersion before teams are allowed to race.

"The canoe never hits the water until the competition," says co-captain **Brittany Multer**, an Overland Park junior in civil engineering. "It all goes back to those cool engineering principles, where you gotta design something and you gotta design it right, because sometimes you only get one chance."

Winning the district race gave the Jayhawks a second chance to cement their reputation at nationals in June, where they finished 18th. They prepped by improving their design report and presentation, and by practicing paddling. The canoe (all 393 pounds of it) couldn't be modified in any way: This is one design that's set in stone.

would probably have ended the same."

On April 10, Helen and Walter "Hob" Crockett, c'47, professor emerita of social psychology, celebrated their 74th wedding anniversary.

The Lawrence Journal-World speculated that they could be the longest-married couple in Kansas. The next morning their phone rang. It was a friend, Tim Miller, professor of religious studies, c'66, g'69, g'71, PhD'73. Turns out his parents, Margaret and Paul, celebrated their 75th anniversary last year in Wichita.

It was the first of many congratulatory calls and letters for Helen, now 93, and Hob, 96.

The keys to their long, happy marriage? Growing together. Staying active.

"And he would eat anything," Helen says with a laugh. "I didn't know how to cook when we were married, but I was willing to learn. He has never really complained about any food I cooked, or anything really. Very good-natured. So it was easy."



Drivers, start your fire engines!

BEFORE FIREFIGHTERS brave the dangers of smoke and flame, they first must conquer perilous hazards of city streets.

Thanks largely to a Department of Homeland Security grant, Kansas firefighters can now train for their sorties in a state-of-the-art emergency vehicle driving simulator purchased and operated by the Kansas Fire & Rescue Training Institute, based at KU's Professional and Continuing Education unit.

The new simulator, housed in a large



Hob and Helen Crockett

Long live love

THEY MET when he was in the Air Force. Her brother set them up. Three dates and less than a year later they married after courting mainly through letters.

"The war," Helen Crockett explains. "It was a time when the men were all leaving and didn't know if they'd return."

It was 1943. She was 19. He was 22.

"I think we would have taken more time in a different situation," she says, "but it

trailer, features realistic physical elements of a truck cabin—including a steering wheel, safety restraints, foot pedals and dashboard controls and dials—in front of computer screens that mimic varied street scenarios as well as the handling characteristics of fire engines, SUVs, pickup trucks, ambulances and police cruisers.

Rookie drivers and veterans statewide can safely learn new skills, train on unfamiliar equipment or practice the latest techniques to eliminate bad habits, all in an effort to reduce a truly frightening statistic: Vehicle crashes cause 12 percent of U.S. firefighter fatalities.

“Whether in response to an emergency or not, driving in the line of duty is one of the most dangerous parts of firefighting,” says institute director Glenn Pribbenow. “The new simulator adds many realistic situations and factors to the training that are too dangerous or expensive to create in field training.”

A sight to see

FOR MOUNT OREAD’S astronomy enthusiasts, the first day of fall classes this year takes a backseat to the chance to



NASA

witness the first total solar eclipse since 1918.

The Aug. 21 phenomenon will sweep the nation from Oregon to South Carolina, leaving a portion of the Plains in complete darkness. Although Lawrence falls just south of the eclipse’s path of totality, locals can still expect a significantly darker sky, says Barbara Anthony-Twarog, professor of astronomy and astrophysics.

“The sun will be more than 99 percent covered from our location,” she says. “There’s going to be very, very little sun disc left exposed at the maximum time, which is a little after 1 p.m.”

Anthony-Twarog will be among those attending The Eclipse @ KU, a public event hosted by the department of physics and astronomy and the KU Biodiversity Institute & Natural History Museum from 11:30 to 1:30 p.m. at the Shenk Sports Complex, near 23rd and Iowa streets. Eclipse enthusiasts can take part in art and

science activities and presentations, feast on food-truck fare, and view the phenomenon through telescopes—while wearing their party favors: free eclipse glasses.

Anthony-Twarog predicts her department will be closed that day, giving students a once-in-a-lifetime excuse to skip classes and gaze at the sky.

{ Heard by the Bird }

A dating-app-themed comment on April 24 pushed the University

Daily Kansan’s anonymous Free for All text-in column to its high-water mark of the spring semester:

“sometimes I only swipe right on people in hopes that if we match I can correct their grammar in their bio.”



Something phishy

Phishing emails from hackers try to trick users into spilling confidential information such as passwords, account numbers or the exact location of that coffee can stuffed with Krugerrands buried in the backyard. In its never-ending crusade to protect us from our cyberselves, the KU Information Technology Security Office (ITSO) tempts faculty, staff and students with “self-phishing” emails—fake phishes by our tech guardians—to find out exactly how gullible we are.

Answer: Pretty darn.

ITSO’s latest phishing expedition congratulated us on getting a parking ticket and urged the use of a credit card to pay the fine. The experts hoped we’d see through the scheme and forward the suspicious communique to abuse@ku.edu.

Instead, reported a follow-up missive from ITSO, “a great many” faculty, staff and students “called KU Parking, some called the Lawrence Police Department, and some even went down to Municipal Court offices. We regret any stress and inconvenience ...”

And we appreciate the apology. Reburying all those coffee cans was a real pain.



CHARLIE PODREBARAC



World views

History project documents international student experience

Looking for something to do back in January, Hagith Sivan, professor of history, checked the event listings on KU's web page. There she saw a notice for a Chinese culture evening at the Kansas Union hosted by the KU Chinese Students & Scholars Friendship Association.

Sivan, whose professional focus is ancient history, has long had a personal interest in Chinese art and culture. She attended the event, and what she found resonated with another personal experience: Born in Israel, Sivan attended college in the United States, and she knows what it's like to be an international student, living far from home and family while wrestling with a new language and a new culture.

"I never quite felt at home, and I thought perhaps more could be done to accommodate people who come here, because they really feel it's a wonderful place to grow and contribute," Sivan says.

The professional historian also saw an opportunity to bolster the historical record.

"I have noticed a growing population of foreign students, and it's a wonderful addition to the University on all levels. And I think that perhaps we don't do as much as we can to ask them to share their experiences."

Sivan launched an oral history project to document the international student experience at KU. She conducted two group interviews with international students before summer break, and plans to do more after classes resume in the fall. All of her interviews have been with Chinese students so far, but the project will expand to include other nationalities. Nearly 2,400 students from more than 100 countries currently attend KU.

"The reason I started with Chinese students is that I was so impressed by that evening," Sivan says of the January celebration, which included art, food and artifacts from home that the students brought in to share with the Lawrence community. "They were so eager to share their culture."

Sivan also hopes to highlight the contributions international students make to the campus and the city.

"We don't only confer on them the advantages of American education, but they bring us so much of their own culture that perhaps we don't take enough advantage of," she says. "They're not only eager to take, they're eager to give."

The project is also designed to shine a light on the unique problems that international students encounter, in the hope that solutions can be found.

Jinhang Jiang, sophomore in accounting from Jinan, China, noted during his interview that the isolation and loneliness international students sometimes feel takes not only a social toll, but also an academic toll.

"The first semester, every class I took was a big challenge," he said. "The instructors talk so fast. And the students around you, classmates, change very frequently. You never meet the same people every day, so it's hard to make friends. It means you have no access to [group] study. No one can help you. You have to do all the stuff on your own."

Food—no shock—was among the challenges interviewees mentioned most. Perhaps more surprisingly, limited public transportation was also a chief concern.

"I think once you recruit students—which we're doing on a larger scale with each passing year—it's absolutely crucial to also connect with the parents."

-Hagith Sivan, professor

And contrary to cultural stereotypes, international students do embrace many KU traditions—including our love of basketball.

“It’s absolutely heartwarming to see how enthusiastic they all are about KU,” Sivan says.

The interviews are posted online so students can share them with friends and family back home. Sivan would like to eventually expand the project to link the parents of international students with KU alumni.

“I think once you recruit students—which we’re doing on a larger scale with each passing year—it’s absolutely crucial to also connect with the parents,” she says. “I can foresee a wonderful exchange where we create a parental network of alumni and parents all over the world whose children are at KU, to give whole families the sense that it’s not just the children who are getting an education, but they, the parents, are really appreciated as well.”

In the meantime, the interviews, Sivan believes, allow students to improve our understanding of the international experience at KU and help potential international students see “how wonderful it is to be a foreign student in the United States, and particularly at KU.”

She hopes that students gain something from the experience, as well.

“I think they realize that they are not alone, that once they come here there are people who care,” Sivan says. “That we care how they are accommodated, that we care to learn more about their experiences, that we care to understand what they like and where we can help.

“I want them to understand that they are welcome and that there’s always an open ear to listen to them.”

International students interested in joining Hagith Sivan’s oral history project can email her at dinah01@ku.edu.

New leaders

Changes at the top as key leadership positions filled

The Chancellor’s suite in Strong Hall won’t be the only office with a new occupant when students return to campus this fall: The KU community welcomes two deans, two vice provosts and a new director of student housing to leadership positions this summer.

L. Paige Fields, professor and dean of

the School of Business at Trinity University in San Antonio, began her tenure as Henry D. Price professor and dean of the KU School of Business July 1.

Fields will lead a school with more than 110 faculty and staff members and 2,200 bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral students; a newly opened \$70.5 million home, Capitol Federal Hall, brimming with the latest technology; and an annual budget of \$25 million.



Fields

COURTESY KU MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

UPDATE

DAN STOREY



Two campus building projects won American Architecture Awards this spring. The DeBruce Center, the three-story home of James Naismith’s original “Rules of Basketball” designed by Gould Evans [“A tradition is born,” Hilltopics, issue No. 3, 2016], was highlighted in the schools and university category. The Spencer Museum of Art renovation designed by Pei Cobb Freed & Partners and Sabatini

STEVE PUPPE



Architects [“The Big Reveal,” issue No. 5, 2016] was honored in the museums and cultural

buildings category.

Given by The Chicago Athenaeum Museum of Architecture and Design, the European Center for Architecture Art Design and Urban Studies and Metropolitan Arts Press, the American Architecture Awards “are dedicated to the recognition of the excellence in architecture and urbanism in the United States.” More information is available at americanarchitectureawards.com.

Hilltopics



GOOD VEGGIES: Common Harvest, the network of alumni farmers who provide produce for Crops to Campus, KU's local, organic produce subscription program for faculty, staff and students, was named to

Black Board Eats' list of 10 best CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) programs in the country. Crops to Campus is in its third year on campus.

insurance and capital structure.

Michelle Mohr Carney, professor and director of the School of Social Work at Arizona State University in Phoenix, became dean of the KU School of Social Welfare in July.

Carney takes over a school that is ranked among the top 20 public programs nationally but was roiled by student protests against its former leader, Paul Smokowski, who resigned as dean in 2016 but remains on the faculty.

Carney joined ASU in 2014 to direct the School of Social Work. She oversaw expansion of degree program offerings, increases in enrollment, and development of two new research centers. Before joining ASU she held faculty and leadership roles at the University of Georgia for 10 years and was at the University of South Carolina for six years.


"I am very excited to join such a prestigious university and school," Carney said in May. "I can't wait to start working with the engaged and productive faculty and the dedicated staff. The KU School of Social Welfare is poised to be an even greater leader in social work education in the next decade."

Carney completed a bachelor's degree and a doctorate in social work from The Ohio State University; her master's degree in social administration is from Case Western Reserve University. Her research interests include intimate partner violence, at-risk youths, community practices, leadership development, and collaboration and conflict resolution. She has also worked as a social worker or director at several agencies in the Midwest.

Also stepping into new roles recently:

J. Christopher Brown, c'89, g'92, professor and director of the environmental studies program, will succeed Mary Lee Hummert, PhD'87, as vice provost for faculty development;

Jennifer Hamer, professor of American Studies, was named vice provost for diversity and equity after filling the position on an interim basis for three months;

Sarah Waters, director of residence life at Bowling Green State University in Ohio, succeeds Diana Robertson as director for KU Student Housing. 



Carney

"I am honored to be joining the KU family," Fields said in May. "With Capitol Federal Hall as our home, outstanding opportunities for the School of Business abound. I am absolutely thrilled to begin the process of working with the KU community to develop strategies, new ideas and cutting-edge programs that will enhance the school's already outstanding reputation. We should look to invest, innovate and grow, and I am eager to help KU's incredible group of faculty, staff, students, alumni and business community members do just that."

Fields earned bachelor's and master's degrees in finance from Louisiana State

University and a doctorate in business administration from the University of South Carolina. She joined Trinity in 2012 as the Dick and Peggy Prassel Professor of Business Administration and served as chair of the department of finance and decision sciences from 2013 to 2015, when she was named dean of the School of Business.

Fields held academic and leadership positions at Texas A&M from 1994 to 2012, taught as a visiting professor at the University of Arizona from 1991 to 1994, and also taught at the University of Kentucky. Her research interests include corporate governance, banking,

Nursing need

Salina campus to address nursing shortage in underserved areas of Kansas

Six years after the School of Medicine opened a Salina campus as part of an effort to attract more doctors to the state's underserved small cities and rural areas, the School of Nursing will launch a similar effort to address a nursing shortage.

Starting this fall, the new campus will accept 12 students for the Bachelor of Science in nursing, a program for students who have already completed the first two years of their undergraduate education at any regionally-accredited college or university.

Plans call for expanding the program to 18 students in 2019 and 24 students in 2020. Maximum program capacity will be 48 students.

The new program will operate in partnership with Salina Regional Health Center, a 365-bed Level III Trauma Center that serves as a regional referral center for patients and critical access hospitals from 14 counties in north-central Kansas.

"There is great need in western Kansas for BSN-prepared nurses," said Sally Maliski, dean of the School of Nursing, in a media release announcing the new campus in May. "We are fortunate to be

working with Salina Regional Health Center and the Salina community to deliver a curriculum that will help meet the health care needs of this area."

The curriculum will be identical to the program in Kansas City, and students will be trained by faculty in Kansas City (through distance learning) and on site in Salina. The nursing program will share space with the School of Medicine-Salina.

"We can share the lessons learned from the creation of a rural medical school campus and the opportunity to share resources and to participate in interprofessional educational activities," said William Cathcart-Rake, m'74, dean of the School of Medicine-Salina.

Mike Terry, CEO at Salina Regional Health Center, noted that providing clinical training in a rural setting can encourage medical professionals to choose a rural practice once their training is complete.

"We've already seen promising results toward rural recruitment with the University of Kansas School of Medicine and the Smoky Hill Family Medicine Residency Program here in Salina," Terry said. "This new endeavor has the potential to help alleviate demands for baccalaureate nurses in Salina, for our partner hospitals in the Sunflower Health Network in north-central Kansas, and in rural communities across the state."

Milestones, money and other matters

■ A \$1.2 million grant

from the National Cancer Institute will allow researchers from KU Cancer Center to continue development of an innovative "lab-on-a-chip" technology for noninvasive biopsy for children with Ewing Sarcoma. Yong Zeng, assistant professor of chemistry, and Andrew Godwin, c'82, Chancellors



Zeng



Godwin

Distinguished Chair in Biomedical Sciences at KU Medical Center, are developing a technology that allows doctors to diagnose Ewing

Sarcoma, the second most common bone cancer in children and adolescents, using only a small drop of a patient's blood.

■ **Three new buildings** in the Central District redevelopment project have been named for KU historical figures. A 545-bed residence hall will be called Cora Downs Residence Hall in honor of the first woman to receive a Ph.D. from KU. Downs, c'1915, g'1920, PhD'1924, taught science at the University for six decades, retiring in 1963. The 33,000-square-foot Burge Union, scheduled to open in 2018, honors Frank Burge, who served as director of the Kansas Memorial Union from 1952 to 1983. Stouffer Place Apartments honors Ellis Stouffer, who served KU for 41 years as a teacher, scholar and administrator.

■ **David Murfin**, b'75, e'75, who has served on the Kansas Board of Regents since 2015, was appointed chairman of the board in May. He is CEO of Murfin Inc. and is active with KU advisory boards and numerous professional associations.



KU's Salina medical campus, which this fall adds the School of Nursing, is currently housed at the Salina Regional Health Center. In fall 2018, the schools of Nursing and Medicine will move into 40,000 square feet of renovated space in a former downtown bank (rendering above), which will accommodate continued enrollment growth.

COURTESY SALINA REGIONAL HEALTH CENTER

Hilltopics

STEVE PUPPE



The School of Pharmacy, led by Dean Ken Audus, ranked fourth nationally in NIH funding in 2016 and finished above the national average for residency matches.

PHARMACY

School earns high marks for research, residency rates

STATISTICS RELEASED THIS SPRING show the School of Pharmacy continues to fare well nationally in key areas.

For the 22nd consecutive year, the school ranked in the top 10 in the nation for National Institutes of Health research funding, according to data collected by the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy. KU ranked No. 4, earning more than \$16 million in fiscal 2016, an increase of \$4.5 million from 2015. The school is

the only Big 12 institution in the top 10.

Twenty faculty members attracted NIH funding, an average of more than \$640,000. Decreased federal funding and increased competition make the accomplishment all the more impressive.

“Elite pharmacy researchers from across the country compete for this money year after year,” said Ken Audus, PhD’84, dean of the School of Pharmacy. “The fact that we are consistently among the nation’s most successful speaks to the talent and expertise of our faculty. It’s something that they and the state of Kansas should be very proud of.”

There was good news for students, too: 2017 graduates set a school record for residency matches and finished far above the national match rate. KU PharmD students matched at a rate of 87 percent; nationally, only 67 percent of graduates seeking a year-long residency received a match.

SERVICE

Steeple award honors faculty contributions to Kansas

THREE FACULTY MEMBERS were recognized for public service with annual Steeples Service to Kansans Awards.

Established in 1997 by Don Steeples, professor emeritus of geology, and his wife, Tammy, PhD’00, to honor his parents, Wally and Marie Steeples, the award provides recipients \$1,000 and an additional \$1,000 base adjustment to their salaries.

This year’s recipients are:

Mary Banwart, c’90, director of the Institute for Leadership Studies and associate professor of communication studies. Banwart is the founder and director of the Kansas Women’s Leadership Institute, which annually brings women from around the world for a

UPDATE

“**T**he Good Catholic,” the independent film written and directed by Paul Shoulberg, c’04, [“Honor the Father,” issue No. 1, 2017] will be distributed by Broadgreen Pictures, with a release in select theatres and video on demand Sept. 8.

Inspired by Paul’s parents, Don, PhD’75, and Gini Shoulberg, g’72, and written in homage to Don after his death in 2013, the film premiered at the Santa Barbara Film Festival, where it won the Panavision Spirit Award. It also won the

Leonardo Da Vinci’s Horse Award for Best Screenplay at the Milan International Film Festival and was named Best Film at New Jersey’s Grove Film Festival.

“It has been a nice surprise,” Shoulberg says. “You get so personal with a film that you don’t know if it’s going to make sense to other people. So it’s nice to find out people like it.”

Broadgreen will release “The Good Catholic,” which stars Danny Glover, John C. McGinley, Wrenn Schmidt and Zach-

ary Spicer, in more than 20 cities and via video-on-demand services like iTunes and Amazon.

“Broadgreen is highly respected, and we’re one of their smaller films,” Shoulberg says. “It feels really good to get distributed by the same company that did Terrence Malick’s last film. It validates things a lot, but you have about five minutes to enjoy it, then you realize you gotta keep working. If we don’t continue to hustle and fight for the film, it’ll disappear.”



JAMES BROSHER

Plans are underway for a Lawrence showing in September. For more information, visit facebook.com/tgcmovie.

six-week program that allows them to explore women's leadership and history, gain leadership skills, learn about civic engagement and interact with Kansans across the state.

Jennifer Ng, associate professor of educational leadership and policy studies. Ng works with Kansas school districts on diversity, equity and inclusion. Most recently, she helped advise Garden City schools on their work with culturally and linguistically diverse youths. She also is active with Leadership Kansas and is a member of the Kansas Advisory Council to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

Sean Smith, professor of special education. Smith works with the Kansas Department of Education to support educators, represent parents and help implement technology for students with disabilities. He's also active with Families Together, a Kansas organization that supports families of people with disabilities, and the Down Syndrome Guild of Kansas City, which serves parents, family members and people with Down Syndrome across the state.

ENGINEERING

Two alumni receive school's highest honor

AN AERONAUTICAL ENGINEER known for his innovative work with flight simulators and a civil engineer whose unique approach to sheet metal fabrication has helped some of the world's most recognizable buildings soar, were honored by the School of Engineering in May for their dedication to the profession and their contributions to the industry.

Dave Kohlman, a world-renowned aeronautical engineer, teacher, consultant and entrepreneur, and L. William Zahner III, leader of the A. Zahner Company in Kansas City,

COURTESY SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING



Zahner

won the 2017 Distinguished Engineering Service Award, the school's highest honor for alumni or engineers.

Kohlman, e'59, g'60, worked at Boeing early in his career and in 1964 returned to KU, where he taught and helped establish the Flight Research Laboratory. He co-founded Kohlman Systems Research, an expert flight-test group supporting flight simulator development. He is also a world-renowned expert in aircraft accident investigation.

Zahner, e'79, helped transform his family's business from a regional sheet metal contractor into an internationally known fabricator; the company's complex forms distinguish iconic buildings such as the Museum of Pop Culture in Seattle, the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C., and the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts in Kansas City.

"Each of these men has made amazing contributions to the engineering industry and advanced their respective fields," says Michael Branicky, dean of engineering. "We're honored to have them as part of the Jayhawk engineering family—and we're pleased to bestow them with this award."

COURTESY SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING



Kohlman

Milestones, money and other matters



STEVE PUPPE

■ **A \$400,000 gift** from the late Jane Wofford Malin, c'45, g'47, will benefit the School of Music and the department of dance at KU. The estate bequest establishes the Malin Opportunity Funds for Dance and Music. Malin, who died in 2016 at the age of 90, was a longtime actor and advocate of community theatre in Lawrence.

■ **Six Jayhawks** were selected for prestigious Fulbright awards for research, study or English teaching abroad for 2017-'18. Barry Ballinger, PhD'17, Lawrence, who will travel to Turkey; Matthew Fahrenbruch, Lawrence doctoral student in geography, Nicaragua; Abigail Fields, c'17, Minneapolis, Minnesota, France; Robert Jameson, St. Paul, Minnesota, doctoral student in history, Czech Republic; Zachary McCarter, c'16, Marysville master's student in education, Germany; and John "Ike" Uri, c'17, Concordia, Tajikistan.

■ **Tuition will rise** 2.5 percent this fall on the Lawrence campus and 5 percent at KU Medical Center under a plan approved in June by the Kansas Board of Regents. Most undergraduates will pay an additional \$120 per semester for the coming academic year.

■ **Lied Center of Kansas** earned a \$30,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. The grant supports a multidisciplinary performing arts series during 2017-'18, "Exploring Identities through Music, Movement and Word."

Bittersweet bronzes

After winning 7 Big 12 events, track and field 'Hawks tally four thirds at NCAA meet

Although their June trip to the NCAA Outdoor Championships at the University of Oregon's Hayward Field failed to turn up any gold, the men's and women's track teams racked up four bronze medals and, for the first time in the long history of KU track and field, top-20 NCAA finishes for both teams.

Led by third-place finishes by freshman Gleb Dudarev in the hammer throw and sophomore Hussain Al Hizam in the pole vault, the KU men placed 11th in Eugene. The women's team, which entered the national rankings for the first time all season in the final poll before the national meet, placed 18th, paced by bronze medals from junior Sharon Lokedi in the 10,000-meter run and senior Sydney Conley in the long jump.

Lokedi's school-record time of 32 minutes, 46.10 seconds, was nearly a minute better than her second gold-medal performance in the Big 12 Outdoor Championships May 12 at Rock Chalk Park, where she also won the 5,000 meters and was named Big 12 Outstanding Female Performer of the Year.

"It was a personal record, which is what

I was hoping for," Lokedi said after the NCAA race. "Even though I wanted to win the race, I'm still happy with the performance."

Conley, a repeat champion at the Big 12 meet, went from fourth to third with a final jump of 21 feet, 2 inches.

"I wanted the gold and I know I was capable of getting it, but today just wasn't the day," Conley said. "I've come a long way to get third at this meet. It's my highest finish since I've been coming here so I have to look at that as a positive."

Al Hizam, whose gold-medal vault of 18 feet, 2.75 inches was the best in the history of the Big 12 Outdoor Championships, failed to clear 18 feet, 2.5 inches while battling swirling winds in Eugene



that challenged pole vaulters.

"I feel like that's what made the difference," he said. "Some guys were fortunate to get the tailwind and others didn't. That's just part of this sport, though, and it's something that you have to deal with."

As with his three bronze-medal-winning teammates, hammer thrower Gleb Dudarev also entered the NCAA meet as the Big 12 champion. Unlike the others, he was ranked No. 1 in his event. He improved with each of his final four throws in Eugene, ultimately vaulting from sixth to third with a final toss of 240 feet, 11 inches.

Dudarev won the Big 12 title by unleashing a school-record throw of 243 feet, 5 inches.

"I feel more confident after this throw and claiming this title," Dudarev said after his Big 12 victory in west Lawrence. "This throw proves, one more time, the condition I am in."

.....
Bronze-medalists Gleb Dudarev (left), Sydney Conley (above) and Hussain Al Hizam (top) at the NCAA championship meet June 7-10 in Eugene, Oregon.



Other Jayhawks to win Big 12 titles at Rock Chalk Park were senior Mitch Cooper, a repeat champion in the discus and the first Jayhawk to score league-meet points in all four throwing events, and senior Strymar Livingston in the 800 meters. Livingston is the first Jayhawk to win the 800 at the league's indoor and outdoor championship meets in a single season since Jim Ryan, j'70, in 1967.

Big D

Armstrong among the stars eager to energize football turnaround

Entering the third year of coach David Beaty's tenure, the football Jayhawks return 48 lettermen, including 14 starters, and head into fall camp with soaring enthusiasm.

"It hasn't been easy these first two years," Beaty says. "Our numbers situation that we have struggled with is no secret. But we have recruited and developed the players in our program, and I am excited because our babies are growing up."

Junior defensive end Dorance Arm-

"I've come a long way to get third at this meet."
—long jumper Sydney Conley, after winning NCAA bronze

strong Jr., who joined Beaty on a summer trip to meet with alumni at a rally in his native Houston—along with stops in Dallas, Phoenix, Atlanta and New Orleans—was named to Athlon Sports' Preseason All-America Team.

Armstrong was a unanimous first-team All-Big 12 selection in 2016, after leading the Big 12 in sacks (10), tackles for loss (20) and forced fumbles (3). He plays alongside an equally imposing presence on the defensive line, junior tackle Daniel Wise, who last season recorded three sacks, 10 tackles for loss and 38 total tackles.

"In the past, I felt like I needed to spend a good chunk of time explaining our plan and what we were trying to establish for the program," Beaty says of his preseason alumni rallies. "This year, there is a



LAURA JACOBSEN

Armstrong

different feeling. We finally have some legit playmakers to talk about."

KU opens its season Sept. 2 in Memorial Stadium, with a 6 p.m. game against Southeast Missouri State.

UPDATES

Senior closer **Stephen Villines**, whose 40 career saves is the best mark in KU baseball history, was named first-team All-Big 12 and was drafted by the New York Mets. The Pittsburgh Pirates tabbed junior reliever **Blake Weiman** and junior shortstop **Matt McLaughlin** went to the Colorado Rockies. Other than missing two games this season with a hand injury, McLaughlin played every inning of every game in his three seasons at KU. "He had an outstanding career," coach **Ritch Price** said of McLaughlin. ... **Mason Finley**, '14, defended his discus title at the U.S. Championships in Sacramento, California, with a throw of 206 feet, 9 inches. **Michael Stigler**, c'16, rallied to finish second in the 400-meter hurdles. Both earned spots with Team USA for the World Championships Aug. 5-13 in London. **Andrea Geubelle**,



JEFF JACOBSEN

Villines

d'14, placed third in the triple jump but did not reach the world-meet's qualifying standard of 46 feet, 3.25 inches, a mark she could attempt to hit in July. ... Rowing advanced all five of its boats to the Grand Finals of the Big 12 Championships in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and earlier topped Kansas State, 12-10, in the Sunflower Showdown on the Kansas River. After the season, **Rob Catloth**, f'85, rowing coach since the varsity program launched in 1995 (and the club program coach before that), announced his retirement. ... Sophomore golfer **Andy**

Spencer won the Watson Challenge at Milburn Country Club, topping former teammate **Chase Hanna**, b'17, by seven strokes. ... **Keith Loneker Sr.**, '94, an All-Big Eight guard on the 1992 Aloha Bowl team, three-year NFL lineman, actor, screenwriter and movie and music producer, died of cancer June 22. His son, **Keith Loneker Jr.**, is expected to be a starting linebacker this season. ... A new policy limiting the size and type of bags that can be brought into athletics events will be enforced beginning in August.



Fly

**After roaming
high seas and
ocean depths,
NASA astronaut
candidate aims
for the heavens**

High

She is an aerospace engineer, marine research technician, pilot, advanced scuba diver, sailor, surfer, certified wilderness first responder, spelunker, painter and shade-tree mechanic.

And, finally, astronaut.

Well, not quite. Astronaut *candidate* for now, but, after completing two years of training, Loral O'Hara, '06, in 2019 will report for duty in NASA's astronaut office to await her first flight assignment.

"I've always been really curious and loved learning new skills," the KU aerospace engineering graduate and crew team alumna said June 7 in Houston's Johnson Space Center, where she joined 11 classmates, decked out in their blue NASA

flight suits and perched in front of the next-generation Orion spacecraft, at a rousing introduction ceremony for the new class of astronaut candidates vying to join the current corps of 44. "I've been fortunate that the experiences that I've always gravitated toward are also those that helped me get up here today, things like fixing engines and flying and diving."

Born in Houston, O'Hara grew up in nearby Sugar Land. Her parents, Steve and Cindy, took Loral and her sister, Caroline, on visits to Johnson Space Center, and her second-grade class grew tomato plants that flew aboard the space shuttle.

"I've wanted to be an explorer ever since I was a little kid," O'Hara says. "I never really lost that."



by Chris Lazzarino

Photographs courtesy of NASA



O'Hara briefly tasted space-flight life while a KU student (above), testing an experiment aboard the "vomit comet," and in June joined 11 others as the latest group of adventurous Americans chosen for astronaut training.

O'Hara came to KU's School of Engineering as a National Merit Scholar; although she was more than 700 miles from Houston, she did not leave NASA far behind. O'Hara won an internship at the space agency's Jet Propulsion Laboratory and, supported by the School of Engineering and the Kansas Space Grant, she completed the intensive NASA Academy at Goddard Spaceflight Center. O'Hara also designed and built a micro-thruster satellite propulsion system that she tested on NASA's reduced gravity "vomit comet."

After graduation, O'Hara worked for a year as a project engineer at Rocketplane Limited in Oklahoma City, then entered graduate school at Purdue University, earning a master's degree in aeronautics and astronautics. In 2009, O'Hara's natural curiosity led her on a detour away from aeronautics, to the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Massachusetts.

"My plan was to come back to aero-

space," O'Hara says from Johnson Space Center, early on her first full, official day at NASA. "And then I went on my first research cruise with the *Alvin* submersible, the manned research sub, and I was hooked. Going to sea, I loved it. It was the perfect fit. Everything about it was great."

O'Hara joined Woods Hole as an engineer working on mechanical systems on the workhorse *Alvin*, which first entered the Woods Hole fleet in 1964. After years of upgrades, *Alvin* in 2013 began a series of sea trials, from tethered dives to harbor trials in shallow water, then to the open ocean.

For *Alvin's* third open-ocean test, O'Hara climbed aboard as the engineer-observer for a seven-hour dive to 1,600 meters, or a mile below the ocean's surface. Once the deep tests concluded, the team dropped steel ballast weight and *Alvin* began its ascent. In order to conserve

battery power in case sea conditions might delay retrieval at the surface, all lights onboard *Alvin* were shut off.

"We were a mile deep, so it was completely pitch black," O'Hara says. "But looking out the window you saw this whole array of bioluminescence. It looked like the night sky; everything was just twinkling."

"At that point, I was like, this must be what it feels like to be in space, looking out a window and seeing all those lights."

O'Hara first applied for the astronaut corps in 2009, before she even met the minimum requirement of three years of work experience. She applied again when applications were accepted for the 2013 class, and this year finally achieved her dream as one of 12 astronaut candidates chosen from more than 18,300 applicants.

Her classmates, four other women and

“I’ve always been really curious and loved learning new skills. I’ve been fortunate that the experiences that I’ve always gravitated toward are also those that helped me get up here today, things like fixing engines and flying and diving.” —Loral O’Hara

seven men, include test pilots, a submarine officer, an Antarctic researcher, a SpaceX engineer who worked as a fisherman in Alaska, a special forces helicopter pilot and surgeon, and a former Navy SEAL turned emergency room physician.

“In those 12 you see people who came from all these demanding subsets of culture, and here they are assembled to do a new thing,” says Mark Carreau, c’72, contributing writer for Aviation Week & Space Technology. “I saw people who were ready to embrace the future. Their future.”

What that future might be, though, is anybody’s guess. Many in the current astronaut class might one day be sent to the International Space Station, but all are envisioning travel beyond low-earth orbit.

NASA is planning its first launch of the Orion spacecraft for 2023, although the next manned NASA flight after that likely wouldn’t happen for another two to three

years, according to Eric Berger, senior space editor at Ars Technica.

“The question becomes whether or not NASA actually goes ahead with plans for deep space exploration,” Berger says. “Despite what’s said, there’s just not a lot of certainty about what’s going to happen.”

Once they’ve earned their astronaut pins, O’Hara and her classmates could find themselves launching for the moon, whether for a landing or long-duration orbits from which deeper journeys could be staged, but any excursions toward Mars likely wouldn’t happen until the 2030s.

Despite the uncertainty, O’Hara is eager for the adventure. She is willing to leave behind her summer home aboard the 25-foot sailboat *Muirgen* (Gaelic for “born of the sea”), and she’ll miss tinkering with her pickup truck, being outside with the ocean and mountains, and lingering over an espresso in cozy coffee shops.

“The biggest challenge would be leaving everything we know and everyone we love behind,” O’Hara says, “but it’s extremely exciting. I would be thrilled to go on a longer-duration mission, whether it’s to ISS or somewhere else in the solar system. I’ve always loved exploration, and that’s really what led me to Woods Hole Oceanographic.

“Going to sea taught me the value of a good team and careful preparation, having to solve problems in challenging environments with limited resources. That’s basically what you have to do in space, as well, and that’s the kind of environment I thrive in.”

Ready to embrace the future. Her future. ✍️



Jayhawk astronauts



Joe Engle, e’55, NASA Class of 1966, commander of the second space shuttle flight



Ron Evans, e’55, NASA Class of 1966, command module pilot on Apollo 17

Steven Hawley, c’73, NASA Class of 1978, mission specialist on five space shuttle flights and current KU professor of physics and astronomy



Loral O’Hara, e’06, NASA Class of 2017, in August begins two years of training as an astronaut candidate



Bright Outlook

Surgeon Doug Girod
moves his practice
from KU Medical Center
to Strong Hall as
the University's
18th chancellor

by Chris Lazzarino

Portrait by Steve Puppe





Sometimes secrets hold. This one sure did. From Sept. 22, when Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little announced that she would conclude her eight-year KU tenure on June 30, until the May 25 campus meeting called that morning by the Kansas Board of Regents to reveal her replacement, not a single name came forward.

Certainly not officially: The search—organized by a consultant and overseen by a committee of 25 alumni, faculty, students and staff from across the University community—was closed to the public, with no open meetings or presentations.

A genuine mystery was unfolding in the Lied Center, and even David Dillon, the retired chairman and CEO of The Kroger Co. who chaired the chancellor search committee, was in the dark until moments before the Regents' public meeting began. Dillon knew which "three to five"—he would be no more specific than that—candidates his committee forwarded to the Regents, of course, but, until moments

**Chancellor Gray-Little describes her successor as
“a person who is easy to work with, someone who is well
organized, someone who is collaborative, a big cheerleader
for KU, someone who has a good business mind.”**

before the news became public, nothing about which candidate the Regents had chosen.

“I knew before I sat down, but only a few minutes before I sat down,” said Dillon, b’73. “The committee was not aware of the choice.”

Four and a half minutes into the Lied Center meeting, gaveled to order promptly at 1 p.m. by Regents chair Zoe Newton, Regent Daniel J. Thomas was the first to make the governing board’s intention clear: “After holding many leadership roles at the University of Kansas Medical Center over the last 23 years ...”

And with that, the secret was out. Executive Vice Chancellor Douglas A.

Girod, a world-renowned microvascular head-and-neck cancer surgeon, was the Regents’ choice to succeed Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little. Bill Feuerborn quickly seconded Thomas’ motion, and the board unanimously affirmed Girod.

“The work we do changes lives,” Girod said to his first audience as the next chancellor of the University of Kansas, “and it improves our world in very meaningful ways.”

Given relentless financial pressure placed on all Regents institutions because of the state’s budgetary travails, it seemed at least plausible that KU’s chancellorship might no longer attract a large pool of elite candidates. Not so, Dillon emphasized.

“In fact, it was just the opposite,” he said. “People see that Bernadette has taken us a long way in a very positive direction, but they also see lots of opportunity. Good leaders typically believe that they can help make a difference, and they lined up to show us that they could do that.”

As Doug and Susan Girod greeted campus colleagues and community members who filled the Lied’s airy lobby, Robert Simari, m’86, whom Girod hired away from the Mayo Clinic in 2014 as dean of the School of Medicine, and Roy Jensen, director of the KU Cancer Center, lingered long enough to soak in what had just transpired. Both were members of the chancellor search committee, and both had presumably been enthusiastic supporters of Girod’s name being forwarded to the Board of Regents, but now it was real, and the Kansas City, Kansas, campus where they work would be in for big changes.

“It’s an exciting day for KU,” Jensen said. “As the broader KU community gets to know Doug, they’re going to be extraordinarily impressed with what a great guy he is. He’s just so dedicated to the University and the state of Kansas, and I think he’s an outstanding choice.”

Girod is the third dean of KU’s School of Medicine to be promoted to chancellor, following a popular tandem whose combined tenures in Strong Hall stretched from 1951 to 1969: internist Franklin Murphy, c’36, and pharmacologist W. Clarke Wescoe. Girod is the first surgeon to serve KU as chancellor.

“Surgeons tend to be people who can make a decision,” Jensen noted. “I think he does a really good job of collecting all the data that’s possible to make sure that it’s a well-informed decision, but he doesn’t hem and haw around once he thinks he has a sufficient body of evidence to move forward.”

Unlike the vast majority of academic medical deans across the country, Simari still makes time for his clinical practice—following the lead set by his boss.

“Doug is one of the highest-respected ENT cancer surgeons in the world, he’s been the head of national societies and he still sees patients,” Simari said. “Or, up

until today he still saw patients. We’ll see.”

As for how Girod’s training and experience as a surgeon might influence his ability to be a successful KU chancellor, Simari replied, “It’s all about planning. It’s all about execution. That’s how he’s made his living as a surgeon.

“It’s also about teams. No 12-hour surgery happens just because the surgeon is there. It happens because there’s a team.”

The day after his introduction as KU’s next chancellor, Doug Girod’s email crashed. Twice. The following day, a Saturday, it crashed again. More than 200 text messages swamped his phone and his Facebook and LinkedIn accounts were flooded.

“It’s kind of come on all fronts, which has just been delightful,” Girod says, two weeks and a day after the big announce-



DAN STOREY (2)



Well-wishers greeting Doug and Susan Girod May 25 in the Lied Center lobby, shortly after the Kansas Board of Regents introduced Girod to alumni and campus colleagues as the University’s 18th chancellor, included search committee chair David Dillon (top) and Roy Jensen (above), director of the KU Cancer Center.



ment. It was a few minutes from the end of a long week, late on a Friday afternoon, and Girod's enthusiasm had not dimmed in the slightest.

He explains that he's heard from old friends and people he has never met, from faculty and deans from the Lawrence campus and from alumni across the country, including former U.S. Sen. Bob Dole, '45.

"He said, 'You may not be aware, but we have this little institute over in Lawrence,'" Girod recalls with a laugh. "I said, 'Yes, I'm very aware, and what a great asset it is.'"

As he has assuredly done with all of Girod's predecessors for the past half-century, Dole also told Girod, "I'm here for you if there's anything you need." The same sentiment was expressed countless times in countless emails and phone calls, and Girod took it all to heart.

"You know, it's pretty remarkable, and I do believe it's relatively unique to KU," he says. "I'm sure there are other universities like that, but I will tell you, none of my alma maters are like that. The fact that people are even paying attention is pretty remarkable, and the speed with which that happened ... Yeah, remarkable."

Beyond the crimson-and-blue cheer that

buoyed his spirits, Girod is realistic about the job that awaits. "Higher-ed nationally is in a relative state of crisis at the moment," he says. That's due to post-recession budget strains "that we've not recovered from" and what Girod sees as "the national shift of mentality away from a fairly universal perspective that education is good for the country and good for the economy to one where now education is a personal privilege and obligation."

Girod continues, "That shift of cost from being funded at the state and federal level to more of the individual has been pretty dramatic, but it's been national. It's certainly not unique to us."

Given those factors, Girod says, he is fortunate to lead a university faring as well as KU.

KU Endowment's *Far Above: The Campaign for Kansas* last year topped out at more than \$1.6 billion, 49 percent of

which came from new donors; about \$470 million in design and construction, including the massive Central District complex, is underway on Mount Oread, all of which Girod is already up to speed on as a member of the chancellor's Capital Projects Council; and the \$75 million Health Education Building, which will reinvent health care education at KU Medical Center, will open before the start of fall classes.

And, of course, there are the people. For Girod, it's always the people.

"To see five years of growth of the freshman class, to see your most academically talented freshman class ever, to see the growth of diversity we've experienced within our classes, and to see the continued success of our alumni, I think we're extraordinarily fortunate," Girod says, crediting Gray-Little. "There is not an element of this job that I believe she did not excel at. I think we owe her a debt of gratitude."

What skills can a surgeon bring to a chancellorship? Decision making, teamwork, sure. But for Girod, it's also about focusing on the patient.

"We look at patients like we need to look at students," he says, explaining that surgeons must develop the skill of empathy so they can see the world through their patients' eyes. When educators develop a similar empathy for students, Girod says, "we learn to think differently about how we do things. I firmly believe that if a student has just an absolutely outstanding experience, that pays dividends in everything we care about. It continues to provide growth in the student population, it continues to allow you to grow your faculty, it allows you to grow your research programs, it gets you your best and brightest kids."

"I firmly believe that if a student has just an absolutely outstanding experience, that pays dividends in everything we care about."

—Chancellor Girod



Callie (l-r), Katelyn and Jimmy Girod traveled extensively with their parents on worldwide medical missions, especially to Central America. “Frankly, selfishly, I got into it because I wanted my kids to have that experience,” Chancellor Girod says. “I wanted them to know what most of the world lives with, and lives without, and to have that opportunity to see that firsthand and to have that opportunity to participate and give back.”

“If we focus on that, the rest will follow.” Gray-Little agrees. “I’m very pleased to see that he would carry through that emphasis into his new role, which is overseeing the experience at the entire University.”

In 2004, while leading a group of medical students on a medical mission to Antigua, Guatemala, Girod delighted in the spartan operating suite the KU doctors, nurses and students found deep within Obras Sociales del Hermano Pedro, a church, orphanage, hospital and resident-care facility that sprawls across an entire block of the old mountain city.

When the O.R.’s only computer broke down on the first morning, Girod cheerfully drew up the surgical schedule by hand. Racks of supplies were hardly overflowing, but everything was clean and

efficient, and post-operative recovery rooms were mere strides away.

“This is an opportunity to learn what you have to have to get by,” Girod said at the time. “The reality is, we don’t need nearly as much as we have to work with back home.”

Girod maintains an active schedule of traveling on medical journeys across the globe—he’s recently been to India and China to establish exchange programs for faculty, residents and students—and those experiences continue pushing him to help invent better health care delivery here.

Even with a dramatic evolution toward patient-centered health care, though, the system remains infinitely difficult to grasp, let alone manage. That, Girod contends, should be noted by those who argue that his experience might not translate to the

larger role he’ll play in Strong Hall.

Susan Twombly, professor of higher education and chair of the department of educational leadership and policy studies, told the Lawrence Journal-World, “I think he’s a fine leader, and I was impressed with what he was able to do at the medical center, but that was a very limited role ... I don’t think he knows much about undergraduate education.”

Girod is eager to erase such doubts, and says his experience at KU Medical Center should be seen not as limited, but expansive and applicable to the job of chancellor.

“The complexity of our health system is like none other in the world,” he says, “and having to learn how to navigate that successfully and to morph with it—because it’s also changing incredibly quickly—has given me a very practical



Girod and Alumni Association president Heath Peterson shared a few laughs at the KU Alumni Invitational, June 26 at Hutchinson's famed Prairie Dunes Country Club. "He's done a great job connecting with the alumni base even prior to this role," Peterson says. "I know statewide outreach will be a huge priority for him, and we have the infrastructure to help him be effective."

experience of being able to address rapidly changing challenges, I think, effectively.

"And, through graduated responsibility, I've been able to get better at it over time. The issues get bigger, but they're the same issues."

Lawrence-campus faculty who have not stayed abreast of what Girod terms "generational change" at KU Medical Center risk being slow to respond to the new chancellor's priorities. At the very least, it's a smart bet that the culture shift he experienced as the schools of medicine, nursing and health professions merged their curricula ahead of the opening of the Health Education Building will influence his thinking as chancellor.

"That has really broken down so many silos on this campus," Girod says of the changes brought by the Health Education Building. "Not just between medicine, nursing and health professions, but also between departments, because the education is no longer department based. It is sort of disease based and activity based.

"It's a completely new philosophy on health professions education, taking what we've learned in the hospital about the

importance of teamwork and bringing that right back to the beginning, where that teamwork can take place from day one in the classroom."

After leaving active duty in the U.S. Navy, Girod in 1994 accepted an appointment at KU for the opportunity to build a world-class department of otolaryngology-head and neck surgery; at the time, no other hospital in the region offered the reconstructive surgery in which Girod specialized.

Girod rose to department chair in 2002 and, among numerous other leadership positions, he also served as senior associate dean for clinical affairs and interim executive dean. In 2013 Gray-Little appointed Girod executive vice chancellor of KU Medical Center.

"He's a Jayhawk, through and through," says Alumni Association president Heath Peterson, d'04, g'09. "He's proven that. The growth and progress that the Med Center has made under his leadership speaks for itself, and there's no doubt he will be a great partner to the Alumni Association and KU Endowment."

Asked what he would like to be known

for 10 years into his chancellorship, Girod replies rather bluntly, "I don't particularly care what I'm known for, but what I would like is for KU to be *the* destination. Not just in the Midwest, but one of the top destinations in the United States, if not the world, for faculty and students. And we have everything we need to be that, we really do.

"Not that it's not going to take work; it absolutely is. But because of the health of the University and the great job Bernadette has done of weathering the storm of the last seven, eight years, and doing so in a very fiscally responsible and strategic fashion, we are well positioned to become that."

Girod insists that his primary motivation for accepting leadership positions is to help others succeed, a pledge that rings true to those who know him.

"It's not about him, and that's why he's been so successful," says John Ballard III, b'73, a member of the Alumni Association's national Board of Directors. "He's a great listener, and he's always so positive and energetic and warm."

Says Peterson, "With Doug, it's 100 percent about the institution and the people, no question."

Asked what the broader KU community will find in the leader those at KU Medical Center already know well, Dean Simari—later named KU Medical Center’s interim executive vice chancellor—replies, “His genuine nature and his high integrity. He is who he is. There is no pretext.”

A native of Salem, Oregon, Doug Girod grew up racing motorcycles across rugged backcountry timber roads, funding his hobby by working in a motorcycle shop. Thinking he might want to become an electrical engineer, Girod ventured to Silicon Valley, where he enrolled in junior college and took a job assembling Pong video-game consoles. That lasted four days, but Girod then found work on a production line that manufactured pizza-sized memory platters that held an astonishing 20 megabytes of data.

Factory work failed to win Girod over to the digital revolution, instead pushing him toward the other field he had considered as a viable career. Medicine, though, was not the best discovery he made in California.

“I met Doug ...”

Susan Girod interrupts herself, smiles and says sweetly, “Look at him, he’s peeking at me.” She is standing in the driveway of The Outlook, their future home, watching her husband have a bit of fun while posing for photographs on the grand porch.

“I met Doug when we were just 18 years old, on a blind date, and he’s ... he’s never surprised me. It’s always been ... how do I want to say this? ... I always knew he had it in him. He’s always been that guy, looking ahead, and we’ve been a team from the very beginning.”

Susan’s father, Jim Pirtle, worked in construction and the family followed his work travels around the West, circulating through California, Arizona, Colorado and back again. She paid attention as her late mother, Frances, supported Jim with everything she had to give, and Susan brought that same spirit of togetherness into her own marriage and family.

Her children are grown now—Katelyn is Hispanic community services adviser for

“I don’t particularly care what I’m known for, but what I would like is for KU to be *the* destination. Not just in the Midwest, but one of the top destinations in the United States, if not the world, for faculty and students. And we have everything we need to be that, we really do.”

—Chancellor Girod

Olathe Public Schools, Callie is a neuroscience nurse at KU Medical Center, and Jimmy, c’14, works with autistic children at KidsTLC in Olathe—but they still honor the Girod family tradition of spending Sundays together.

“One of the best things—and of course it was Susan’s idea, like all good ideas—was that Sundays are family days,” Doug Girod says. “And we’re still pretty rigid about it. Unless somebody is traveling, you just don’t plan anything else on Sunday.”

Whatever playfulness already existed in Doug Girod’s personality before he met Susan, it has, without doubt, been amplified by his bride.

He and Jimmy both own Harley-Davidsons and they try to make time for annual pilgrimages to the famous rally in Sturgis, South Dakota, where they decamp in a friend’s house alongside a stream plentiful with trout. Susan is encouraging him to bring the big bike to Lawrence.

“I told him it would give him street cred with the kids,” she says, grinning, “if he rode the Harley through campus.”

Once they’ve sold their Mission Hills home and moved to Lilac Lane, the Girods plan to buy a small place in Kansas City to keep as a base where her father, his mother and their kids, all of whom live in the Kansas City area, can connect, but The Outlook will be their home—for Susan Girod, home No. 21.

“When we came to Kansas City for Doug to work at KU Med, we had our first home here for 17 years,” she says. “That’s the longest I’ve been anywhere in my life.”

KU’s 18th chancellor says the biggest shift will be for his wife, who steps into more of a public role than has previously been asked of her. She consulted Shade Keys Little for advice, and gratefully accepted his offer to lead her on tours of

The Outlook and its rather expansive grounds, Mount Oread, which she plans to further explore during long walks with her dog, Noffie.

“Kansas is home to me,” she says.

“People say to me, what about the West Coast, going back? And the Regents asked me about that, too, about wanting to go back. I was like, ‘Nah, I’ll never go back to California.’ I had a background of moving, moving, moving, so to be in that space for 17 years, raising our family, really cemented the idea that Kansas is home.”


“She’s really embraced it,” the chancellor says of Susan’s eagerness to find her place in a KU community beyond the comfort zone of KU Med. “She’s excited. A little nervous, but very excited. Like both of us.”

When Girod accepted Gray-Little’s offer to become executive vice chancellor, he worried he might have to give up his medical practice. Helping sick people heal had, to that point, been his professional life. Assured that he could continue to see patients for half a day each week, he embraced the leadership opportunity with vigor.

Girod felt the same concern when he and Susan agreed that he should stand for chancellor, and the Regents allayed his fear by allowing him to maintain the same clinical schedule to continue tending his cancer patients, some of whom he’s treated for 20 years.

“When he was looking at making this transition, I think he was ready to take that step if he needed to,” Susan Girod says. “But I think he was extremely pleased that he gets to hang onto it, because that was, you know, his first real love.”

She pauses, smiles, and adds, “Besides me.”

It happens because there’s a team. From the very beginning. 



Sweet Dreams are Made of Cheese

The first hint is the baseball cap. It's bright yellow and emblazoned with a bold nickname: "Big Cheese."

Then there's the fire-engine red chef's jacket. Embroidered above the pocket, just under the Murray's Cheese Shop logo, "I know cheese."

Flanked on three sides by cases holding more than a hundred varieties of dairy deliciousness, a smiling young woman works behind a counter crowded with good things that go well with cheese. Tucked among the fig jams and Marcona

almonds and sweet and spicy pickles a small, black-and-white sign proclaims "Cheesemaster Sara's officially a CCP?"

No doubt about it: Sara Knickerbocker is a certified cheese whiz.

CCP (Certified Cheese Professional) is the highest standard in the U.S. cheese industry, according to the American Cheese Society. The nonprofit trade association, which bills itself as the leader in promoting and supporting American cheeses, administers the Certified Cheese Professional Exam each summer; the rigorous three-hour, 150-question test

covers every corner of the industry, including raw ingredients, cheesemaking, storage and handling, nutrition, sanitation, government regulations and marketing. Cheesemongers, cheesemakers, importers, exporters, restaurateurs, food writers and anyone else serious about cheese pass stringent requirements to even sit for the industry equivalent of the bar exam. There are only 740 CCPs in the United States, Canada and Europe. Knickerbocker, '15, is one of only three in Kansas.

As cheesemaster at Murray's Cheese



by Steven Hill

Portrait by Steve Puppe

A curd connoisseur goes gaga for Gouda—and Brie and Swiss and cheddar too

Shop in the Dillons grocery at 6th and Wakarusa in Lawrence, she takes her cheese seriously but herself less so. (An irreverent confidence rare in 25-year-olds and Midwesterners is her default mode: Struggling to explain her job description, Knickerbocker quips, “I’m pretty much the center of the universe in the cheese shop.”) The “curd nerd” and her staff, the “curd herd,” strive to recreate the neighborhood feel of the shop’s famous New York City name-sake, Murray’s of Greenwich

Village, offering daily samples of cheese with accompaniments and knowledgeable suggestions for pairings with wine or beer. Emphasis is on personal taste, not rigid rules or restrictions.

In the animated Pixar film “Ratatouille,” Remy, a young rat with a gifted palate, learns about complex flavors when he combines a bite of strawberry and a bite of cheese. Later, he hits upon the idea of smoking a mushroom, rosemary and cheese over a chimney pot. Blasted by lightning, he groggily nibbles his melted concoction and exclaims to his dubious brother, Emile, “You gotta try this!”

Helping others experience their own “Ratatouille moment” is Knickerbocker’s favorite part of the job.

“There’s this light that comes on in people” when they try a perfect pairing. “It’s a recognition in their eyes, this experience they have that you can feel coming off them, this excitement they’ve never had before. They’re like, ‘Whoa, I didn’t know you could do that.’”

“Giving someone the chance to fall in love with something I love too is the best.”

The light came on for Knickerbocker in culinary school, where she was studying to be a pastry chef. Lincoln Broadbooks, manager of The Better Cheddar in Prairie Village, came to class with samples.

“I thought, ‘Uh-uh, I don’t want that,’” Knickerbocker recalls. “I grew up with Kraft singles. Pepper jack was like the coolest thing to my mom. Still is. So when Lincoln came in with his big box of smelly cheese, I wasn’t interested.”

But she *was* interested in a job, and The

Better Cheddar needed help. She fell in love with the cheese-shop smell (“old books and sunshine,” she calls it) and was undeterred when Broadbooks, himself a CCP, told her she couldn’t talk to customers until she tried every cheese in the shop.

“He was probably joking, but I’m very competitive,” Knickerbocker says. Like her father, twin sister and other siblings, she swam competitively growing up, and she still savors take-no-prisoners Uno games with her niece and nephew.

The same competitive streak that would later push her to take the CCP exam—twice—spurred her to accept Broadbooks’ challenge. “There were like 300, so it took a while, but I ate every cheese.”

One in particular impressed her.

“Humboldt Fog changed my life. When I tried it and heard the story behind it, I was like, wow!”

Widely saluted as one of the first great American craft cheeses, Humboldt Fog was created by Mary Keehn in the 1980s. She wanted to make a classical chevre that was quintessentially American, using French techniques while paying tribute to the unique terroir of her Humboldt County, California, home. The idea for Humboldt Fog—which uses vegetable ash to playfully evoke the coastal county’s frequent fog—came to Keehn in a dream.

Knickerbocker also dreams about cheese. It’s a passion, apparently, that can’t be constrained to waking hours.

“Because my brain can’t stop working, I’ll dream about cheese pairings and then come in here and try them out. And people like it.

“Not all the time,” she says. “But I usually hit it out of the park.”



“The CCP is serious business, but everything else is all fun,” Sara Knickerbocker says. “I wear a chef’s coat that says, ‘I know cheese.’ I mean, c’mon!” A few of her favorites (from l to r): Reypenaer Gouda, Humboldt Fog chevre and Murray’s habanero jack.



Back to School

A new graduate takes the long way down the Hill

One of the joys of returning to KU is that the essence of Mount Oread doesn't change, even though new buildings alter the landscape. Limestone, red-roofed landmarks and longstanding traditions provide a rootedness, a sense of coming home. I relied heavily on this rootedness my first day back on campus as a student in January 2014. However, unlike my fellow students, my return was not after a month's winter break—mine occurred after a break of 45 years.

I had begun my KU freshman year in 1967 and left mid-semester in fall 1969 because of illness. I had planned to return the next fall to complete my journalism degree, but instead I got married. I always intended to complete my degree, but life kept getting in the way. My husband, Gordon, j'72, g'10, and I moved around the country and reared our family. I explored other schools and even managed to take additional courses, but still I did not finish. I enjoyed a successful business career, from which I retired in November 2013, but it had always rankled me that I had not graduated.



We returned to Kansas in 2006 for Gordon to attend graduate school at KU; a year later our youngest son, Stewart, u'12, began his music studies at KU. A few years later, I happily watched both of them walk down the Hill. Two months after I retired, I decided it was time I followed suit. It took all of 48 hours for me to be back in class in the School of Journalism and Mass Communications in Lawrence.

KU refers to students over the age of 24 (a criteria I obviously more than met) as non-traditional students—"non-trads" for short. In my first week, I quickly learned how much non-trads stand out on



Cyd Silvius finished her freshman and sophomore years before leaving KU in 1969. She and Gordon Alloway attended the Phi Kappa Tau Dream Girl formal in spring 1968.

campus. Faculty and staff who saw me in the halls thought I was a lost parent or someone who didn't belong; they would ask if they could help me, to which I responded, "No, thank you. I'm just on my way to Strong 320" (a lecture hall whose location hasn't changed since I was last in school). Some of the younger faculty seemed uncomfortable or perhaps intimidated by my mere presence. The more established faculty usually made an



by Cyd Silvius Alloway

Portraits by Steve Puppe

effort to talk with me outside of class; most were curious as to why this “old lady” (my reference, not theirs) was back in school, pursuing a degree. Other faculty encouraged me to speak out in class discussions because they felt my perspective would provide a different dynamic. It did. There is a definite generation gap—or two. By our 60s, most of us have journeyed down many paths, and our decades of experiences might cause us to view situations

more cynically or to pick our battles more carefully. Our perspectives are often hard for idealistic 20-year-olds to comprehend.

Eventually, I met non-trads from all walks of life. Riding the commuter bus between the Overland Park and Lawrence campuses, I became acquainted with:

- a 50ish man who was downsized in his career and returned to KU in search of a new career in museum management;
- an immigrant mother of two teenag-

ers, returning to school with her husband’s support and blessing.

In my classes, I met fascinating single mothers:

- a 34-year-old with two sons who supported her family working as a hairdresser but still managed, over eight years, to complete her degree;
- a 32-year-old U.S. Army veteran of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq who juggled the demands of her young daughter and



The Alloway celebration included (l to r) sons Clay and Stewart; Cyd and Gordon; their daughter, Christine Alloway Remming, and her husband, Jeff Remming; and Clay's daughter, Kaley.

It was important to me that at graduation I be recognized by my full name: first, maiden and married; I had started at KU under my maiden name and wanted my graduation and diploma to represent the full scope of my KU experience. Once my name was called, I don't remember hearing anything else (although my family told me they hooted and hollered loudly). Professors Kerry Benson and Genelle Belmas, as they had promised me earlier, hugged me hard and cried, which started my own waterworks flowing. By the time Dean Brill hugged and congratulated me, I not only wasn't hearing anything, I also wasn't seeing much either.

Walking the Hill on Sunday was an amazing experience. The graduates, many fueled by lots of shared bottles of champagne, were wired and jubilant. I thought about how they were just beginning the uncharted journeys of their adult lives, while I was on the back side of mine. As I exited the Campanile, complete strangers shouted to me, "Congratulations!" and "Wow! Good for you!" I worried I might trip and fall as I navigated the stairs and bumps (ah, the perils of age), but two of my fellow J-school graduates kept their eyes on me, offering an arm or shoulder if I needed it.

When at last I stepped inside Memorial Stadium, my mind suddenly flashed back to my first time on that field, as a nervous 13-year-old performing in KU Band Day. Suddenly all of my KU experiences came into focus: elementary-school field trips to the Natural History Museum, Band Days and other music and journalism events in high school, my first years as a student, Gordon's graduate school and his career at KU Medical Center, Stewart's undergraduate years, when we regularly attended his music performances and Jayhawk football and basketball games, and finally the recent years of my return to college.

I realized that a significant part of my life has intertwined with this incredible University. It is an integral part of who I am. I guess I really do bleed Crimson and Blue. Rock Chalk!

Alloway, j'17, and her husband have been Alumni Association Life Members since 1972. They live in Overland Park.

planned to work with the U.S. Department of State;

- two women in their early 20s, each with a toddler, trying to survive financially on student loans, grants and part-time campus jobs.

Despite our varied circumstances, all the non-trads I encountered shared a commitment to complete our college education. We helped one another discover creative ways to study, completed group projects and supported one another while tending to our day-to-day responsibilities outside of school. We did not view a college diploma as a rite of passage to be taken for granted.

College has traditionally been a time of maturing and finding one's self, both inside and outside the classroom, and that does not change with age. Professors and my fellow students provided fresh views on many issues and challenged me to think differently.

My classes also stretched me in practical terms. I have always been "technologically challenged," but at least I could work in Microsoft Word and Excel. Suddenly I had to master InDesign, Blackboard and Google Docs to complete my assignments.

By May 2015, I had six hours left to graduate when illness again interrupted my education. I was diagnosed with breast cancer. After 15 months of chemotherapy, surgery, radiation and recuperation, I returned to school in fall 2016. Last December, at long last, I graduated with a bachelor of science in journalism. My last week of class, J-school dean Ann Brill asked me whether I intended to return and walk the Hill in May. In the words of the popular 1960s TV show "Laugh In," I replied, "You bet your sweet bippy I do!" Commencement weekend 2017 featured picture-perfect Kansas weather: a cloudless KU blue sky, gentle breezes and temperatures in the 70s. Fifty years after enrolling, I could finally celebrate graduation.

As I walked into the Saturday morning J-school ceremony to the strains of an Elgar processional march played by the KU Brass Quintet, I spied two familiar music faculty faces in the quintet: our son Stewart's former French horn professor, a man who had nurtured and inspired him for five years, and another professor who had participated in most of Stew's performance juries. What a small world.



Travel with the Flying Jayhawks on a Big 12 Adventure

Glacial Adventures of Alaska

JULY 13-23, 2018

Join fellow Jayhawk Scot Pollard and his wife, Dawn, for a special cruise with other Big 12 alumni travelers!

Stand in awe of massive glaciers and spectacular scenery as you cruise up the Alaskan coast.

Explore Alaska's breathtaking natural beauty, unique native culture, abundant wildlife and more on this 10-day trip starting and ending in Seattle.



Itinerary

- Day 1 Seattle, Washington
- Day 2 Cruising the Inside Passage
- Day 3 Ketchikan, Alaska
- Day 4 Juneau, Alaska
- Day 5 Skagway, Alaska
- Day 6 Icy Strait Point (Hoonah), Alaska
- Day 7 Hubbard Glacier
- Day 8 Sitka, Alaska
- Day 9 Cruising the Outside Passage
- Day 10 Victoria, British Columbia, Canada
- Day 11 Seattle, Washington



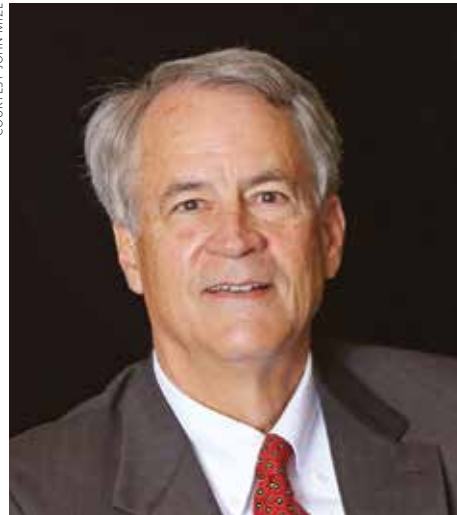
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To see the complete 2018 schedule of Flying Jayhawk destinations, visit kualumni.org/travel or call **800-584-2957**.

Association



Dicus



Mize

Dedicated 'Hawks

Ellsworth medalists honored for longstanding service to KU

Two outstanding Jayhawks, John Dicus and John Mize, are recipients of the 2017 Fred Ellsworth Medallion.

Since 1975, the Association has presented medallions to alumni who have shown exemplary service to KU, a tradition that celebrates the late Fred Ellsworth, c'22, the organization's longest-serving chief executive. Dicus and Mize will be honored at the Sept. 8 fall meeting of the Association's national Board of Directors and introduced at the home football game Sept. 9.

Dicus, b'83, g'85, Topeka, is chairman and CEO of Capitol Federal Savings. He comes from strong Jayhawk lineage—his parents and grandparents attended KU. His father, Jack, b'55, received the Fred Ellsworth Medallion in 1990, and his grandfather, Henry Bubb, '28, received the honor in 1977.

Dicus served on the Association's national Board of Directors from 1996 to 2001. He and his wife, Brenda Roskens Dicus, b'83, are longtime Life Members and Presidents Club donors, and they regularly participate in local alumni events

and fundraisers, including the Rock Chalk Ball in Kansas City.

Dicus helps guide the School of Business as a member of its Board of Advisors, and in 2014 he was honored as a Distinguished Business Alumnus. As a trustee of the Capitol Federal Foundation, the bank's charitable arm, Dicus was instrumental in facilitating the foundation's \$20 million contribution in 2012 toward the school's new building. He also has contributed to the Kansas Honors Program.

For KU Endowment, he is a trustee and Chancellors Club Member, and he serves on the executive and investment committees. He has helped lead the University's fundraising efforts as a member of the *Far Above* campaign organizing committee. He also serves on the Greater University Fund advisory board.

"From his KU fraternity to the business school to KU Endowment to educational institutions across Kansas, John has been a ready and willing participant," says Neeli Bendapudi, PhD'95, the University's provost and executive vice chancellor. "What sets his engagement apart is the

humble, unassuming manner in which he makes his contributions, whether it be time, talent, treasure—or frequently and just as likely—all of the above."

Dicus served on the Chancellor's Advisory Committee to Athletics from 1990 to '94, and he contributed to the *KU First* campaign as a member of its athletics committee. The Dicuses are Williams Education Fund members.

Mize, c'72, Salina, is an attorney at Clark, Mize & Linville and vice president and general counsel at Salina Regional Health Center. His dedication to KU and the Alumni Association spans decades and dates back to 1975, when he first volunteered for the Kansas Honors Program. He served on the Association's national Board of Directors from 1999 to 2004, and in 2005 he received the Mildred Clodfelter Award for his volunteer service in Salina.

Mize and his wife, Karen Shumacher Mize, g'85, are Life Members and Jayhawk Society members and have participated in several KU activities in their local community, including Senior Sendoff and KU Days. They also have attended 17 Rock Chalk Balls in Kansas City.

As a member of Jayhawks for Higher Education, Mize advocates for the University and promotes the advancement of higher education in Kansas. He also serves on the Hall Center Advisory Board and has contributed to the Kansas Honors Program.

For KU Endowment, Mize is a 20-year trustee and an audit committee member. He is a Chancellors Club Life Member and Watkins Society member, and he served on the *Campaign Kansas* fundraising committee from 1988 to 1992. He also is a member of the Greater University Fund advisory board.

"His deep knowledge of local politics, community culture and the regional health system provided invaluable advice to KU administrators and KU Endowment fundraising staff in building a critical level of community support for not only the initial founding of the School of Medicine in Salina, but for the future expansion and growth of the permanent facilities for KU's presence in Salina," says Dale Seufferling, j'77, president of KU Endowment.

A NOTE FROM HEATH

Alumni board ready to assist new chancellor

The KU Alumni Association team is excited to begin our partnership with Chancellor Douglas A. Girod. He brings experience and proven leadership, a tremendous track record as executive vice chancellor of KU Medical Center and strong relationships in the Kansas Legislature. Many challenges lie ahead for the University of Kansas and higher education, but the opportunities are plentiful with a strong leader who is willing to take bold yet calculated risks in a rapidly evolving world. Chancellor Girod and his team will guide KU's continued growth and achievement.

Like all previous KU chancellors, Chancellor Girod can rely on a tremendous resource: the thousands of dedicated alumni and friends who serve as volunteer leaders, advisers and donors to strengthen KU. Since the University's founding, generations of loyal, dedicated and generous Jayhawks have helped lift KU to prominence. This proud tradition will continue—as long as your alumni association builds a strong pipeline of future alumni leaders and donors. Equally important is our ability to identify



DAN STOREY

Peterson

the increasing number of Jayhawks who are leading and transforming many industries. Several are joining our national Board of Directors, making the 2017 class of new directors one of the most diverse in our history. These new volunteers represent key geographic areas, including western Kansas, Seattle and Florida, and their professional experience includes small businesses, the U.S. military, health care, technology and data startup companies, and large corporations.

Most important, our talented board members represent the voices of 350,000 alumni, and they challenge the Association staff to improve every day. These alumni leaders will be among KU's most trusted ambassadors and advisers for Chancellor Girod.

Our best days are ahead. Rock Chalk!

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

For Kansas Athletics, Mize in 2011 served on the University's search committee to hire a new head football coach. He and his wife also contribute to the Williams Education Fund.

New leaders

National Board elects officers, directors for 2017-'18

The Association's Board of Directors met April 28-29 in Lawrence and elected officers and new directors, who began their terms July 1.

Kevin Carroll, assoc., of Johns Creek, Georgia, joined the Board in 2012 and will lead the Association as national chair. A graduate of the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, New York, he became a Jayhawk in 1983, when he was hired as the first director of the Adams Alumni Center and manager of The Learned Club for the Association. As a Board member, he has served on the Executive Committee, the Alumni Programs Committee and the Communi-

cations, Marketing and Records Committee. He also led the Association's Task Force on the Strategic Facility Planning for the Alumni Center. He and his wife, Lisa, assoc., are Life Members and Presidents Club donors, and have hosted several KU student recruitment events in Atlanta and Florida. Carroll is chief operating officer and general manager of the Atlanta Athletic Club.

Carroll succeeds Scott Seyfarth, b'83, of Chicago. He will remain on the

Board as immediate past chair.

John Ballard III, b'73, Overland Park, is chair-elect. He is principal owner of Property Specialists Inc. in Leawood. With his wife, Cindy, assoc., he chaired the 2011 Rock Chalk Ball in Kansas City; they have hosted and attended numerous KU events through the years. They are members of the Williams Education Fund for Kansas Athletics and, as a former KU football player, Ballard has served as a Jayhawk Mentor for student-athletes. He is a Life



DAN STOREY

Carroll, Seyfarth, Ballard

Association

Member of the Alumni Association. The Ballards are donors to the Presidents Club and benefactors of KU Libraries. In 2000 they donated to Spencer Research Library a 3,000-year-old Egyptian scroll, now known as the “Ballard Papyrus.”

The six new directors on the Board include:

Steve Dillard, c’75, of Wichita, who earned his bachelor’s degree in personnel administration and is president of Pickrell Drilling Company. He is a longtime volunteer for the Wichita Network and served on the network’s board as well as committees for the Jayhawk Roundup. As a member of Jayhawks for Higher Education, Steve is involved as a Steering Committee member. He is also a member of the Williams Education Fund for Kansas Athletics. He is married to Gena Gunn Dillard, ’77, and they are Life Members and Presidents Club donors.

Michael Flowers, c’77, of Apollo Beach, Florida, who is president of Leadership, Defense, Asia Consulting, where he assists customers in leader development and defense contracting. He also is vice president of aerospace and special operations for DigiFlight Inc. He retired in 2008 as a brigadier general in the U.S. Army after 31 years of service, including deployments in Grenada, Desert Shield, Desert Storm and Kosovo. In addition to his bachelor’s degree in general studies, he earned a master’s in public administration from Shippensburg State University, and he is a graduate of the U.S. Army War College and the U.S. Army Command & General Staff College. He is an advisory board member for the Veterans Alumni Network and a mentor for KU Office of Graduate Military Programs.

Michael Happe, j’94, of Eden Prairie, Minnesota, who is president and CEO of

Winnebago Industries. He has led Winnebago since 2016, after 20 years in senior leadership positions with The Toro Company. He majored in broadcast news at KU and earned his MBA from the University of Minnesota. He is married to Shannon Fitzsimmons-Happe, j’94, and they are Life Members and Presidents Club donors.

Rosa Aguirre Mitchell, s’85, of Elkhart, who is a social worker and directed the Geo Psychiatric Unit in Elkhart for 15 years. She continues her involvement in mental health services at Morton County Health System. Rosa and her husband,

design and her master’s in architecture. She volunteered for the Lawrence Network and served five years as the Association’s representative on the KU Memorial Unions board. The Pohls are Life Members and Presidents Club donors.

Adam Wray, c’93, of Medina, Washington, who leads Basho, a cloud database company, as CEO. As a longtime entrepreneur and executive, he also serves on the boards for several other technology firms. He earned his KU degree in English and went on to complete his MBA at the University of Washington. Working with the Association and KU Endowment,

Adam and his wife, Amanda Stroth Wray, d’93, hosted in their home a gathering for more than 20 alumni executives with major companies and the Gates Foundation. They are donors to the Presidents Club.

Five directors retired from the Board June 30:

- Luke Bobo, e’82, m’88, Shawnee;
- Donald Brada, c’61, m’65, Lawrence;
- Marci Deuth, e’05, Chicago;
- Gregory Ek, e’76, Wichita; and
- Richard Putnam, c’77, l’80, Omaha, Nebraska.

The retirements of

Deuth and Putnam left two open positions on the Executive Committee. The Board chose Carrie Coulson, b’02, l’05, New York City, and Dave Roland, e’80, Excelsior, Minnesota, to join the group.

Each year the Association invites nominations for new directors. Nominations will be accepted from Jan. 1 through March 1, 2018. The Nominating Committee meets in April to review all nominees and select a slate for individual consideration and election by the Board at its May meeting. The Board meets three times annually in Lawrence.



Dillard



Flowers



Happe



Mitchell



Pohl



Wray

Brian, b’86, are Life Members and Presidents Club donors and longtime volunteers with the Southwest Kansas Network. For KU Endowment, she served on the advisory board for Women Philanthropists for KU. She also volunteered for the School of Social Welfare advisory board.

Keturah Harding Pohl, f’04, a’08, of Findlay, Ohio, who co-owns and manages Putnam Family Dental, with her husband, Brad, a 2005 KU graduate. They moved to Ohio from Lawrence, where Keturah was an architect with Treanor Architects. She earned her bachelor’s degree in industrial



GAME DAY

at the Adams



Welcome Members!

Tailgate with fellow Jayhawks at the Adams Alumni Center! Join us for family-friendly activities before all KU home football games.

\$15 per person

Free for kids 5 and younger

Enjoy:

- A delicious meal
- Non-alcoholic beverages
- Drink specials
- Marching band, Spirit Squad and mascots
- Kids coloring and activity sheets
- TV broadcasts of other college games

Home Games:

- Sept. 2, Southeast Missouri State, 6 p.m.
- Sept. 9, Central Michigan, 3 p.m.
- Sept. 23, West Virginia
- Oct. 7, Texas Tech (Homecoming)
- Oct. 28, Kansas State
- Nov. 4, Baylor
- Nov. 18, Oklahoma

Tailgates start 3 hours before kickoff.

Kick-off times have not been determined for all home games. Visit kuathletics.com for KU football updates.



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
The University of Kansas

Tailgating space at the Adams is limited; **reserve your tickets** early to guarantee your spot. To sign up, visit kualumni.org/gameday, or call 800-584-2957.

Association

Prairie Dunes golf tournament



The top team prize at the annual KU Alumni Invitational, June 26 at Prairie Dunes Country Club, was won by (above, l-r) Markus Hilger; Ken Eland, c'81; Cole Nondorf; and Tom O'Keefe. Robert Simari (right), m'86, dean of medicine and KU Med's interim executive vice chancellor, again joined the fun in Hutchinson, as did (below, l-r) Michael Orth, e'88, g'89; Don Gray; Aron Witt; and Jeff Selby.



Life Members

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

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Darren K. Angell | Steven D. & Lisa A. Gough |
| Michael P. Barber | Andrew L. & Eva Pottruck |
| David M. & Lori Marshall | Gryszowka |
| Barbosa | John L. & Carol Fagre |
| Joseph G. Bateman & Kiran | Hampton |
| Ladhani | Bailor L. Hardman |
| Justin D. Bennet | Dennis K. Harman |
| D. Wayne Boster | Holli M. Hartman |
| Killian C. Brown | Bryan R. & Krystal Richard |
| Molly B. Brown | Hay |
| Jo Ann McMillan Burhart | Nicholas Hay |
| Ryan J. Camenzind | Nickalas J. Hill |
| Michael A. & Lauren Ariel | Andrew J. & Elizabeth J. |
| Cerier | Hineman |
| William E. & Karen J. | Samantha M. Holcomb |
| Cheatham | Frederick D. & Barbara |
| Jack S. Ciciora | Osborn Humpert |
| Brian J. Clarke | Gary R. Iversen |
| Donna Marie Clausen | Braeden D. Johnson |
| Kelsey A. Collins | Nicholas P. Joslin |
| Frankie M. Davis | Michael K. & Teresa Leckie |
| Alexandra Deeter | Kelly |
| Anna Marie Dempsey | John H. Killen Jr. |
| Christopher W. Dixon | Erin S. Klotz |
| Christopher L. Dodds | Marmaduke G. Lambert |
| Jan E. Downing | Erich J. Lanz |
| Andrew F. Dracon | Matt R. Lefkovits |
| Robert J. Druzynski | Gregory A. Leimkuehler |
| Lauren E. Dunn | Bentley L. Leonard |
| Dan L. Fager | Meghan C. Lewis |
| Henry H. Falcon | Kelly A. Long |
| Kelsey A. Fall | Nathan Long |
| Andrew D. Fillmore | Brandon J. Luber |
| Richard T. & Cynthia G. | Conrad P. Maier |
| Flanders | Mara L. McAllister |
| Sarah Ehlen Gilbreath | Robert L. McCauley |



KU Homecoming

The University of Kansas will celebrate its 105th Homecoming **Oct. 1-7, 2017**, culminating in the KU football game against Texas Tech University Oct. 7 in Memorial Stadium. This year's theme is "Jayhawks of the Galaxy."

JAYHAWKS OF THE GALAXY

Fanfare for freshmen



The Alumni Association and KU Admissions in May launched KU's first yard sign campaign, planting "Rock Chalk Ready" signs as surprises for incoming freshmen in Lawrence, Kansas City, Topeka and Wichita. Sharon Bearce Breit, m'88, snapped a shot of the sign while out walking her dogs, Bleu and Gemma, in Wichita.

Christine Stanek McDonald
Kinsey N. McKenrick
Jason P. Miller
Darrell J. Mueller
Kaydee Smith Myers
David E. Oliver
Lisa K. Oller
MacKenzie J. Olson
Thomas F. Pearson Jr.
Stacy L. Pickering
Ellen S. Ragan
Jenifer A. Randle
Benjamin Rapp
Cena V. Rasmussen
Perry N. Rea
Andrew P. & Sara Wenzel
Riley
Tanner J. Riscoe
Hannah L. Rivas
Christopher T. Rooney
Harrison M. Rosenthal
Morgan E. Scheckel
Sandra J. Seaton
Christian T. Senecal
John M. Sergent
Emily M. Shipman

Joseph D. Simmons
Korak Simmons
Cooper Sims-West
Reed A. Smalley
Gerald B. Stephanz Jr. &
Nancy G. Ahlstrom
Tom C. Stevens
Shari L. Stimetx
Michael C. Stolle
Abigail L. Stuke
Prudence A. Thompson
Jeffrey A. Trower
Kerri A. Troyer
Tray F. & Lisa G. Vedock
James J. Waggoner Jr.
Craig M. Waggy
Todd Walters
Beth M. Whittaker
Paydon S. & Christine
Perinchery Wilson
David L. Wing
Patrick T. Witthaus
Nicholas C. & Carrie Shaw
Woods
Craig A. & Nita E. Wymore
Ellen Badgley Zibell

Board of Directors

■ CHAIR

Kevin E. Carroll, assoc., Atlanta, Georgia

■ CHAIR-ELECT

John W. Ballard III, b'73, Overland Park

■ EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

John W. Ballard III, b'73, Overland Park
Kevin E. Carroll, assoc., Atlanta, Georgia
Carrie W. Coulson, b'02, l'05, New York,
New York

Cory L. Lagerstrom, c'94, g'98, l'98,
Mission Hills

Jill Simpson Miller, d'01, Webb City,
Missouri

Dave B. Roland, e'80, Excelsior,
Minnesota

Scott R. Seyfarth, b'83, Hinsdale,
Illinois

■ DIRECTORS TO 2018

John W. Ballard III, b'73, Overland Park

Aaron R. Brinkman, j'98, Dallas, Texas

Debi Dennis Duckworth, d'79, Houston,
Texas

Jill Simpson Miller, d'01, Webb City,
Missouri

Jerry D. Skillett, b'81, New York,
New York

■ DIRECTORS TO 2019

Carrie W. Coulson, b'02, l'05, New York,
New York

Cory L. Lagerstrom, c'94, g'98, l'98,
Prairie Village

Cindy Emig Penzler, c'81, m'85,
Lawrence

Albert I. Shank Jr., b'77, Liberal

Timothy T. Trump, b'80, l'83, Tulsa,
Oklahoma

■ DIRECTORS TO 2020

Missy Hodge McCarthy, c'86, s'88,
Rancho Mirage, California

Ellen O. Remsing, c'00, Manhattan,
Kansas

Dave B. Roland, e'80, Excelsior,
Minnesota

■ DIRECTORS TO 2021

Ryan Colaianne, c'07, j'07, Arlington,
Virginia

Jay Kerutis, c'82, Mesa, Arizona

Janet Lusk Murfin, d'75, Wichita

Portia Kibble Smith, c'78,
Overland Park

■ DIRECTORS TO 2022

Steve M. Dillard, c'75, Wichita

Michael C. Flowers, c'77, Apollo
Beach, Florida

Michael J. Happe, j'94, Eden Prairie,
Minnesota

Rosa Aguirre Mitchell, s'85, Elkhart
Keturah Harding Pohl, f'04, g'08,
Findlay, Ohio

Adam J. Wray, c'93, Medina,
Washington

Senior Staff Members

■ PRESIDENT

Heath Peterson, d'04, g'09

■ ADMINISTRATION

Heather Hawkins, j'06, Executive
Assistant & Coordinator, Donor
Relations

■ ALUMNI & STUDENT MEMBERSHIP PROGRAMS

Brad Eland, b'09, g'11, Vice
President, Alumni & Student
Programs

■ COMMUNICATIONS

Jennifer Sanner, j'81, Senior Vice
President, Strategic Communica-
tions & Advocacy; Secretary

■ DEVELOPMENT

Calvin McConnell, j'11,
Associate Development Director

■ DONOR RELATIONS

Angela Storey, b'04, g'07,
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■ FINANCE

Dwight Parman, Senior Vice
President, Finance and Human
Resources; Treasurer

■ HOSPITALITY SERVICES

Bryan Greve, Senior Vice President,
Hospitality

■ MARKETING & DIGITAL MEDIA

David Johnston, j'94, g'06, Vice
President, Marketing & Digital
Media

■ MEMBERSHIP PROGRAMS

Teri Harris, Vice President,
Membership & Business
Development

■ RECORDS

Bill Green, Senior Vice President,
Information Services
Stefanie Shackelford, Vice President,
Alumni Records

Class Notes by Heather Biele

55 Gary Padgett, b'55, in April received the KU School of Business Distinguished Alumni Award. He's chairman of The Citizens National Bank in Greenleaf, where he lives with **Sue Summerville Padgett**, f'56.

56 Forrest Hoglund, e'56, CEO and chairman of SeaOne Holdings, was honored with the Maguire Energy Institute Pioneer Award at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, where he and **Sally Roney Hoglund**, c'56, make their home.

58 Jack Wortman, c'58, m'62, in May was honored as a distinguished alumnus and spoke at commencement at Neosho County Community College in Chanute, where he grew up. Jack is a retired physician and lives in Hutchinson with **Donna Oates Wortman**, d'59.

William Yarnell, e'58, was inducted in the Helias Catholic High School Hall of Fame in Jefferson City, Missouri. Bill retired from the Missouri Department of Transportation as a state design engineer.

59 Dave Kohlman, e'59, g'60, an aeronautical engineer and co-founder of Kohlman Systems Research, in May received KU's 2017 Distinguished Engineering Service Award. He and **Linda Norris Kohlman**, n'72, g'80, live in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

62 Boyd Beutler, d'62, g'64, chairman of First State Bank in Ness City, was recently honored for his 50 years of service by the Kansas Bankers Association. His wife, **Julie Meis Beutler**, '64, and his children, Kevin and Karen, also work at the bank.

Dale Taylor, d'62, g'71, PhD'84, professor emeritus of music therapy at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, recently gave a presentation on racial and cultural stereotypes for an online forum.

64 Michael Jones, c'64, professor emeritus at UCLA, co-edited

Comfort Food: Meanings and Memories, which was published in April by University Press of Mississippi. He and his wife, Susan, live in Venice, California.

66 George Fletcher, b'66, e'66, is retired and lives in Greenville, South Carolina, where he was recently elected an at-large representative of the city council.

67 Margo Lyman Thompson, n'67, g'74, EdD'84, an online instructor at the University of Central Missouri School of Nursing, has been a registered nurse and nurse educator for 50 years. She and her husband, Pat, make their home in University Park, Florida.

68 Marc Carlson, d'68, an estate-planning attorney in Longmont, Colorado, in January joined the American Law Society.

Edward Gordon, c'68, retired as owner of International Sports Data. He makes his home in Berkeley, California.

Carl Koenig, g'68, PhD'72, and **Connie Knachel Sanders**, g'74, g'88, are retired teachers and live in Sarasota, Florida.

Robert Nyquist, p'68, is a pharmacist in Lawrence, where he makes his home with his wife, Mary.

Loneta Wilson Schmollinger, d'68, lives in Platte City, Missouri, where she's a retired social-studies teacher.

Roger Viola, c'68, l'74, retired last year after 18 years as executive vice president, general counsel and secretary of Security Benefit in Topeka. He also served as president of the Topeka Community Foundation. Roger and his wife, **Karen**, assoc., split their time between Topeka and Maricopa, Arizona.

Thomas Williamson, a'68, wrote *The First Book of Why: Why I Am Me!*, which was published in March.

69 Richard Hellman, m'69, received his third Distinguished Reviewer Award from the American Diabetes

Association and the editorial board of Diabetes Care. He's a physician at Hellman & Rosen Endocrine Associates in Kansas City.

Gregory McMillan, e'69, works part time as a modeling and control consultant at MYNAH Technologies.

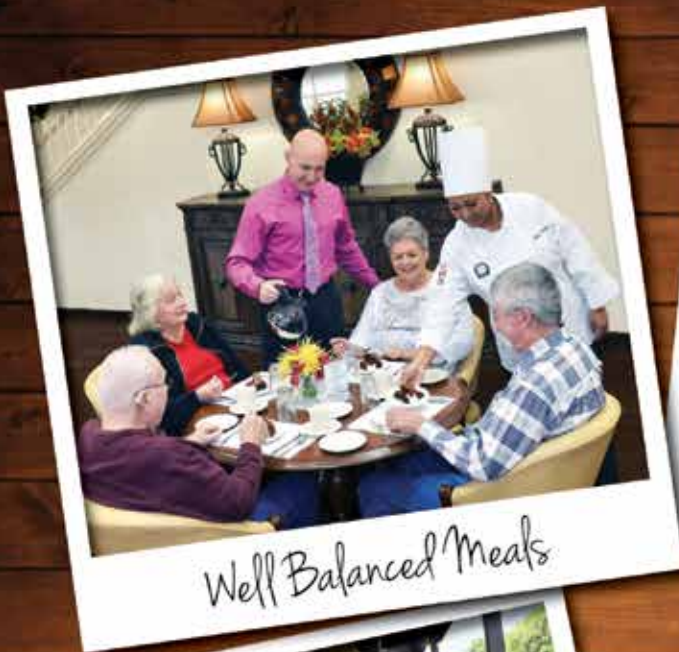
70 Russell "Rusty" Leffel, c'70, l'73, is an attorney and street photographer. He lives in Mission Hills with **Paula Hauser Leffel**, f'70.

Larry McElwain, c'70, in May was inducted in the Lawrence Business Hall of Fame. He is president of the Lawrence Chamber of Commerce and a funeral director at Warren-McElwain Mortuary.

Donna Schafer, c'70, g'74, PhD'85, serves on the board of governors of the Accreditation in Gerontology Education

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

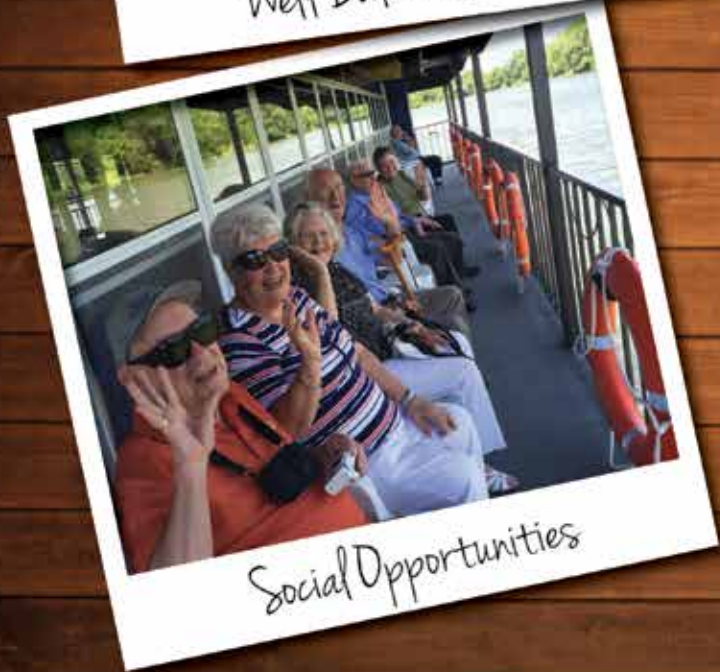
a	School of Architecture, Design and Planning
b	School of Business
c	College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
d	School of Education
e	School of Engineering
f	School of Fine Arts
g	Master's Degree
h	School of Health Professions
j	School of Journalism
l	School of Law
m	School of Medicine
n	School of Nursing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



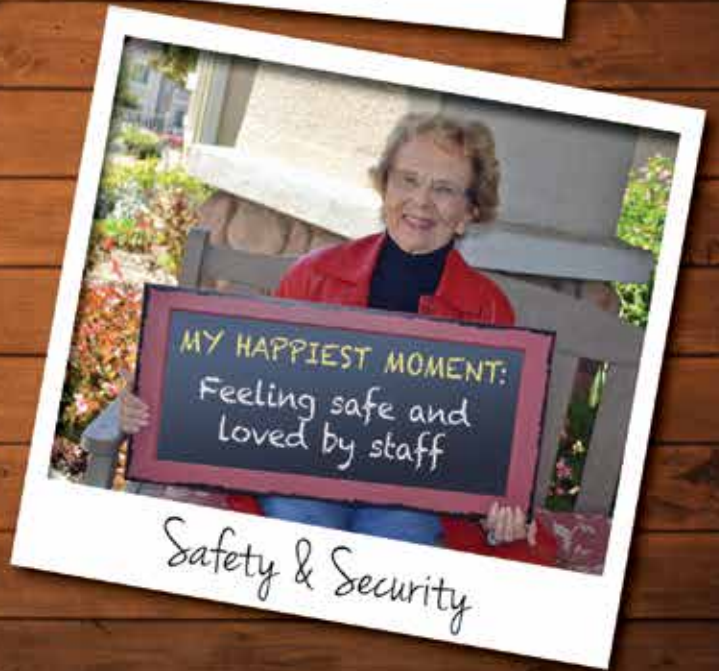
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Class Notes

Council. She makes her home in Healdsburg, California.

71 Laurel Hargan Wessman, c'71, is retired from the U.S. Navy. She lives in Arlington, Virginia, where she volunteers at the Smithsonian Institution and is a member of Daughters of the American Revolution.

Thomas Zampano, c'71, lives in The Villages, Florida, where he's a retired marriage and family therapist.

72 Eldonna Christensen Johnson, g'72, retired in July after 41 years as an elementary-school teacher. She and her husband, Bruce, live in Clinton, Missouri.

Mike Thompson, b'72, vice president and branch manager of Wells Fargo Advisors in Mission Woods, was honored in April with the KU School of Business Distinguished Alumni Award. He makes his home in Leawood.

73 Roger Berger, c'73, retired in May after 40 years as professor of statistics at Florida State University, North

Carolina State University and Arizona State University. He resides in Phoenix.

Linda Ireland Elderkin, d'73, lives in Melbourne Beach, Florida, where she's vice president of Elderkin Inc. Her husband, Robert, is president of the construction company.

John Gladson, p'73, retired from Lindburg Pharmacy in Pittsburg. He resides in Girard.

74 Michael Boman, c'74, l'78, directs the Kansas City Tax Clinic at University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law.

Ann Kris Drach, c'74, is a volunteer instructor and president of the board of directors at the Literacy Council of Southwestern Pennsylvania. She makes her home in Sycamore.

John Gurche, c'74, g'79, is an artist-in-residence at the Museum of the Earth in Ithaca, New York. He also wrote *Shaping Humanity: How Science, Art, and Imagination Help Us Understand Our Origins*, which was published in 2015 by Yale University Press.

Paul Post, l'74, a retired attorney, resides in Topeka.

75 David Murfin, b'75, e'75, was named chair of the Kansas Board of Regents for 2017-'18. Dave is CEO of Murfin Inc. in Wichita, where he lives with **Janet Lusk Murfin**, d'75.


David Theel, e'75, is pastor of First Christian Church of Spearman in Texas. He makes his home in Borger.

76 Marti Schovee Byers, e'76, m'79, was named a 2016 and 2017 Top Doctor in Overland Park. She's a cosmetic-medicine physician and surgeon at KMC Revealage MD.

Nancy Dejmal, d'76, is retired and splits her time between Lawrence and Belgrade, Montana.

Edgar Heap of Birds, f'76, a visual artist and professor of Native American studies at the University of Oklahoma, in May received an honorary doctorate from the Emily Carr University of Art and Design in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Rees Hughes, b'76, g'79, received the




WILLIAMS EDUCATION FUND

CALLING ALL JAYHAWKS

With a current donor base of 6,080 members living in 48 states and four countries, we're always looking to expand our membership.

In terms of active donors, KU is in the bottom half of the Big 12 Conference. We need the support of Jayhawks everywhere to help provide our student-athletes with academic and athletic experiences that are second-to-none!

By increasing our membership, we will provide our current and future Jayhawk student-athletes with increased scholarship opportunities and the resources necessary to be champions on-and-off the field of play. We need more Jayhawk friends no matter how large or small the gift!



State	Donor Count
AK	1
AL	5
AR	4
AZ	40
CA	83
CO	107
CT	1
DC	1
DE	1
FL	52
GA	5
IA	11
IL	423
IN	12
KS	4581
KY	12
LA	152
MA	1
MD	1
ME	1
MI	11
MN	4
MO	8
MS	4
MT	2
NC	19
ND	3
NE	64
NH	1
NJ	1
NM	9
NV	16
OH	24
OK	3
OR	11
PA	22
RI	1
SC	6
SD	2
TN	12
TX	152
UT	2
VA	24
VT	1
WA	11
WI	73
WV	1
WY	1
INTERNATIONAL	4

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Cardinal Citation Award from Labette Community College in Parsons for outstanding service to his community. A native of the southeast Kansas town, Rees retired after 23 years as director of student life at Humboldt State University in Arcata, California, where he now lives.

Mark Watson, c'76, g'78, makes his home in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, where he's city manager.

77 Steven Chucovich, a'77, a'78, is principal and founder of Arcs Inc.

in Beverly Hills, California, where he lives.

Laura Cook, d'77, retired from the FDA Office of Criminal Investigations. She makes her home in Spring Hill.

Bill French, j'77, was elected second vice president of the Tulsa Men's Club. He lives in Bixby, Oklahoma.

Denise White Gilmore, b'77, manages the historic properties redevelopment program for the National Trust for Historic Preservation in Washington, D.C. She lives in Alexandria, Virginia.

Tyra Decker Manning, g'77, EdD'79,

wrote *Where the Water Meets the Sand*, which in April won the Gold Award for best memoir in the 2017 Benjamin Franklin Awards.

Marilyn O'Hearne, s'77, is a certified team coach. Her latest book, *Breaking Free From Bias*, was published in May.

78 Alan Lewis, m'78, is a physician and surgeon at Premier Orthopedic Specialists of Tulsa in Oklahoma.

Thomas Paget, b'78, is controller at Greystone Healthcare Management

PROFILE by Steven Hill

New doc extends family's long health care legacy

Michael Sullivan can't recall a time when he wanted to be anything other than a doctor.

"My mom remembers me telling her from a very young age that I would carry on the family tradition," says Sullivan. "I never really considered doing anything else."

That tradition—a century-long family legacy in health care launched with medical degrees from KU—began with Sullivan's great-grandfather, Henry Bradley Sullivan Sr., c'18, m'20, and continued with his grandfather, Bradley Sullivan Jr., c'49, m'52; and father, Bradley Huse Sullivan, c'76, m'79.

In May, Sullivan, c'13, m'17, became the fourth generation in his family to earn a degree from the KU School of Medicine.

He credits his family's caring ethic for shaping his career choice. His mother, Sandra; sister, Megan, n'14; and aunt, Julie Sullivan Foster, c'80, n'82, also work in health care, as nurses.

"I think empathy is a big thing in terms of being a doctor," Sullivan says. "It helps to have the right tools and to want to go into the medical profession and want to help people. I give a lot of credit to my parents and how they raised me for

wanting to care for people."

Bradley Sullivan is an OB-GYN at Midwest Women's Healthcare in Kansas City, and Michael says he often met his father's patients when dining out or running errands with his father as a kid.

"Growing up, I saw how much they respected him and liked him, and I really looked up to him in that aspect and kind of wanted the same thing."

Sullivan says he felt no family pressure to choose medicine.

"What my father did that I really liked is he never pushed me one way or another. He and my mom would have supported my siblings or me in anything we wanted to do."

The hands-off policy extended even to medical school.

"He never really gave me too much advice," Sullivan says. "He kind of let me carve my own path and go through my own struggles."


Bradley Sullivan believes that's probably because his own parents never pushed him toward medicine.



Fourth-generation doctor Michael Sullivan. "I'm very proud of him and what he's accomplished," says his father, Bradley Sullivan. "I just hope he'll enjoy being a physician as much as I have."

"I would have been fine without any of my kids doing this, but this is just icing on the cake," Bradley says. "I was always proud that I was a third generation, and I think this just adds to it. I enjoy talking to him about medicine, so that's made it a lot of fun."

Michael began his residency in internal medicine this summer at—where else?—the University of Kansas Hospital.

"I know my dad is extremely proud of me," Michael Sullivan says. "He's obviously very happy that somebody is extending the legacy. And hopefully one day when I have kids, they can extend the legacy as well." 

Class Notes



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Forbes magazine rates Lawrence as one of the top 25 places for successful aging and retirement.

his wife, Ann, make their home in McGregor, Texas.

84 Keith Harris, g'84, manages theatre productions at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside in Kenosha.

Howard Shaw, c'84, m'88, resides in Denton, Texas, where he's chief medical officer at Medical City Denton.

Jeff Stehney, j'84, owner of Joe's Kansas City Bar-B-Que, will be inducted in the Barbecue Hall of Fame at the American Royal in September.

85 Leeann Carter Fitzgerald, d'85, EdD'11, retired as a principal from the Leavenworth School District. She lives in Lawrence.

Brian Rock, e'85, a'85, in April was honored by KU's Center for Sustainability with a Faculty Leadership Award. He's associate professor of civil, environmental and architectural engineering.

86 J.T. Harding, c'86, is a Boeing 787 pilot and captain for United Airlines. He and his wife, **Sandy**, assoc., live in Montgomery, Texas.

87 Elizabeth Hunter Ashley, f'87, is an international vocalist and private voice teacher. In January, she was named 2016 Professional of the Year by Strathmore's Who's Who Worldwide. She makes her home in Danville, California, with her husband, John.

88 Michael Grillot, m'88, is an orthopedic hand- and microvascular-surgeon at Valley View Hospital in Glenwood Springs, Colorado. He makes his home in Carbondale.

Cynthia Guerrero Kuhn, c'88, professor of English at Metropolitan State University in Denver, won an Agatha Award for her debut novel, *The Semester of Our Discontent*, which was published last year by Henry Press. Her second book in the Lila Maclean Academic Mystery series, *The Art of Vanishing*, was published in February.

Gerald Swift, e'88, directs program management at the Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division in Patuxent River, Maryland.

Corporation in Tampa, Florida. He makes his home in Apollo Beach.

79 Peter Brown, b'79, is chairman and founder of Grassmere Partners, a private investment firm in Kansas City.

Joe Bussell, f'79, is an artist in Rosedale. He recently exhibited his work at the Evelyn E. Jorgenson Fine Arts Center in Moberly, Missouri.

Brett Steenbarger, g'79, PhD'82, is a trading coach and clinical associate professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at SUNY Upstate Medical University in Syracuse, New York.

L. William Zahner III, e'79, in May was honored with KU's 2017 Distinguished Engineering Service Award. Bill is CEO of his family's business, A. Zahner Company, in Kansas City, where he lives with his wife, **Meg Bruggen Zahner**, d'86, '92.

Nancy Zurbuchen, d'79, g'05, was appointed Midwest regional advocate for the Office of Advocacy of the U.S. Small Business Administration. She owns Motional Multimedia in Kansas City.

81 Nina Schloesser McKenna, l'81, is chief legal officer and general counsel at Advisor Group. She and **Douglas**, l'73, live in Mission Hills.

Thaine Shetter, j'81, makes his home in Pennington, New Jersey, where he's a content editor at Accenture.

82 Julie Downs Bettis, d'82, retired after nearly 35 years as a teacher and principal in the Wichita School District. She and **Walt**, j'82, a customer relations and event coordinator at Foley Industries, live in Wichita.

Ray Evans, b'82, g'84, is senior partner at Pegasus Capital Management, which recently merged with several financial firms to form Infinitas in Overland Park.

Steven Koppes, g'82, is a science writer on contract at Argonne National Laboratory. He lives in Lincoln, Nebraska.

83 William May, PhD'83, retired after teaching music for 48 years. He recently served as professor of music education at Baylor University. Will and

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Jackie Zoucha, e'88, is a senior engineer at Juniper Networks. She and **Mike McKinley**, e'82, g'84, live in Sunnyvale, California.

BORN TO:

Michael Frakes, c'88, and his wife, Malisa, son, Charles, Feb. 19 in Mansfield, Massachusetts, where they make their home.

89 Mark Heinrich, g'89, retired rear admiral in the U.S. Navy, serves on the Academy Securities advisory board. He's a general manager at Microsoft.

Derek Locke, b'89, is chief strategy officer at CSG International in Elkhorn, Nebraska.

Forrest MacDonald, j'89, lives in Tampa, Florida, where he's a mixed-media artist and photographer.

Greg Pasley, e'89, g'91, PhD'97, makes his home in Kansas City, where he's vice president of sales and marketing at Butler Manufacturing.

Herb Sih, '89, is managing partner at

Think Big Partners in Kansas City.

90 Richard George, c'90, is vice president of global emerging markets and enterprise divisions at Grasp Technologies. He and his wife, Susan, live in Villa Rica, Georgia.

David Peacock, j'90, is president and chief operating officer of Schnuck Markets Inc. in St. Louis, where he makes his home with his wife, Jane, and their three children.

91 John, p'91, and **Carol Parkison Smasal**, f'91, l'98, recently celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary. John manages the Health and Wellness Market at Walmart in Camas, Washington. They live in Washougal.

Nicole Vap, j'91, is an investigative producer for KUSA Channel 9 in Denver. In April, she won three regional awards from the Radio Television Digital News Association.

Chad Waetzig, b'91, is executive

vice president of Crunch Fitness in New York City. He and his wife, Elizabeth, live in New Canaan, Connecticut.

92 Mike Nicco, c'92, is a meteorologist for ABC7 Morning News in San Francisco.

93 Ranjit Arab, j'93, g'09, is senior acquisition editor at the University of Iowa Press in Iowa City.

Thomas Barrett, c'93, is president and CEO of 7Signal Solutions in Independence, Ohio. He lives in Westlake.

Kimberly Hays, l'93, is an attorney specializing in family law in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where she makes her home. She's president-elect of the Oklahoma Bar Association.

Harry Herington, l'93, was honored by Government Technology magazine as one of its "Top 25 Doers, Dreamers and Drivers" of 2017. He's CEO and chair of NIC Inc. in Olathe.



Mark Hubble, c'93, '94, is CEO of Meskwaki Inc. in Marshalltown, Iowa.

Sean, c'93, and **Alison Gilley Kentch**, '94, live in Chesapeake, Virginia. Their daughter, Madison, has been accepted into the University Honors Program and will attend KU in the fall.

MARRIED

Kristopher Koeller, b'93, to Jessica Chiang, April 15 in Valley Cottage, New York. He's chief operating officer at Flight Club in New York City, where they live.

94 Elizabeth Green Coons, c'94, wrote her first children's book, *The Bravest Adventure*, which was published in December by Archway Publishing. She and **Scott**, e'91, live in Lawrence.

Vince Haines, a'94, is president of Prigmore Krievins Haines Limon Architects in El Dorado, where he was recently elected mayor.

Kimberly Hobbs, j'94, is vice president of marketing at Sprint Center in Kansas City, where she makes her home.

Tracy Gaulding Weis, b'94, lives in Olathe with her daughter, Ashlyn, who just turned 1.

95 Chad Lawhorn, j'95, editor of the Lawrence Journal-World, in April received the Clyde M. Reed Jr. Master Editor Award from the Kansas Press Association. Lawhorn joined the paper in 2001 and served in several roles before becoming editor last August.

David Stras, c'95, l'99, g'99, is a circuit judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals in

PROFILE by Chris Lazzarino

From local TV to 'Springer' to 30 Rock, Bergman soars

Betsy Bergman, who is in her second year as senior vice president for marketing and brand strategy at NBCUniversal TV Distribution, found her way into television from an unlikely starting point: the Washington, D.C., law firm she joined after earning her political science degree.

Her firm was handling a case that involved the local Fox affiliate, WTTG, where Bergman, c'88, spent hours taking notes for witness interviews. When the case settled, a WTTG station executive commented, "If you're interested in working in television, give us a call."

"And the next day," Bergman recalls from her office at NBC's famed 30 Rock, "I gave them a call."

She jumped at a temporary position in the programming department, then moved into a production assistant's job for a new political roundtable show, "Off the Record."

"It was a fantastic opportunity to learn about television production," she says. "It played to strengths I didn't know I had. That's probably the headline for me."

Bergman then joined the PBS series "This is America & the World with Dennis Wholey" as associate producer and lead booker, and finally left Washington to

become an associate producer for "The Jerry Springer Show," in Chicago.

"He's been a touchpoint throughout my career," Bergman says of Springer. "We used to go on these college tours, and Jerry would say, 'The path to being successful is, no matter what you're doing, be the best at it, dedicate yourself to it, distinguish yourself in it. That's going to get you noticed and that's going to qualify you to go to the next level to do whatever's next."

"And he's right. It's about work ethic, paying attention and developing skills to be the best at what it is you're doing at the moment."

When Universal Television bought the Springer show, Bergman was chosen to move to Los Angeles and oversee its marketing efforts as the bridge between Universal and the Chicago production base. She rose through the ranks and in 2004 was named vice president for marketing for TV distribution at NBCUniversal.

Bergman in 2010 left for Sony Pictures Television as a marketing vice president, then returned to NBCUniversal, in New York City, in 2016.

Among her varied duties, Bergman oversees marketing for the TV Distribution Division—which includes "The Jerry Springer Show"—as well as marketing and sales support for the TV New Media



COURTESY BETSY BERGMAN

NBC executive Betsy Bergman says TV marketing only gets tougher: "There's a lot more choices out there, so how do we keep our shows front and center with consumers?"

.....

Distribution Group, which sells Universal's television and film content to platforms such as Netflix, Hulu, Amazon and cable.

"If you can find that secret sauce that delivers on the promise of a show, making sure that your marketing efforts are targeted toward the right audience, then that's a recipe for success." 🍴

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Minneapolis, Minnesota. He and **Heather Siegel Stras**, c'95, s'99, live in Wayzata.

96 Joanne Eden, c'96, '98, a grant officer for the KU Office of Research, in January was named Employee of the Month.

Holli Hartman, c'96, e'14, is a civil engineer at CDM Smith in Indianapolis, where she resides.

97 Howard Keim, PhD'97, is a senior lecturer in business at Bluffton University in Bluffton, Ohio.

Melissa Vancrum, b'97, l'11, g'12, lives in Leawood, where she's an attorney at Douthitt Frets Rouse Gentile & Rhodes.

98 Jeff Bourgeois, g'98, earned his doctorate from the School of Leadership and Education Sciences at the University of San Diego.

Russell Caldwell, c'98, commands the USS Ross in the U.S. Navy. He lives in

Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

Kelly Hale, d'98, makes her home in Kansas City, where she directs public relations for the Kansas Speedway.

Lee Johnson, d'98, g'00, is CEO of USA Diving. He lives in Fishers, Indiana, with **Heather Stoehr Johnson**, d'97, g'00, and their five children.

Trent Tucker, b'98, is founder and coach at Tucker Tennis Academy in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where he lives.

99 Diana Buller, s'99, is a behavioral health consultant at Health Ministries Clinic in Newton. She makes her home in Halstead.

Rosemarie Boyer Chun, g'99, resides in Camas, Washington, where she volunteers as an English tutor.

C.B. McGrath, c'99, g'01, in April was named head coach of men's basketball at the University of North Carolina-Wilmington. He served 14 seasons as assistant coach under Roy Williams

at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill.

Mindie Miller Paget, c'99, g'01, directs communications and marketing for KU School of Law. She makes her home in Lawrence.

Paul Pierce, '99, on April 30 retired after 19 seasons as a professional basketball player in the NBA. An NBA Finals MVP and 10-time All-Star, "The Truth" finished his career as the NBA's 15th-most prolific scorer with 26,397 points.

Kevin Pritchard, c'99, was promoted to president of basketball operations for the Indiana Pacers. The former KU basketball player, who was part of the NCAA national championship team in 1988, previously served as the Pacers' general manager.

Jo Lynn Snyder Scobee, b'99, is chief financial officer at Kansas Trucking in De Soto.

Bryan Van Deun, g'99, was promoted to senior executive service of the FBI in



GREETINGS

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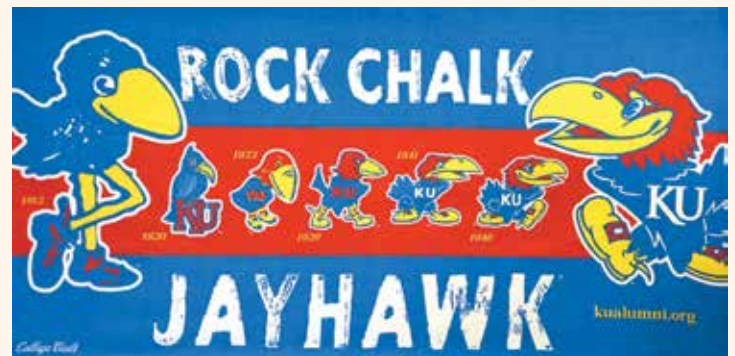
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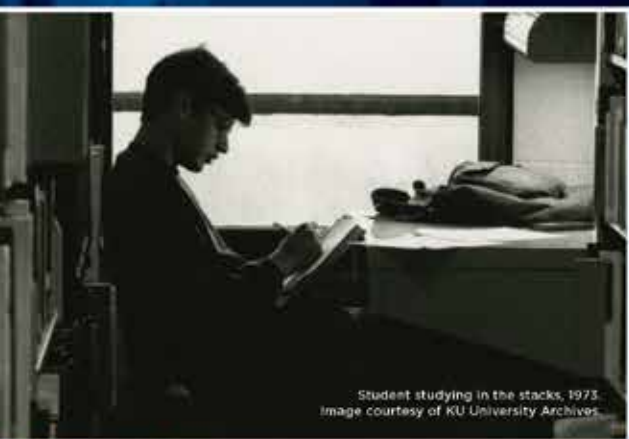
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Washington, D.C. He has served as a special agent since 2001.

00 Bruce Berglund, PhD'00, wrote *Castle and Cathedral in Modern Prague: Longing for the Sacred in a Skeptical Age*, which was published in February by Central European University Press. He's a professor of history at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan. **Eric Dippel**, m'00, is a cardiologist at the Vascular Institute of the Midwest in Davenport, Iowa. He and his wife, Missy,

live in Bettendorf and have three children. **Stephen Hardy**, c'00, is CEO of mySide-walk, a software company in Kansas City. He lives in Leawood.

Melanie Levering, e'00, makes her home in Pratt, where she's an architectural engineer for the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism.

Jeffrey Redhage, e'00, in January was inducted in the Lincoln East High School Athletic Hall of Fame in Nebraska. He manages construction at Hunt Midwest Real Estate Development in Kansas City.

BORN TO:

Molly McNearney Kimmel, j'00, and her husband, Jimmy, son, William, April 21 in Los Angeles, where he joins a sister, Jane, who's nearly 3.

01 Matthew Kenton, c'01, lives in Nolensville, Tennessee, where he's a regional sales executive at Connexall.

Season Titus Lentz, c'01, g'04, is vice president and marketing director at the Bank of Blue Valley in Overland Park. She lives in Olathe with her husband, James,

PROFILE by Heather Biele

Longtime sports fan living dream as beat writer

As a young boy growing up in Springfield, Missouri, Rob Rains couldn't get enough of sports. He joined sandlot ball games and intently studied professional sports coverage on TV and in newspapers. He was a fervent baseball fan, following in his father's footsteps and supporting the St. Louis Cardinals, a team that captured the World Series pennant when Rains was 8 years old and again three years later.

Despite his passion for playing, Rains knew he didn't have a promising future on the field. "I always tell people I wanted to be involved in sports and had to find a way to do it, because I knew I wasn't going to be an athlete," he says.

For Rains, j'78, the next best thing was becoming a sports reporter. He started building his résumé in high school, when he landed a gig at the local Springfield newspaper. During his senior year at KU, he became sports editor of the University Daily Kansan and campus correspondent for United Press International, which led to a full-time position after graduation.

In 1984, Rains landed a dream job covering the Cardinals for the St. Louis Globe-Democrat and later became the National League beat writer for USA Today's Baseball Weekly. Following a

one-year appointment teaching sports writing at Arizona State University, Rains returned to St. Louis, where he launched a daily sports radio show with his son, B.J., j'09.

"We started a website at the same time as a way to promote the radio show and put the content and interviews on our site," Rains says.

That was five years ago, and although Rains and his son are no longer on the air, the website, stlsportspage.com, is still going strong. Rains writes the majority of the content, which includes coverage of the Cardinals and the St. Louis Blues, the city's professional hockey team, as well as updates on local college and high school teams.

Running a website has been fun, yet challenging, Rains admits. "When I was coming up through school and becoming a reporter, print was the thing and you had a lot of time to write a story," he says. "It's a different world now; there's deadlines every five minutes. It's made it harder to be a sports reporter, because you have the pressures of being available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, whenever news breaks. You never want to get beat on a story."

Over the years, Rains has broken several



COURTESY: ROB RAINS

Rob Rains recalls several memorable moments in his 37-year career as a sports reporter, including the St. Louis Cardinals' wild run to the World Series in 2011.

Cardinals news stories, in addition to writing more than 30 books, including biographies of St. Louis Hall of Famers Ozzie Smith and Jack Buck.

His hard work has paid off, and on May 25, Rains joined an elite group of athletes, coaches, media and other contributors with his induction in the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame.

Recalling his speech at the ceremony, Rains reiterates that even after 37 years in the business, he's never grown tired of his job. "I enjoy going to the park every night," he says. "I like the World Series games and the playoffs, but I'm just as excited to go to a Tuesday night game in June. You just never know what you're going to see. And that's enough reason to keep me going to the ballpark."



and their two children, Avery and Tyler.

William McNulty, c'01, on May 14 was awarded an honorary degree at KU's 145th Commencement. He's a former Marine and co-founder of Team Rubicon, a nonprofit agency that recruits military veterans to provide global disaster relief.

David Moskowitz, PhD'01, is professor of musicology at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion.

J. Curtis Sloan, c'01, l'04, is vice president of GoRail in Alexandria, Virginia. He lives in Washington, D.C.

Khemarath Suthiwan, c'01, is a senior regulatory analyst at QEP Resources in Denver, where he resides.

Jana Ross Woodson, d'01, makes her home in New Orleans, where she's associate athletics director for external relations at Tulane University.

BORN TO:

Brooke Briley Robison, d'01, g'04, and her husband, **Scott**, assoc., daughter, Stella, March 24 in Olathe, where she joins a brother, Samuel, 2. Brooke teaches

language arts in the Olathe School District.

02 David Abrams, c'02, is vice president of sales and marketing at deVan Sealants Inc. in St. Louis, where he and his wife, Melissa, make their home.

Kelly Springs Kelley, j'02, directs marketing at EventPro Strategies in Scottsdale, Arizona. She and her husband, Steven, live in Phoenix with their two children, Natalie and Cameron.

Rachel Baellow Muller, c'02, is an admission adviser at National American University in Overland Park, where she makes her home with **Shawn**, c'99, and their two children, Maya and Noah.

Sara Ott, g'02, lives in Aspen, Colorado, where she's assistant city manager.

03 Anne Hytrek, g'03, is a dietician at Hy-Vee in Des Moines, Iowa.

Pamela Hipp Riordan, d'03, is a consultant for children's catechesis for the Archdiocese of Kansas City, Kansas.

Patrick Ryan, m'03, is a physician and

founder of Nashville Vascular and Vein Institute in Tennessee.

Jason Sik, c'03, manages business development at Hoe Hoe Engineering in Singapore, where he lives with his wife, Christine, and their son, Lucas.

Michael Sweeney, g'03, PhD'11, works at the American Jazz Museum in Kansas City, where he's director of collections. He makes his home in Mission.

04 Brett Ballard, d'04, a former KU basketball player, in April was named head coach of men's basketball at Washburn University in Topeka.

Eric Braun, b'04, lives in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where he directs global financial planning and analysis at Emerson Process Management.

Angie Stutte Grant, e'04, is vice president of Henderson Engineers in Overland Park.

Cody Wamsley, b'04, l'08, is an associate attorney at McDonald Hopkins in Chicago. He practices in the firm's national data privacy and cybersecurity group.

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with **Zachary**, g'09, and their three children, Micah, Millie and Macklin.

BORN TO:

Jeff, c'06, and **Heather Plante Hawkins**, j'06, son, Atticus, Dec. 18 in Lawrence, where he joins a brother, Mavrick, 10, and a sister, Sienna, 5. Jeff is a recreation programmer for the City of Lawrence, and Heather is executive assistant to the president and coordinates donor relations at the KU Alumni Association.

07 Kathryn McKinley Corona, c'07, is a registered nurse at the Colmery-O'Neil VA Medical Center in Topeka, where she makes her home.

Ashley Goodrich, d'07, '11, lives in Kansas City, where she's partnership manager at the National Soccer Coaches Association of America.

Kaley Hattrup, j'07, c'07, directs marketing for Sporting KC in Kansas City.

Zachary Huntley, b'07, lives in Los Angeles, where he manages talent analytics at Live Nation Entertainment.

Kelsey McCabe McClasky, c'07, directs survivor services at Willow Domestic Violence Center in Lawrence, where she makes her home with **Matthew**, c'03, g'08.

Trevor Nohe, b'07, is president of Inside Ventures in Overland Park.

Gary Woodland, c'07, a professional golfer and two-time PGA tour winner, in April returned to Augusta, Georgia, to play in his fifth Masters Tournament.

08 Jordan Altman, c'08, produces social media for the CBS show "The Talk." He lives in Los Angeles.

Heiko Heppner, l'08, resides in Frankfurt, Germany, where he's partner at Dentons law firm.

Heather Riffel Musselman, j'08, is a marketing administrator at Peavey Corporation in Lenexa. She makes her home in Gardner with **Zachary**, '10, and their daughter, Ashlyn.

BORN TO:

Michael, b'08, and **Meg Stockton Adkins**, d'08, son, John, Nov. 9 in Prairie

Andrew Wymore, '04, is a real-estate agent at Keller Williams. He resides in Prairie Village.

BORN TO:

Darnelle Puser Bevins, d'04, and her husband, Ronnie, daughter, Emma, Nov. 5 in Reidsville, North Carolina. Darnelle is a physical therapist at Advanced Home Care.

05 James McIntosh, m'05, in January was inducted in the Truman High School Hall of Fame. He's a physician at Advanced Urologic Associates in Independence, Missouri.

Kathy McVey Meitl, d'05, g'09, is a substitute teacher for Norwalk Community School District in Norwalk, Iowa, where she makes her home with **Gregory**, a'06, a commissioning agent at Critical Solutions Group.

Jill Jamieson Misener, l'05, is a tax attorney and of counsel at Blank Rome in New York City.

Jennifer Widerstrom, d'05, wrote *Diet*

Right for Your Personality Type, which was published in February by Harmony. She's a fitness expert, trainer and diet consultant on the NBC shows "American Gladiators" and "The Biggest Loser." Jen lives in Los Angeles.

06 Sarah Roberts Anderton, c'06, b'07, is a contracts supervisor at General Dynamics Information Technology in Lawrence, where she lives with her husband, Brett, and their two daughters, Abigail and Kasey.

Steve Eck, g'06, manages the production center at Hallmark in Lawrence.

Paul Rankin, e'06, is an engineer at PFC Brakes in Clover, South Carolina. In May, he won the Louis Schwitzer Award for excellence in innovation and engineering in racing technology.

Joey Richmeier, b'06, lives in Hyattsville, Maryland, with his son, Oliver, who just turned 1.

Alicia Veirthaler Stoltenberg, d'06, g'09, is a curriculum and assessment specialist at KU. She makes her home in Tonganoxie

Village, where he joins a sister, Nora, who's nearly 2.

Megan Schottman Cole, c'08, and **Nicholis**, '09, daughter, Emilia, Sept. 1, 2016, in Overland Park, where she joins a sister, Eliza, 2. Megan is a speech-language pathologist for Kansas City Kansas Public Schools.

09 Katlin Brosious Bradshaw, j'09, g'11, is a finance manager at Textron Systems in Hunt Valley, Maryland. She makes her home in Shrewsbury, Pennsylvania.

Jesse Conrad, e'09, is associate vice president at Manhard Consulting in Vernon Hills, Illinois.

Rachel Debes Hart, c'09, is a senior team lead at Cerner in Kansas City. She commutes from Lawrence, where she lives with **Jarod**, g'11, PhD'13, and their son, Charles.

Brian Schneweis, j'09, c'09, works at the American Academy of Family Physicians in Leawood, where he's a marketing copywriter.

Debra Sheffer, PhD'09, is professor and chair of the department of history and

political science at Park University in Kansas City. In April, she received the Distinguished Faculty Scholar Award at the university's honors convocation.

MARRIED

Carly Rodgers, j'09, to Eric Sorenson, Oct. 29 in Excelsior Springs, Missouri. She's assistant vice president and leads marketing at PNC Midland Loan Services in Overland Park.

10 Alyssa Aude Bernard, c'10, g'17, is an attorney at Waddell & Reed in

PROFILE by Ronnie Wachter

Reiserer uses new media to share World War II stories

Every time he came to the "Hitler and Nazi Germany" class led by Instructor Sam Newland, g'81, PhD'83, Kip Reiserer drilled further into the textbook—and further away from his classmates.

"I had friends in the class, and nobody else read it," Reiserer says. "I read really, really close to the whole thing."

Reiserer, j'10, now combines the degree he did earn (broadcast journalism) with the interest he could not leave (World War II) for a social media following that has reached more than 150,000 on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

With WorldWar2HistoryPics on Instagram (89,000 followers), @WW2Facts on Twitter (55,000 followers) and Facebook.com/WW2Facts (11,000 likes), Reiserer illustrates for the young minds of the 21st century the conflict that ripped humanity in half 75 years ago.

"I do it because I think it's important," he says. "I don't fully understand how the majority of an entire country could be swept by madness and change the world that much."

Shortly after graduating from KU, Reiserer moved to Kansas City. Needing a job, he put his J-School degree to use by starting a Twitter account for other

journalists seeking employment; @KCJournalismJobs grew to 1,349 followers, and he quickly saw that a key to social media success is specificity. He put that lesson to use for his next online hobby.

After devouring Don McCombs and Fred Worth's *World War II: 4,139 Strange and Fascinating Facts*, Reiserer was so excited that he wanted to share his findings. In summer 2012, after moving to Chicago to work in social media advertising, he realized he could.

"What if I created a Twitter account and started tweeting facts and photos?"

So he tweeted his way through most of *Strange and Fascinating Facts*, then began looking for new sources. No problem: The internet is overflowing with people who want to talk about World War II.

"I had a seemingly unlimited amount of content that appealed to people all over the world," he said.

WW2Facts and WW2HistoryPics are hobbies, but Reiserer would love to turn them into a career. The dream job: Sponsors would pay him to visit historic sites and tweet about what they hold. A



COURTESY KIP REISERER

Kip Reiserer, pictured above with Auschwitz survivor Eva Kor at her Terre Haute, Indiana, museum, discovered a passion for World War II history after watching "Saving Private Ryan" and VHS documentaries purchased for him by his mother. "It was so foreign to me, and I didn't know anything about Europe or the Pacific."

professional World War Twourist.

The intent remains the same: Reiserer hopes to repeat for others the experience he felt in Newland's History 341 class and help someone find an answer to the question that drives him as he digs up another online rabbit hole.

"How could it happen?"

—Wachter, j'00, is a reporter for the *Chicago Tribune* and a freelance writer.

Editor's note: An expanded version of this profile, including photos and Reiserer's tips for social media success, can be found at kualumni.org/news.

app



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Overland Park. She lives in Lenexa with **Jamie**, c'10, '14, and their son, James III, who's nearly 1.

Kate Renner, g'10, g'12, was named to Building Design and Construction's 40 under 40 list. She's an architect and medical planner at HKS Architects in Washington, D.C., where she lives.

Patricia Ryberg, PhD'10, in April received the J.L. Zwingle Award at Park University's honors convocation. She's an assistant professor of biology.

Chelsea Andrews Wojtowicz, a'10, is a user-experience designer at Enterprise Holdings in St. Louis. She and her husband, Ryan, live in Ballwin, Missouri.

11 Lisa McDermott Billman, f'11, is an associate attorney at SouthLaw in Overland Park.

Tyler Cini, g'11, makes his home in Dallas, where he's an architect and project leader at GFF Architects.

Christopher Koch, g'11, is an architect at BNIM Architects in Kansas City.

Erin Lustig, d'11, g'17, teaches in the Shawnee Mission School District. She lives in Olathe.

Reece Petty, d'11, '12, coaches football at Ithaca College in Ithaca, New York. He was a wide receiver and special-teams player at KU.

Brianne Pfannenstiel, c'11, j'11, is a statehouse reporter for the Des Moines Register in Iowa.

Andrew Posch, j'11, creates content for Sullivan Higdon & Sink in Kansas City. He lives in Roeland Park.

Virginia Strother Walker, d'11, '12, teaches at Pinellas County Schools in Clearwater, Florida, where she makes her home with her husband, Damon, and their son, Covi.

BORN TO:

Jordan, d'11, g'13, and **Julia Cummings Scott**, d'12, g'14, daughter, Harper, Feb. 17 in Lawrence.

12 Amanda Baxa, m'12, is a physician at St. Luke Hospital in Marion.

Lauren Summers, c'12, f'16, is a prosecutor for the City of Lawrence.

Taylor Teague, c'12, lives in Dallas,

where she's a recruiting specialist at Lockton Companies.

13 Lauren Taulbee Gallagher, c'13, teaches in the Blue Valley School District. She and **Daniel**, c'13, live in Lenexa.

14 Michael Cerier, c'14, is a management trainee at Enterprise Holdings. He and **Lauren Osdoby Cerier**, d'13, a physical therapist at Therapy Works, live in Lawrence.

Abby Simmons Edwards, g'14, DNP'16, is a nurse practitioner at Urgent Care for Kids in The Woodlands, Texas.

Ross Laughlin, c'14, works at Commerce Bank, where he's a personal banker specialist. He resides in Overland Park.

Shannon Thompson, c'14, wrote *July Thunder*, which was published in April by Clean Teen Publishing. The author of the Timely Death trilogy and the Bad Bloods series for young adults, she lives in Gardner.

15 Julie Etzler, j'15, lives in Wichita, where she coordinates consumer marketing at INTRUST Bank.

James Hennahane, c'15, is a systems analyst at Centralized Supply Chain Service in Kansas City.

16 Timothy Bents, g'16, is a geographic information systems specialist at DGR Engineering in Rock Rapids, Iowa. He and **Alyson**, e'16, live in Sioux Center.

Erin Browne, d'16, teaches sixth grade at Roesland Elementary School in Roeland Park.

Melissa Chavira-Molina, c'16, is a recovery coach at Truman Medical Centers in Kansas City, where she lives.

Therese Diederich, c'16, makes her home in St. Louis, where she's a designer at Savvy Surrounding Style.

Sara Gentry, c'16, is an auto-claims adjuster at Farmers Insurance. She lives in Shawnee.

Thomas Plummer, c'16, resides in Chicago, where he works at Dash Financial Technologies.

Hannah Wilson Prather, AUD'16, is an audiologist at Professional Hearing Center

in Lee's Summit, Missouri. She lives in Kansas City with her husband, Paul.

Briana Comstock Searight, c'16, is a case manager at Sumner Mental Health Center in Wellington. She and her husband, Austin, make their home in Oxford with their son, Reece.

Ashley Willson, c'16, lives in Fremont, California, where she's an air traffic controller for the Federal Aviation Administration.

William Wilson, PharmD'16, is a pharmacist at the University of North Carolina Medical Center in Chapel Hill.

BORN TO:

Rachel Hilger Sipe, PharmD'16, and her husband, Christopher, son, Elliott, April 15 in Russell, where she's a pharmacist at Gregwire Drug Store.

17 Douglas Jenkins, b'17, lives in Chicago, where he's a private wealth analyst at Merrill Lynch.

Sydney King, e'17, is an engineer at Honeywell International in Olathe, where she resides.

James Tyrrell, g'17, makes his home in Houston, where he's a geologist at Concho Resources.

ASSOCIATES

Mike Kautsch, assoc., in April was inducted in the Kansas Newspaper Hall of Fame. He's a professor at KU School of Law and former dean of the William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications. Mike and his wife, **Elaine**, assoc., live in Lawrence.

Terry Rombeck, assoc., manages social media for the Kansas Leadership Center in Wichita. He makes his home in Andover with **Jana Gruver Rombeck**, c'00, and their two children, Carly and Nolan.

Miles Schnaer, assoc., owns Crown Automotive in Lawrence. In May, he was inducted in the Lawrence Business Hall of Fame.



In Memory

40s Margaret Wenski Amini, c'46, 1922, May 5 in San Antonio.

She and her husband, K.K., started the Amini Foundation and built the K.K. Amini and Margaret Amini scholarship halls at KU. Three sons, a daughter, nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren survive.

Rozanne Croff Blake, n'48, 196, April 26 in Silver Spring, Maryland. She was a nurse and established hospices in India and Washington, D.C. Surviving are her husband, Melville, two sons, three daughters and seven grandchildren.

James Chuculate, b'49, 192, April 9 in Camdenton, Missouri, where he retired as chief of the financial division for the Federal Small Business Administration. Four daughters, six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren survive.

Charles Clinkenbeard, b'43, 195, April 28 in Lawrence. He was a CPA at Hardesty, Batz & Clinkenbeard in Topeka. Surviving are his wife, Ann; a son, Kirk, c'83; a stepdaughter, Elizabeth Smith Scheib, f'81; a stepson, Richard Smith, e'86, g'91; five granddaughters; a great-granddaughter; and six step-grandchildren.

Mary Dolores Collins Crum, c'49, 189, April 30 in Wichita, where she worked for Girl Scouts of Kansas Heartland for 47 years. She is survived by her husband, Charles; two brothers, one of whom is Robert, l'61; and a sister.

John Crutcher, d'41, 190, March 12 in Jefferson, North Carolina. He was a Kansas state senator and served two terms as lieutenant governor. He later retired from the federal Postal Rate Commission. Surviving are his wife, Edith, assoc.; a stepson; a stepdaughter; four grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and a great-great-grandchild.

Mary Noel Grant, c'40, 198, April 8 in Prairie Village, where she volunteered in her community. She is survived by her husband, Bill, c'39; a son, Tom, c'72; a daughter; seven grandchildren; and 17 great-grandchildren.

Bill Hamilton, e'49, 189, March 25 in

Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania. He had a 40-year career with Bell Telephone Laboratories. Survivors include his wife, Evelyn Hoffman Hamilton, f'49; two daughters; two sons; and five grandchildren.

Eleanor Thompson Hinchman, c'47, 190, March 19 in Overland Park, where she was a retired teacher. A son, a daughter, three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren survive.

Virgil Hollenbeck, c'49, m'53, 193, May 1 in Leawood, where he was a physician. He is survived by his wife, Dorothy Hogan Hollenbeck, j'50; three sons, John, c'75, Larry, c'78, m'82, and Brad, a'84, a'85; nine grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Donald McCaul, e'47, 192, Jan. 21 in Olathe, where he was a retired engineer. Survivors include his wife, Carolyn; two sons, Kevin, g'75, PhD'78, and Bryan, b'80, g'86; a daughter; seven grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Lucille Steckel Mulrone, f'47, 192, March 14 in Manhattan, where she was an art teacher. In 2003, she received the Alumni Association's Mildred Clodfelter Award for her volunteer service to the University. She is survived by two sisters, one of whom is Patricia Steckel MacBlane, d'56; a grandson; and two great-grandchildren.

Betty Lou Current Nesbit, c'42, 196, March 25 in Rock Hill, South Carolina. A daughter, two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren survive.

Patty Lockwood Snowden, f'44, 193, May 17 in Atchison. She is survived by three daughters, Susan, d'71, Katherine Snowden Olauson, d'73, and Dinah Snowden Moulden, d'80; a son; nine grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren.

Geldard Woerner, e'45, 191, Feb. 22 in Eagle River, Wisconsin. He worked for the Naval Facilities Engineering Command in Washington, D.C. Surviving are a daughter, a son, four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

50s Connie Achterberg, l'53, 187, May 11 in Manhattan. She practiced law in Salina for nearly 60 years and was partner at Achterberg, Angell & Craft. In 1996, she received the Distinguished Alumni Award from KU School of Law. Surviving are a stepdaughter, Diana Hartmetz, '57; seven grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

George Bartlett, b'55, 186, April 20 in Tampa, Florida, where he worked for Coldwell Banker and founded the company's Tampa office. Two sons, a daughter and four grandchildren survive.

Douglas Beene, c'56, 183, March 28 in Lawrence, where he had a 46-year career with Kansas Geological Survey. He was an official scorer at KU men's basketball games and he also volunteered for Kansas Relays. He is survived by three daughters, Sharon Beene Gardner, b'79, g'80, Carolyn Beene Johannsen, '80, and Leslie Beene Ahlert, '85; a son, Steven, b'87, g'89; two brothers, Don, f'58, d'58, g'64, and Daryl, b'61; 10 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Morris Birnbaum, g'52, 195, April 5 in Pasadena, California. He was an engineer at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. Two daughters, a son and a granddaughter survive.

Frank Bradley, b'50, 196, March 24 in Hays, where he retired after more than 30 years as a CPA. He is survived by a son, Bruce, c'74; a brother; and five grandchildren.

Dean Campbell, '50, 188, Jan. 11 in Wickenburg, Arizona. He was president and owner of Campbell Distributors. Survivors include his wife, Sondra; three daughters, one of whom is Susan Campbell Heddens, g'84; a son; a stepson; and nine grandchildren.

Richard Dulaney, e'57, 182, Feb. 23 in Mountain Home, Arizona, where he was a retired engineer. His wife, Roberta, two sons, a daughter, a brother, a sister, seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren survive.

Leonard Duroche, c'55, g'57, 183, April 2 in St. Paul, Minnesota, where he was associate professor emeritus of German language and literature at the University of Minnesota. Surviving are his wife,

Deborah, three sons, two daughters, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

John Eggle, c'59, 82, April 27 in Kansas City, where he published books. His wife, Mary, and a brother survive.

Roth Gatewood, b'55, l'58, 83, March 27 in Topeka, where he was a retired attorney. He is survived by his wife, Joan, '83; a daughter, Mary Gatewood Boatright, e'83, g'88; two sons, Matthew, c'84, g'86, and Adam, '87; three stepsons; seven grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Stan Hamilton, j'55, 83, May 26 in Lawrence, where he retired after a 47-year career in journalism in Washington, D.C. He also wrote *Machine Gun Kelly's Last Stand*, which was published in 2003 by University Press of Kansas. Survivors include two sons, two daughters and four grandchildren.

Ronald Hardten, e'59, 80, April 5 in Kansas City, where he was an engineer at Black & Veatch for 36 years. He later owned a travel agency. Surviving are his wife, Carol Potter Hardten, n'61; a son, David, c'83, m'87; two daughters, Lisa Hardten Corder, c'87, and Michelle Hardten Lawson, d'91, '96; a brother, Gerald, '67; and eight grandchildren.

Walter Hicks, a'54, 87, Feb. 25 in Lawrence, where he was an architect at Hicks-Messick and Associates. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Survivors include two sons, James, '79, and Jeffrey, '83; two daughters, Jo Ellen Hicks Kasson, '88, and Jan Hicks O'Neill, '95; a sister, Mary Hicks Gensler, '57; eight grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Mary Kottmann Hill, '50, 88, April 24 in Overland Park, where she was a homemaker and member of P.E.O. Sisterhood. She is survived by three daughters, two of whom are Candyse Hill Taylor, d'72, and Sherris Hill Bellamy, g'85, g'99; a son, Stephen, b'84, c'84; a brother; seven grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Merle Hodges, c'55, m'58, 83, April 24 in Salina, where he had a 40-year career as an obstetrician and gynecologist. He also served as city commissioner and mayor. A

memorial has been established by KU Endowment. Surviving are his wife, Nancy Jo Hutton Hodges, d'55; a son, Merle "Boo," c'79, m'83; a brother, Ervin, '50; four grandchildren; and two great-grandsons.

Darrell Houk, b'51, 87, May 2 in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. He spent his entire career with Phillips Petroleum Company. Survivors include his wife, Darlene Demeritt Houk, d'52; three daughters; two grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Arthur James, b'50, 90, March 20 in Chicago, where he was a financial analyst. Two nieces survive.

Jeanne Carpenter Morris Johnson, c'50, 88, March 28 in Houston. She was a businesswoman and volunteer in her community. Surviving are her husband, Andrew; three daughters, two of whom are Nancy Morris Cox, d'77, and Anne Simmons Cox, j'78; a son; a brother, William Carpenter, assoc.; 11 grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

Robert "Boots" Nagel, f'50, 92, Feb. 27 in Warrenton, Missouri, where he was a retired industrial designer. Two daughters, two sons, a sister, eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren survive.

David Ontjes, c'59, 79, May 7 in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, where he was Eunice Bernhard Distinguished Professor of Medicine at the University of North Carolina. He was selected as a Rhodes Scholar during his senior year at KU. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Surviving are his wife, Joan; three sons, one of whom is Jason, c'91; a daughter; a stepson; a stepdaughter; a sister, Carolyn Ontjes Falletta, c'62; a brother, Sam, '67; eight grandchildren; and four step-grandchildren.

Carl Pingry III, e'57, 81, July 8, 2016, in Yellowstone National Park. He was a systems engineer at IBM for more than 30 years. A brother, Thomas, '60, survives.

Dwight Reece, b'59, 88, April 12 in Prairie Village, where he had a longtime career as a CPA. He is survived by his wife, LuEllyn; a daughter, Venetia, c'83; two sons; a granddaughter; and two great-grandchildren.

Robert Risley, l'56, 86, April 7 in Costa

Mesa, California, where he was a licensed real-estate broker and partner at Larsen & Risley. His wife, Susan, two sons and two grandsons survive.

Janette Pollom Roberts, c'50, d'67, g'81, 88, April 15 in Lawrence, where she was a special-education teacher. Survivors include two sons, William III, j'76, and Scott, '82; a daughter, Megan Roberts Allin, n'82; a sister, Marilyn Pollom Adams, f'55; 10 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

S. David Ross II, c'56, m'60, 83, April 2 in Springfield, Illinois, where he was a retired physician and associate clinical professor at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine. He is survived by three sons, two of whom are Erich Bloxdorf, b'81, and S. David III, j'91; four daughters, two of whom are Heidi Ross Kerz, c'83, and Jennifer Ross Hughes, c'92; a brother; 10 grandchildren; and a great-granddaughter.

Robert Shoemake, c'56, 82, April 14 in Altoona, Alabama. He was president of Vulcan Rehab Services. Survivors include two daughters and two brothers, Thomas, b'69, g'78, and James, g'71, EdD'74.

Jerry Smith, c'54, l'57, 87, April 10 in Tribune, where he was an attorney. He is survived by his wife, Elinor Rice Smith, '53; two daughters; two granddaughters; and two great-grandchildren.

Ronald Smith, b'51, 87, Aug. 4, 2016, in Clay Center, where he was executive vice president and director at Peoples National Bank. Surviving are a daughter, Julie, '90; a son; two granddaughters; and a great-granddaughter.

Russell Stanley, c'50, l'52, 92, March 17 in Aurora, Colorado. He was a retired U.S. Air Force colonel and maritime attorney. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Two sons and two daughters survive.

Norman Storer, c'52, g'56, 86, March 10 in San Diego, where he was retired professor of sociology and anthropology at the City University of New York. He is survived by two sons; a stepson; a brother, David, c'65; four grandchildren; two step-grandchildren; and a step-great-grandchild.

Ruth Ann Marsh Weimer, d'53, 85,

In Memory

April 17 in Charlotte, North Carolina, where she was an elementary-school teacher. Survivors include a daughter, Ann Weimer Hannah, d'80; a son; and three grandchildren.

60s Mary Dee Morsbach Adam, '60, 78, March 25 in Olympia Fields, Illinois, where she was a volunteer and assistant director of religious education. She also co-founded a consignment store to benefit a local cancer center. She is survived by a daughter, Nancy Yeo Reazin, '88; two sons, one of whom is Jack Yeo, j'92; five stepdaughters; a stepson; a sister, Nancy Morsbach Winter, '54; 11 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Terry Ball, p'65, 76, April 26 in Atchison, where he was a pharmacist and owned Ball Brothers Drug Store. He later became a real-estate agent. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Surviving are his wife, Mary, assoc.; two sons, Brad, d'92, '93, and Chad, c'96, PharmD'01; a sister, Kathy Ball Hines, '89; and five grandchildren.

John Casson, b'60, 81, April 13 in Independence, Missouri, where he was president of Casson Construction Company. He is survived by his wife, Jane Coolidge Casson, d'59; four daughters, three of whom are Julienne Casson Fritz, '83, Laurian Casson Lytle, g'87, PhD'93, and Leslie Casson VanderVeen, b'93, g'96; a son, Charles Joe, b'85; a brother, Dan, e'59; 16 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Fred Exline, d'64, g'68, 75, March 24 in Englewood, Colorado. He was a sales manager and worked for several hotels in Kansas City and Denver. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. He is survived by a sister.

Gerald Goldstein, PhD'62, 85, April 8 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He was a senior research scientist for the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System and professor at the University of Pittsburgh. A sister survives.

Charles Lee Hageman, f'66, g'67, 81, Dec. 1 in Maryville, Missouri, where he was a professor and chaired the department of art at Northwest Missouri State University. He is survived by his wife,

Anne; two sons, Steven, c'86, and Scott, c'91, g'95; and two granddaughters.

Caryl Wilen Herman, n'65, 74, April 27 in Overland Park, where she was a nurse in the Shawnee Mission School District. Survivors include her husband, Roger, assoc.; a son, John, e'87; a daughter, Susan Herman Shepard, j'91; a sister, Salli Wilen Freudenthal, d'59; and three grandchildren.

William Howard, EdD'63, 94, Feb. 16 in Fairway, where he was a teacher and held several administrative roles in education. A daughter, a brother, four grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren survive.

Rollin "Buzz" Quinn, c'60, g'64, 78, Feb. 23 in Whitefish, Montana, where he was a retired mathematics teacher at Flathead Valley Community College in Kalispell. A son and a sister, Lilburne Quinn Laidlaw, n'63, survive.

Frederick Slicker, c'65, l'68, 73, Oct. 3 in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where he was an attorney and president of Slicker Law Firm. Surviving are his wife, Claudia Fincham Slicker, '68; a daughter; a son; two brothers, one of whom is Richard, d'70; and two grandsons.

70s Barbara Berger, c'74, n'76, 64, Dec. 12 in Oak Park, Illinois. She was clinical assistant professor of nursing at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Survivors include her mother, Margaret Henry Berger, '69; a sister, Elisabeth, c'75; and two brothers, James, c'77, g'79, and William, c'77, m'80.

Thomas Bulger, b'79, 59, April 18 in Wichita, where he co-owned a car dealership and later was a CPA. Surviving are two sons, one of whom is Ryan, '09; a daughter; a brother; two sisters; and a grandson.

Lanny Gaston, g'75, 67, March 26 in Kansas City, where he directed personnel and human resources for the State of Kansas. He is survived by his wife, Marguerite Amyx Gaston, d'78; a son, Joshua, g'17; two brothers, one of whom is Douglas, b'81; and a sister.

William Hess, g'73, 79, March 5 in Olathe, where he was a retired colonel in the U.S. Army and later worked at Kansas Geological Survey. Surviving are a son,

Clayton, e'96; a daughter, Dana Hess Davis, c'97; a brother, James, b'71; and five grandchildren.

Jon Josserand, b'76, l'79, 62, May 23 in Lawrence. He was assistant secretary of state in Kansas and later became assistant for governmental affairs at KU, where he lobbied on behalf of the University for nearly 20 years. He also served several terms on the Lawrence Sister Cities Advisory Board. Surviving are three sisters, Linda, p'74, Jeri Josserand Buchholz, '75, and Jodell, c'85; and two brothers, Emery, p'68, and Lance, '85.

Marc Mitchell, b'74, 64, March 31 in Lawrence. He owned a financial consulting company. Survivors include his mother and three sisters, two of whom are Meredith, c'72, and Melanie Mitchell Key, b'75.

Vivian Monack Moore, c'79, 95, April 20 in Leawood, where she retired from a longtime career at the Dwight D. Eisenhower VA Medical Center in Leavenworth. She is survived by two sons, Lyle, l'71, and Craig, '79; and four grandchildren.

John Oblak, PhD'71, 74, March 23 in West Chester, Pennsylvania, where he was retired president of Notre Dame de Namur University in Belmont, California. He also spent several years directing summer theatre productions. Survivors include his wife, Janiece Bacon Oblak, g'67; two sons; two daughters; and eight grandchildren.

David Reavis, c'73, 74, March 22 in Baldwin City. He was an officer and detective for the Lawrence Police Department and later opened a private detective agency. A son, Joel, '98, and a stepson, Todd Fitzpatrick, '92, survive.

Alice Berggren Stone, d'76, 69, April 11 in Overland Park. She was a homemaker. Surviving are her husband, Ron; two sons; a brother, John, c'73; and four grandchildren.

Mary Lindsey Treece, d'70, g'74, 92, Feb. 1 in Lawrence, where she taught at Lawrence High School for 19 years. She is survived by two daughters, Virginia Treece Crane, d'68, and Joan, d'72; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

80s Smain Mebarek, e'80, 62, May 10 in Lawrence. He is survived by a

daughter, Mimi Mebarek Long, c'10, and a son, Scooter, b'14, g'15.

Kevin Samms, c'80, 61, April 11 in Lawrence, where he had a 40-year career at Allen Press. His mother and a brother survive.

Bernard Vercoglio, c'87, 85, March 29 in Lee's Summit, Missouri, where he was a supervisor at American Ingredients Company. He is survived by several nieces and nephews.

90s Rick Honan, c'94, 46, April 27 in Kansas City. He had a 17-year career in the U.S. Navy and later became president and CEO of his father's company, American Trailer and Storage. Surviving are his wife, Kourtney Flynn Honan, c'94; a daughter; a son; his parents, Richard, c'57, and Kathleen Strayer Honan, c'67; three sisters; and a brother.

00 Lisa Donnelly, c'02, 37, April 7 in San Francisco, where she was a singer-songwriter. Survivors include her parents, Jerry, l'67, and Ileene Mayer Donnelly, g'69, and a sister, Tara Donnelly Voogt, c'97.

John Jenkins, j'08, g'15, May 7 in Oregon. Survivors include his parents, Robert, c'93, and Lynn Thornton Jenkins, c'73, n'76, '00.

Joseph Proffitt, c'06, 36, March 22 in Eureka, California, where he was a musician and studied martial arts. He is survived by his parents, the Rev. Darrel, d'78, and Julie Mills Proffitt, d'74, g'76; a sister, Emily Proffitt Holtzclaw, c'06; a brother, John, '14; and a grandmother.

UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

John Augelli, 96, March 20 in Lawrence, where he was professor and chaired the department of geography. He also established the Center for Latin American Studies. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. He is survived by two sons, John, c'72, and Bob, c'78, g'82, PhD'98; two sisters; two granddaughters; and two great-grandchildren.

John Doull, 94, March 24 in Olathe. He was professor emeritus of pharmacology and toxicology at KU Medical Center and past president of the Society of Toxicology.

A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Surviving are his wife, Vera, a daughter, two sons, 10 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Edmund Eglinski, 85, May 7 in Lawrence, where he was professor emeritus in the Kress Foundation Department of Art History. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Survivors include his wife, Pam Boles Eglinski, g'82; two sons, Michael, c'85, and Stephen, '88; a daughter, Summer, c'05, g'09; and two grandchildren.

Lenoir Delight Sjogren Ekdahl, 98, March 24 in Lawrence, where she retired as director of food services after 35 years of service. She was inducted in the KU Women's Hall of Fame in 1987. In 1993, the Lenoir D. Ekdahl Dining Commons, popularly known as Mrs. E's, was named in her honor. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. She is survived by a sister.

Rose Coughlin Greaves, c'46, g'47, PhD'52, 92, April 9 in Lawrence, where she was professor emerita of history and professor of Russian and East European Studies. A niece survives.

L. Martin Jones, b'46, g'47, 94, April 3 in Lawrence. He taught accounting and retired as director of business and fiscal affairs at KU. Surviving are a son; a brother, Harold, b'49; and two granddaughters.

Daniel Merriam, c'49, g'53, PhD'61, 90, April 26 in Lawrence, where he was senior scientist emeritus at Kansas Geological Survey. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Survivors include his wife, Annie Young Merriam, '62; two sons; two daughters; five sisters; and a brother.

Charles Neuringer, g'56, PhD'60, 85, May 15 in Lawrence, where he was professor emeritus of psychology. He is survived by two daughters, Miriam, f'83, and Helen Neuringer Benefiel, c'84, '12; a brother; a sister; and three grandchildren.

Ross Randall, 71, April 21 in Boynton Beach, Florida. He had a 28-year career as head coach of KU men's golf and later became director of golf operations. In 2014, he was inducted in the Kansas Golf Hall of Fame. A memorial has been

established with KU Endowment. His wife, Linda, and a sister survive.

Gaylord Richardson, assoc., 80, March 28 in Lawrence, where he was associate professor of architecture and urban design. In 2009, he received the Jack and Nancy Bradley Award for Excellence in Teaching. Survivors include a son, Aaron, '87; a daughter, Paula, f'05; a brother; and two grandchildren.

Edward Irwin Shaw, assoc., 90, May 5 in Lawrence, where he was professor of radiation biophysics and biology. Surviving are his wife, Cynthia Blackhall Shaw, d'62; a son, Daniel, c'83; two daughters, one of whom is Jennifer, f'98; a stepson; and four grandchildren.

Arthur Thomas, 87, April 4 in Lawrence, where he was a retired counselor in the School of Education. He is survived by his wife, Barbara Butters Thomas, '82; three sons, Ross, '78, Scott, '83, and Kirk, c'86; a sister; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Charlene Tilford, '84, 79, May 11 in High Ridge, Missouri. She was assistant director of executive education for the School of Business. Survivors include her husband, Lewis, g'72, '92; three sons, two of whom are Todd, j'86, and Keith, b'90; and five grandchildren.

ASSOCIATES

Nancy Mauree Mitchell, assoc., 79, April 17 in Bonita Springs, Florida. She was a real-estate agent. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. Surviving are her husband, Paul, e'62; two sons, one of whom is Paul Todd, j'91; a daughter; a sister; six grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Evelyn Greathouse Phillips, assoc., 88, March 20 in Prairie Village, where she was a homemaker. A memorial has been established with KU Endowment. She is survived by two daughters, Natalie Phillips Hagan, j'73, and Meridee Phillips Jordan, d'76; a sister, Beth Greathouse Tedrow, d'59; three grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Rock Chalk Review

STEVE PUPPE



Grand piano

Professor records 'monumental' tribute to classical greats

Anticipating the centennial of two of his favorite classical pianists, Steven Spooner conceived a project while on sabbatical in 2014 that would pay tribute to his musical heroes.

Soviets Sviatoslav Richter, born in 1915, and Emil Gilels, born in 1916, “were leading figures in the art of the piano and two of the best pianists who ever lived,” says Spooner, professor of music.

The idea started small—Spooner originally planned a five-disc collection—but soon grew into something much larger: the 16-disc set “Dedications.”

“When I reflected on their legacies, especially Richter, who played more repertoire than any pianist before or since, I thought, ‘This has to be larger. If I’m going to dedicate something that encapsulates his art form, I need to do something grand.’ So I just challenged myself to see how monumental the set could be.”

With eight volumes dedicated to

Richter, three to Russian-born Vladimir Horowitz, and one each to Gilels and American virtuoso Van Cliburn, Spooner put together a tribute that’s “monumental” in more ways than one: It’s an exceptional achievement of colossal size and scope and a memorial to the pianists who shaped Spooner’s own piano performance career.

Two additional CDs titled “Memories and Dedications” and a special DVD of a recital Spooner gave in Swarthout Recital Hall round out the 16-disc set, which also includes Spooner’s spoken thoughts on many of the pieces he tackles.

Born and reared in Louisiana (also the birthplace of Cliburn), Spooner moved to Tbilisi and Moscow at 20 to study with pianist and composer Nodar Gabunia, whose work is also among the dedications in the set. The Russian school of piano that dominates the recording is the school Spooner trained in.

“Listening to these records is like a

“Without their legacies I don’t know that I would be playing the piano professionally,” Steven Spooner says of the pianists he honors on “Dedications.” “So I felt I owed them quite a lot.”

.....
soundtrack of my life,” he says. “It’s kind of autobiographical.”

In addition to classical pieces from each pianist’s repertoire, Spooner performs hymns like “Amazing Grace” and “How Great Thou Art,” popular tunes like “Somewhere Over the Rainbow,” and traditional songs such as “Shenandoah,” an homage to his favorite jazz pianist, Keith Jarrett.

“That’s just me,” Spooner says. “I’m a kid from New Orleans who grew up playing in church, and I really love jazz, too.”

Reviews have been positive, with major publications like *International Piano* and *Fanfare* praising “Dedications” after overcoming initial reluctance to review a 17-hour recording. “Such a breadth and variety of difficult pieces by a pianist I never heard of made me wonder at first if this was a hoax,” wrote a reviewer for *American Record Guide*. “But, no, the DVD proves that Steven Spooner is the real deal, a pianist of apparently limitless raw technique that’s almost note-perfect.”

A highlight is Spooner’s tribute to Horowitz, who was known for playing his own unique arrangements—called transcriptions—of other composers’ works, including renditions of Franz Liszt’s “Hungarian Rhapsodies” and a lively reading of John Philip Sousa’s “Stars and



.....
“Dedications”
by Steven Spooner
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Stripes Forever” that was a popular encore at his concerts.

Spooner considered doing his own transcription of the 15th “Hungarian Rhapsody,” one of his favorites. “But I thought, ‘No, we already have Mr. Horowitz playing that. We don’t need to be doing it again.’”

Instead, he decided to do something different: Figuring that if Horowitz were alive today he’d tackle a piece familiar to contemporary audiences, Spooner chose a song “almost universally known”: Queen’s “We Are the Champions.”

The result, which reflects Spooner’s own study of Horowitz’s transcription technique and suggestions made by a critic who is an expert on the great pianist, is a soaring, virtuoso reimagining of the rock anthem that Horowitz would appreciate.

“Rubinstein said, ‘If you’re a second Rubinstein you’re a first nothing,’” Spooner says of another lauded classical pianist, Arthur Rubinstein. “Every pianist I dedicate this project to had their own individual voice. So I wanted to do something individual and at the same time tip my hat to Horowitz.”

—Steven Hill

New world view

Hindi study gives neurobiologist fresh insights—and debate prize

Fresh off his April victory in the prestigious Yale University Hindi debate and his KU graduation, Danny Theisen, c’17, chuckles as he reflects on how far he has come in his four years on Mount Oread.

“I’m a completely different person, and one of the key things was getting involved in Hindi,” says Theisen, of Overland Park, who graduated this May with a degree in neurobiology. “I was a very objective, scientific, one-track, hardcore atheist type of kid freshman year. Then I got involved in Hindi and saw there are world views drastically different from my own and suddenly I softened. I’m not about this flawless objective reality. I’m willing to let

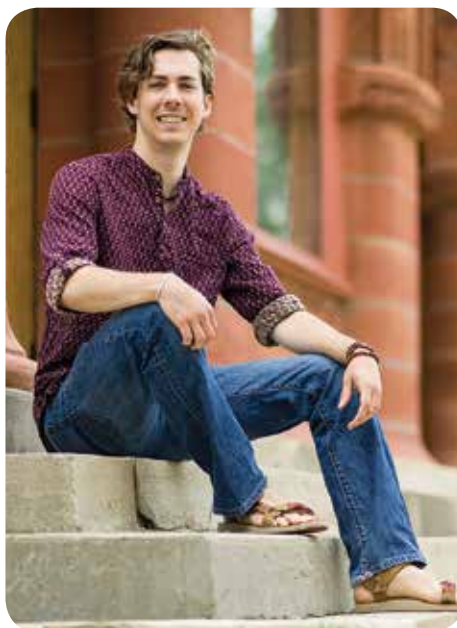
in some spirituality and explore these drastically different views.

“I’m sure my freshman-year self would be scoffing at me now.”

Seeking something a bit more adventurous than Spanish, Theisen decided to try Hindi for his required language study.

Thrilled with the immersive style of his first Hindi instructor, Geetanjali Tiwari, coordinator for South Asian Studies, Theisen soaked up culture, mythology and spirituality. He first visited India on a summer trip with KU Study Abroad, then returned for an immersive stay.

Before reporting for work as a researcher in a bio-materials lab in Bangalore, Theisen lived with the family



Theisen

of a KU friend. His hosts took him on the Vaishno Devi pilgrimage and introduced him to their food and customs.

“It was a life-changing experience. There’s a lot of things I learned about my own culture by going to a culture that’s completely different than mine.”

At the April 14 Yale debate, which is in its 10th year, Theisen competed in the “Non-Native, Non-Heritage” category against students from across the Ivy League and other elite institutions. His triumph was a thrill, Theisen says, but his studies of Hindi language and Indian culture had already rewarded

him far beyond his expectations.

“We speak subject-verb-object, and in Hindi they go subject-object-verb, with the verb at the end of every sentence, and that changes the way you think. You don’t realize it at first, but when you change how you speak, it actually changes how you perceive and think about the world.

“Being a neurobiologist and someone who is interested in the mind, it really fascinated me and drew me in.”

—Chris Lazzarino

Camp counsel

Grad students explore careers beyond academe at ‘boot camp’

Meaghan Kelly recalls her struggles to explain her graduate studies in English to outsiders. “It was like watching people who were watching a horror movie—I could see them physically wince the longer I went on, but I didn’t know how to save the conversation,” she says.

Kelly attended a weeklong workshop at KU’s Hall Center for the Humanities to learn how to translate her academic interests and explore potential careers. “The biggest takeaway from the programming was that I already had the skills that nonprofits were looking for; I just hadn’t developed the language to articulate them successfully as being useful to an organization,” Kelly says. “The way I was discussing my higher education was unintelligible to people outside of my field.”

Henry Fortunato, Hall Center visiting fellow, calls the weeklong sessions the Applied Humanities Boot Camp, which completed its third year May 15-19. Funded through 2018 by the Hall Family Foundation, the initiative is the brainchild of Fortunato, a former Simons public humanities fellow at KU; Victor Bailey, director of the Hall Center and Charles W. Battey Distinguished Professor of Modern British History; and Sally Utech, associate director of the Hall Center.

“The program is a response to the national conversation about what to do with a graduate degree in humanities,

Rock Chalk Review



Humanities Boot Camp for graduate students included tours and discussions with senior staff members at Kansas City nonprofits such as the American Jazz Museum at 18th and Vine.

the value of a humanities degree in the public sphere and the nuts and bolts of running an arts or nonprofit organization.

In the afternoons, students work in small groups to plan public celebrations of historical anniversaries. This year's choices included:

- the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's 95 Theses and the beginning of the Protestant Reformation
- the 125th anniversary of the Treaty of Medicine Lodge
- the 125th anniversary of Frank Lloyd Wright's birth
- the 50th anniversary of Thurgood Marshall's appointment to the U.S. Supreme Court

Students must work within budgets and consider ways to stir public interest in learning about the original event and its impact. On the final day of camp, students present 15-minute pitches to a panel of judges, just as they might try to sway a group of potential sponsors. Judges weigh each program's likelihood of generating participation and media exposure, then offer their critiques. No one "wins," but all camp participants receive \$500 stipends.

Three afternoons also include "speed dating"—panels of professionals share their work, then move from table to table, answering students' questions. This year, one panel included four freelancers who each gave their take on how to succeed as one's own boss. Other panels focused on arts, historical and cultural nonprofits.

particularly a Ph.D.," says Utech, g'05, PhD'11. Full-time, tenure-track positions are declining, and Bailey estimates that fewer than half of Ph.D. students will find full-time teaching positions.

Conversely, most graduate students intend to pursue tenured teaching positions, at least when they begin their studies. If they decide to look elsewhere, they often don't know where to start. KU's boot camp offers a guide.

Kelly, g'16, g'16, originally planned a college-level teaching career. "But that's just not how you survive in the academic world. Publish or perish, right? I decided to make sure I would be doing something with my life that was contributing to a larger cause," she says. "I needed to see the practical implications of my work."

Her boot camp experience led to her role in grants and development for The Rabbit hOle, a startup nonprofit in Kansas City committed to building an immersive museum to celebrate children's literature.

Fortunato, g'07, who previously directed public affairs for the Kansas City Public Library and led the creation of KUHistory.com for the KU Memorial Unions as a graduate student, says he often employed Hall Center interns at the library. He thought there must be a way to connect academia and the public sphere. "In conversations with Victor and Sally, it

became clear that we needed to do a better job of helping graduate students imagine possibilities beyond the university. Because of my background, I knew that public humanities organizations value humanities degrees," he says.

The boot camp is part of the Hall Center's Applied Humanities Initiative, which won the 2016 Award for Excellence and Innovation in Graduate Education from the Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools. In addition to the boot camp, the initiative includes panel discussions led by directors and managers of arts and cultural organizations and other nonprofits, along with six to 10 paid summer fellowships in such organizations. Each 10-week fellowship focuses on a specific project.

The camp offers 12 graduate students in humanities or social sciences a week to immerse themselves in possibilities. For four days, morning sessions feature talks by professionals on subjects that include



Bailey, Utech and Fortunato

Hearing from Mary McMurray, PhD'17, now director of learning and engagement for the Truman Library Institute, made all the difference for Kelly. "She basically gave us a how-to manual for speaking practically and coherently about our experiences in academia for people outside of it," Kelly says. "In fact, I reviewed the notes from her presentation when I went on my first non-academic job interview, to help me remember some of the keywords and connections she made. I ended up landing that job!"

The fifth day of each camp features a field trip to Kansas City for tours of nonprofit entities and discussions with senior staff members. This year, students visited the American Jazz Museum, the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, KCPT public television and Nonprofit Connect, an association of nearly 500 nonprofits that offers networking opportunities.

Kelly says the experience helped her accomplish her goals as a graduate student. "I'm kind of astounded that I found a position within the humanities field, especially one that is so close to my heart," she says. "I love that my work is to make literature more present in the lives of others."

—Jennifer Lawler

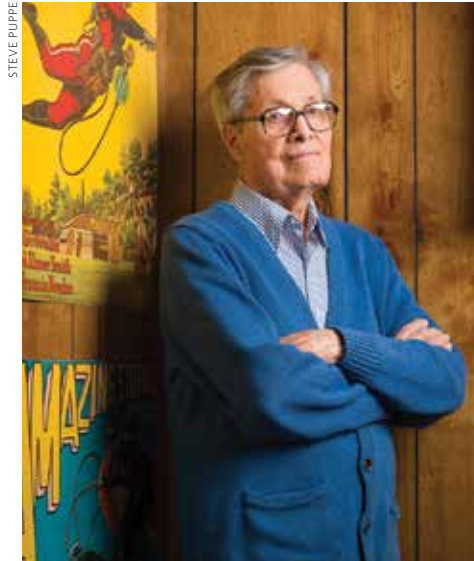
Lawler, c'88, g'94, PhD'96, is a Lawrence freelance writer.

Transformer

Gunn ends trilogy with classic tropes and tributes to a genre he helped define

Transformation, the final book in science fiction Grand Master James Gunn's Transcendental trilogy, entertains a central theme of the genre: invasion by an alien species.

The most distant planets in the Galactic Federation, a sprawling association of civilizations in the Milky Way galaxy, fall silent, gradually alerting the federation's central bureaucracy that some malign force is wiping out alien races one by one.



Gunn

Asha and Riley, heroes of the trilogy's first two books, *Transcendental* (2014) and *Transgalactic* (2016), volunteer to find the source of the invasion and stop it.

Gunn, j'47, g'51, who began writing science fiction in 1948, delights in sly literary references. *Transcendental* riffed on Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* and *Transgalactic* borrowed its structure from the *Odyssey*. *Transformation* plays with the classical myth of Jason and the Golden Fleece, as the argonaut-like crew of the spaceship *Adastra* encounters a succession of strange creatures while crossing space to investigate the conquered worlds. The book also takes up ideas about artificial intelligence that Gunn's late friend Isaac Asimov explored in his robot novels.

"All these references are a kind of tribute to the fact that I'm writing in a tradition that has been built over the generations," Gunn says. "All of these other writers I wanted to give credit to, very subtly perhaps, who have contributed not only to my own understanding and reading of science fiction, but also the kind of concepts they've contributed to the genre."

"I don't know if people will pick up on it, but it amuses me. It's the way that I found interesting to sort of deal with my origins."

Michael Page, who recently published the first full-length biography of Gunn, *Saving The World Through Science Fiction*, says Gunn's role as a teacher and scholar stands out in his latest novel.

"The things he's been teaching so many of us for so many years get worked into the story," Page says. "It's not just science fiction references; he works in classic literary references which are really indicative of his career as an English professor. There's a high-literature aspect to Jim's work that other science fiction writers don't necessarily incorporate."

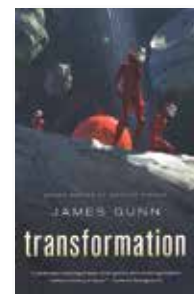
Page was among the guests at KU's Gunn Center for the Study of Science Fiction's annual Campbell Conference and Awards, which celebrated Gunn's 80 years in science fiction in June. Reflecting on the completed trilogy, Gunn noted his satisfaction in seeing through his big idea.

"It feels good," he says. "I can sort of sit back and relax because I'm sort of cleaning up loose ends of other projects now."

The result, remarkably, is a dozen books scheduled to publish over the next few years, starting with his memoir, *Star-Begotten*, this fall; new Chinese translations of his illustrated history of science fiction, *Alternate Worlds*, and his six-volume anthology *The Road to Science Fiction*; and his KU master's thesis from 1951, *Modern Science Fiction*, which Page is editing and annotating. Even *Transcendental* is getting new life: Gunn reworked and expanded the personal tales each of the pilgrims tell during their long journey, and Asimov's Science Fiction magazine is serializing the nine stories and an essay starting this summer.

"It's rather odd that in my 93rd year all this is happening," says Gunn. "But I'm honored and humbled by the notion that people think it's worth discussing for a day."

—Steven Hill



Transformation

by James Gunn

Tor Books, \$26.99

Glorious to View

photograph by Steve Puppe



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Balloons and cheers filled Memorial Stadium
May 14 as new graduates and their families
and friends celebrated the University's 145th
Commencement. Nearly 5,000 Jayhawks
participated in the traditional walk down the
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