

FIRST PEOPLES
Origin story retold

ON BEAUTY
Memoir challenges myths

kansasalumni

ISSUE 3 | SUMMER 2022 | \$7



A New Day Dawns

*KU Cancer Center rises
to top research ranks*

We believe patients come first.

Nationally ranked care for more than 15 years

Putting patients first means we ask ourselves how we can improve the quality, safety, efficiency and convenience of the care we offer. And we do this every day, for each patient, 365 days a year. Why? Because we believe in exceptional care.

Our belief has allowed us to provide nationally ranked care for more than 15 years. **We are honored to be the only hospital ever recognized by U.S. News & World Report as the best in Kansas and the best in Kansas City.** Additionally, 8 of our medical and surgical specialties in adult care are nationally ranked.

Experience nationally ranked, patient-focused care. Schedule an appointment at **913-588-1227** or visit **[KansasHealthSystem.com/PatientsFirst](https://www.kansashealthsystem.com/PatientsFirst)**.



THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS HOSPITAL

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

Talk and squawk in the news



“Research is like setting course in a forest. You get to a different clearing, and you set up camp—and once you’ve set up camp, other people can go from there and explore other things.”



—Michael Branicky, professor of electrical engineering and computer science, discussing a Stanford University database that ranked 16 KU School of Engineering faculty members among the top 2% of scientists worldwide cited in research publications.

COURTESY RUSTY LEFFEL



“Praying for peace and freedom for Ukraine and all of us.”

—Facebook post by Rusty Leffel, c’70, l’73, who used his Mission Hills yard as a canvas to show support for Ukraine.

Follow us on your favorite platform:



#KUalumni
@KUalumni

SPENCER RESEARCH LIBRARY



“Who do I speak with to get a sign like this added back onto I-70?”

—Dillon Davis, c’14, in a May 20 tweet. The iconic Interstate 70 sign, shown here in 1957, stood until at least 1966, when a state report highlighted the marker: “On top of that green highway sign that greets any traveler to any exit there is a big Jayhawk striding out toward the open fields beyond the turnpike. Following him are four smaller Jayhawks, holding their heads just as high, and striding just as big.”

“When a Jayhawk family spends the day at the beach.”

—Merrill Reese in a July 5 tweet sharing the sand art he and daughters Amy, j’11, and Emily sculpted while on vacation in North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Other ‘Hawks in the Reese flock are Merrill’s daughter Megan, c’07; son, Andrew, c’15; and wife, Linda.



COURTESY MERRILL REESE



COVER STORY

Hope on the Horizon

With the July announcement that the National Cancer Institute bestowed its top “comprehensive” designation on The KU Cancer Center, the University realized a goal 20 years in the making.

by Jennifer Jackson Sanner

Cover illustration by Davide Bonazzi



A Star Is Born

Drawing on multiple scientific disciplines and Indigenous oral traditions, Jenny Raff writes the story of how humans first populated the Americas.

by Chris Lazzarino



Beauty, Bernini and Beyoncé

In a bold new memoir, journalist Chloé Cooper Jones argues that notions of beauty and desirability need rethinking—and offers her own life as proof.

by Kate Lorenz



Profile: Meka White Morris

A Minnesota Twins executive wants her career success to inspire young women of color.

by Chris Lazzarino

5
Lift the Chorus
Letters from our readers

7
KU Voice
Team effort leads to NCI designation

8
First Glance
Guardians return

10
Rock Chalk Review
\$12 million project is among KU's largest-ever research investments.

30
Jayhawk Sports
Safety anchors football defense; volleyball eyes consecutive NCAA run.

50
Always Jayhawks
Association news and alumni profiles

60
Class Notes

83
In Memory

86
Photo Finish
The long goodbye

88
Hail to Old KU
Memories of Oliver



SUMMER 2022

Publisher
Heath Peterson, d'04, g'09

Editor
Jennifer Jackson Sanner, j'81

Creative Director
Susan Younger, f'91

Associate Editors
Chris Lazzarino, j'86
Steven Hill

Assistant Editor
Megan Hirt, c'08, j'08

Photographers
Steve Puppe, j'98
Dan Storey

Graphic Designers
Chris Millsbaugh, f'97
Toni Brou, f'91

Digital Team
David Johnston, j'94, g'06
Ryan Camenzind, j'17
Rylie Koester, c'20, j'20

Advertising Sales
Teri Harris
Brett Leonard, d'09

Contact:
KU Alumni Association
1266 Oread Avenue
Lawrence, KS 66045-3100
785-864-4760
800-584-2957
www.kualumni.org
kualumni@kualumni.org

Established in 1902 as
The Graduate Magazine
Volume 120, No. 3, 2022

ONLINE EXTRAS

Videos
Meet the 2022 Fred Ellsworth Medallion recipients.



Digital Feature
A KU collaboration is the driving force behind Lawrence's new mobile library.

From the Archives
The Marching Jayhawks debuted new crimson-and-blue uniforms, thanks to a \$300,000 fundraising drive and a family-owned Wichita company. "Suit Up the Band," issue No. 6, 2015.



**kansasalumni
magazine.org**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

Kansas Alumni welcomes letters to the editor. Our address is *Kansas Alumni* magazine, 1266 Oread Avenue, Lawrence, KS 66045-3100. Email responses may be sent to the Alumni Association, kualumni@kualumni.org. Please limit your comments to 350 words. Letters appearing in the magazine may be edited for space and clarity.

KANSAS ALUMNI MAGAZINE (ISSN 0745-3345) is published by the KU Alumni Association four times a year in February, May, August and November. \$60 annual subscription includes membership in the Alumni Association. Office of Publication: 1266 Oread Avenue, Lawrence, KS 66045-3100. Periodicals postage paid at Lawrence, KS.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Kansas Alumni Magazine*, 1266 Oread Avenue, Lawrence, KS 66045-3100
© 2022 by *Kansas Alumni Magazine*.
Non-member issue price: \$10

UNPLUG TO UNLEASH. THE BMW X5 xDRIVE45e



The **Ultimate** Driving Machine[®]



At BMW we made it our mission to design a versatile Plug-In Hybrid fleet with the power and performance that make each vehicle worthy of being called the Ultimate Driving Machine.[®] We proudly present the BMW X5 xDrive45e, which boasts the remarkable performance of our standard combustion engines working in harmony with the electric motor to increase fuel efficiency and available torque. And with an all-electric range that's long enough for local trips, you'll spend less time at the pumps and more time enjoying the road.

With the BMW X5 xDrive45e Plug-In Hybrid, you don't unplug to drive. You unplug to unleash.

Contact a Client Advisor at BMW of Topeka to take a test-drive today.

BMW. The Ultimate Driving Machine.[®]

BMW of Topeka
3030 S Kansas Ave
Topeka, KS 66611-2233
(785) 266-8480
www.bmwtopeka.com

©2022 BMW of North America, LLC. The BMW name, model names and logo are registered trademarks.



The next best thing to being there

OH MY GOSH! *Kansas Alumni* keeps me informed and proud, sure, but it was also my NCAA men's basketball championship parade in pics! ["How Lucky We Have It," issue No. 2]

We were on a three-week rafting trip on the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon: 226 miles, trip of a lifetime. But we dropped off the rim into the canyon as the Jayhawks were heading to the Final Four and didn't know a thing. We missed it ALL!

We watched recorded games, liked social media posts, and answered many a text worried about why I wasn't responding—at all. But nothing captured the fun like *Kansas Alumni's* coverage.

One Day. One KU; graduation; and addiction recovery added to the delight.

Be proud, friends. You guys make amazing stuff.

—Jodi Breckenridge Petit, d'90,
g'93, PhD'98
Salida, Colorado

ONLY LIGHTLY TOUCHED on in the article, but an aspect of the championship and celebrations that makes me even more

proud to be a Jayhawk was the absence of burning cars, looting, rioting, etc., that we see on the national news when other communities celebrate a national championship. Kansas' class showed through.

By the way: Add my name to those disappointed at the In Memory changes despite a bunch of otherwise positive changes.

—Dan Caliendo c'63, m'67
Andover

Latest lauded

I ENJOYED THE LATEST issue of the magazine, including the profile of Mackenzie Hanna, who works for the KU Health System as a social work case manager in the neurology unit ["Health hardships guide social worker," Always Jayhawks]. This young lady has certainly had her own personal health challenges. Despite these setbacks, however, she has been able to surmount her medical issues and find a career that helps others facing similar health and life challenges. She is a real inspiration!

I also enjoyed the article about the U.S. national park trekkers and podcasters, Matt and Karen Smith ["Happy Campers"]. Because I have visited many of the national parks myself (with a KU grad friend), the article revived fond memories of my trips as well as the beauty of our National Park System.

—Tom Schwegler, c'78
Parkville, Missouri

Honors duly noted

I AGREE WITH those who complained about the

elimination of information from In Memory obituaries. [Lift the Chorus, issue No. 2]. For example, a hero of mine included in the Spring issue should have been cited for his athletic achievements.

Bill Lienhard, b'52, who died Feb. 8 in Lawrence, was a basketball All-American as a member of the 1952 NCAA champions, won a gold medal at the 1952 Olympics, and was enshrined in the KU Athletics Hall of Fame and the Kansas Sports Hall of Fame.

Wouldn't it have been great to have those outstanding achievements mentioned? I know space is a problem, but I believe that many deceased alumni should be recognized for their accomplishments.

—Kenn Johnson, g'70
Des Moines, Iowa

A walk to remember

THANK YOU to KU and the Alumni Association for helping the classes of 1970 and 1972 to fulfill the dream of walking down the Hill at Commencement ["Worth the wait," Always Jayhawks, issue No. 2].

I had long looked forward to this, but was unprepared for how much it actually meant when I passed through the Campanile. I was blessed to be joined by two college roommates, Meredith Vincent Porter, d'70, g'94, and Shirley Noble Singer, d'70, g'78. We had a blast.

My father, p'38, also was unable to walk down the Hill the year he received his degree. I'm very sure he was there walking with me!

—Kathy Richey Walker, d'70
Lawrence



Carolyn and Kelly Mathis

MY HUSBAND, Kelly Mathis, p'70, and I would like to thank you again for helping to finally make our walks down the Hill actually happen, and for the wonderful time shared at Commencement.

We had such a great time and were so surprised and pleased with the reception and many congratulations (and happy faces and smiles) from others experiencing their Commencement for the first time. It was a super day, one that we will always treasure.

—Carolyn Pyle Mathis, d'72
McPherson

I WAS ONE of your Class of '72 charges at Commencement. Thanks to your efforts over several months, it was one of my most memorable days ever!

On my return home to Colorado, I was still so excited that I pulled off the highway near Victoria, drove down a gravel road and stopped by a rural home with a Kansas post rock adorned with a Jayhawk. Now I'm anxiously awaiting completion of my own Jayhawk-inscribed post. I will install it at the base of the mountain leading to my home.

—Meredith Williams, b'72
Morrison, Colorado

Tradition Starts *Together.*



Central Bank

**PROUD COMMUNITY BANKING PARTNER OF
THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS**

Central Bank Partnership

Central Bank recently formed a seven-year partnership with Jayhawk Community Partners. As the Proud Community Banking Partner of the University of Kansas, Central Bank will provide support to student scholarships, internships, emergency aid, campus events, financial literacy programming, employee services, alumni programming, and other campus initiatives.

Central Bank also fully renovated space in the KU Memorial Union and opened its new branch along Jayhawk Walk in August. The new interactive branch is designed with an open concept to meet the needs of the students, faculty, staff, and alumni which it will serve. You are invited to stop by and meet the team between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.



**Visit our new branch at
the KU Memorial Union**

1301 Jayhawk Blvd. (4th Floor)
Lawrence, KS 66045
(785) 865-3000

Additionally, Central Bank will provide extended live video teller hours from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday, making it convenient to do your banking whenever you are on campus.

As part of Central Bank's partnership with the university, it will also launch Jayhawk Checking and the official Jayhawk Debit Card later in the fall. Be on the lookout for this new account option and card that you will be proud to show off on-campus, at the game, and on the go!



**JAYHAWK CHECKING
COMING FALL 2022**



BDoty/iStock

IN FRACTURED political times, when opponents shout over one another and unity seems scarce, it's heartening to know there are still causes that inspire folks from all corners to meet in the middle, working toward a lofty goal that lifts us all.

As we marvel at The University of Kansas Cancer Center's colossal achievement of earning the National Cancer Institute's comprehensive designation, we also should revel in the truth it affirms:

Honorable people can put aside their differences and join forces to achieve a greater good—seeking knowledge that saves lives.

Over nearly 20 years, decision-makers never lost sight of the goal to earn the NCI's highest rating, even though leadership roles changed hands numerous times. The complete cast of collaborators would fill more space than this page or the pages of our cover story provide. Here are only a few of the major players:

- Kansas' bipartisan U.S. Congressional delegation
- five Kansas governors, both Republican and Democrat
- the Kansas Legislature—both chambers and both parties
- three KU chancellors
- three KU Medical Center executive vice chancellors
- two CEOs of The University of Kansas Health System

This brief sampling doesn't begin to include the health care partners, foundations and individual donors, civic groups, researchers, clinicians, patients and families, alumni advocates, and voters who joined the quest. As Chancellor Doug

Girod on July 7 hailed the achievement, he described "an awesome partnership with countless organizations and individuals" and declared, "I can't really think of a more impressive public-private partnership in our region."

Dr. Roy Jensen, Cancer Center director and chief champion of the crusade, said pursuit of comprehensive status "brought people together in Topeka like nothing else I've ever seen. It was true for both houses of the Legislature, and it was true in the governor's office and at the legislative leadership level."

Jensen especially credited those who advocated for the state's decision to invest \$5 million annually, starting in 2007. Without the state's buy-in, "we would not have had the juice to do this," he said.

In 2020, the state doubled its annual investment to \$10 million to help the Cancer Center make its final push before applying in September 2021 for the comprehensive designation, which the NCI formally granted July 1.

Federal funding also surged in recent years, according to U.S. Sen. Jerry Moran, c'76, f'82, who on July 7 announced KU's achievement.

The Senate, "in bipartisan, Republican-Democrat fashion," Moran said, has increased support for the National Institutes of Health by \$2 billion each of the past five consecutive years.

"The more NIH gets, the more NCI gets, and the more The University of Kansas Cancer Center gets," Moran explained.

Jensen also reported that Moran this year secured an additional \$16 million in congressional spending for the Cancer

Center, and U.S. Rep. Sharice Davids won approval for \$2.8 million to fund new imaging equipment.

Now that The KU Cancer Center is one of only 53 U.S. comprehensive centers, federal dollars for research, including the latest clinical trials, will continue to grow, Jensen said. KU now oversees about 370 clinical trials, and it has enrolled more than 33,000 participants in trials since 2010.

"Clinical trials are the reason why we have advanced so far against this disease," Jensen said Aug. 17, when he and Girod discussed the achievement in the chancellor's first weekly video report of the new academic year (chancellor.ku.edu/chancellors-weekly-update).

Both Jensen and Girod emphasize that the new NCI designation is a milepost, not a destination. Jensen already has begun rallying the troops toward the next goal: a new, 670,000-square-foot Kansas City home for the Cancer Center that will unite many of the research and treatment programs.

The work in Kansas City—and at sites throughout Kansas and western Missouri—is part of a national campaign that began in 1971, when Congress passed and President Richard Nixon signed the National Cancer Act, establishing the NCI. That year, the five-year survival rate among all cancer patients was 49%.

Since then, researchers and clinicians have learned that cancer is not one disease, Jensen said: "It's hundreds, if not thousands, of different diseases. So when we figure out a way to treat one cancer, we've figured out a way to treat *one cancer*. There's another 999 more."

Yet even though the task has grown exponentially, progress has continued. More than a half-century after the National Cancer Act, five-year survival rates are nearly 70%, Jensen said, "a great improvement over what it was, but it's still a C-minus. ... So we've got a lot of work ahead of us."

As any family upended by a cancer diagnosis will attest, there is no nobler cause.

—JENNIFER JACKSON SANNER

SCULPTOR KARL RAMBERG (light shirt) and Restoration and Waterproofing contractors Steven Balser (yellow shirt) and Brock Howard (dark shirt) on Aug. 4 installed the fourth of eight grotesques—an ape—atop Dyche Hall. “This is the end of the most wonderful project a person could ever hope for,” Ramberg, ’82, mused Aug. 5 on Facebook, while also praising School of Architecture & Design collaborators Keith, a’04, and Amy Peterson Van de Riet, a’03, and, most especially, his sister, sculptor Laura Ramberg, f’81: “Be sure that it is fully understood the sculptor of these carvings is Laura.” Watch for continuing coverage of the five-year enterprise to replace Dyche’s iconic grotesques in the next issue of *Kansas Alumni*. And next time you stroll Jayhawk Boulevard, don’t forget to look up; the guardians are watching.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY STEVE PUPPE





“These exciting projects bring together KU researchers from across disciplines to address critical challenges facing humanity. The knowledge, ideas, approaches and solutions generated by these teams will benefit people in Kansas and beyond.”

—Simon Atkinson



KU MARCOMM

RESEARCH

Scholarly enterprise grows

4 new projects aim to improve health, security, biodiversity and inclusion

MICHAEL WOLFE KNOWS what it's like to watch a loved one suffer from a devastating illness and wish fiercely that a medication could save their life.

“I felt helpless as my father withered and died from Alzheimer’s disease,” says Wolfe, the Mathias P. Mertes Professor of Medicinal Chemistry. “He’s been gone over 10 years, and there are still no effective agents for this terrible illness.”

Such challenging and complex problems in human health require a new way of thinking about drug discovery, Wolfe says, and he and his collaborators are launching a KU research center focused on just such an approach. Through the multidisciplinary Center for Systems Pharmacology & Translational Science, researchers on the Lawrence and KU Medical Center campuses will harvest large amounts of biomedical data, using artificial intelligence to enhance our understanding of diseases at a holistic level and accelerate the discovery of medications to treat them effectively.

The team is one of four selected to receive support through Research Rising, one of the University’s most significant investments in its research enterprise to date. Each team will receive \$3 million over five years to support projects that rose to the top of a strong pool of finalists after rigorous review by nationally and internationally recognized

experts. Research Rising is part of the overall effort to grow research, a key goal of KU’s Jayhawks Rising strategic plan.

“These exciting projects bring together KU researchers from across disciplines to address critical challenges facing humanity. The knowledge, ideas, approaches and solutions generated by these teams will benefit people in Kansas and beyond,” says Simon Atkinson, vice chancellor for research on the Lawrence campus. “What’s more, these teams will be highly competitive for federal research funding, so we anticipate a steady influx of external dollars in the future that will outpace KU Endowment’s initial \$12 million investment to help establish these initiatives at KU.”

Research Rising differs from other internal funding competitions at KU in that it prioritizes tenure-track faculty recruitment as a central feature of the projects—building lively intellectual communities that are attractive for top researchers and scholars. The funded projects will bring 14 new faculty members to KU in a range of disciplines, as well as several postdoctoral fellows and staff positions.

The projects also support KU’s commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging by incorporating robust plans to increase representation and

participation by members of historically marginalized groups, train new and existing researchers in DEIB best practices, and conduct public outreach to make science accessible and understandable for a wide audience.

Each of the four ventures aligns with one or more of KU's five strategic research themes:

- Development Across the Life Span
- Earth, Energy & Environment
- Human Experience in the Digital Age
- Molecules & Medicines
- Safety & Security

These themes correspond to major global challenges and represent opportunities for KU to build upon its historic and emerging strengths. Along with the Center for Systems Pharmacology & Translational Science, Research Rising will fund three additional projects to address important global needs:

Cybersecurity

There's a famous New Yorker cartoon in which a dog sitting at a computer tells

another canine nearby, "On the internet, nobody knows you're a dog." That's the essence of the cybersecurity problem, says Perry Alexander, AT&T Distinguished Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science and director of the Institute for Information Sciences. We don't always have a good grasp of what's happening online, we often can't control the information, and the battlefield is all around us.

"We have counted on in the United States forever that we have oceans on either side, and we've counted on in Kansas that we're right in the middle of the United States," Alexander says. "In cybersecurity, that makes no difference at all. Everything is right next to everything else. We can move information across the globe instantaneously, so our physical location is not going to help us."

If someone figures out a way to introduce malware to interrupt U.S. supply chains, for example, they can copy and automate that "weapon" for free and unleash long-lasting havoc in an instant. And we

have not yet established adequate scientific principles or social policies to manage cybersecurity, Alexander says.

As antidote, he and his colleagues are building and sustaining "an interdisciplinary, multicenter institute focused on holistic solutions for securing our physical, digital and social worlds." The institute will organize KU's existing expertise and hire additional faculty into three research centers, weaving them "into an interdisciplinary unit that can attack all aspects of the cybersecurity problem."

Genomics

"Our understanding of the fundamental rules of life has been transformed by the ability to map and study the entire genome, or all the genes present in an organism," says Jennifer Raff, associate professor of anthropology. "Genomics research profoundly affects the lives of most people."

Indeed, KU genomics researchers are tracking the evolution of coronavirus variants, enhancing agricultural productivity, identifying genetic variants associated with disease risk, and expanding understanding of how climate change and human activity impact biodiversity. Their work



The sad news of the June 30 passing of KU Info, finally steamrolled into search-engine submission after more than 50 years of faithful service, was actually the second such blow to strike Lawrence: 842-5115, the local time and temperature number since forever ago, was also disconnected sometime in spring. "Sad times," noted one social media commentator. "Ah, I loved time and temperature," wrote another. "I can still hear that voice." As these things tend to happen in threes, should we brace for more? Has anybody checked in on Netscape lately?



LARRY LEROY PEARSON

JAMES BROSHIER

**Filmmaker Paul**

Shoulberg, writer and director of “The Good Catholic” [“Honor the Father,” issue No. 1, 2017], returned to the big screen this summer with “So Cold the River,” an adaptation of the bestselling gothic thriller by Michael Koryta. Shoulberg, c’04, convinced Koryta to greenlight the project, then worked closely with the novelist while writing the screenplay and during filming in their home state of Indiana. “Every cut of the film, every person we cast, everything: He was involved and in the best kind of way,” Shoulberg says of Koryta, who served as executive producer. “So Cold the River” is available on multiple platforms, including Amazon Video, Google Play, Direct TV, Dish and Apple TV, where it was among the top 10 independent movies during its first week of streaming.

intersects at the KU Center for Genomics, established in 2021 to bring together biomedical investigators and those using genomics to study fundamental biological questions of development, behavior, evolution and ecology.

Research Rising funding will allow the center to build on its collaborative mission by hiring new faculty and staff, expanding training and outreach, and bolstering computing infrastructure. The research team that includes Raff and others will be led by Rob Unckless, associate professor of molecular biosciences and director of the KU Center for Genomics, and Lena Hileman, professor and chair of ecology and evolutionary biology.

Disabilities research

Two videos documenting a KU Life Span Institute research outcome illustrate the power of targeted interventions for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. In the first video, a young boy with autism plays alongside a neurotypical boy in a classroom. They don’t interact at all. The child with autism then receives instruction and assistance via a small tablet developed as part of a research study led by an institute investigator. In the second video, the two children are now interacting as they share work together.

“These improvements will contribute to better learning and social engagement for this child and, if maintained, will serve this child well throughout his lifetime,” says John Colombo, professor of psychology and director of the Life Span Institute.

But not all interventions work for every individual. Colombo’s Research Rising team will enhance the institute’s 66-year prominence as a national hub for intellectual and developmental disabilities research by hiring genomics and data science experts who can help KU researchers better understand the tremendous variations among people with similar conditions and develop more personalized supports.

“Our project is centered around the goal of cultivating the multidisciplinary research environment needed to develop these more personalized approaches for supporting neurodiverse populations,” Colombo says. “Ensuring inclusion, participation and contribution to society by neurodivergent individuals is important to all of us.”

—MINDIE PAGET

Paget, c’99, g’01, is assistant vice chancellor of diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging and director of external affairs in the KU Office of Research.



JOE MARTINEZ

ARTS AND CULTURE

Pitch perfect

Alumnus-founded a cappella group hits highest note

JAMES LEVY HAS ALWAYS LOVED to sing, but it was his time at KU that introduced the Prairie Village native to the music that would become his passion: contemporary a cappella.

Based on the old school a cappella vocal style that grew out of sacred singing (the term is Italian for “in the style of the chapel”), contemporary a cappella melds unaccompanied vocal music with a pop repertoire. The genre has been popularized by TV shows like “Glee” and groups like Pentatonix, but it was not part of the curriculum when Levy was in high school.

“It wasn’t until I went to KU and joined their contemporary a cappella group, Genuine Imitation, that I got the motivation and passion for that style of music,” says Levy, u’10. “I was able to travel to the collegiate division of a cappella competitions and see how that works. Then when I graduated, I came back to the metro and I was like, ‘This needs to be offered to students in this area.’”

Levy founded and is creative director of Kansas City A Cappella, which brings music education and performance opportunities to high school singers. The organization’s contemporary a cappella group, SoundProof, has been ranked in the top 10 nation-

ally since it began competing in 2017. In April it won first place in the 2022 International Championship of High School A Cappella Competition in New York City, beating nine other top groups from around the country.

“It was definitely one of the highlights of my life, to be honest,” Levy says. “None of us, not even the kids, really thought we were going to win this. There were some extremely talented groups at the competition.”

Known as a “supergroup” because it’s made up of students from more than one school, SoundProof consists of 24 singers from 13 schools across six different school districts in the Kansas City area. Unlike groups that are drawn from one school and usually have daily rehearsals built into their class schedules, SoundProof struggles to carve out practice time when everyone is free.

“The rehearsal process is very challenging, because a lot of our kids are involved in several different activities, including their own school plays and concerts,” Levy says. “I believe we had two rehearsals this year where every single member was there.”

On the other hand, there’s a tremendous upside to drawing from multiple schools.

“We get some of the top high school

vocalists in the area, which is a huge advantage for us,” Levy says. “We are getting the best of the best.”

To earn a spot in the national finals, which are run by the organization Varsity Vocals, SoundProof first had to compete in the quarterfinals, which were scheduled to be held in Liberty, Missouri. The competition was changed to an online event this year due to COVID exposures at the site. After winning that round, the group traveled to the regional competition in Ohio to compete against 20 groups from across the Midwest. The finals in New York City featured nine regional champs and one wild card group.

“What’s great is that the way the competition is formatted it really becomes a community,” Levy says. “The kids interact and get to meet students from all over the country, and it’s really a supportive community. But there were some incredible groups who performed at the finals, and I think we just weren’t really sure where we were going to land.”

After learning they were in the top three, the group was onstage when the winner was announced. Euphoria ensued.

“You could tell in the reaction photos just how much passion they had in their performance, and what they were giving

on that stage that night,” Levy says. “I was so proud of the kids, because they worked so hard. They knew their music and choreography backwards and forwards, and they had the drive and determination to never give up. They deserved this so much, and that made it even more special.”

During his days competing in the college a cappella division with Genuine Imitation, “We never made it past the quarterfinals, but we had a lot of passion,” Levy recalls with a laugh. “It was a highlight of my time at KU, because that was our heart and soul on that stage.”

So this spring’s triumph, a little over a decade since he brought to life his vision for an a cappella outlet for Kansas City kids, represents long-sought accomplishment for Levy.

“For me, it was just 11 years of never giving up and 11 years of pushing myself as a director, knowing that we could get this and at some point we would get this” he says. “It’s kind of a life-changing experience.”

—STEVEN HILL



Watch a video of SoundProof’s 2022 International Championship of High School A Cappella Competition set at kansasalumnimagazine.org



JOE MARTINEZ



COURTESY JAMES LEVY

“The shock factor—not only did we place in the top three, but we won the whole thing—was mind-blowing,” James Levy says of SoundProof’s first-place finish in an international a cappella competition in New York City.



Journalist Michelle Sherwood Li, whose encounter with a racist caller led to an appearance on “The Ellen DeGeneres Show” [Heard by the Bird, issue No. 1] and an outpouring of support from KSDK viewers and the St. Louis community, has launched a nonprofit. The Very Asian Foundation—the name quotes the derogatory voicemail left for Li, j’02, after she mentioned her Korean heritage on air—aims to help Asian Americans tell their stories and to support organizations that strengthen Asian communities. Their first project celebrated Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage month with a May campaign to bring more young adult books with Asian American themes to school libraries.

www.veryasianfoundation.org

NEWS BRIEF

Alumnus chosen to lead KU Endowment

THE KU ENDOWMENT board of trustees announced July 12 that it had selected Dan Martin, g’93, l’93, EdD’98, to be KU Endowment’s next president. Martin officially assumed the role Aug. 15. The monthlong, nationwide search for the organization’s next leader began after Dale Seuferling, j’77, KU Endowment president since 2002, announced his retirement in January.

Martin, who is from Overland Park, came to KU Endowment from the Texas division of St. Luke’s Health, where he was chief philanthropy officer. Before working in the health care industry, Martin spent nearly three decades in higher education, most recently as president and CEO of Seattle Pacific University.

“We felt Dan was the right choice because he is equally at home in the leadership, administrative and fundraising aspects of a university,” said Dave



Martin

Dillon, b’73, chair of the board of trustees. “Having been a university president, he has firsthand knowledge of the importance of philanthropic support to a university’s overall mission and its ability to operate. We know he’ll work hard to make sure KU Endowment continues to partner with donors, staff and the University community to ensure KU remains a world-class university for years to come.”

Martin holds three degrees from KU—an MBA, Juris Doctor and doctorate in higher education policy and leadership—plus a doctorate in higher education management from the University of Pennsylvania.

“I’m honored and humbled to have been selected to lead KU Endowment into the future,” Martin said in July. “I believe my time as a fundraiser in multiple organizations, including a health system, and serving as a university president provided me with the right skills and a fresh perspective on philanthropy.”

Heath Peterson, d’04, g’09, president of the Alumni Association, says,

“I look forward to building a strong partnership with Dan as we continue our work together to strengthen KU and enhance the alumni and donor experience for all Jayhawks.”



Laughter leads to love

Unlike dating apps that put photos front and center, Smile (smiledatingapp.com) matches potential mates using algorithms developed by Jeffrey Hall, professor of communication studies. Launched in Boston, Smile is based on Hall’s research showing that a shared sense of humor helps

initial attraction and long-term relationship success. Users choose their favorite funny TikTok videos to help create their humor profiles. Smile matches users with similar profiles and encourages them to share videos to build rapport. Only then are photos revealed.

Hall’s scholarship attracts tons of media requests, and he believes sharing his findings with the public is part of his job. “But this is on a different level,” he says of his role as adviser to the startup. “It’s incredibly cool. If Smile succeeds and my research plays a part in people finding joy and happiness and falling in love, that would be amazing.”

GET IN GEAR



REVERSE RETRO FOOTBALL JERSEY

Shop in-store and online at kubookstore.com



SCAN TO
SHOP NOW!



KU
BOOKSTORE

The OFFICIAL STORE of KU.

DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE TO ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MEMBERS.
SEE STORE FOR DETAILS. PURCHASES BENEFIT THE KU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION.

“When there is a death, you grieve, there’s a closure, and you can move forward. When a person is MIA, there is no closure. There is grief, but no closure. Waiting and uncertainty were normal growing up. We lived in it. But it didn’t mean inaction.”

—Bruce Johnson



HISTORY

Action as antidote

A Kansas Army wife’s keepsakes recount her trailblazing advocacy, war’s impact on the homefront

IN JULY 1964, Army Capt. Bruce Johnson deployed to Vietnam to serve as an adviser to the South Vietnamese. In letters home to his wife, Kathleen, Bruce wrote he had no doubt in his return to her and their children, Bruce, Bryan and Colleen.

The conflict and danger escalated, however, and the United States sent in its first combat troops in March 1965. That June, just two weeks before Bruce’s expected homecoming, the family received news that his helicopter had been shot down in the Battle of Dong Xoai in South Vietnam. After radioing that all other passengers on the aircraft had been killed, Bruce vanished. Local reports mentioned a captured soldier who fit Bruce’s description—“a big American who spoke Vietnamese”—so the Army suspected he’d been taken prisoner, but knew nothing more. The wait for any further word on Bruce’s fate would last years, leaving his loved ones suspended in indefinite uncertainty, straddling hope and despair.

“When there is a death, you grieve, there’s a closure, and you can move forward. When a person is MIA, there is no closure. There is grief, but no closure,” says the younger Bruce, c’82, who was 4 when his father disappeared in Vietnam. “Waiting and uncertainty were normal growing up. We lived in it. But it didn’t mean inaction.”

Through a selection of printed materials, the story of Kathleen Johnson’s resolve and the national movement it helped shape unfolds in the exhibition “Missing, Then Action: An Army Wife Speaks Out,” on display through Jan. 26 at the Dole Institute of Politics. The items, saved meticulously by Kathleen over the decades, chronicle her quest for answers about her missing-in-action husband and her subsequent leadership in the National League of POW/MIA Families. A telegram from President Richard Nixon, a patchwork of letters and notes, the tattered address label from a package Kathleen sent overseas to Bruce—returned as “refused”—are among the relics. The collection is at once a love story, a memoir of advocacy, a portrait of loss, and a snapshot of a long, complex war.

Shortly after Bruce Sr. went missing, Kathleen relocated with her three young children from Michigan to Kansas, settling at Schilling Manor in Salina. In a unique step, the military had converted the recently closed Schilling Air Force Base into housing for the wives and children of soldiers in Vietnam. There, Kathleen joined the community of waiting wives. For the next four years, as she forged ahead amid upheaval, the U.S. government remained publicly silent on the matter of missing and imprisoned servicemen, a posture the men’s families were expected to adopt.

“For many years, the wives did what the military and the government asked them to do, which was to be silent and wait,” says Sarah Gard, senior archivist at the Dole Institute. “These were women who were there to raise families and be supportive of their husbands, then were thrust into a totally new situation. They tried to play by the rules, but came to the realization that that wasn’t working.”

In 1969, several of the wives, including Kathleen, broke their silence, reaching out to legislators and media to try to bring attention to prisoners of war and missing-in-action soldiers in Vietnam. In December 1969, Kathleen was one of 26 wives and mothers invited to the White House to meet with President Nixon and the first lady. The visit was a turning point for the cause’s visibility as well as for the women at its helm, who had the opportunity to meet, unify and strategize. The National League of

Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia officially became an organization in 1970, with Kathleen serving as a founding board member. “Missing, Then Action” documents her many efforts to seek answers, raise awareness and appeal for humane treatment of POW and MIA troops, from speaking before members of Congress in Washington, D.C., to collecting signatures in Salina.

“This shows the really personal side of war—not just numbers and battles,” Gard says of the exhibition, acknowledging the Vietnam War’s complicated politics and legacy can make it a daunting subject to confront. “The Johnson family story encompasses a lot of the war, and you can experience it through one person and their family. That can make it a bit more manageable, but no less heartbreaking.”

The younger Bruce remembers the TV coverage of the POWs arriving home in 1973, and watching, gripped, as the men stepped one by one from the plane. “As each one emerged: ‘Is that him?’” he recalls wondering about his father. “I realized that if he wasn’t on that plane, then he probably wasn’t coming back.”

On Feb. 15, 1978, nearly 13 years after Bruce Sr. had gone missing, the Army

changed his status to “presumed dead.”

For his namesake, his time at KU, beginning in 1979, was an integral part of healing, allowing him to, he says, “let go of a season behind me and grab hold of what lay ahead.” All three Johnson children attended KU, receiving financial support through Public Law 91-584, which authorized educational assistance for children of missing and captured soldiers. Some of the Johnson siblings’ children have become Jayhawks too.

In fact, “Missing, Then Action” owes its existence to a rainy day in Lawrence in 2017. While visiting his daughter Hannah, c’17, g’19, Bruce, looking for an indoor activity, read about the Dole Institute’s exhibition “The League of Wives: Vietnam’s POW and MIA Allies and Advocates.” When he and Hannah stopped by, Bruce saw his mother’s name in the exhibition and chatted with staff about Kathleen’s ties to the League of Families, laying the groundwork for what has become a close relationship.

In another bit of serendipity, Sen. Bob Dole, ’45, was an early ally of the League of Families and crossed paths several times with Kathleen, one of those being when he asked her to speak to a subcommittee of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs in April 1970. Dole’s work on behalf of POW and MIA soldiers is a lesser-known aspect of his public service, which makes “Missing, Then Action” a fitting addition to the institute.

“These exhibits have been a critical part of our developing exhibit program, which strives to highlight untold

leadership stories through our collections,” says Dole Institute director Audrey Coleman, c’01, g’05. “The experience of Vietnam’s POW and MIA wives is poignant and thought-provoking, lending us new insights on military service, women’s leadership and patriotic dissent. ‘Missing, Then Action’ is particularly special because it tells the story of a fellow Kansan.”

To create the exhibition, which was made possible by ITC Great Plains, Dole leaders enlisted the eye of architecture and design student Olivia Korte, a’22, who had worked at the institute and been a member of its student advisory board. On her approach to designing “Missing, Then Action,” Korte says: “I tried to pull out bigger themes, and what really stood out to me was the unknown and the waiting. I tried to think of physical ways to represent those.”

The most prominent symbol is a doorway, the place where the gaze often fixes while waiting, wishing for someone’s return. Korte also incorporated Kathleen’s handwriting—a common thread among the items in the exhibition—and touches of 1960s and ’70s aesthetics, her overall goal to make the space “poised and elegant” like the wives themselves, she says.

Kathleen Johnson Frisbie is 85 today and moved from Salina back to Michigan three years ago. She has not been able to visit the exhibition, but Bruce, Bryan, e’84, and Colleen, b’84, attended its opening June 14.

Following their mother’s example of what Bruce calls “living the solution,” Bruce and Bryan have for the past 10 years been deeply involved with two organizations whose work aims to benefit children who are growing up without fathers. Higher Ground at Lake Louise is a camp in Michigan that offers programs and a supportive community for children whose fathers are absent and for single mothers. Psalm68five, founded by Bryan, provides scholarships for children to participate in such retreats. “It’s an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of a bunch of kids,” Bruce says of the endeavors. “It’s very redemptive.”

—MEGAN HIRT

COURTESY DOLE INSTITUTE OF POLITICS (2)



Army Capt. Bruce Johnson with his children on their last Christmas together, in 1963.

Opposite: Kathleen Johnson and (from left) children Bruce, Bryan and Colleen in December 1969.

“We talked about trying to make it like a Swiss Army knife. What all kinds of things could it do?”

—Brad Allen



STEVEN HILL

ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN

Oh, the places she'll go

KU help gives public library a vehicle to extend reach beyond downtown

THE LAWRENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY'S new truck, a Ford step van customized by architecture professor Nils Gore and his third-year students, will allow the library to expand its outreach services to neighborhoods all across Lawrence.

And while “bookmobile” might be the term that leaps to mind when viewing the big red-and-white truck emblazoned with the library's distinctive graphics, that's only part of the story, according to Brad Allen, the library's executive director.

“As you see it deployed right now, it clearly looks like our vision of a bookmobile,” Allen, c'97, said during the library's Aug. 20 Last Bash party, where Dottie—the name selected for the vehicle from dozens submitted by library patrons—attracted throngs of young readers drawn to the exterior shelving crammed with books at just the right height for kids to browse.

“But in a real maximalist way we talked about trying to make it like a Swiss Army knife,” Allen said. “What all kinds of things could it do? Could it be a thing that checks out books? Could you roll out a carpet and do story time? That was the premise we started with.”



STEVEN HILL



DAN STOREY

“We asked you to cut a giant hole in a brand-new truck, and look what you did: You are creative geniuses who took a blank canvas of a step van and transformed it into Dottie,” Lawrence Public Library head Brad Allen said, thanking KU architecture students and their professor, Nils Gore, at the ribbon cutting for the library's new outreach vehicle in August (top/center). Work took place at the School of Architecture & Design's Design-Build Center at East Hills Industrial Park (bottom).

From there, Gore's students were asked to design a mobile tool with the flexibility to deliver as many of those functions as possible.

"Brad didn't want just a bookmobile, so the idea is not to have space for people to sit inside, but to store as much as possible and provide counter space so they can hand out things like books, water or food," says Hannah Froehle, one of 18 students who made early prototypes of the vehicle. The class concentrated on maximizing interior storage by designing cabinets to create a space that is "super clean and organized."

Design started in January 2021, as students were dealing with pandemic disruptions.

"It was in the heat of COVID, and COVID hit everybody really hard," Froehle says. "Having that truck to work on, something that benefits the community, a public works project, really kept my head above water. I'm definitely very grateful for that experience."

The following summer Gore hired Froehle and another student to help him build out the truck's custom touches, which include cabinetry, the exterior bookshelf and a retractable hatch that creates a large service window. Supply chain delays complicated construction, continually pushing back deadlines and forcing students to adapt and inno-

vate. They even manufactured some of their own plywood due to lumber shortages.

The finished Dottie, which made her debut with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at Last Bash, owes much to the students' early prototyping work.

"A lot," Gore says of their impact on the design. "Maybe not in the details, but that wasn't really their task. I have an image the students produced early on, and it's really close to what the end result looks like."

As Dottie makes the rounds, circulating the library collection and handing out free books through Dr. Bob READS, a book giveaway created in memory of the late KU Athletics Director Bob Frederick, d'62, g'64, PhD'84, library staff hope to learn all the ways this Swiss Army knife can be used.

"The idea is to go out in the community and get a better sense of how we serve our public outside of this building," Allen said. "I think we do a good job here at Seventh and Vermont, but we know there are lots of people we aren't catching or not catching as often. So really the spirit of Dottie is going out and trying to learn."

—STEVEN HILL



Watch Dan Storey's video on the Dottie project at kansasalumnimagazine.org.

Random happy news we thought worth sharing:

When the Spencer Museum of Art's June newsletter arrived, we here at Kansas Alumni noted the inclusion of a photograph of Katsushika Hokusai's iconic wood-cut print "The Great Wave off Kanagawa"—the rights for which would far exceed a newsletter budget—and suddenly the wave crashed upon us: The Spencer used the image because it is in the museum's print collection. "Several of them," confirmed director of external affairs Elizabeth Kanost, c'09, j'09, g'14, inviting visitors to view the prints during the Goddard Study Center's "Open Fridays." Happily, thank you.



COURTESY SPENCER MUSEUM OF ART

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

For more information, visit the websites below.

Lied Center

Sept. 26 The Beach Boys

Oct. 26 "North: The Musical"

Nov. 5 Susan Werner

Nov. 9 KU Symphony Orchestra with PROJECT Trio

Nov. 13 The Westerlies

Nov. 18 Mavis Staples

Nov. 29 "Fiddler on the Roof"

lied.ku.edu

Spencer Museum of Art

"Debut," through **Oct. 15**

spencerart.ku.edu

Dole Institute of Politics

"Missing, Then Action," through **Jan. 26**

"2022's Midterm Elections: Big Stakes, Big Consequences," eight-part discussion group led by Dole Institute Fellow Gerald Seib, j'78, beginning **Sept. 14**

Sept. 20 Juan Manuel Santos, b'73, former president of Colombia and recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, 2022 Dole Leadership Prize

Oct. 5 Elizabeth Dole Women in Leadership Lecture: Sherrie Rollins Westin

doleinstitute.org

Continued on p. 21

“His career has hit incredible heights, with a growing waiting list for his works. They have entered into museum collections coast to coast all within the last two or three years, which doesn’t often happen for artists in their 50s.”

—Timothy Peterson



COURTESY CENTER FOR MAINE CONTEMPORARY ART (3)

ARTS AND CULTURE

Snapshot and memory

Remembered scenes of childhood and images of sport draw artist Hodges’ watchful eye

BY THE ART WORLD STANDARDS that most easily catch the general public’s eye, painter Reggie Burrows Hodges has been on a roll lately.

Hodges, ’89, won prestigious fellowships and prizes from the Ellis-Beaugard Foundation, in 2019; the Joan Mitchell Foundation, in 2020; and the American Academy of Arts and Letters, in 2021.

He landed solo exhibitions in New York City (January through March 2021 at Karma gallery) and Rockland, Maine (May 28 through Sept. 11 at the Center for Maine Contemporary Art).

His work has been acquired by prominent museums across the country, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston and the Art Institute of Chicago, and by famous collectors. Among those buying Hodges’ paintings at the Karma exhibition were Barack and Michelle Obama.

Hodges has also grabbed headlines for his paintings’ performance at auction. During a 2021 sale at Phillips, the 226-year-old London auction house, his painting “For the Greater Good” was estimated at \$40,000 to \$70,000 but sold for more than \$600,000.

All wonderful—and unusual, for an artist in his mid-50s—says Timothy Peterson, executive director and chief curator at the Center for Maine Contemporary Art (CMCA).

“His career has hit incredible heights, with a

growing waiting list for his works,” Peterson says.

“They have entered into museum collections coast to coast all within the last two or three years, which doesn’t often happen for artists in their 50s.”

But more noteworthy in Hodges’ breakout as an artist is the creative breakthrough that underlies all that attention.

“What’s really special about his painting is that he starts by painting his entire ground black,” explains Peterson, who worked with Hodges to shape “Hawkeye,” the artist’s first museum solo show. “Whether it’s canvas or linen or paper he’s working on, he paints the entire surface black and then paints everything but the exposed skin and hair of his subjects.”

The technique creates an almost ghostly effect, in which the faces of the African American artist’s Black subjects are featureless but nevertheless riveting. The facelessness of the people in the paintings directs the viewer’s attention to their surroundings.

“Blackness remains a very powerfully spoken-about identity really shaped through the attention paid to the environment around his figures,” Peterson says. “He is really painting in a way that is commenting on Black identity within an environment. That is not an easy thing to capture visually, and he has found a way to do it over and over again in a really compelling way.”

Hodges grew up in Compton, California, and attended KU on a tennis scholarship, studying in

the theatre department. After a stint in New York City, where he founded the reggae band Trumystic, he moved to Maine, where he lives now in Lewiston. He is an adjunct instructor at the Maine College of Art and Design.

The artist is not granting interviews and did not do a gallery talk in conjunction with the CMCA exhibition. But in an interview with Suzette McAvoy, former CMCA executive director, that appeared in her 2021 monograph *Reggie Burrows Hodges*, he said that his embrace of a black background was the result of a conscious decision to change the way he paints.

“When I arrived at the Ellis-Beauregard Foundation, I knew that I wanted to break out of where I was as a painter and use this incubation time to land somewhere different, to be able to paint differently than when I came in,” he said, referring to a residency he completed from fall 2019 to winter 2020. “Through a lot of experimentation, I arrived at the language of the black ground, specifically in a painting called ‘The Red Umbrella.’”

Hilton Als, a critic and *New Yorker* staff writer who has written extensively about Hodges, argues that the people in Hodges’ narrative figurative compositions “are made sharper, and more haunting, not because we see ... things in their eyes, but because we see it in their bodies, their postures, the



“Referees: And Then There Were Three,” 2020, and “Fault,” 2021, were among the dozen recent Hodges’ works featured in “Hawkeye,” the artist’s first museum solo exhibition.

endless desire for humans not to be alone, and to connect.”

The dozen paintings in the CMCA exhibition are large canvases, and the scenes they present are a mix of memories from Hodges’ childhood and images from sporting events. The common theme of these disparate subjects is surveillance. In the huddled basketball referees conferring on a call, the parents supervising their playing children, there’s a sense of being watched over, Peterson says.

“Much of Reggie’s work has to do with memory, and there are portraits of his parents in this exhibition, portraits of himself as a child, but I think the new element in this exhibition is the idea of surveillance.”

That theme comes out in three paintings that reference Hawk-Eye, a tennis surveillance system that uses computer-linked cameras to generate replays that line judges use to check if a shot was in or out. Close-cropped images of bouncing tennis balls, their round shapes elongated by the force of impact, juxtaposed against the truncated geometry of a tennis court’s green and pink surface and white boundary lines create an abstract effect that’s new to



Hodges’ work, Peterson says. Yet even here the artist is dealing in recognizable scenes—recognizable, at least, to anyone who watches tennis on TV.

The black ground, tightly contained within the oblong shapes of the balls, gets freer rein in the nine paintings that depict childhood memories. In those nine works, the black ground is used not only to depict faces, but also as a framing device for the entire painting, a softly brushed border that applies—as the exhibition notes, co-written by Hodges and Peterson, phrase it—“a light touch to snapshots of the past, rendering them hazy and indistinct.” Like the soft focus sometimes applied to flashback movie scenes, the technique is a signal to the viewer that this recounting of the past is personal, not documentary.

We are shaped not only by our environment, these paintings seem to say, but also by our imperfect memory of it.

View CMCA’s Reggie Burrows Hodges exhibition online at cmcanow.org/virtual-tours

—STEVEN HILL

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

For more information, visit the websites below.

Homecoming

Sept. 26-Oct. 1
kualumni.org/homecoming

Humanities Speaker Series

Sept. 15 Victoria Chang, author of *Dear Memory: Letters on Writing, Silence, and Grief*

Sept. 27 Scott Reynolds Nelson, author of *Oceans of Grain: How American Wheat Remade the World*

Oct. 13 Lee McIntyre, author of *Post-Truth*

Nov. 3 Cynthia Prescott, author of *Pioneer Mother Monuments: Constructing Cultural Memory*

hallcenter.ku.edu

Alumni events

Oct. 7-8 KU Medical Center alumni reunion weekend

Nov. 13 KU Vets Day 5K

kuconnection.org

Academic calendar

Oct. 8-11 Fall break

Nov. 23-27
Thanksgiving break

Dec. 8 Last day of classes

Dec. 12-16 Finals week

“It’s unfortunate, but I’m a better surgeon because of my involvement in war, because I’ve had to deal with harder things. I’m not proud, I’m not happy about that, but that’s the nature of war.”

—Dr. Matthew Drake



URUHAN/ISTOCK

MEDICINE

Combat lessons

KU hand surgeon shares his war experience with Ukrainian colleagues

WITH TWO TOURS OF DUTY as a combat surgeon in Iraq and years spent treating traumatic war wounds at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Dr. Matthew Drake was confident in his preparations for a late-March webinar with hand surgeons in Ukraine.

Drake quickly discovered that, while his skills and experience would indeed be invaluable, he, like his Ukrainian colleagues, had much to learn.

“The guy who was hosting the webinar was in Kyiv, and right when it started he said, ‘We’re being rocketed right now.’ He could hear the bombs going off,” Drake recalls. “It’s overwhelming. You’re dealing with injured people, innocent people, people with injuries that you’re not totally sure what to do with, and you’re worried about your own family. That’s the layer that we didn’t experience here.

“I can’t even imagine what they’re going through, because at least when I was dealing with this, whether it was overseas or back here stateside, I was never wondering if my family was OK. I really, really feel for them.”

Drake, c’00, associate professor of orthopedic surgery, was one of a small group of U.S. hand surgeons with battlefield experience who in late March joined an online conference organized by the American Society for Surgery of the Hand, at the request of the president of the Ukrainian hand-surgery

society. Suddenly faced with traumatic, high-energy wounds to soldiers and civilians alike, Ukrainian surgeons realized weeks into the Russian invasion that they needed help.

“It’s not a matter of competence,” Drake says. “It’s a matter of experience.”

The KU surgeon explains that modern warfare’s traumatic injuries are on a different scale than those typically experienced in any civilian hospital: Falls from heights, traffic accidents and even handgun wounds are nothing like what surgeons find among those struck down by rockets, explosives and high-powered rifles, and the nature of those wounds, Drake says, requires specific techniques that are not taught in textbooks.

For instance, surgeons must learn patience: Before applying a skin graft, allow the wounded flesh time to prove it’s stable enough to heal.

“That tissue that is injured maybe looks alive right now but maybe doesn’t stay that way over the course of a couple of weeks,” Drake says. “These are the lessons that we learned. And it seems like we’ve had to go through this multiple times in our own country. When we started dealing with Middle East stuff in the early 2000s, there was really no institutional memory of war wounds, so we were going back and reading some of the literature from the Vietnam era.”

Drake grew up in Leavenworth and attended KU on an Army ROTC scholarship, which saw him through his undergraduate degree and medical school at Johns Hopkins University. He completed his internship and residency at Tipler Army Medical Center in Honolulu, after which he was assigned to a hand surgery fellowship at Walter Reed, a specialty that emerged through a combination of inspirational mentors and Army needs.

“What was unique about that fellowship was the time,” Drake says. “We were really engaged in Afghanistan then, and we were getting a lot of war injuries. When our folks would get injured overseas, they kind of get patched up and then shipped home, where we do a lot of the definitive care. Walter Reed was one of the hospitals where that was happening, so I had the fortunate experience to have that during my training, to gain some experience on the difficult war injuries for which there aren’t any good answers and really no books to read up on it. We were all learning together on what works and what doesn’t work for some of these horrible injuries.”

Six months after completing his training, Drake was deployed to Baghdad—“Definitely a unique experience to be thrown into so early in your career,” he says—where he was the only orthopedic surgeon in a combat support hospital that also included two general surgeons and a vascular surgeon. He returned in 2016 to join a forward surgical team supporting 700 Marines who were assisting Iraqi forces fighting ISIS.

His time overseas taught Drake to understand that young, fit soldiers suddenly faced with the loss of an arm or leg “feel like the person that they were is dead.” He learned to match the healing soldiers with others who have endured similar injuries, and Drake says he’s carried those lessons to his civilian career, including at KU Medical Center, which he joined in February.

Just as soldiers had difficulty verbalizing their fears after traumatic injury, so do patients struggling with far less severe ailments as tendinitis in an elbow or hand that they fear will forever limit their movement.

“I will say something like, ‘You probably are concerned that your elbow is never going

to work again, but it is going to work again and you’re going to be totally fine.’ And that person will let out a sigh of relief and say, ‘Wow, I was really worried about that.’”

As heartbreaking events have recently illustrated, grievous wounds from high-powered weapons are no longer limited to combat zones. That’s why Drake now talks through procedures with his KU Medical Center residents while treating traumatic injuries such as motorcycle accidents with exposed fractures, which require extensive cleaning and quick action to determine how much can be repaired and what is beyond saving.

“In trauma cases with our residents, I make sure they know what’s going on in my head. I talk out loud the whole time to tell them what I’m thinking, what I’m seeing, why I’m doing this.”

Drake notes that the training he helped supply to Ukrainian surgeons yet again proves the unfortunate truism that war makes for better surgeons. His own specialty of hand surgery was created by World War II-era surgeons, and the need for expertise in battlefield surgery will not soon evaporate.

“Conflicts like this are not going away. I don’t want for Americans to have to gain this kind of experience, but I think it’s going to continue. It’s unfortunate, but I’m a better surgeon because of my involvement in war, because I’ve had to deal with harder things. I’m not proud, I’m not happy about that, but that’s the nature of war.”

And yet, Drake remains optimistic: Outside of combat trauma, he praises advances such as seatbelts, motorcycle helmets, drunk driving laws and safety devices on power tools for reducing the frequency of troubling cases facing orthopedic surgeons.

“It seems like some injuries that we used to see a lot of, we don’t see as much anymore. I think those are the stories that don’t really get written because they happen slowly, over time, and very incremental. We look up 30 years later and it’s, ‘Wow, we don’t have as many people getting ejected from vehicles in drunk-driving accidents like we used to.’ I do think things tend to get better over time.”

—CHRIS LAZZARINO



Drake

KUMC PHOTO SERVICES



Brandt



Haynie

The Office of Student Affairs appointed two women to leadership positions this summer. Jordan Brandt directs the Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA), which advances student equity and inclusion. Nikita Haynie directs the Emily Taylor Center, which promotes equity and engagement for women and other communities experiencing gender or sex-based bias. Brandt, g’16, has worked at OMA since 2015, most recently as interim director, and Haynie, ’23, has held various positions at KU since 2016. Both began their new roles in May.

KU News (2)

We're built for community.

A community is built to support each other. To be a solid foundation from which to grow. And to provide the means for people to take care of each other. The best part of community: It always comes through when you need it. At Commerce Bank, we've been helping build communities for more than 155 years, tackling challenges, growing businesses, serving from the heart, and doing work that matters. We're built for the long haul. We're built for taking care of each other.



NEWS BRIEF

KGS tabs industry veteran

ENERGY EXPLORATION executive Jay Kalbas on July 25 assumed the directorship of Kansas Geological Survey. He replaces University Distinguished Professor Rolfe Mandel, g'80, PhD'91, who relinquished the administrative post he'd held since 2017 to focus on his research in the department of anthropology and the Odyssey Geoarchaeology Research Program ("The Odyssey," issue No. 4, 2019).

Kalbas joins KGS after a 16-year career with ExxonMobil. He most recently led teams developing oil and natural gas resources offshore of Guyana. He also studied fine-grained sedimentary rocks to assess and forecast productivity of unconventional resources, which led to increased efficiencies in several of ExxonMobil's North American oil fields.

"Jay's scientific background, expertise and real-world experience—plus his track record of successful leadership of diverse teams—make him a superb candidate for this role," says Simon Atkinson, vice chancellor for research.

As KGS director, Kalbas also holds the title of state geologist and professor of geology. He previously served as a visiting assistant professor at Bucknell University and has developed short courses for Purdue University (where he earned his doctorate), the University of Iowa and Louisiana State University. He has published widely in

COURTESY KGS



academic literature, including geologic maps, and delivers lectures for industry, academic and professional society audiences.

"The research and service programs that the Survey stewards provide an invaluable benefit to the people and industries of Kansas and the Midwest," Kalbas says. "The opportunity to lead an institution with the exceptional reputation of the KGS, building on the successes of my predecessors, is one that I take on with tremendous enthusiasm and humility."

Researchers at KGS—one of 12 designated research centers that fall under the KU Office of Research—study and provide information on the state's geologic resources and hazards, including groundwater, oil and natural gas, rocks and minerals, and earthquakes.

"The opportunity to lead an institution with the exceptional reputation of the KGS, building on the successes of my predecessors, is one that I take on with tremendous enthusiasm and humility."

—Jay Kalbas

MONEY MATTERS

Kansas City arts philanthropist Margaret H. Silva, long a champion of the Spencer Museum of Art's innovative research and programs, in July endowed the Spencer's Arts Research Initiative (ARI) with a \$3 million gift, plus a challenge grant worth up to another \$1 million.

"ARI is part of a long-standing trajectory of interdisciplinary and collaborative work led by the Spencer," says Saralyn Reece Hardy, c'76, g'94, the Spencer's Marilyn Stokstad Director, "and we are so thankful to Margaret for her endowment gift that ensures and

secures this ongoing work at the museum."

Launched in 2016 with a four-year grant from the Mellon Foundation, ARI allows the Spencer to embed artists directly into KU's high-level research, positioning the creation of art as essential research in its own right. One recent project paired artist Janet Biggs with a mathematician and physicist, resulting in a video exploring questions in high-energy physics and novel mathematical techniques.

"Art and artists have an incredible way of asking big questions, challenging current and outmoded thinking, motivating change, and creating solutions for seemingly intracta-



RYAN WAGGONER

CERN-ARI project

ble problems," Silva says. "I have proudly supported daring, provocative and forward-looking art projects over many years and am continuing on that personal mission with my contributions to this initiative."



Bang! Pow!

*Encyclopedic superhero book
sure to be a smash hit*

AS WITH THE FILMS explored within its pages, the book's title alone packs enough wallop to excite fans of the superhero genre. And, as with any fast-paced thrill ride worthy of lofty status in the genre, *The 100 Greatest Superhero Films and TV Shows*, by former KU graduate school classmates Zachary Ingle, PhD'16, and David M. Sutera, PhD'16, delivers a terrific read without squeezing the life out of its subject with minutia, which too often deadens weighty film books.

Ingle and Sutera set out to honor the topic by always leaning toward information and entertainment rather than fanboy arguments or professorial pronouncements, and they succeed.

The book's introduction includes a welcome and concise history of comic book superheroes harvested by the film industry since the 1930s, including "Flash Gordon" in 1936 and "The Spider's Web" in 1938. Swiftly guiding the reader through decades of superhero iterations in film and on TV, the authors then lay out the genre's iconographic elements: storylines set in large metropolitan areas, vulnerable citizens who must be protected from evil, and the weapons, gadgets and vehicles that spice superhero stories with fantastic fun.

Sutera, assistant professor at Bridgewater State University, and Ingle, visiting assistant professor of film at Hollins University, then dive straight into the films, arranged in alphabetical order to avoid unnecessary rating scales. Each is worthy, as are those that didn't make the cut, an

Books

honorable mention list that the authors include to help illustrate their difficult decision process.

Each film is introduced with a basic credits box—directors, writers, cast, and run time and other specs—followed by a tight synopsis and thoughtful commentary, which invariably treat the subject matter with respect while avoiding fawning fanspeak. Also welcome for hardy fans are nearly 20 pages of bibliography and index.

The book's featured films and TV shows—live action and animated—include modern blockbusters, critical and cult favorites, and foreign TV series, with an eye toward plot and character development, adherence to source materials, technological advancements, and societal impact.

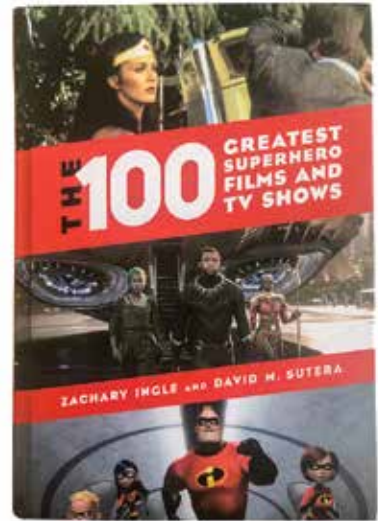
The 100 Greatest Superhero Films and TV Shows will be a welcome—perhaps even mandatory—addition to any serious superhero fan's library, but it's not meant to sit idly by as an occasional reference. The readable format, accessible writing and movie-still photographs invite leisurely consumption, one entry at a time, and hopefully will inspire coffee-shop banter among superhero superfans.

—CHRIS LAZZARINO

Straight talk

*Estate-planning fundamentals
for those who need it—
and we all need it*

MARNI JAMESON, a Florida-based author and syndicated home and lifestyle columnist, opens her sixth book, touted as an easily accessible treatise on estate planning, by sharing her childhood notion that only one in 10 people "really died." As she grew wiser, she expanded her estimate to four out of 10, "but no one in



*The 100 Greatest Superhero Films
and TV Shows*

By Zachary Ingle and David M. Sutera
Rowman & Littlefield, \$45

my family would." Then seven out of 10, "but certainly not me."

Jameson's gentle introduction, a reminder of our collective denials about the realities of death, then pushes straight into the pandemic, when death could no longer be ignored.

"I figured that as long as we all had death and dying on our minds," writes Jameson, j'81, "I might as well do something productive about it."

Jameson spent her year of isolation writing *What to Do with Everything You Own to Leave the Legacy You Want*, which delves into such fundamental topics as drawing up wills and trusts, charitable giving, tax liabilities and how to select estate planners and trustees, but also topics unexpected yet entirely worthwhile: prenuptial agreements, disposing of art and jewelry, sharing inheritances with blended families, clearing homes of clutter, even advice—with three experts sharing different opinions—on what to do with framed diplomas and

certificates once cherished by a late spouse.

“Life is not one big contest to see how much you can accumulate—but a peek inside some American homes would have you think so,” Jameson writes. “Edit your belongings as you live.”

Though other books on the topic have gained global popularity, it seems unlikely that any could be more valuable, or better informed, than *What to Do with Everything You Own*. Drawing on foundational concepts of her expertise in household organization, Jameson’s writing style is—probably just like her home—crisp and clean. She shares advice and concepts gathered from experts around the country and worthy anecdotes from pop culture. (Admire the musician, but do *not* emulate Prince’s estate planning.)

Important terms, highlighted throughout in boldface, are gathered and defined in a glossary (helpfully placed near the middle of the book, rather than shoved off to the end), and an appendix includes prep lists for meeting with financial advisers, forms for asset inventories and household bills, and even space for guided personal reflection.



What to Do with Everything You Own to Leave the Legacy You Want
By Marni Jameson
The Experiment, \$16.95

Slim, stylish and—free of jargon and kitschy catchphrases—delightful to read, *What to Do with Everything You Own* has the feel of a book that will survive every household purge, consulted repeatedly over the years and almost certainly purchased for siblings and children.

“Regardless of how you want the chips to fall when you’re gone,” writes Jameson, “one thing is for sure—they won’t go where you want them to unless you plan.”

What to Do with Everything You Own is the perfect place to start.

—CHRIS LAZZARINO

Trouble ahead

No easy answers to Jackson’s hard questions

IN THE LATEST collaboration in their fruitful partnership, Wes Jackson, g’60, the MacArthur Fellowship-winning founder of the Land Institute in Salina, and Robert Jensen, professor emeritus of journalism at the University of Texas at Austin, return to a bedrock idea of their earlier book, *The Restless and Relentless Mind of Wes Jackson* [“Jacksonia,” issue No. 2, 2021]. Namely, that human beings need to “power down” by reducing our numbers and our consumption before it’s too late. *An Inconvenient Apocalypse* specifically addresses what the authors call the “four hard questions.” What is a sustainable size for the human population? What is the appropriate scale for our communities? Is maintaining our current energy consumption even an option? And how quickly must we rein in our profligate ways if we are to avoid the most drastic outcomes?

The questions aren’t just academic. Jackson and Jensen foresee a coming collapse to smaller populations and simpler societies brought on by energy shortages, infrastructure failures and catastrophic climate change. They offer some strategies—consume less energy, for starters,

and give up things we think we can’t live without (goodbye coffee). While the book is deeply grounded in science, the most provocative question it poses is existential, touching on human nature’s need for more, more, more, the fundamental trait that has brought us to our current perilous state, where our demands on the planet exceed its capacity to deliver. “Why is this not enough?” Jackson asks while walking his Kansas farm. “Why are the sights and smells of the world, along with the questions that the world generates, not enough for us humans?”

Definitively answering such riddles may not be possible, but posing and pondering them, as Jackson and Jensen do in *An Inconvenient Apocalypse*, with rigorous, cleareyed and honest debate, is essential to our future as a species.

—STEVEN HILL



An Inconvenient Apocalypse: Environmental Collapse, Climate Crisis, and the Fate of Humanity
By Wes Jackson and Robert Jensen
University of Notre Dame Press, \$24

Mass Street & more



Steve Mason, pictured at his shop in Lawrence with the 1972 Mossman guitar for restoration. Mason earned a degree in biology education from KU and relates those studies to his lutherie: "It's so important to understand how things work, how things fit together."



Striking a nostalgic chord

IN 1972, the winner of the first national flat-picking championship in Winfield took home a guitar that 22-year-old luthier Steve Mason, d'86, had helped craft. In the half-century since, that contest has blossomed into the Walnut Valley Festival, an annual bluegrass and acoustic music showcase; Mason has become nationally renowned for his stringed instrument repair; and that guitar



STEVE PUPPE (3)

has traveled a rough road, including being run over by a vehicle. So when the instrument arrived at Steve Mason Luthiers in Lawrence this year—to be restored for display at the Walnut Valley Festival's 50th edition, Sept. 14-18—Mason wasn't surprised it needed some care. What he didn't expect was to find a message he'd written five decades before (top right) on the spruce under the fingerboard tongue. "When the neck came off, there was my handwriting," Mason laughs. He didn't write in his handiwork often—"only when the spirit moved me," he says—but had decided to label this guitar as the top picker's prize in '72. Back then, "I absolutely had no concept of 50 years from now," Mason says. Perhaps the new inscription he added beneath the old will someday spark similar awe: "Restored for 50th Anniversary 2022."

Wheel keeps on rollin'

WHETHER FLOODING US with pics of children we remember being toddlers now starting college or posts from our school pals bragging about retirement travels, social media is the new flashpoint for making us suddenly feel old. So it was when Rob "Knobbie" Farha, c'88, recently announced on Facebook that he has now owned The Wagon Wheel Café for 25 years. "Still trying to catch John 'Woo' Wooden of 30 years," Farha wrote. Seems impossible that Knobbie is now just five years from matching the venerable Dr. Woo, j'61, in Wheel lore and longevity. Perhaps we'll all just have to get over it and go be young again with Wangburgers and cold suds in the corner booth.



COLIN FARHA

Farha



FOR THE FANS

ON GAMEDAY



“You always gotta have pride, in everything you do. I feel like our team has taken that to another level. If you’re not taking pride in what you’re doing, then why are you here?”

—Senior safety Kenny Logan Jr.



FOOTBALL

Different is good

Coaches’ mandate for change inspires Logan to embrace team leadership role

AFTER LEADING all Power 5 conference schools in tackles in 2021, safety Kenny Logan Jr. enters his senior season on watch lists for three prestigious national honors—the Chuck Bednarik Award, for the outstanding defensive player; the Jim Thorpe Award, honoring the best defensive back; and the Paul Hornung Award, for the college game’s most versatile player—and he’s already being touted as a legitimate NFL prospect by Pro Football Network, which praised his “truly superb ball skills and ball-tracking ability.”

And yet Logan, also a kick returner and something of a free spirit, lets it be known that he has no intention of exceeding or even matching his 113 tackles of a year ago. The way he sees it, if he *does* repeat such gaudy numbers, the rest of the Jayhawks’ young defense will not have developed as expected.

“I don’t want as many tackles this year,” Logan says, “because we have great linebackers who came in. I don’t feel like I’m going to have that many tackles.”

With the addition of transfer linebackers Eriq Gilyard (who came in from Central Florida),

Craig Young (Ohio State) and Lorenzo McCaskill (Louisiana), along with a stout line that includes 305-pound tackle Caleb Sampson and pass rusher Lonnie Phelps, a transfer from Miami of Ohio, Logan’s intention to make fewer tackles seems realistic.

Instead, Logan says, he needs to focus on interceptions. Although he had only one last year and two as a sophomore, Logan did break up six passes as a junior. With Purdue transfer Marvin Grant joining him at safety, Logan will often be freed to steal passes.

“I want to try to lead the NCAA in interceptions,” Logan says, “and try to lead the conference in interceptions.”

Even with his fun-loving personality—Logan teases and impersonates second-year coach Lance Leipold so often that the boss is reportedly perfecting a Logan impersonation of his own—the 6-foot, 210-pound heavy hitter, who has yet to miss a game in his KU career, is expected to help lead a young team eager to forget its two-win season from a year ago.

“He’s got a lot of natural charisma. He’s got a

good likability factor,” says defensive coordinator Brian Borland. “We just need him to represent us in terms of things that are important, in terms of being accountable, being disciplined, being a good decision-maker, developing good leadership qualities. He just needs to keep going in the direction he’s going, and he’s really going in a good direction.”

During August training camp (*Kansas Alumni* went to press shortly before the Sept. 2 opener against Tennessee Tech), Logan confirmed that he was up to the leadership challenge.

“It’s comfortable for me. Well, I don’t like the word ‘comfortable,’ but it’s cool, very natural, to be in that spot, to have that voice, so I’m definitely accepting it,” Logan says. “You always gotta have pride, in everything you do. I feel like our team has taken that to another level. If you’re not taking pride in what you’re doing, then why are you here?”

After already spending a year and a full offseason around Logan, sophomore safety O.J. Burroughs says the leadership role expected of Logan, on and off the field,

should be a good fit, because he’s been doing it all along.

“Every day,” Burroughs says, “Kenny’s going to bring his best to make sure everyone’s on top of their game. He won’t let you have an off day. No matter how you’re feeling, he’s always going to pick you up. He’s going to tell you what you need to be doing better, and what you’re doing well, just to make sure we’ve got that swag on us.”

Borland says the key word repeatedly emphasized by coaches during training camp was “different.” While it certainly suits Logan’s personality, the concept in this case applies to the entire team.

“I know we just feel like we’re different,” Borland says. “We’ve got to be different, right? We’ve got to be different players, we’ve got to be different people, we’ve got to be different in our approach. We just need to be different than we were last year. If *it’s* going to be different, *we* need to be different. I feel great right now. I like the direction we’re going and I like the potential we have.”

Says Logan, “It feels *way* different and



KANSAS ATHLETICS (3)

The same energy and enthusiasm Kenny Logan Jr. brings to games (above and opposite) is replicated in practice, even grueling August training camp: “All the guys are flying around,” Logan said in August. “It’s been fun!”

I love it. How we attack everything, the tempo, the pace, the excitement. Guys here, we believe in what we’ve done in the offseason that’s going to propel us to be better. We’re still taking it day by day to get better, but I’m definitely excited for the long turnaround.”

UPDATE

Led by sophomore All-American outside hitter **Caroline Bien** and 25th-year coach **Ray Bechard**, volleyball enters the season ranked No. 23, trailing only Texas (2) and Baylor (16) among Big 12 teams. The Jayhawks last year advanced to the NCAA Tournament’s Sweet 16 for the first time since 2015. Two stars of that team, **Ainise Havili**, d’18, and **Kelsie Payne**, c’18, will have their jerseys retired Sept. 17 in Horejsi Family Volleyball Arena. ... Junior soccer defender **Mackenzie Boeve** was named Big 12 Defensive Player of the Week after scoring the game-winning goal in KU’s 1-0 victory over Northwestern



Bien

Aug. 21. ... **Ochai Agbaji**, c’22, selected 14th overall by the Cleveland Cavaliers in the NBA draft, in July was named Big 12 Male Athlete of the Year. ... LSU assistant **Dan Fitzgerald**, a respected recruiter and

developer of future major league talent, on June 15 was named KU baseball coach. “I have been very diligent in waiting for the right opportunity to lead a program,” Fitzgerald says, “and this was the perfect destination for me and my family.” ... **Alexandra Emilianov**, b’22, on June 11

closed her stellar discus career with a second-place finish at the NCAA Outdoor Championships in Eugene, Oregon. ... Representing his home country of Greece, freshman discus thrower **Dimitrios Pavlidis** on Aug. 6 placed fourth at the World Athletics U20 Championships in Cali, Colombia.



Fitzgerald

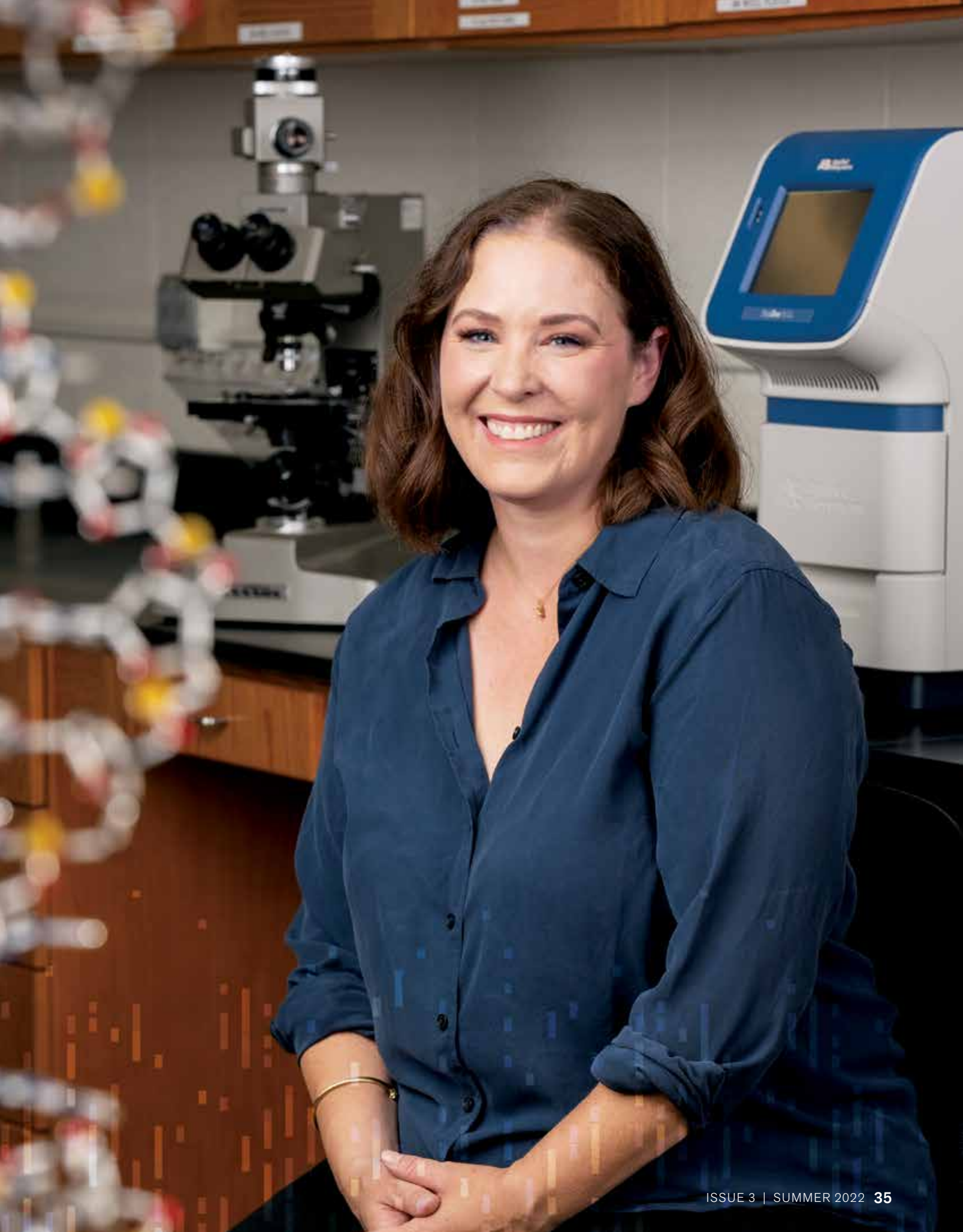


A STAR IS BORN

**A KU professor's
bestseller garners
praise for explaining
the science – and the
humanity – behind
the populating of the
Americas**

by Chris Lazzarino

Portraits by Steve Puppe



In that particular way of busy, successful, well-rounded achievers, Jenny Raff was already exhausted when her life changed early on the cold morning of Feb. 8.

Raff, an anthropological geneticist and associate professor of anthropology, typically teaches two undergraduate courses, supervises graduate students while directing her department's graduate studies sequence, and is principal investigator on about \$1 million in grant-funded research (conducted in a high-tech, super-clean lab in the basement of Fraser Hall) into the earliest genetic histories of the peopling of the Americas.

She also is the mother of a toddler, Oliver, and despite the loving support of an attentive husband—Colin McRoberts, assistant teaching professor of business law in the KU School of Business—as well as her mother and sister, both of whom moved in during pandemic disruptions, Jenny Raff rarely enjoys a moment that's all her own.

And so, while making coffee early that morning, she savored a rare interlude of social media brain drain. Tune in and tune out, wait for the caffeine to kick in before facing the day.

"I was, you know, reading Twitter, as one does, in the few minutes before Oliver wakes up," Raff recalls, "and somebody tweeted at me, 'Oh my god, look at this!' And I was like ..."

Gasp!

What Raff found waiting for her that morning was a New York Times review of her new book, *Origin: A Genetic History of the Americas*, a sweeping summary of her field meant for a general audience while still worthy of her colleagues' interest and her own academic credentials. Years of heavy academic and creative labor researching and writing the book had contributed to her exhaustion that morning, but in an instant, Raff sensed she would now face an entirely new level of challenges.

Rave reviews in The New York Times mean the world will most definitely come knocking.

"In her new book," wrote Dartmouth University anthropologist Jeremy DeSilva, "Raff beautifully integrates new data from different sciences (archaeology, genetics, linguistics) and different ways of knowing, including Indigenous oral traditions, in a masterly retelling of the story of how, and when, people reached the Americas."

DeSilva praised Raff for explaining the genetic and archaeological evidence that questions previous assumptions about when and how the first people arrived in the Americas, but he also noted the humanity found throughout *Origin*: "lovely vignettes of life thousands of years ago," including reflections on a family's pain when they "placed the limp body of their 2-year-old boy into the earth" nearly 13,000 years ago.

"Through a combination of rigorous science and a universal humanity," DeSilva wrote, "Raff gives ancient people a voice."

The review shot *Origin* up through The New York Times and Amazon nonfiction bestseller lists and made Raff an instant star among KU faculty. (She was chosen as the face of the KU Center for Genomics' successful proposal in the University's Research Rising competition; see Rock Chalk Review, p. 10.) Raff conducted interviews on NPR, the Harvard Book Store described her as a "celebrated anthropologist," ScienceNews.org praised the book's "clear, nontechnical language," and the Times even revisited *Origin* in a book review podcast and as the lead item in its Feb. 17 "Inside the Best-Seller List" compendium.

"It's kind of a tour de force," says department chair Dennis O'Rourke, c'73, g'76, g'77, PhD'80, Foundation Distinguished Professor of Anthropology, "because she covers a lot of ground both in anthropological genetics, which is her own field of specialty, but also for the amount of work she did to consult with archaeologists and Indigenous communities, community leaders and ethicists. To be able to effectively integrate those areas into a more coherent whole is a very impressive piece of work."

Origin's chapter on the arduous work involved in extracting DNA samples is reminiscent of Richard Preston's 1994 biological thriller *The Hot Zone* for illuminating details about the rigors of conducting microscopic research within super-clean environments. "One of my goals when things calm down a bit," Raff says, "is to actually get back at the bench and hopefully do more than write grants and write books. I would really like to be back involved in this work." She adds with a chuckle, "And all my students and lab staff are laughing about that. They're like, 'Stay out of the lab!'"

Ever eager to praise others, Raff says her publisher, Twelve Books—which publishes one book a month and mounts publicity campaigns designed to engage national discussion—had faith in her book, which she describes as "a love letter" to her discipline, from the start.

"I think when I signed on with them, I had a suspicion that this had the potential to become, you know, a 'big book,'" Raff says, "but I don't think I was prepared for the scope."



Jenny Raff spent much of her childhood in Springfield, Missouri, where, as she lovingly details in *Origin*, her father—a now-retired quality assurance engineer and "classic tinkerer" fond of amateur science projects—introduced Jenny to ethical, respectful, attentive attitudes and techniques while exploring Ozark caves.

Her mother, then a nurse, returned to school at what was then Southwest Missouri State University for undergraduate and graduate degrees in neuroscience, then completed her PhD at Indiana University after the family left Springfield. As with her father, Jenny also tagged along with her mother—whom she describes in *Origin* as "my first and greatest science teacher"—



becoming encoded with a passion for scientific inquiry and insights into academic life.

“I was really, really privileged, but I didn’t see it at the time, because, of course, I was a kid and I was complaining about having to spend all day on campus in the summer,” Raff says. “But I spent a lot of hours in labs, and that really instilled in me a profound love for biological sciences.”

As an undergraduate at Indiana University, where she went on to earn dual-major doctorates in the departments of biology and anthropology, Raff’s first advanced archaeology professor fit central casting’s image of the macho, dashing scientific explorer whose “tanned and deeply lined face, which attested to decades of excavating outside in the hot sun, served as much a badge of authority as the air of absolute certainty in his words.”

Raff recalls hastily writing in her notebook, preserving the great man’s proclamations, “There are no sites in the Americas that predate the Clovis culture.” An undergraduate in no position to argue or even imagine otherwise, Raff became “completely convinced.”

Clovis, referencing a culture identified with the early 20th-century discovery of remarkable stone points in the New Mexico desert, dated the first people of the Americas to about 13,000 years ago. The theory, as Raff learned, became entrenched—and remains so, in some obstinate corners—despite modern discoveries pushing the timeline back *at least* another 7,000 years. It wasn’t until she began working with her graduate adviser that Raff first learned that most geneticists had already grown weary of the “Clovis First” model.

“I had a suspicion that this had the potential to become, you know, a ‘big book,’ but I don’t think I was prepared for the scope.”

“The peopling of the Americas is not simply an esoteric bit of science and history, important to only scholars and intellectuals. It is a story of resilience, compassion, intrepidity, adventure, and loss.”

A detailed accounting of how Clovis First came to dominate the field, and its subsequent displacement, occupies extended passages within *Origin*. The methodical, thrilling scientific journey—which is unfolding still, with KU researchers at the forefront of the hunt for answers—tickles the modern human imagination, as evidenced by our sudden passion for DNA tests to learn about personal ancestors and hit television documentaries that dramatize the scientific chase.

“We tend to have a curiosity about where we came from as a people,” O’Rourke says. “It seems to be something that has always fascinated people.”

As Raff makes abundantly clear, with writing and presentation accessible to anyone with even a passing interest in human origins, the search continues for answers to when and how the earliest peoples of the Americas arrived and flourished. And yet, as *Origin* attests, the fieldwork and laboratory explorations are not the whole story.

Not even close.



Raff opens *Origin* by recounting the 1996 discovery of “an extraordinary window into the past”: a cave on the northern tip of Prince of Wales Island in Alaska. Beyond its scientific wonders, the event is emblematic, in Raff’s telling, of the right way to conduct such investigations. Scientists on the site immediately contacted local Haida and Tlingit tribal councils and asked their permission, and blessings, to proceed. (Haida councils chose to defer to the Tlingit, as the Tlingit communities of Klawock and Craig were closest to the site.) Because tribal elders were consulted early and often, community members eventually agreed, with strict conditions: The work must cease if it is determined that the cave was a sacred burial site, the tribes must be kept abreast of any scientific discoveries before they are made public, and, of course, their ancestors’ remains must be reburied as early as possible.

In an interview with Raff, local archaeologist Terry Fifield recalled that “council members wondered who this person might be, whether he was related to them, how he might have lived. It was that curiosity about the man that inspired the partnership at the beginning.”

Over five seasons of fieldwork, scientists determined that seven human bones and two teeth, all scattered by carnivores, belonged to a man in his early 20s who lived on a seafood diet and had apparently engaged in long-distance trade for the high-quality stone used to make his weapons and tools for Arctic hunting.

He roamed that region 10,000 years ago, and his remains, Raff writes, were at the time the oldest in Alaska.

Remarkable to the scientists, but not the Tlingit, whose history and tradition teach “that their ancestors were a seafaring people who have lived in this region since the dawn of history.” Given a tribal name that translates to “Man Ahead of Us,” the ancestor’s remains were reburied in 2008; thanks to the respectful interactions with his modern descendants, scientists were also allowed to sample a small portion of his bones for future DNA analysis—which has now revealed yet more detailed stories about his origins and influence.

“The peopling of the Americas,” Raff writes, “is not simply an esoteric bit of science and history, important to only scholars and intellectuals. It is a story of resilience, compassion, intrepidity, adventure, and loss.”

Such respectful interactions had never before been the norm. Raff shares difficult histories of how colonists used “scientific” and even Biblical justifications to plunder the continent, and how even as the modern scientific method emerged, respect and heartfelt caring were too often not part of scientists’ agendas. Notably, Raff even explains in fine detail the subtle differences and meanings among various English-language terms for peoples of the Americas: Native peoples, Native Americans, Indigenous peoples, American Indians, Indians, Amerindigenous, Natives, First Nations, First Americans, Paleoamericans.

“Jenny is a very enthusiastic person,” O’Rourke says. “She loves the field. She loves the question. She likes the challenges, especially confronting the unpleasant parts of the history of the discipline. We all could wish they didn’t occur, but they did, and she’s quite enthusiastic about finding ways to make sure those kinds of excesses never happen again, and being far more inclusive and respectful in the work that goes on in the future.”

University Distinguished Professor Rolfe Mandel, g’80, PhD’91, one of Raff’s colleagues in the search for the earliest people of the Americas, notes the respectful attitudes Raff illuminates in her book are also evident in her very presence within KU’s department of anthropology.

“Some people have a hard time parking their egos at the door. She does not,” Mandel says. “She’s very cordial, very humble, *extremely* humble for what she’s accomplished. I’ve seen people, especially in academia, who are just the opposite of that.

“She’s a role model. I can’t say enough good things about her. We’re really lucky to have her.”



Raff hopes *Origin* can help educate the public and students in her field about the right way to approach and conduct genetic and archaeological research. She’s nervous, though, about being seen as preachy toward her scientific colleagues, the majority of whom, she says, need no reminders from her about how to conduct their inquiries.

Raff is also nervous about being tagged with the exact descriptor Mandel used: She does not see herself as a role model, especially for young women scientists striving for continued gains in access and inclusion.

“That implies to me that I’ve got things figured out, and I really don’t,” Raff says. “I don’t think that my life should be a good model for younger women who want to get into the sciences, just because I always do everything the hard way. And that’s not the way. They don’t need to do that.”

While writing *Origin*, Raff had to carve out long weekends in libraries and even writing retreats in quiet hotel rooms.

“But, you know, there are some sacrifices, right? I’ve been an athlete my entire life, and I had to completely give that up. So I don’t have a good work-life balance at all. I’m struggling to regain that. I kind of thought I would get back to it after the book was out, but the book has taken off in a way that I didn’t expect.”

Raff grew up as a devotee of martial arts and even had a couple of “very abbreviated, not very glamorous, not very distinguished” amateur fights.

Her sister, Julie Kedzie—a graduate of the University of Iowa’s vaunted creative writing program whom Raff describes as one of her most important editors during the writing of *Origin*—was the star in the family. Raff says Kedzie was an “extraordinarily good” mixed martial arts pioneer, fighting out of a top-flight club in Albuquerque, New Mexico, which allowed Raff the opportunity to “train with some of the best MMA fighters in the world, because they all cycled through there.”

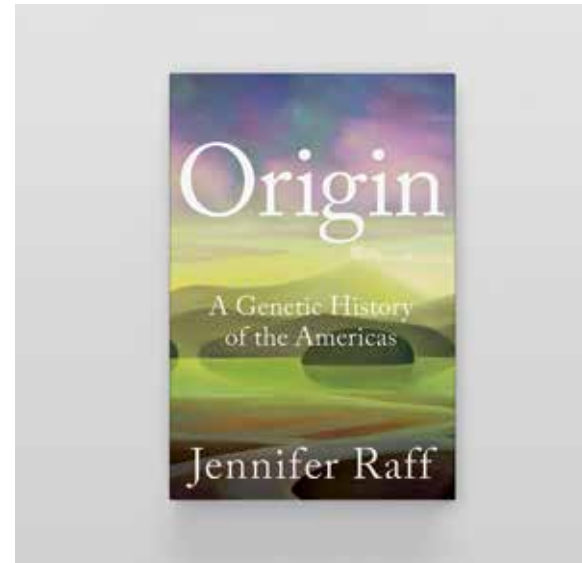
Raff says she stopped training during her pregnancy, a pause that extended through the pandemic and the writing of *Origin*. She is eager to return, to again embrace sweat and physical exhaustion, in part to rekindle a lesson she derived from rigorous martial arts training: She can “take a punch and still keep going.”

“But that applies more generally to the rest of my life. Writing this book was such a monumental task, and I’d never written or done anything on this scale before. It was so frustrating, but I think it was my martial arts training that got me through the hard parts, knowing that I just have to show up again and again, keep showing up every day, keep working hard and be patient with myself and trust the process.

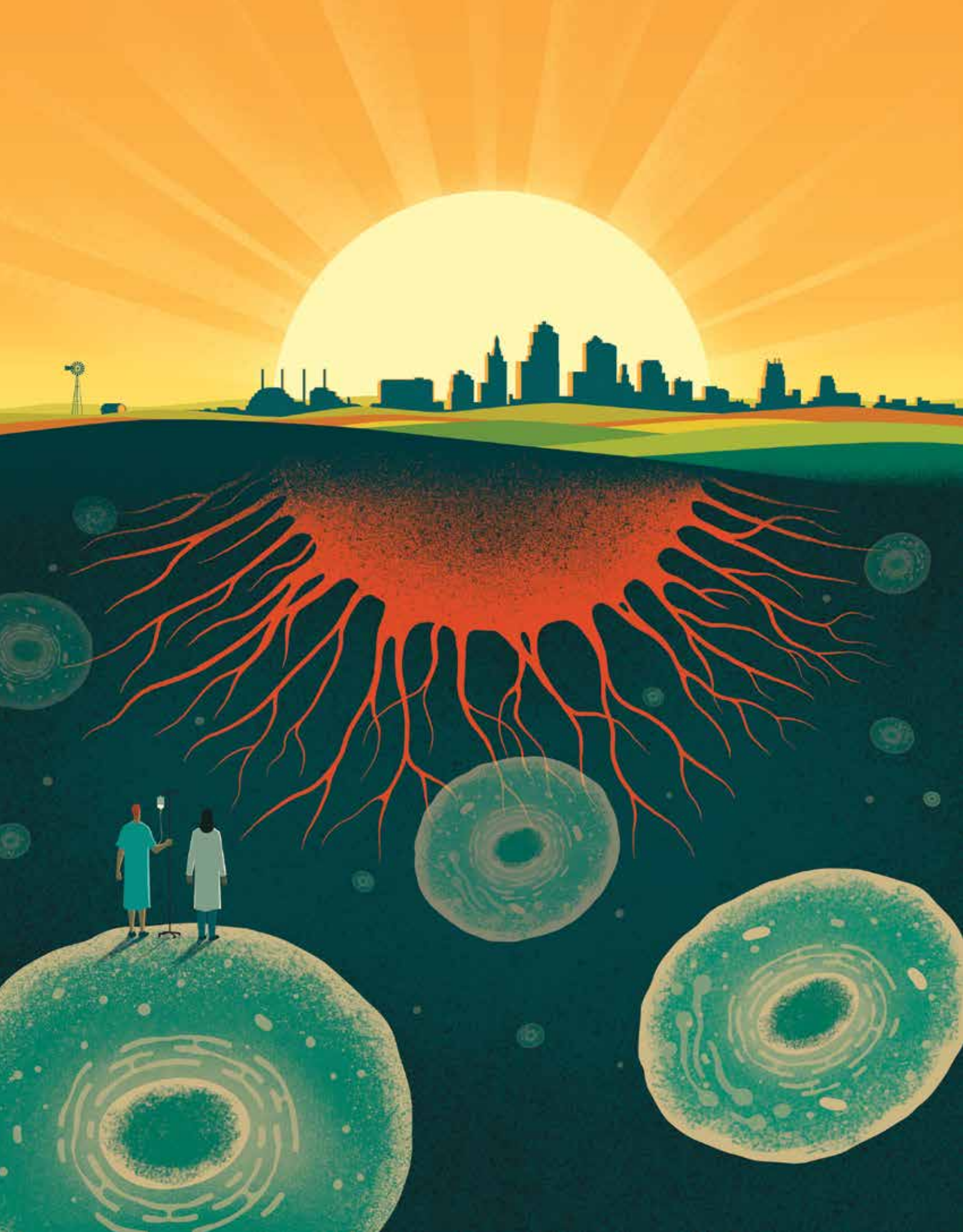
“And, at the end, it will be over one way or the other, when the bell rings or when the book is sent to the publishers.”

Or until a tweet arrives, announcing that the work is far from finished.

Not even close. —



Origin: A Genetic History of the Americas
by Jennifer Raff
Twelve Books, \$30



Hope on the horizon

Cancer Center's comprehensive NCI designation hails dramatic advances in research and treatment for patients and families

By the time U.S. Sen. Jerry Moran stepped to the microphone July 7 in KU Medical Center's Robert E. Hemenway Life Sciences Innovation Center, "it doesn't seem as if there is any surprise left in the room," he acknowledged, as giddy laughter bubbled through the audience.

Moran, c'76, l'82, soon declared the University's best worst-kept secret:

"Today, effective July 1, just a few days ago, I'm pleased to announce The University of Kansas Cancer Center has received the National Cancer Institute's comprehensive designation. Congratulations!"

Jubilant shouts, hugs, handshakes and a standing ovation celebrated KU's ascent to the pinnacle of cancer research and treatment, and the promise of continued progress to, in the words of Dr. Roy Jensen, the center's director, "transform the cancer experience" for patients and families throughout the Midwest.

The KU Cancer Center is now one of only 53 NCI comprehensive centers in the nation.

Its ambitious mission required nearly two decades of intense work, massive collaboration, mammoth public and private investment, and dogged perseverance to push onward, despite the inevitable setbacks. The achievement is even sweeter considering the longer history of cancer research at KU, which began in the 1970s (see timeline, p. 40).

"This was our moonshot," Chancellor Doug Girod said July 7, "and today we have landed on the moon."

Girod recalled the day 10 years ago, when celebrants gathered in the same room on July 12, 2012, to cheer the momentous news that KU had achieved NCI designation, becoming the 67th federally designated cancer center (there are now 71 sites). The milestone was "one of the proudest moments in the history of the University and the region," Girod said. It signaled a new era of promise for Kansans and residents across the region, who in many cases no longer would need to travel hundreds of miles to take part in the latest clinical trials.

by Jennifer Jackson Sanner

Illustration by Davide Bonazzi

July 12, 2012, also began the second part of KU's quest: to reach comprehensive NCI status. Although the Cancer Center successfully earned renewal of its designation in 2017, its application for comprehensive designation fell short. As *Kansas Alumni* reported this spring, Jensen and his team have devoted the past five years to strengthening areas NCI reviewers identified for improvement ("Next big step," issue No. 2, 2022). These included:

- faculty training
- community outreach and engagement
- clinical research
- geographic consolidation

Last fall, KU submitted its 1,700-page application, and in February an NCI team visited Kansas City and Lawrence (virtually, with the help of The University of Kansas Health System's sophisticated TV production studio, the site of daily broadcasts during the pandemic).

The progress since 2017 astounded NCI leaders. Moran reported that Dr. Douglas Lowy, the agency's acting director, told him that, between its first and second bids for comprehensive designation, "KU demonstrated the greatest increase in capabilities, more so than any other applicant they have ever evaluated."

Along with the comprehensive designation, NCI reviewers bestowed an "outstanding" rating on KU, and the institute awarded a five-year, \$13.8 million grant to support cancer research, shared equipment and resources.

According to Jensen, patients treated at NCI-designated centers have a 25% better

Sen. Jerry Moran reported that Dr. Douglas Lowy of the NCI said **KU demonstrated the greatest increase in capabilities, more so than any other applicant they have ever evaluated.**

Along with the comprehensive designation, NCI reviewers bestowed an "outstanding" rating on KU, and the institute awarded a five-year, \$13.8 million grant to support cancer research, shared equipment and resources.

survival rate. Now that KU has risen to the ranks of comprehensive centers, even more funding, clinical trials and research are on the horizon. Since the NCI review in February, Jensen said, KU already has attracted new experts and leaders in breast cancer, radiation oncology, population health and dermatology. The center's impressive impact on the region's economy will continue to grow (see box, p. 43).

Dr. Rob Simari, Medical Center executive vice chancellor and Franklin E. Murphy Professor of Cardiology, began the July 7 event by noting that the gargantuan effort to lift the Cancer Center also propelled other areas of KU's research. "It has never been more true that, indeed, rising tides raise all ships," he said. "With the success of the Cancer Center, centers of excellence in Alzheimer's disease, kidney disease, diabetes, aging and many others have flourished. And supporting all of these is Frontiers, our clinical and

translational science institute. Furthermore, this phenomenon has extended to our basic science and clinical departments, and even to our ability to recruit the best and brightest to Kansas."

Simari, m'86, who returned to Kansas in 2014 after KU lured him from the Mayo Clinic to lead the School of Medicine as executive dean, invoked his theme of rising tides as he introduced Jensen, the final speaker of the morning: "As we all know, tides are driven by a gravitational pull of the moon. And gravity is the fundamental force of nature. Our rising tide is also driven by a fundamental force of nature, Dr. Roy Jensen."

As Jensen took his place at the microphone, the crowd burst into another standing ovation. Through the years, many in the room had heard him speak passionately about his personal commitment and his team's dedication to the mission he accepted in 2004, when KU recruited

NCI designation: A timeline

1969 KU Medical Center launches cancer program with first professor of clinical oncology.

1970s With National Cancer Institute funding, KUMC investigates feasibility of establishing clinical cancer research center in Kansas.

1990s Can-

cer Center experiences steady growth in research funding and discoveries.

2002 Cancer Center establishes NCI designation as chief goal.

2004 With \$20 million commitment from the Kansas Masonic Foundation, KUMC renames its cancer research organization the Kansas Masonic Cancer Research Institute and recruits nationally recognized researcher Roy

Jensen to lead University's cancer program.

2006 Chancellor Robert E. Hemenway announces that attaining NCI designation is KU's top research priority.





him from Vanderbilt University: achieving NCI designation and providing the best cancer research and treatment for patients and families whose lives are upended by the dreaded diagnosis.

Since Jensen, an acclaimed breast cancer pathologist, returned to Kansas City, just a few miles north of his boyhood home of Gardner, he has crisscrossed the region as a compelling crusader. His powerful, often emotional messages of hope, along with his gift for demystifying science and his ardent pursuit of the goal, have moved many audiences to tears—and

motivated countless allies to contribute to and advocate for the cause. Only Jensen could properly conclude the July announcement with his personal reflections on the hard-won achievement of NCI comprehensive designation.

After asking his team to stand for their well-deserved applause, Jensen listed a few of the Cancer Center’s most remarkable advances:

- In 2004, the center occupied a single wing on KU’s 39th and Rainbow campus and treated 1,700 new patients each year. Today, about 6,500 new patients each year

“I’ve never known anyone more determined,” U.S. Sen. Jerry Moran (left) said of Dr. Roy Jensen (right). He recalled dozens of meetings with Jensen in Washington, D.C., in airports, on planes—wherever and whenever the “relentless” Jensen could make the case for the Cancer Center’s quest to attain the top level of NCI designation. “Thank you all for finally getting us the success,” Moran said. “Now maybe Dr. Jensen will stay home.”

Kansas Legislature approves annual \$5 million appropriation for Cancer Center. Drug Discovery, Delivery and Experimental Therapeutics program formed, leveraging world-class cancer biology research at KU, KUMC and

the Stowers Institute for Medical Research along with KU School of Pharmacy programs in medicinal and pharmaceutical chemistry.

2007 KUMC launches Midwest Cancer Alli-



ance, a regional network dedicated to research and increased access to clinical trials and cancer care.

2008 Johnson County voters pass an Education and Research Triangle sales tax that funds KU Clinical Research Center, site of Phase I clinical trials. One trial tests Nanotax, a less toxic, more effective chemotherapy drug for

ovarian cancer developed at KU. \$20 million gift from Annette Bloch benefits cancer services. National Cancer Institute invites KU to apply for NCI designation.



Roy Jensen salutes the crowd on July 7, 2022. Also pictured, from left, are Robert Simari, Chancellor Doug Girod and Sen. Jerry Moran.

turn to KU for treatment at the Cancer Center’s Fairway headquarters (donated by the Hall Family Foundation), on KU’s 39th and Rainbow campus and at sites across the city, in western Missouri and throughout Kansas.

- In 2012, the center included 108 disease-specific oncologists; now there are more than 150, and the entire center comprises nearly 350 researchers and clinicians. No other institution in the region boasts even one-tenth of that number.

- In 2004, the Cancer Center received about \$23 million of total cancer-related research funding. “But I have to tell you that number was about as padded as we could possibly pad it,” Jensen confessed. “There were some grants in there that wouldn’t have cut the mustard these days.” Now the center attracts research investments of nearly \$80 million a year.

- KU has greatly expanded its clinical research program, enrolling more than

33,000 participants in clinical trials since 2010. The center now manages about 370 clinical trials.

Both Jensen and Girod credited pivotal boosts that made these improvements possible, beginning with the Kansas Masonic Foundation’s initial investment of \$20 million in 2004. The dramatic vote of confidence—and the foundation’s additional support of \$10 million—ultimately led to millions more in contributions from other prominent foundations and individual donors through the years. The Cancer Center’s outreach network is now known as the Masonic Cancer Alliance, providing clinical trials and cancer screenings throughout the region.

Kansas leaders and taxpayers also invested in the mission. Five governors, beginning in 2006 with Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, g’70, and numerous advocates in the Kansas Legislature supported annual funding of \$5 million from the state budget. In 2020, leaders doubled annual allocation to \$10 million.

The most innovative public funding came from Johnson County voters, who in November 2008, despite the dark days of the Great Recession, approved a permanent sales tax to support clinical research (along with growth in teaching and research at the KU Edwards Campus in Overland Park and the Kansas State University Innovation Campus in Olathe). The sales tax helped fund construction of the University of Kansas Clinical Research Center in Fairway, and it now generates \$6 million annually for the Cancer Center’s early phase clinical trials program, Jensen

said. He thanked the leaders of the distinctive sales tax initiative, known as the Johnson County Education and Research Triangle: Fred Logan, ’74; Mary Birch, j’74; and the late Dick Bond, c’57, l’60. No other NCI-designated center benefits from taxpayers’ ongoing support, Jensen said.

The Cancer Center’s colossal quest also demanded unprecedented collaboration throughout the University and beyond. Jensen cited the vital external partnerships with two pillars of biomedical research and patient care in Kansas City: the Stowers Institute for Medical Research and Children’s Mercy Kansas City.

Thomas Curran, whom Jensen helped recruit to Kansas City six years ago to lead the Children’s Mercy Research Institute as executive director, shared his perspective on KU’s achievement. Curran described Jensen’s message to him as he considered a move from Philadelphia, where he served as deputy scientific director of the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia Research Institute from 2006 to 2015.

“Roy shared this ambition and challenge of obtaining comprehensive status. That was actually key for bringing me here to build a research enterprise in Children’s Mercy and a new research building that tightly linked research and medicine,” recalled Curran, who also serves as professor of cancer biology at the KU School of Medicine and professor of pediatrics at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

Curran, a native of Scotland, confirmed his KC cred by likening Jensen to another local hero: “In this team environment, the

2009 \$8.1 million Kauffman Foundation grant (matched by KU Endowment) forms Institute for Advancing Medical Innovation to streamline development of drugs and biomedical devices. Kansas Bioscience

Authority awards \$29 million to support Cancer Center.

2010 Hall Family Foundation of Kansas City commits \$18 million to recruit top scientists and



fund Phase I clinical trials facility in Fairway. Researchers advance promising leukemia therapy to Phase I trials. \$1 million gift from Burns & McDonnell Foundation

launches High-Risk Prostate Cancer Screening Program, and \$12 million National Institutes of Health grant funds bid to improve cancer prevention in rural, Latino and American Indian communities in Kansas.

2011 Cancer Center reaches \$61 million fundraising goal. The University of Kansas Hospital’s cancer program named one of the nation’s best by U.S. News & World Report. On Sept. 19, University submits NCI application.



Cancer Center's achievement boosts regional economy

- Comprehensive designation is expected to create **195** new regional jobs: **89** at KU Cancer Center and **106** across the metro area.
- Since **2007**, the quest for NCI designation has resulted in regional economic impact estimated at **\$2.5 billion**, including **4,100** jobs created from 2007 to 2022 and **\$459 million** in federal research funding.

- The additional financial burden of out-of-state treatment has decreased for Kansas families. Before KU Cancer Center's NCI designation efforts, an estimated **15%** of Kansans diagnosed with cancer (about **1,500** annually) left the state for long courses of treatment, meaning expensive travel and lost paychecks for both patients and their family members. Jensen now estimates that within five years, fewer than **5%** of Kansans seeking cancer treatment will choose to leave the state.

quarterback plays a very important role. I don't know if you realize that nationally, Roy is known as that Patrick Mahomes of cancer research. ... The Kansas City region wrote the book on teamwork, and we should take some pride in that."

The transformation also could not have been possible without the complete metamorphosis of the Cancer Center's essential

clinical partner, The University of Kansas Health System. Jensen thanked system CEO Bob Page and Tammy Mauck Peterman, n'81, g'97, chief operating officer and Kansas City Division president, and the team who led the hospital's dramatic turnaround over the past 20 years. The KU Health System, including sites in several Kansas communities, now

ranks among the nation's best in patient satisfaction, caring for patients from all 105 counties, all 50 states and several other countries.

Peterman described recent health system milestones that helped propel the Cancer Center. "Just last December," she said, "we opened the three remaining floors of our Cambridge tower, designed by patients, physicians, nurses and other staff to make sure that we could meet the needs of our hematology patients, our acute leukemia patients and our cellular therapy patients."

Complementing the new hospital unit are revolutionary treatments the Cancer Center began offering last year, Jensen later explained. In March 2021, KU became the only site in the region to offer new treatments for patients with multiple myeloma, a blood cancer that affects about 30,000 people each year. CAR-T, or chimeric antigen receptor T-cell, is an immunotherapy that trains a patient's immune system to find and kill cancer cells. Dr. Joseph McGuirk, Schutte-Speas Professor of Hematology-Oncology and division director of hematologic malignancies and cellular therapeutics, leads the program.

"Our Cancer Center can lay claim," Jensen said, "to putting some of the first patients in the world on the pivotal trials that have led to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's approval of various CAR-T therapy vectors that have revolutionized the treatment of acute leukemia lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and multiple myeloma."

Jensen and Peterman also cited the opening in May of the Proton Therapy

2012 Kathleen Sebelius, g'80, secretary of U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, formally awards Cancer Center with NCI Cancer Center designation during a July 12 ceremony at the Robert E. Hemenway Life Sciences Center at KUMC.

2016 The Kansas Masons commit \$5 million to support the Midwest Cancer Alliance, the Cancer Center's outreach division, which changes its name to the Masonic Cancer Alliance. Hall Family Foundation commits \$8 million to



support pursuit of NCI comprehensive designation. In September, Cancer Center submits application for upgraded NCI status.

2017 National Cancer Institute renews the Cancer Center's NCI designation for another five years but denies the requested upgrade to

comprehensive status. Work begins immediately on another application for comprehensive designation.

2018 Cancer Center is recognized as a "high-performing site" by the National Cancer Institute.

“One out of every two men and one out of every three women will be diagnosed with cancer in our lifetime. And we aim to do nothing less at The University of Kansas Cancer Center than transform the entire cancer experience.”

—Dr. Roy Jensen

Center, which features a 747-airliner-sized machine that provides the region’s only precision treatment for patients with certain brain tumors, prostate cancers, and head and neck cancers (“Cancer Center’s BIG news,” issue No. 3, 2021). Leading the center is Dr. Ronald Chen, c’00, the Cancer Center’s associate director for health equity who also serves as Joe and Jean Brandmeyer Chair and Professor of Radiation Oncology. Chen left Harvard University in 2019 to join KU.

“The Proton Therapy Center will allow patients who maybe previously had traveled for therapy to never have to leave the region to receive the most advanced radiation therapy treatment available anywhere,” Peterman said.

Innovations in proton therapy and immunotherapy—and the NCI comprehensive designation itself—exemplify the advantages of academic medicine, she added. “I often get asked, ‘So what makes academic medicine just a little different?’” she said. “It’s bringing together the strengths of research and education and patient care. It’s that power that comes together to form academic medicine. It’s what’s best for patients.”

The combined enterprise also relies on the steadfast commitment of overall Uni-

versity leaders, said Jensen, who praised the “absolutely consistent, rock-solid” support of chancellors Robert E. Hemenway, Bernadette Gray-Little and Girod—who before succeeding Gray-Little in 2017 led KU Medical Center as executive vice chancellor for four years.

Jensen singled out two early leaders for their vision and courage: Barbara Atkinson, who preceded Girod as the Medical Center’s executive vice chancellor, and Hemenway, who guided KU from 1995 to 2009. As former chancellor, Hemenway celebrated KU’s first NCI designation in 2012; he lost his battle with Parkinson’s disease in 2015.

Jensen recalled that Atkinson had envisioned an NCI-designated cancer center, and she convinced Jensen to come to KU and lead the charge. “I owe her a great deal of gratitude for believing in me and recruiting me,” he said. “While it was Barbara’s vision to make this happen, it still probably would not have taken place without Bob Hemenway,” who in 2006 publicly declared that earning NCI designation was the University’s top priority—a bold gamble. “He had the guts to do it,” Jensen said. “I don’t know that he would have done it if I had told him it might take 20 years. ...

“When I think about it, I don’t even know of a place that would decide on a priority and then be willing to spend two decades to make it happen.”

Though Jensen deservedly relishes the achievement of NCI comprehensive designation, he also has set his sights on the next goal. “I have one more thing to ask,” he implored the audience: Imagine the day when the Cancer Center will move from its Fairway headquarters and return north down Rainbow Boulevard, back to the KU campus at 39th Street, where a new, 670,000-square-foot center will consolidate research and treatment programs as the center continues to serve even more families throughout the region.

The new home, Jensen said, “will define our cancer program for the 21st century. ... One out of every two men and one out of every three women will be diagnosed with cancer in our lifetime. And we aim to do nothing less at The University of Kansas Cancer Center than transform the entire cancer experience.”

Comprehensive designation will help fulfill that promise, he said, lifting KU to the highest echelon, “where The University of Kansas Cancer Center is one of those centers that is mentioned in the same breath as M.D. Anderson, Memorial Sloan Kettering, Dana Farber—you name the best cancer centers in the country, and that’s our next goal,” he concluded, “because ultimately our real goal is to eliminate this terrible disease from the face of the earth. That’s our dream.

“I hope you’ll join us.”

NCI’s High-Performing Site Initiative recognizes institutions that enroll a large number of patients in National Clinical Trials Network trials while demonstrating scientific leadership in the design and conduct of clinical trials.

2020 The Cancer Center’s status as a community site of the NCI’s Community Oncology Research Program is renewed following a successful first year in which the center’s team exceeds clinical

trial accrual goals by more than 22%.

2021 Cancer Center becomes only site in the region to offer CAR-T immunotherapy, and continues construc-

tion of Proton Therapy Center, which will enable advanced precision treatment for brain tumors, prostate cancers and head and neck cancers. In September, KU files 1,700-page application for comprehensive designation.

2022 Cancer Center earns NCI’s most prestigious status—comprehensive.





Amazing Views

THE OREAD

**1200 Oread Ave
Lawrence, Kansas**

OREAD FEATURES:

You're in great hands for your wedding plans - rehearsal dinner, ceremony, reception, send off brunch, and more!

Plan your next board retreat/event for your law office, your doctors office, or any office!

Views from our terraces are spectacular! Enjoy the 5th and 9th floor terraces for a cocktail hour and watch the sunset for your next group meeting!

Make it a family weekend and visit local attractions: The Jayhawk Experience, additional museums on campus, our downtown and Clinton lake for your outdoor adventure!

Kansas Sports



Business Retreats



Weddings



www.theoread.com
info@oliviacollection.com
(785) 843-1200



Beauty, Bernini and Beyoncé

Chloé Cooper Jones crafts a complex memoir to shift perceptions and conversations about appearances and expectations

by Kate Lorenz

Chloé Cooper Jones has almost reached the end of an hour-long signing at the Kansas release of her debut book, *Easy Beauty: A Memoir*, published in April by Avid Reader/Simon & Schuster, has been racking up national acclaim, earning spots on Oprah Daily's 50 Most Anticipated Books of 2022 and IndieWire's Indie Next lists, and receiving a Creative Nonfiction Grant from the Whiting Foundation and a Howard Foundation Grant from Brown University.

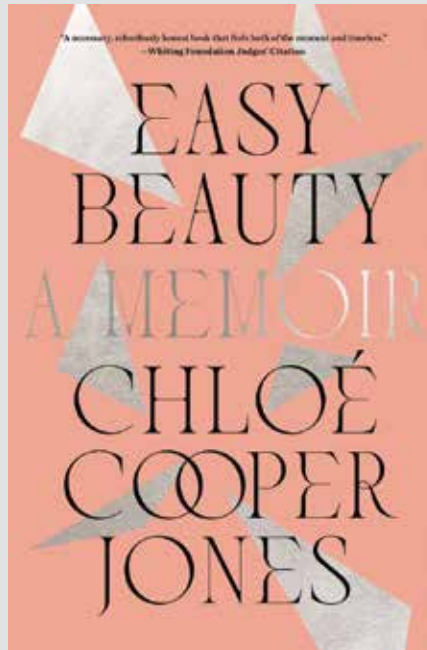
After a remarkable conversation between Jones and Raven Book Store owner Danny Caine, g'17, readers queuing up for a signature and a hello include Jones' friends from childhood, co-workers from her high school job at a movie theater, her mother, Merrilee Cooper, and several horseback-riding buddies—along with many people Jones has never met who eagerly share stories of how her writing has made them feel seen and understood.

Jones' 10-year-old son, Wolfgang, who kicked off the Q&A ("What was it like to write about all of this?"), comes over to request quarters for the bookstore's poetry vending machine. He inserts the coins, uncoils the scrap of paper from its plastic bubble, and reads the poem with a satisfied shrug.

As the line dwindles to a final few, Jones reunites with an elementary school classmate she hasn't seen in decades, reminiscing about how she named a dog after the classmate's father. "I named a lizard after you!" replies her friend.

This ability to connect with others gives Jones a singular approach as she explores the complex, challenging and rich terrain of her memoir.

Portrait by Andrew Grossardt



In *Easy Beauty*, Jones, g'09, PhD'12, writes about how others perceive her, and how she perceives herself, as someone navigating the world with a rare congenital disability. She was born with sacral agenesis, which shortens her stature, alters her walk and causes physical pain. Many scenes in the book show how Jones' visible differences prompt strangers to make false presumptions about her capabilities and offer help she has not requested.

Readers also see how these judgments extend far beyond awkward, sometimes hurtful everyday interactions. People convey their own presumptions and prejudices regarding what Jones would be expected to do in life, or more specifically, expected *not* to do: date, get married, have children or take certain career paths.

"It was very easy to write something that was directly speaking against that," Jones says. "I think I've also lived my life in resistance to that."

Long accustomed to sensing—and defying—judgments of her, Jones refused to consider others' opinions as she wrote her memoir. "The benefit is, I already know the negative things that people think about me," she says. "None of my mental energy goes to worrying about that in writing, because I just have to worry about that going to the grocery store."

Easy Beauty cycles in and out of the mundane and the exquisite, with moments of Jones experiencing iconic beauty of all kinds—classical art, dramatic natural vistas, Beyoncé's choreography—interspersed with scenes that depict the also quite beautiful reality of daily life: making breakfast for Wolfgang, teaching her liberal arts students and talking with friends.

The book begins with a short, forceful scene where Jones meets two friends at a Brooklyn bar. Instead of a jovial night out, she endures the two men matter-of-factly discussing "whether or not my life is worth living," Jones writes in the book's opening line. She listens to them debate whether, given scientific advancements, it is even ethical that disabled people should exist. Jones describes this painful experience and her lack of response. Later, she finds herself feeling complicit for not having spoken up to challenge their prejudices.

For Jones, the task of writing about vulnerable parts of her own life, including motherhood, felt like a crucial push against this complicity. "All I really want to do with this book is tell a story of a very full, complex, flawed but real life," she says. "I ask people to spend enough time with me that they have to at least acknowledge that, if not fully internalize that belief."

Lauren Wein, the book's editor, finds that perspective rare and revolutionary: "There's such an intimacy to it. She interrogates herself as much as anybody else."

Easy Beauty moves from the Brooklyn bar to a trip Jones took to Italy, filled with the kind of postcard-perfect beauty you'd expect from a travel narrative: shimmering lakes, dramatic balconies, Bernini's exquisite marble sculptures. But throughout the chapter, Jones describes her physical pain, her rejection of the way others regard her as helpless and her thoughts on how she has been excluded from beauty by classical definitions like symmetry and proportion. "My body did not fit into any narrative of order, proportion, plan," she writes.

Wein says that when she read Jones' proposal for the memoir, she "could not believe the intensity of the intellect and the emotion." Moments of humor also provide balance, she adds—as in a scene where Wolfgang, who has already become a neighborhood celebrity, calls out the trickery of a party magician. When a fish appears in a previously empty vessel, he says wisely, "The fish was in the base of the bowl the whole time." He skewers the magician's subsequent tricks, illusions involving a lemonade glass and a crumpled newspaper.

But Jones deftly switches back to her story's emotional center. At the party, she feels bonded to her son; they are both outside the magic. She writes, "We are united, safe, apart, against the scene but together." When Jones' husband, Andrew Grosardt, '14, questions whether Wolfgang might regret this non-participation, Jones contemplates the possibility of holding parallel perspectives. Would it be possible for Wolfgang to remain critical yet still connected to the world? Is it possible for Jones?

Jones grew up in Lawrence and Tonganoxie, but was born in Bangkok, Thailand, while her parents were teaching abroad. Doctors predicted her life's limitations: She would never walk. She might lose her legs. She certainly could never get pregnant. Jones writes, "My parents listened to the doctors, believed their predictions, and later I did, too."

To cope with physical pain, Jones used a technique, learned from an orthopedic surgeon, of retreating to a "neutral room," where she could break down and manage her discomfort. Eventually she began using this technique to remove herself from emotionally painful situations as well.

"I made people uncomfortable and sometimes they were cruel," she writes, "but the much more common experience was that people simply felt it was hard to include me and easier to leave me on the margins."

Jones also used another strategy for coping with this societal separation: excelling in school, work and art. "If only I could pile up enough good qualities," she writes, "they could obscure my unacceptable body."

Her work ethic arose from this self-determination, and from growing up with her mom, Merrilee, a farmer, horse trainer and elementary school teacher. Jones says she never saw her mother not working. In one standout scene from *Easy Beauty*, Jones describes a recent family vacation to Miami Beach, where her mom scans the hotel for chores to do and speculates about the difficulty of maintaining the planks on the boardwalk. ("What a nightmare," Merrilee says in the book, counting the nails in each board and imagining the maintenance person who would have to pull them all up.)

At this point in her life, Jones explores how she shaped parts of her self-perception in response to the discrimination she encountered. Theatre was an early passion. She starred in "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" at Liberty Hall and participated in Summer Youth Theatre at the Lawrence Arts Center.

After she moved to Eugene, Oregon, to live with her aunt during high school, Jones auditioned for "Fiddler on the Roof" at age 15. She aimed for Tzeitel, one of the lead roles, but after a blockbuster audition, she was cast as Villager No. 2. When

she requested the director's feedback, he said she had given the best audition but that nobody would believe her as a romantic lead.

In some ways, his assessment was ridiculous, Jones says—"None of us were authentic to these roles! It was a 16-year-old playing Tevye!"—but it cut deeply. "That was a huge heartbreak for me," Jones says, "but what's worse is how deeply I internalized that." She returned to Kansas to finish high school and shifted from performance to writing, thinking, "I can't do anything where my body will be visible."

As a writer, Jones could explore all the intellectual and artistic pursuits that interested her, but in ways she could more reliably control. After earning a degree in writing, literature and publishing from Emerson College in Boston, she pursued her master's degree in creative writing at KU, serving as the founding editor of Beecher's, the graduate students' literary journal now called LandLocked Magazine. She went on to complete her doctorate in philosophy of language.

Jones' graduate studies also coincided with a stunning surprise: She and Andrew were expecting a child. She writes, "I'd been told my whole life I couldn't get



The paperback edition of the memoir features Jones and her son, Wolfgang. She also recorded an audio version.

pregnant. The brain takes the facts that it is given and from them forms reality. I believed it to be true and so it was definitely true. Until it wasn't." Some of the most intimate and moving passages of *Easy Beauty* detail Jones' journey with pregnancy and motherhood, as she once again evaluates the space between what she has believed about herself and what is actually possible: an expansive life.

After Jones completed her first PhD, she moved with Andrew and newborn Wolfgang to start her second PhD at the City University of New York Graduate Center in Manhattan. She taught at three, four, five universities at a time to make ends meet, and she began her journalistic career, covering such varied events as the Sundance Film Festival and the U.S. Open tennis tournament.

No matter the topic, her writing has consistently earned national praise. Jones movingly wrote about her own disability in a GQ portrait of Argentine tennis player Juan Martín del Potro, who was struggling with persistent injuries. "Although we couldn't be more physically opposite ... the need to constantly manage pain is deeply embedded in both our lives. I have a chronic pain disorder, and in our time together, I've seen him wordlessly observe how my movement accommodates my physical discomfort."

Her essay was selected for *The Best American Sports Writing*.

She also devoted a year to reporting and writing an article detailing the life, arrest and treatment of Ramsey Orta, the man who in 2014 filmed Eric Garner's death at the hands of New York City police. The profile was selected as a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in Feature Writing.

Then came "Such Perfection," an essay in the McSweeney's-published bimonthly magazine *The Believer* that would form the basis for *Easy Beauty*. The piece combined Jones' journalistic writing, travel experience, philosophy scholarship and romantic history in a signature artistic statement that appeared in *The Best American Travel Writing* and received an honorable mention in *The Best American Essays*.

With her memoir, Jones seeks to change perceptions by sharing her story. As she applies philosophical conceptions of beauty to her life, she considers essayist and aesthetics scholar Elaine Scarry's view that seeing the beauty in the details and contours of one single object can help us understand beauty generally. Jones offers herself as an example

to observe. She even shares stories that may surprise her closest friends and loved ones. "I have a really clear objective when I'm talking about disability in a more public sense, which is to encourage others to see disabled lives as very full and possessing a tremendous amount of inherent value," she says.

"As specific as her story is, there's such a universality to how she articulates her experience," editor Lauren Wein says. After she shared Jones' proposal with her colleagues, "Everybody started coming to my office and telling me personal stories." And when *The New York Times Magazine* published an excerpt in April, readers expressed their heartfelt praise in online comments. "Your writing has made me feel a little bit less alone," wrote one. "Thank you for thinking these thoughts," commented another, "and assembling the language to express what for most of us is unsayable, unspeakable."

That sense of kinship and discovery emerged during Jones' national tour for *Easy Beauty*, as she recaptured the enjoyment she felt on stage years ago. "I had a very strong reaction," she says, "to the fact that essentially what I did for two straight months is perform."

After countless podcast interviews, Jones joined the ensemble of *Pop-Up Magazine*, a touring "live-action magazine" in which authors perform their work, accompanied by video, sound design and a live band. She read a new essay, "Why We Stare," in which she describes an interaction at an art museum that leads her to contemplate how people are changed when they take time to deeply regard one another.

During the performance, Jones confessed that she loathes turning the spotlight on herself. "She's sincere," says Rebecca Evanhoe, her friend and *Pop-Up* attendee, "but she's willing to put herself publicly in that discomfort because she learns something from it.

"And we do too." —

—KATE LORENZ, C'05,
is a freelance writer and editor. She also is senior director of events & audience services at the Lied Center of Kansas.





Ballard



Corman



Stroup

DAN STOREY (3)

ALUMNI AWARDS

Extraordinary dedication

Stalwarts to receive highest award for service to their alma mater

THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION will honor three Jayhawks for their faithful, longtime service to KU. John Ballard, Overland Park; Warren Corman, Lawrence; and Kala Mays Stroup, Lawrence, will receive the 2022 Fred Ellsworth Medallion Sept. 23 at the Burge Union in conjunction with the fall meeting of the Alumni Association’s national Board of Directors.

The Association created the award in 1975 in tribute to Fred Ellsworth, c’22, the organization’s longest-serving leader. He retired in 1963 after 39 years as executive director and secretary.

Ballard, b’73, recently retired as principal owner of Property Specialists Inc. in Leawood. During his years on the Hill, he played football for the Jayhawks, and he has remained committed to assisting student-athletes through the years. He volunteered from 1985 to 2003 as a mentor to men’s basketball team members who were coached by Larry Brown and Roy Williams. He also assisted in recruiting Bill Self to Kansas as Williams’ successor, and he worked closely with Self and fellow alumni from 2006 to ’08 to champion the

renovation of Jayhawker Towers Apartments for student-athletes. Most recently he served on the search committee in the hiring of Athletics Director Travis Goff, c’03, j’03. He is a longtime member of the Williams Education Fund for Kansas Athletics.

As a longtime donor, Ballard is a member of the Chancellors Club and Jayhawk Faithful for KU Endowment.

He has fulfilled vital leadership roles for the Alumni Association, leading the organization as national chair from 2018 to ’19 and serving on the Executive Committee during his six years on the board.

As a longtime member of Jayhawks for Higher Education, the Association’s state-wide legislative advocacy network, Ballard closely follows the Kansas Legislature and has ardently made the case for higher education funding. He is a member of the JHE Steering Committee. His dedication to advocacy and his abiding interest in Kansas politics recently led him to co-found Kansans for Higher Education, an independent political action committee that includes alumni of both KU and

Kansas State University who have joined forces to champion higher education and the far-reaching impact of both universities in driving economic growth and serving all Kansans. He co-chairs the group.

“John is such a great example of what Jayhawks can do and should do as advocates,” says Kelly Reynolds Whitten, c’04, KU director of state relations. “I’ve never seen a more dedicated Jayhawk, and I love to connect him with legislators because he is such a great, knowledgeable ambassador.”

Ballard has helped highlight KU’s growing presence in Kansas City, especially through KU Medical Center and The University of Kansas Cancer Center. With his wife, Cindy, he has attended numerous Rock Chalk Balls through the years. The Ballards co-chaired the ball in 2011. They also have attended the Jayhawk Roundup in Wichita and traveled with the Flying Jayhawks.

The Ballards donated a 3,000-year-old papyrus to KU’s Spencer Research Library after their son, Jake, b’01, took a religious studies course taught by Associate Professor Paul Mirecki. The Ballards had bought the papyrus at a fundraising event, and they enlisted Mirecki’s expertise to learn more about it; the professor identified it as a rare example of the ancient Gnostic gospels. The Ballard Papyrus is now part of the Spencer Library’s Special Collections.

Corman, e'50, made an enormous impact on KU and higher education through his 69-year career in architecture and engineering. He served as an architect for the State of Kansas, the Kansas Board of Regents and the University. In the 1970s he led efforts to pass pivotal laws that improved the integrity and efficiency of the state's process for selecting architectural, engineering and construction firms. He worked with Gov. Bill Graves in the 1990s to advocate for a bond issue to help address the staggering backlog of deferred maintenance projects among the 600 buildings in the Regents system. The measure passed both houses of the Legislature with only one dissenting vote.

"Warren knew politics, and he knew how to get things through the Legislature," recalls former Chancellor Archie Dykes, who led KU from 1974 to 1980. Dykes especially remembers Corman's leadership of the Bell Memorial Hospital construction at KU Medical Center in 1978, then the largest project in Kansas history. "That was a contentious fight because the doctors all had opinions about what they wanted, and Warren had to oversee that and push progress on construction to keep down cost overruns," Dykes says. "He did it marvelously, and you rarely had any outbursts of anger from the medical doctors, which I thought was pretty good. He saw it through to a successful conclusion."

Corman led hundreds of projects on nearly all KU campuses: Lawrence, Kansas City, Wichita, KU Edwards Campus in Overland Park and the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center in Yoder. The extensive list begins with one of KU's most exalted landmarks, Allen Field House, in 1955. Others include:

- Dole Institute of Politics
- Korean War Memorial
- Hall Center for the Humanities
- Danforth Chapel addition, renovation
- School of Pharmacy
- Multicultural Resource Center
- Anderson Family Football Complex

He also helped create the master plan for West Campus as well as signage and the master landscape plan for the Lawrence campus.

After working from 1966 to '97 for the Regents, Corman accepted Chancellor Robert E. Hemenway's offer to become University architect and his special assistant. Hemenway often asked Corman to find sites for new buildings and, in the case of the Multidisciplinary Research Building on West Campus, oversee the construction in record time.

For Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little, Corman served from 2012 to 2016 as consultant to the School of Engineering on the expansion of the school's complex at Naismith Drive and 15th Street.

Corman's previous KU honors include the Distinguished Engineering Service Award and Distinguished Alumnus of the School of Architecture & Design, a Lifetime Service Award from Kansas Athletics, and grand marshal of the 2011 Homecoming parade. He and his wife, Mary, c'73, also received the Spirit of 1912 Award during Homecoming 2019. For the Alumni Association, Corman, a World War II veteran who served in the Navy's Seabees, volunteers on the KU Veterans Alumni Network board.

Stroup, c'59, g'64, PhD'74, met Fred Ellsworth when he visited Great Bend, her hometown, to award her a scholarship to KU. Once on the Hill, she quickly emerged as a student leader, earning the Alumni Association's Agnes Wright Strickland Award and numerous other honors as a senior. After earning her bachelor's degree in speech and drama, she remained at KU for graduate school and began her long career as a standard-bearer among women in higher education, going on to lead two universities as president and later the Missouri Commission of Higher Education. She also founded the National Nonprofit Leadership Alliance, which prepares and certifies undergraduate and graduate students to guide nonprofit organizations.

When Stroup and her late husband, Joe, f'54, returned to Lawrence in 2010, she also returned to the classroom as a University Honors Program lecturer for nine years, creating courses on nonprofit and philanthropic leadership and advising scores of students. She received Mortar

Board's Outstanding Faculty Award and the program's Adviser Award.

From her own student years, Stroup credits honors program leader Professor Francis Heller and the incomparable Emily Taylor, dean of women, as pivotal influences. Stroup worked with Taylor as assistant dean of women, succeeding her as dean in 1975. Stroup also was selected as an American Council of Education Fellow to assist Dykes and the Board of Regents. "Kala is an extremely talented woman. She was not only a leader at KU, but she was a leader for women's causes everywhere," Dykes recalls. "Just think of all the lives she affected. ... She is no shrinking violet. She has strong opinions and values and she has lived by them."

Stroup left KU for Emporia State University, where she was the first woman vice president for academic affairs in the Regents system. In 1983, she became the first woman to lead Murray State University in Kentucky as president. In 1990, she became the first woman president of Southeast Missouri State University. In 1995, she took on oversight of Missouri's public colleges and universities as higher education commissioner.

Throughout her career, Stroup has volunteered for KU. She served on the Alumni Association's national Board of Directors from 1985 to 1990. For KU Endowment, she helped found and chaired Women Philanthropists for KU, and she is a member of the Chancellors Club and Jayhawk Faithful.

She also guided the Emily Taylor Women's Resource Center (now the Center for Gender Equity) as chair and led fundraising to establish an exhibition in the Kansas Union for the KU Women's Hall of Fame. As a longtime KU Libraries volunteer and donor, she chaired the advisory board.

Stroup in 2005 received the Distinguished Service Citation, then the highest award from KU and the Alumni Association. She holds honorary doctorates from five universities and was named a Distinguished Alumna of the KU School of Education and Human Sciences. She is a member of the KU Women's Hall of Fame.



CAMPUS

Welcome headway

Association's building project moves closer to completion

CREWS MADE MAJOR progress this summer on construction of the Jayhawk Welcome Center and renovation of the Adams Alumni Center. The new 30,000-square-foot JWC addition, the University's launching point for campus tours, is projected to be ready to welcome prospective students and their families by early 2023.

As of late August, much of the welcome center's interior work—including drywall, paneling, paint, tile and ceiling grids—was complete. Exterior paneling has been

installed, and the foundation wall, ramp, stairs and patio in front of the building's western facade have been poured. Meanwhile, demo work on the front of the Adams Center is finished, with construction of the new facade set to begin in September. Work is moving along inside the building, where painting, drywall and flooring work are underway.

This fall will bring installation of rooftop solar panels, interactive displays and terrazzo flooring. Association staff continue to consult closely with KU and gen-

eral contractor McCownGordon, Helix Architecture + Design, and Dimensional Innovations, the firm creating the exhibits. The Association team also is developing a facilities operations plan to prepare for opening day.

"Our team has had so much fun working to help make the Jayhawk Welcome Center and renovated Adams Alumni Center a reality," says Heath Peterson, d'04, g'09, Alumni Association president. "Every time I walk through the building to observe the progress, I think of the many Jayhawks who worked together to create a new first impression for KU. We anticipate being open for business in early 2023 and can't wait to welcome the Jayhawk family to our new home on the Hill."



DAN STOREY (2)

The Association's national Board of Directors viewed construction progress in April.

Board of Directors

CHAIR

Keturah Harding Pohl, f'04, g'08, Findlay, Ohio

CHAIR-ELECT

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Julie Garney Andrews, j'95, Waukee, Iowa

Sasha Flores Boulware, c'98, g'00, Fairway

F. Taylor Burch, p'88, g'98, PharmD'09, Lantana, Texas

Chancellor Douglas A. Girod, (ex officio), Lawrence

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

David R. Hoese, e'86, Chicago

Jay A. Kerutis, c'82, Mesa, Arizona

Keturah Harding Pohl, f'04, g'08, Findlay, Ohio

DIRECTORS TO 2023

Sasha Flores Boulware, c'98, g'00, Fairway

F. Taylor Burch, p'88, g'98, PharmD'09, Lantana, Texas

Brenda Roskens Dicus, b'83, Topeka

Eric S. Edell, c'76, m'81, Rochester, Minnesota

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

David R. Hoese, e'86, Chicago

Peter S. Johnston, c'94, l'97, Salina

Jay A. Kerutis, c'82, Mesa, Arizona

Rosa Aguirre Mitchell, s'85, Elkhart

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

DIRECTORS TO 2024

Julie Garney Andrews, j'95, Waukee, Iowa

Joseph C. Courtright, p'89, Little Rock, Arkansas

Allen K. Fee, c'84, Hutchinson

Jacqueline Sloan Hall, b'75, Sublette

Keturah Harding Pohl, f'04, g'08, Findlay, Ohio

Clint M. Rogers, b'98, '19, Ellsworth

Jody Bosch Sellers, p'81, Council Grove

DIRECTORS TO 2025

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

Bobb Meckenstock, c'76, Hays

Jessica Nelson Palm, j'11, Overland Park

Ryan Pfeiffer, j'02, Prairie Village

Becky Nettels Sloan, '85, Pittsburg

Lisa Evans Tuchan, d'74, Bethesda, Maryland

DIRECTORS TO 2027

Tamara Huff Johnson, c'12, Bel Aire

Jonathan Ng, c'03, j'03, Bethesda, Maryland

During the pandemic, board members could choose to extend their terms by one additional year, and the Association suspended nominations and elections in 2021.

For more information on board members and staff, visit kualumni.org



Want a **cool hat** to show your Jayhawk pride?



We've got this! Made of breezy 100% cotton, the **KU bucket hat** features a printed Jayhawk emblem and is machine washable. Not only will you look stylish, you'll also stay safe in the sun!

Join, renew, upgrade your membership or donate \$30, and we'll send you this fun item.

Act fast! These won't last long!
Visit kualumni.org/join

KU Kickoff



STEVE PUPPE (3)

More than 5,000 spirited Jayhawks converged on Corinth Square Aug. 12, when the Association and Kansas Athletics hosted the annual KU Kickoff in Prairie Village. Coach Lance Leipold previewed the football season and urged alumni and friends to cheer the team in David Booth Kansas Memorial Stadium. Other speakers included Chancellor Doug Girod, Athletics Director Travis Goff and Association President Heath Peterson, who touted KU's 110th Homecoming, Sept. 26-Oct. 1.

PAUL LIM



Endacott Society welcome

THE ASSOCIATION'S Endacott Society, for retired faculty and staff, on July 3 hosted a picnic for Ahmad Baset Azizi, u'22, c'22, and his family. Azizi's parents and three sisters in August 2021 fled Afghanistan on one of the last flights out of Kabul, and in late April finally made it to the U.S. They were just in time

to attend Baset's KU graduation, at which he was honored with the Board of Class Officers' Campanile Award. The Azizi family has since settled in Overland Park.

New staff member

RYLIE KOESTER, c'20, j'20, followed the same path as her four older sisters—from their hometown of Hoisington to graduating from KU, where she earned degrees

in journalism and English. She joined the Association this spring as digital specialist to share the diverse stories of alumni in online communications, drawing on her journalism background. Outside of work, she enjoys playing sports, live music and spending time with her friends, family and cat, Toast.



DAN STOREY

Koester

New Life Members



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

Radhia Abdirahman
Wilhelmus A.J. Anemaat
Tyler L. Bachman
Jared S. Baruth
Mark G. Bauer
Nancy Simons Bean
Tate E. Benson
Brian D. Bishop
Tarik Black
Brandon M. Blount
Michael Brixey
Marilyn Boon Broege
Grace Endacott Brooks
Carolyn M. Burchfield
Michael W. Burns
Susan M. Burns
Kelly Norris Cerny
Kirby D. Clark
Samantha M. Collins-Payne
& Jarett G. Payne
James Cook
Abby Crow Corrin
Joseph P. Creighton
Elissa Crossland
Emily Curl
Carole A. Davis-Dawson
& Randal D. Dawson
Julia Doyle
Calvin L. & Madison Root
Dugan
Jennifer D. England
Ashley Eshnaur
Emily Hubert Espinoza &

Oscar P. Espinoza
Jacob T. & Sarah Pickert
Faflick
Andrew J. Fischer
Jeffrey A. Fischer
Gregory S. Flinn
James D. Fotopoulos
Jason M. Franchuk
Dylan Freberg
Joel E. & Diana Seely
Frederick
Rochelle Moore Freed &
Jordan W. Freed
Jocelyn M. Freeman
Patricia A. Freeman
Andrea M. Froese
Diana M. Gaddis
Jonelle D. Gamble
Megan E. Gannon
Julie A. Gasper
Derek A. & Katie Gates
Emily A. Glassner
Jason D. Glidden
Michael J. Hageman
& JoAnn M. Hageman
Gerald B. Hahn
& Kelley J. Shankel
Roger O. Haviland
Madison L. Heimsoth
Susan D. Helbert
Charles P. Herro
Meri Smith Hill
Suzanne Hite

Linda D. Hogg-Wood
Annissa Huhn
Jason Hunt
Oluwatoyin M. John
Diane Oliver Joseph
Jaclyn Kaulentis
Rebecka M. Keesling
Tracy Wetta Kelting
& Eric M. Kelting
Kristopher D. Kennedy
Judy Desch Ketteler
Autumn Kirtland
Isabella B. Koscal
Linda K. Krug
William B. Langan
Brad K. Lanpher
Wendy L. Lara
& Jose L. Ruiz
Erin L. Latimer
Tianchen Li
Lawrence R. Lindberg
Barry J. Linnens
Louis Edgar Llorence
Jeff Lockhart
Amie Kruse Long
Kimberly M. Lovell
Jennifer K. Lynch
Lori E. Maddox
Brian Madrigal
Marzena S.
Majewski-Button
Allison S. Malicoat

Michael J. Malin
& Susan C. Sharp
Tiffany M. Martel
& Justin Lorenz
Daniel J. Martin
Lynn P. Mattson
E. Irene McCollom
Mary Rachel McGonigle
Cameron Nicole McKinney
Nicholas K. McMullen
Madison R. Meade
Kelly J. Meerpohl
Miles H. Mendeloff
Mary Jo Milton
Veronica Miranda
Bradley M. Monahan
Andrew A. Moore
Sarah L. Moore
Chandler L. Morris
Patrick W. Morton
David G. Mougakos
Steven A. Neville
Michael T. & Barbara Nicco
Laura Currie Nichols
Kristopher J. Nielsen
Garrison R. Niemann
Greta M. Olsen
Robert J. Parks
Justin L. Patrick
James D. & Leslie D. Peltier
Jason J. Petty
Vernon E. Pitchlyn
James R. Popper
Srinivasan Ragothaman
Jennifer S. Ray
Bernd Reckmann
John M. Regan
Samuel W. Rinke
Piper E. Rogers
Steadman Rogers
Sarina M. Russo
Elisabeth L. Sadler
Lauryn J. Sall
Lillian M. Schenk

Taylor M. Schreiner
Scott W. Scoopmire
Kaylene J. Seaman
Lacy Imhoff Sestak
Emily Seyfarth
Rachel A. Shannon
Kathy Shields
Cynthia A. Spilker
Mike Spurlock
James D. Starkey III
Leah C. Stein
Jill M. Steinbrink
Fanny Steinlage
Theodore J. Stimach
Steven R. Strubberg
Katie Lula Studt
& Jeremy A. Studt
Kallista G. Tamme
Nicole R. Tarpein
Norma R. Tolle
Gaylene Cook Tunison
Janice K. Van Sickle
Chloe Vornholt
Elizabeth A. & Scott A.
Wadle
Garret Walker
Gregory Walker
Paul Walsh
Dundeago Warren
Jennifer Weidling
Morgan E. Wells
Colin C. White
Kelli J. Wilkerson
Rex & Nancy J. Winter
Mary Linna Woods
Colin L. Wreath
Adam M. Yarnevich
Bradley D. Yendro



**Become a
Life Member today!**

**Members ignite student and alumni success and
career growth! Visit kualumni.org/join.**

Jayhawk Profiles



MEKA WHITE MORRIS

Baseball exec champions vision of inclusive future

by CHRIS LAZZARINO

When Minnesota Twins president and CEO David St. Peter introduced Meka White Morris, j'04, as the club's first chief revenue officer, he cited her "pedigree and passion." Morris' passion for the work is evident in a varied career across sports and entertainment, intertwined industries now embracing technology to boost user experiences; the pedigree St. Peter referenced was a nod to her late father, basketball legend Jo Jo White, '69.

Morris devoted her years on the Hill to studying strategic communications and competing as a sprinter on the track and field team. After graduation, she worked as an intern for the Boston Celtics. Her father had reunited with the Celtics in 2000 as director of special projects.

"Everybody needs help. Everybody needs a hand. I don't care what you do, somebody opened a door at some level," Morris says. "There is no shame in having somebody who cares about you open a door, but, my gosh, if they're willing to open it, you have

a responsibility to step through it and work your tail off and deliver."

The topic is important to Morris because she now views her business success as an opportunity to inspire others. Even with a world-famous father, Morris explains, she still battled through barriers—including workplace harassment—and she hopes those who follow can see in her the evidence that they can do the same.

"That is 100% at the top of my priority list," Morris says. "I don't do this for the glory; I do it for the impact. This isn't about me, and when you get to a certain level in your career, it can't be, frankly. It's got to be about something other than your personal trajectory. You have a stage and a platform to make an impact for all people, and that's really my goal, but in particular with young women of color, so they have somebody to point to, to know that it's possible.

"That wasn't afforded me. It was hard to get here. It was hard to find champions and people to look at and mimic and understand trajectory and opportunity. And so I have not just a desire, but a responsibility—frankly, an obligation—to create a road map and a path forward for people who look like me."

Morris built her career in sales roles

After 10 years working in pro sports and another decade in entertainment and tech, Meka White Morris says she's learned to value "diversity of thought," so colleagues of different backgrounds "can pressure-test an idea from multiple angles."

with Learfield, Legends Hospitality, Live Nation Entertainment, and the Charlotte Hornets, Oakland Raiders and Cleveland Cavaliers. In March 2020 she became chief revenue officer at Tappit, a U.K.-based mobile solutions company then breaking into the U.S. sports market.

Despite the challenges of navigating COVID restrictions, Morris helped Tappit forge alliances with four pro sports franchises and a leading collegiate marketing company. Her success landed Morris on Sports Business Journal's Forty Under 40 list and attracted the attention of the Minnesota Twins, who in August 2021 hired her as senior vice president: "[We] are excited to see," St. Peter said, "how her innovative approach will help drive us collectively forward in the coming years."

Morris explains that a chief revenue officer's role is to "make sure we maintain all the ways that we make money, but also innovate and create new ways to make money." How do fans buy tickets, interact with food and beverage concessions, and respond to marketing from the club's corporate sponsors? Are TV and other media contracts as robust as they could be?

Even with a team as reliably consistent and popular in its home market as the Twins, legacy loyalty and even on-field success are no longer enough to assure financial success, especially during what Morris terms "shoulder periods," when a team is not a title contender.

A particular challenge, Morris says, is attracting younger and more diverse fans, many of whom eagerly purchase tickets for "once-in-a-lifetime epic events," yet are unlikely to attach themselves for the long haul of 81 home games.

"I'm a big believer in technology," Mor-

ris says. “Not because it’s slick and cool and feels cutting-edge, but because the biggest thing that we need, as an industry, is data. We need to know who is in our buildings, we need to know who is buying what and when, and we need to know when certain groups are coming in and for what purpose and why other groups are *not* coming in. The best way to do that is through data.”

Morris joined the Twins because she’s convinced the organization is “excited about the evolution of the sport that we love.” While she hopes to be a role model to individuals, Morris also expects the Twins to do the same at the corporate level.

“And not just talking about it, but actually living out the truth of what that means, and being a model for what an inclusive, forward-thinking, diverse and technologically advanced organization can be—not just for baseball, but for sports. There’s a lot of organizations out there saying that they want that, but are they actually doing the work to have it?”

“I would argue vehemently that the Twins are really putting their effort and resources where their mouth is, and it’s exciting to be a part of it. It’s exciting to see a vision for what the future can be, how we will evolve over time to get there and really set the standard for the venue and baseball experience going forward.”

FRANK FANTINI

DJ spotlights country songs forgotten or never known

by STEVEN HILL

As the host of Dollar Country, a podcast radio show that originates in the basement of his Cleveland home, Frank Fantini explores uncharted corners of the country music world, drawing on his collection of 5,000 singles gleaned from estate sales, flea markets and the dusty dollar bins of record stores to play tunes even the most dedicated country fans probably can’t name.

“I usually describe it as hits and misses from the golden age of country music,” says Fantini, ’11, who calls himself Frank the Drifter on his DIY jamboree. “Country has a lot of baggage for a lot of people, so I try to let everyone know I’m playing older, classic country—local and regional stuff that perhaps they’ve never heard.”

A select few contemporary artists earn airtime, but mostly he favors music from the 1950s, ’60s and ’70s. “Golden age can be anywhere from Hank Williams to Merle Haggard,” Fantini says.

Not that the artists he features are anywhere near as well known as those icons: The only place these obscure troubadours

were ever household names was their mama’s.

Consider Wayne Caddell and his single “Country Fried,” a locally pressed record from the Omaha-Sioux City area. “It’s a song about playing country music and drinking beer and smoking weed and having a good time,” Fantini says. “From what I can tell, the guy only released that one thing, and I was the first person to uncover and play it on the internet. I think of that as one of the hallmarks of Dollar Country, discovering and sharing stuff like that.”

The show is an expression of Fantini’s long love affair with music and radio, which started before he moved to Lawrence in second grade. An uncle in Delaware—an old radio hand with a long career in the industry—had his own pirate station, a transmitter he kept in a shed out back and fired up once or twice a year. In middle school, Fantini and everyone he knew were fans of 105.9 The Lazer’s rock format, but as he got older he shifted to KU’s student-run station, KJHK. His favorite show was the heavy metal program Malicious Intent.

“That was the cool thing to do, because KJ was playing stuff we couldn’t hear anywhere else,” Fantini recalls. “That was where I could hear metal and hip-hop. Listening to KJ expanded the world of music that I thought was even possible.”

While attending KU he became a DJ at the station, for a time co-hosting Malicious Intent. He also worked at Love Garden Sounds, the downtown Lawrence vinyl haven, and began collecting country 45s he discovered in the store’s dollar bin. The bargain tunes weren’t bad, just underappreciated, he decided, and the gulf between metal crunch and country twang wasn’t as gaping as he’d expected.

“Some of the do-it-yourself instincts like releasing your own music and being your

“I try to remember that each record I find was somebody’s hopes and dreams,” says Frank Fantini, host of Dollar Country, a podcast devoted to offbeat performers.



COURTESY FRANK FANTINI

own advocate that are really prevalent in metal and punk are also prevalent in old country music,” Fantini says. “I always liked stuff that was lo-fi and sounded homemade, and there’s a lot of that in the old honky-tonk sound, because a lot of it was recorded before modern recording techniques.”

That DIY ethos carries over to Dollar Country, which he records three or four times a month amid his basement trove of singles, sequencing the music and the between-song patter in one go like a live radio broadcast.

“It’s all stuff I own,” Fantini says. “That’s one of my rules. Except for very, very unique circumstances, it has to be something I actually have in hand, and I play everything directly from the record.”

The production of Dollar Country may be decidedly analog, but Frank the Drifter is tech savvy when it comes to distribution. Fantini makes each hourlong program available to his 7,000 Instagram followers and Patreon supporters, and uploads the show to Public Radio Exchange, an online distribution hub for public radio content. Stations in Alaska, California, Virginia and West Virginia have broadcast Dollar Country, as have several stations in Australia.

“I’m of the generation that experienced radio when it was still a big deal,” Fantini says, “because you couldn’t just log on to the internet and listen to any song whenever you wanted. Now you can find almost any major label, band or song on Spotify or YouTube or pretty much anywhere.”

With one foot in the days when radio was king and one in the podcast era, Dollar Country is an approach to music discovery that holds there are good reasons to look beyond the endless scroll of the infinite playlist. Undiscovered gems—rough and unpolished, to be sure, but worth a listen nonetheless—are out there.

“What I’m trying to do,” Fantini says, “is present things you won’t hear anywhere else, things that—without my show—there’s a very good possibility you would’ve never heard at all.”

Listen at dollarcountry.org.

SHAYLE HIRSCHMAN

Space dreams realized with reliable systems

by CHRIS LAZZARINO

Retired electrical engineer Shayle Hirschman, who spent his career designing electronics and computing systems able to withstand the rigors of spaceflight, is justifiably proud when he proclaims that in 2017 and ’18 three of his creations were orbiting Earth at the same time: a Nanoracks satellite payload, the Hubble Space Telescope’s repaired camera sensors, and, most notably, the International Space Station’s systems control computers.

And yet Hirschman’s tally does not even include the James Webb Space Telescope, which in July unleashed upon its amazed terrestrial audience previously unimagined views of deep space.

“It’s incredible. It’s 10 times better than Hubble,” Hirschman, e’82, says from his home in Phoenix, where he’s been retired since chronic fibromyalgia forced an abrupt end to his professional career. “It’s just amazing what we do. You can go into law, you can go into politics, medicine, all kinds of things, but space and science are totally evidence-based and totally about truth.”

Hirschman’s connection with the Webb telescope is, to be fair, a bit tangential: While working at Teledyne Scientific & Imaging in 2007 and ’08—one of the half-dozen jobs Hirschman held after launching his career with 10 years at Martin Marietta Astronautics—Hirschman engineered the microprocessor for focal-plane controls that astronauts aboard

space shuttle Atlantis installed on Hubble in 2009.

Hubble has worked flawlessly ever since, and the next-generation chip he designed was further developed for deployment aboard the Webb telescope. He chose to hand that assignment off to a young colleague so he could move to Houston to begin a four-year stint with Boeing Defense, Space & Security as technical lead and computer systems architect for modernization of the space station’s obsolete avionics and scientific systems—a project initially budgeted at \$40 million that doubled in size as the breadth of necessary changes became apparent.

“It used late ’70s technology that was built in the early ’80s, and they never upgraded,” Hirschman explains. “They spent all those years building the space station, assembling the pieces, and once they got it all together, they saw that they had to upgrade all the components. Once they started getting all the science experiments running, they didn’t have the bandwidth they needed anymore.”

The updated computer control systems went online in 2013, and Hirschman says that not only have they performed as expected, but the scalable system was recently certified to continue operations through 2030.

“That was a must-not-fail, cannot-fail project. People’s lives are on the line, but I was fully qualified and fully confident in myself because of my experience and my abilities,” Hirschman says. “I think that everything I did all through my life, from age 8, messing around with Radio Shack electronics kits, all the way through college, every company I worked at, gave me the right experience for that position.”



As with all electronics and avionics systems destined for space, control chips that Shayle Hirschman designed for the Hubble Space Telescope, which were later upgraded for use on the James Webb Space Telescope, had to be rugged: “They must work to almost absolute zero—very cold temperatures—with very little power consumption, and they can’t interfere with infrared for the telescopes.”

COURTESY SHAYLE HIRSCHMAN



STEVE PUPPE

Morgan Georgie (left) and Carrie Kiefer founded Ampersand Design in Kansas City.

Once the space station contract concluded, Hirschman left Boeing to work for a series of smaller space-systems companies. When forced into early retirement by ill health, he chose to dedicate his time, expertise and \$35,000 of his personal savings to designing and building 12 speed-of-light measurement kits for outreach programs at STEM-oriented high schools—motivated in part by rewarding experiences he’d had earlier in his career teaching night-school engineering courses at local colleges.

“I always tried to participate in community things,” Hirschman says, “as my way of giving back.”

MORGAN GEORGIE & CARRIE KIEFER

Designer duo’s flair fuels Ampersand studio

by JENNIFER JACKSON SANNER

A friendship that first bloomed during a semester of study abroad has grown into a thriving creative partnership, Ampersand Design Studio, a Kansas City-based company led by Morgan Shaw Georgie and Carrie Giffen Kiefer. Together they produce colorful, contemporary stationery, home decor and accesso-

ries for sale in local shops and nationally through Free People, Target, Crate & Kids, West Elm and other retailers.

Georgie and Kiefer were senior visual design majors at KU when the department launched an exchange program with students from Stoke-on-Trent, England. “We ended up living together while we were there, so we got to know each other really well,” recalls Georgie, f’00. “We went to school and traveled all over, to Italy and France. It was just a wild adventure.”

After graduation, the two worked as designers for Hallmark. As they created gift wrap and partyware, they were drawn to surface pattern design for paper and fabrics. “Learning the craft, we fell in love with it,” says Kiefer, f’00. Soon they began dreaming of their own joint venture. While still at Hallmark, they started a blog “to collect our trend research and get in the habit of creating for ourselves,” Kiefer says.

In 2010, the blog became Ampersand. For one of their first big clients, Land of Nod (now part of Crate & Kids), the partners created children’s room decor, including rugs, bedding, wall art, pillows and lamps.

No matter the product, their style is bold, bright and whimsical, recalling the cut-paper creations of their favorite artist, Henri Matisse, whose home in Nice, France, the two visited during their semes-

ter abroad. “His house was small, but it was so cool to see, to gaze out his window,” Kiefer says. “And just to walk the streets where he had walked was inspiring.”

These days they draw inspiration closer to home, from visits to the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, galleries, restaurants, magazines and even their own children’s drawings. They started their families as they started their business, so those early years were “busy and blurry,” says Georgie, whose sons are 11 and 8. Kiefer’s two sons and daughter are 11, 8 and 5.

For Ampersand, the two share design duties and divvy up the more practical aspects of the business with two additional employees and one contractor. A Kauffman Foundation program for entrepreneurs and several trusted mentors also provided guidance. While they work with national distributors to produce some items as part of selected brands, Georgie and Kiefer seek local firms to produce Ampersand’s glassware, T-shirts, greeting cards and new line of tote bags. In Kansas City, their goods are sold at three Made in KC Marketplace locations and other local stores; they also hope to move and expand their studio to include their own retail space. While they pursue that goal, “Our focus right now is expanding our own personal line that we’re selling to wholesalers and little boutiques across the country,” Kiefer says, “and doing more stationery, more homeware.”

Also on their list are more textiles, and perhaps games, puzzles or a children’s book. Georgie and Kiefer are confident that the friendship that began at KU—and the partnership that blossomed from their shared talents and tastes—will continue to grow.

“People often ask, ‘Should I go into business with my best friend?’ And we say, ‘Well, probably not,’” Georgie says. “We don’t know that it will work for anyone else, but it has been the most amazing relationship for us. We get to work with our best friend every day.”

“We’ve had lots of ups and downs and all kinds of stuff in our lives, but this has always been the constant. We’re really fortunate.”

1948 Bettie Geis Batt, d'48, will celebrate her 96th birthday Oct. 5. She is a retired teacher and lives in Marion. An avid college sports fan, Bettie enjoyed watching the men's basketball teams from both of her alma maters, KU and Baylor, win the national championship the past two years. Bettie has a daughter, **Shelley Batt Wiest**, g'83, PhD'84, two grandchildren and a great-granddaughter.

1952 William Turner, b'52, l'60, wrote the children's novel *A Goat of a Different Color* and the novel *The Italian Awakening*. A retired attorney, William lives in Los Angeles and in 2021 received the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award.

1959 Lynn Miller, c'59, g'62, co-authored the book *Salut! France Meets Philadelphia*, which won the 2020 Art & Architecture Literary Award from the Athenaeum of Philadelphia. He is professor emeritus of political science at Temple University.

1960 Tom Herlocker, c'60, l'63, is a retired attorney and municipal court judge. He and his wife, **Judy Gildehaus Herlocker**, d'61, live in Winfield, where Tom practiced

law his entire career and served as deacon at Grace Episcopal Church.

1963 Marie Thompson Alkire, g'63, in February was inducted into the U.S. Biathlon Association Hall of Fame. She was the first woman to coach an Olympic biathlon team, serving as shooting coach for the 1984 U.S. team.

1964 Richard Scharine, g'64, PhD'73, professor emeritus of theatre at the University of Utah, wrote *The Past We Step Into*, a collection of short stories. He lives in Salt Lake City.

1966 Jerry Brizendine, p'66, retired as a pharmacist at Walgreens. He lives in Lawrence with his wife, **Jeanine**, c'85, p'85, PharmD'08.

1968 Robert Vancrum, c'68, retired as an attorney. He and his wife, **Joyce Lynch Vancrum**, d'68, live in Overland Park.

1969 Russell Berlin Jr., g'69, retired as music director and conductor of the Lee's Summit Symphony Orchestra in Lee's Summit, Missouri. He co-founded the orchestra in 2003 and was a music instructor in the Lee's Summit

School District from 1969 to 1999.

William Coates Jr., c'69, l'72, has practiced law for 50 years and is an adjunct faculty member in the School of Law, where he has taught trial advocacy for 20 years. Bill and his wife, **Kathryn Hillyard Coates**, d'72, live in Prairie Village and enjoy spending time with their grandchildren.

Richard Pepler, PhD'69, retired as vice dean and associate dean for faculty and academic affairs at the University of Central Florida College of Medicine.

Irma Stephens Russell, c'69, g'72, d'74, l'80, received the School of Law's Distinguished Alumni Award. She is the Edward A. Smith/Missouri Chair in Law, the Constitution, and Society at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Irma returned to KU this spring as Distinguished Visiting Professor in the law school.

1970 Kent Cox, PhD'70, m'75, retired as an otolaryngologist. He and his wife, Adrienne, live in Flagstaff, Arizona.

Kenneth Johnson, g'70, owns Johnson Insurance Consulting in Des Moines, Iowa, where he has been principal consultant for over 30 years. He has written several books,

including *Kansas University Basketball Legends and More University of Kansas Basketball Legends*. Kenn has two daughters, **Heidi Johnson Puckett**, d'89, and **Cassity Johnson Gross**, f'91; a son, Eric; and eight grandchildren.

Jim Ryun, j'70, in June was inducted into the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association's Collegiate Athlete Hall of Fame. The three-time Olympian, five-time NCAA champion and former member of Congress was among 30 inductees in the inaugural class.

C. Ashby Shoop, c'70, is chief systems engineer at Boeing. He lives in St. Louis.

1971 John Schwaller, g'71, wrote the book *The Stations of the Cross in Colonial Mexico*. He is a research associate in Latin American studies and history at KU.

Steven Wilhelm, d'71, l'74, an attorney in San Diego, in May received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Association of Top Professionals.

1972 Edward O'Brien, c'72, is professor emeritus at Marywood University in Scranton, Pennsylvania. He retired in July after teaching in

School Codes

- a** School of Architecture and Design
- b** School of Business
- c** College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- d** School of Education and Human Sciences
- 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
- DNAP** Doctor of Nursing Anesthesia Practice
- 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



A great move for KU Alumni

As a University of Kansas graduate, you and qualifying family members may be eligible for senior living discounts that can help you get the care you deserve. You could experience a senior living lifestyle with restaurant-style dining, housekeeping, laundry, concierge services and more, with special savings available for University of Kansas alumni.

SENIOR LIVING:

7.5%
OFF

monthly fee/basic
service rate*

IN-HOME SERVICES:

10%
OFF

service rate for
In-Home services**

SHORT-TERM STAY:



**DISCOUNTED
RATES VARY BY
COMMUNITY*****



► For more information, call **(866) 749-7445** or visit **Brookdale.com/kualumni**.

Applicable to all discounts: Residents under a Life Care Agreement are not eligible for the discounts. These discounts do not apply to any room, board or services which are paid for all or in part by any state or federally funded program. Subject to availability. Further restrictions may apply.

Discounts are available to you and your family members, including spouses, parents, stepparents, siblings, in-laws, adult children, adult stepchildren, grandparents and step-grandparents.

*Discounted rate valid for new residents who are University of Kansas alumni members or immediate family members of alumni. Discount applies only to the Monthly Rate or Basic Service Rate, excluding care costs and other fees. All fees are subject to the terms of the residency agreement. The discount does not apply to any fees which are paid for all or in part by any state or federally funded program. Further restrictions may apply. **Discount is only applicable to a new client of personal assistance services by a Brookdale agency under an executed service agreement. ***Discount is only applicable to new residents of a Brookdale assisted living or memory care community admitting under an executed respite agreement. Discount applies to the daily rate.

641870 JM

©2022 Brookdale Senior Living Inc. All rights reserved. BROOKDALE SENIOR LIVING is a registered trademark of Brookdale Senior Living Inc.  

brookdale.com

 **BROOKDALE**
SENIOR LIVING



SUMNER ONE

Welcome to the one place where everything works.

Imagine if technology got out of the way of your success.

SumnerOne is a managed service company that makes your document, print, and information technology work together seamlessly.

When you work with us, your team is able to collaborate, create, discuss, and share freely. We bring your biggest ideas to life in print.

No matter what your business needs, we've got you covered.

Proudly Partnered With:

Canon

KONICA MINOLTA

Duplo



xerox

PaperCutMF[®]

KYOCERA

Services

Production Print Solutions

Large Format Printers & Scanners

Managed Print Services

Managed Voice Services

Enterprise Content Management

Multifunction Printers & Scanners

Workgroup Printers & Scanners

Contact a SumnerOne representative today at 913.599.0299 or kansascity@sumnerone.com.



KANSAS FOOTBALL

UPCOMING GAMES



SCAN HERE FOR \$20 TICKETS



SEPT. 24

FAMILY WEEKEND



OCT. 1

HOMECOMING



SCAN HERE FOR \$25 TICKETS

the psychology and counseling department for 41 years. In May he received the Distinguished Alumni Award from Labette Community College in Parsons.

James "Lyn" Reavis Jr., c'72, g'74, is vice president of environmental and infrastructure at Clean Hydrogen Works in Grand Prairie, Texas.

1974 Judith Sabbert, c'74, g'76, wrote *Daring to Dance Again: Pearls of Wisdom for a Soul-Filled Life*, a compilation of personal stories. She lives in Overland Park.

1975 Daniel Logan, c'75, concluded 15 years on the faculty of the University of Florida College of Medicine, where he was a professor in the addiction medicine division. He contin-

ues a part-time telemedicine practice, and he and his wife, Gladys Cofrin, split their time between Florida and Maine.

Tom Wiggins, p'75, in April received the School of Pharmacy's Distinguished Service Award. A veteran biopharmaceutical executive, he is chair and CEO of Pardes Biosciences in Carlsbad, California.

1976 Robert Brook, PhD'76, retired as a forensic psychologist. He lives in Santa Monica, California.

Debbie Kruegel-Farr, c'76, g'82, wrote the book *E.N.R.I.C.H. Your Relationship With Your Child*. She is a parent coach and educator and teaches in the psychology department at New England

College in Henniker, New Hampshire.

David Love, e'76, is real estate right-of-way manager at Quanta Utility Engineering Services in Kansas City.

1977 Jim Barker, c'77, m'80, is director of clinical skills and simulation in the College of Osteopathic Medicine at Sam Houston State University in Conroe, Texas.

Michael Buser, l'77, in January retired as a Kansas Court of Appeals judge. He lives in Overland Park.

Alexander Gill, e'77, is the founder and president of Ultraplastics USA in Houston.

Al Shank Jr., b'77, was named 2022 Agent of the Year by the Kansas Association of Insurance Agents. He lives in

Liberal, where he is president of Al Shank Insurance.

1978 Craig Kidwell, b'78, is a property analyst at Lockheed Martin Space in Littleton, Colorado.

Sherry Hassler Lundry, d'78, in July retired as development director at TARC, which serves people with intellectual disabilities in Shawnee County.

Gerald Seib, j'78, retired in May after 45 years at The Wall Street Journal, where he was executive Washington editor. Jerry was part of the team that won a Pulitzer Prize in 2002, and in 2005 he received the National Citation from the William Allen White Foundation at KU. Jerry and his wife, **Barbara Rosewicz**, j'78, this

fall returned to the Hill, where he is a Dole Institute Fellow and she is a Hearst Visiting Professional in Residence at the School of Journalism. Barb is a former Wall Street Journal reporter and was most recently project director for The Pew Charitable Trusts. She also chairs the William Allen White Foundation.

1979 Angela Price Chammas, e'79, was honored with the Distinguished Engineering Service Award from the School of Engineering. Now retired, she worked at Sprint for over 20 years in network engineering management roles and as a vice president. Angela and her husband, **George**, e'81, live in Chicago and have two sons, Nadim and Jamil.

William Lewis, p'79, has been a pharmacist at Dillons in Liberal for 31 years. In June he completed Biking Across Kansas with his son, **Steve**, c'08, a fellow cyclist, and his daughter, **Kara**, c'13, support and gear driver.

1980 John Anderson, b'80, g'82, retired as chief information officer at Shook, Hardy & Bacon. He worked at the law firm for 20 years. John and his wife, Michelle, live in Overland Park and have three daughters, Katie, Megan—who both attend KU—and Grace.

Mark Meyer, c'80, m'84, retired in March as chief of neurological surgery at Ascension Borgess Hospital in Kalamazoo, Michigan, where he practiced for over 30 years. He remains active on the board of directors of the Michigan State Medical Society and its legislative policy committees.

Donna Price O'Keefe, d'80, g'85, is patient safety manager at Mercy Hospital Joplin in Joplin, Missouri.

1981 Gregory Gilbert, f'81, was elected to the College Art Association board of directors. He is a professor and director of the art history program at Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois.

John Heim, d'81, is executive director and CEO of the National School Boards Association. In May he was honored by the School of Education & Human Sciences with its Distinguished Alumni Award.

1982 Danny Anderson, g'82, PhD'85, in May retired as president of Trinity University in San Antonio. He was previously dean of the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences and a professor of Spanish at KU.

Ray Evans, b'82, g'84, senior partner at Pegasus Capital Management in Overland Park, was named to Forbes' list of Best-in-State Wealth Advisors for 2022.

1983 Linda Bryant Angotti, PhD'83, retired after 28 years on the music education faculty at Kent State University, where she founded and directed the Kent State University Gospel Choir and is professor emerita. Linda and her husband live in Oxford, Mississippi.

Stephanie Stewart Bjornstad, n'83, in June became CEO of Rooks County Health Center in Plainville. She has worked at the hospital for 18 years.

Jeff Gentry, b'83, in April was recognized with the

Distinguished Alumni Award from the School of Business. He is chair and CEO of the Wichita-based materials firm Invista.

Stu Shea, g'83, is president, chair and CEO of Peraton, a national security technology company headquartered in Herndon, Virginia. He is the founder of the U.S. Geospatial Intelligence Foundation and in 2016 received the Intel- ligence Community Seal Medallion.

1984 Karen Kelly, m'84, was appointed CEO of the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer.

Pamela White, g'84, g'86, PhD'92, in May retired from Western Illinois University, where she directed the museum studies program.

1985 James May, e'85, l'89, an environmental and human rights lawyer, received the School of Law's Distinguished Alumni Award. He is a professor at Widener University Delaware Law School in Wilmington, Delaware, and serves on the American Bar Association's Environmental Justice Task Force.

Eboh "Duke" Okorie, c'85, g'87, in March was appointed to the board of directors of Sterling Bank & Trust. He is president and CEO of Windy Hill Capital, a financial consulting firm.

Pete Wicklund, j'85, retired in March as managing editor of the Kenosha News in Kenosha, Wisconsin. He worked in the newspaper industry for 37 years.

1986 Greg Beilman, m'86, is a surgeon at M Health

Fairview in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and a professor in the department of surgery at the University of Minnesota Medical School.

Robb Bertels, j'86, is vice president of sales and marketing at Gold Coast Packing, a produce supplier based in Santa Maria, California.

F. Richard "Ric" Ferraro, g'86, PhD'89, received the 2022 Lydia and Arthur Saiki Faculty Award for Individual Excellence in Teaching from the University of North Dakota, where he has worked since 1992. He is a professor of psychology and editor-in-chief of the journal *Current Psychology*.

Kathy Hunt Woodward, c'86, in June served as chair of the 2022 Jewel Ball at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City. She was a Jewel Ball debutante in 1982.

1987 Darcy Gregor Benway, b'87, is superintendent at O'Fallon Township High School in O'Fallon, Illinois.

Laura Roeser Cotton, n'87, manages human resources at the law firm of Cotton, Castano & Richardson in Austin, Texas.

Jack Jacobsen, l'87, is a partner at O'Melveny & Myers LLP in Dallas.

Stephen Johnson, f'87, an artist, had two works installed recently: a glass mosaic mural in the Dustin R. Womble Basketball Center at Texas Tech University and an outdoor sculpture at the Marshalltown, Iowa, Performing Arts Center. Stephen teaches illustration in the KU School of Architecture & Design.



Lawrence Country Club



LOVE IT HERE!

We have belonged to LCC for several years and I'm thrilled to say this place just gets better and better. My husband loves the golf course. Easily the best golf course in Lawrence and one of the best in all of Kansas! The food, wine & overall dining experience is top notch.

BEST. PLACE. EVER!

One of the finest courses you will find in the area! Great layout with quite possibly the best greens I've ever played!!

WE JUST LOVE LCC.

Lawrence Country Club is one of the friendliest clubs in the area. The staff are incredibly helpful and the golf course is beautiful. Highly recommend to anyone looking to join a high-end club.



or email kgates@lawrenceccountryclub.com

PROUD PARTNER OF

KANSAS ATHLETICS





Your one-stop shop for KU's best.



KU Connection

Virtual and in-person events from the University of Kansas and our global alumni network.

Subscribe

Get KU Connection delivered straight to your inbox, and receive timely notifications so you don't miss out!



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
The University of Kansas

For more details and opportunities to participate, visit kualumni.org/news-events/ku-connection

POWERED BY
SUMNER ONE

Kimberly Wolfe Nolte, p'87, is a part-time pharmacist at Sabetha Health Mart in Sabetha.

1988 Jim Davis, e'88, retired as chief operating officer at the California Department of Transportation.

Dana DeMasters, g'88, is a privacy/information security officer at Liberty Hospital in Liberty, Missouri.

David Maahs, c'88, g'90, is professor of pediatrics and chief of pediatric endocrinology at Stanford University. He practices at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital in Palo Alto, California.

Lisa Rost Roatch, c'88, l'92, is an attorney at 27Global, a Leawood-based software development company she owns with her husband, Steve.

Steve Swaffar, c'88, g'96, is an agriculture consultant at

the Noble Research Institute in Ardmore, Oklahoma. He works with farmers and ranchers to improve their soils and grazing operations.

1989 Michelle Roberts Canter, d'89, is general counsel and chief legal officer at Supreme Lending.

Michael Lazer, c'89, is a services consultant for strategic resourcing at World Wide Technology. He lives in Seattle.

Lisa Karr Nickel, c'89, founded Lisa Nickel Coaching, through which she offers life coaching services. She and her husband, **Mike**, b'89, live in Kansas City.

David Woody, f'89, is vice president and chief creative officer at the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago.

1990 Tom Bechard, b'90, is vice president of personal health care sales at Procter & Gamble.

Carlos Cahiz, b'90, f'90, is president of OFE Orchid Supplies in Homestead, Florida. He lives in Miami with his wife, Amanda, and is a past president of the South Florida Orchid Society.

Lisa Hawk, c'90, l'93, is a police legal adviser at the Gwinnett County Police Department in Lawrenceville, Georgia.

Michael Kleber-Diggs, '90, a poet, essayist and literary critic, won the 2022 Hefner Heitz Kansas Book Award in Poetry for his book *Worldly Things*. He lives in St. Paul, Minnesota, and teaches poetry and creative nonfiction through the Minnesota Prison Writers Workshop.

Lori Wilson Richardson, b'90, is a client relationship manager at Mutual of America Financial Group in Overland Park.

Lori Nobert Wittman, b'90, in March became president of retail solutions at Cox Automotive.

1991 Jonathan Mize, '91, is president and CEO of Blish-Mize Co., a wholesale hardware distributor in Atchison. He is the fifth generation of his family to lead the company.

Abe Oommen, PhD'91, was elected a fellow of the National Academy of Inventors. He is the founder and president of the Lincoln, Nebraska-based company MatMaCorp, which develops molecular diagnostic tests and kits. Abe holds nine U.S. and six foreign patents.

Dave Price, j'91, is vice president of engagement and entrepreneurship at Oregon Coast Community College in Newport, Oregon.

1992 Rod Eisenhauer, e'92, l'96, is senior vice president and general counsel at Performance Contracting Group Inc. in Lenexa.

Jim Peters, b'92, is executive vice president and chief financial officer at Whirlpool Corp.

Jason Petty, b'92, owns Omaha Gutter & Siding in Omaha, Nebraska.

Glenna Phillips, c'92, g'16, was promoted to executive director of the Central Kansas Mental Health Center in Salina.

1993 Chris Berg, c'93, and **Hilary Evans Berg**, j'01, own Roots Wine Co. in Yamhill, Oregon, where they've been making wine since 2002.

Lyle Niedens, j'93, g'06, owns Insight Financial Communications and Consulting.

Brett Riggs, j'93, is communications director at the Sunflower Foundation in Topeka.

1994 Randy Phillips, b'94, in March became Topeka fire chief. He has worked as a firefighter and in other roles at the city's fire department since 1995.

Kristen Getz Whitford, c'94, owns Luxury Airport Transportation. She lives in Overland Park.

Tanya Barnes Woolley, b'94, e'94, is engineering manager at Textron Aviation in Wichita. She and her husband, Bill, have two children, Isabel and Benjamin.

1995 Neeli Bendapudi, PhD'95, in May began her tenure as president of Penn State University. She is a former provost and executive vice chancellor at KU and was the first woman to serve as dean of KU's School of Business.

Paul Neidlein, e'95, president of JE Dunn Construction's Midwest region, was honored with the School of Engineering's Distinguished Engineering Service Award. He and **Tina Fowler Neidlein**, c'96, j'96, live in Prairie Village.

Scott Roberts, d'95, g'00, in April became executive director of school administration for the Blue Valley School District in Johnson County. He has been a teacher and principal in the district for over 25 years.

Sara Bennett Wealer, j'95, wrote the young adult novel *Grave Things Like Love*, her fourth book, which will be published Oct. 11. She lives in Cincinnati with her husband, Adam, and two daughters.

1996 Janaka Abeysinghe, g'96, in February became CEO of Sri Lanka Telecom, where he has worked for over 20 years.

Tracy Alderson, c'96, m'01, is a pediatric cardiologist at Children's Hospital of The King's Daughters in Norfolk, Virginia.

Dan Callahan, l'96, is director of communications at Brooks School in North Andover, Massachusetts.

David Cook, g'96, PhD'99, in May became president of North Dakota State University. He was previously vice chan-

cellor for public affairs and economic development at KU.

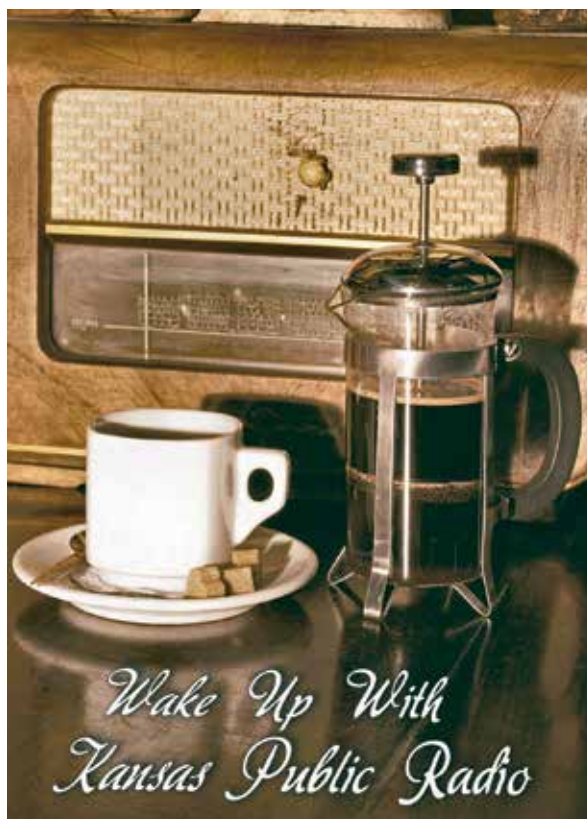
Michael Hoesch, '96, is managing partner at Lewis Chevrolet Buick in Atchison.

Eric Moore, s'96, is a technical assistance coach at Cicatelli Associates. He lives in Phoenix.

Kurt Schmidt, c'96, owns Picasso's Pizzeria in Wichita. He founded the restaurant in 2012.

1997 Cullen Dalton, f'97, is the owner and president of Reflections in Wood, which builds custom homes in Pagosa Springs, Colorado.

Sam Gazdziak, j'97, is communications manager for the American Association of Meat Processors. He also writes the blog RIP Baseball, which tells the stories of



KANSAS
K P R
 PUBLIC RADIO
 THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

Lawrence **91.5 FM**
96.1 FM Lawrence
 Emporia **89.7 FM**
91.3 FM Junction City
 Manhattan **97.9 FM**
99.5 FM Manhattan
 Atchison **89.9 FM**
90.3 FM Chanute



Andrew Wymore

PROUD MEMBER.

Realtor.

In cooperation with the KU Alumni Association, I am excited to participate in the **Give Back Initiative.**

As your Realtor I will **give back** 10% of my commission in your real estate transaction directly to the KU Alumni Association.

The Give Back Initiative applies **nationwide** through my network of referral partners. Contact me whenever and wherever you are buying or selling real estate.



ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION
The University of Kansas

Serving all of your real estate needs: buying, selling, and property management.

- Licensed in Kansas and Missouri.
- Specializing in the Greater Kansas City metro area.
- Nationwide referral network of trusted Realtors.

Contact me to invest in you and invest in KU.

📞 913-515-2386 | ✉️ AWymore@ReeceNichols.com



ReeceNichols
REAL ESTATE



JAYHAWKS: YOU COULD SAVE HUNDREDS ON INSURANCE



Farmers Insurance[®] has teamed up with the **KU Alumni Association** to bring you a savings offer on your auto and home insurance. **You could save an average of \$730*** when you switch your auto and home insurance to Farmers[®].

Plus, you can unlock discounts and get benefits with **Farmers Policy PerksSM**. Choose from a variety of perks. Some start the moment you sign up for a policy. Others are for safe driving. Some give you added coverage. You get a whole lot of something with Farmers.**

Call 800-840-8646 or a Farmers agent for a quote today.



*Based on average nationwide annual savings of new customers surveyed, excluding HI & SC & Farmers GroupSelectSM, from 7/1/20 to 7/1/21 who switched their Home and Auto insurance policies to Farmers[®] branded policies, responded to the survey, and realized savings. Potential savings vary by customer and may vary by state and product.

**POLICY PERKSSM ARE NOT AVAILABLE IN EVERY STATE. POLICY PERKS ARE AVAILABLE WITH SELECT FARMERS[®] BRANDED POLICIES. Subject to terms and conditions.

Ad produced for insurance underwritten by Farmers Ins. Exchange, Fire Ins. Exchange, Truck Ins. Exchange, Mid-Century Ins. Co., Civic Property and Casualty Co., Exact Property and Casualty Co., Neighborhood Spirit Property and Casualty Co., Farmers Ins. Co. of Washington (Bellevue, WA) or affiliates. In TX: Farmers Ins. Exchange, Fire Ins. Exchange, Truck Ins. Exchange, Mid-Century Ins. Co., Farmers Texas County Mutual Ins. Co., Mid-Century Ins. Co. of Texas or Texas Farmers Ins. Co. In NY: Farmers Ins. Exchange, Truck Ins. Exchange, Mid-Century Ins. Co. or Farmers New Century Ins. Co. Home office, IA, CA.

Each insurer has sole financial responsibility for its own insurance. List of insurers at farmers.com. Not all insurers are authorized in all states. Products, coverages, & discounts may vary & are not available in all states. Exclusions & limits apply.



Join more than 10,000 Jayhawks on KU Mentoring+, the University's home for mentoring, networking, opportunity and community.



Whether you are a student looking for a mentor or an alum interested in joining a Jayhawk community, KU Mentoring+ provides those connection opportunities to further strengthen the Jayhawk Network.



mentoring.ku.edu



well- and lesser-known professional baseball players throughout history.

Mike Kimbrel, d'97, g'02, in July became superintendent of the Park Hill School District in Kansas City.

Aaron Kirby, b'97, g'10, is a commercial banker with JP-Morgan Chase Middle Market in Kansas City.

Shanna Sims-Bradish, g'97, is assistant city manager of University Park, Texas.

1998 Umut Bayramoglu, j'98, manages Common Ground, Lawrence's community gardening and urban agriculture program.

Amy Leigh Beecher, c'98, is director of education and training for the American Society of Baking.

Erik Crane, c'98, is a project management manager at T-Mobile.

Ryan Cunningham, b'98, is a regional sales director at WorkBoard.

Sandra Deitering, f'98, g'17, g'17, is senior counsel at Husch Blackwell law firm.

1999 Paula Lancaster, PhD'99, is dean of the College of Education and Human Services at Central Michigan University.

Amie Kruse Long, c'99, is part-time counsel at Hilgers Graben law firm in Dallas. She and her husband, Brian, have three children, Carter, Avery and Brooke.

2000 Mike Krieg, g'00, is executive vice president and chief information officer at The Bank of Tampa in Tampa, Florida.

Dustin Smoot, c'00, m'04, is a critical care surgeon at



ROCK CHALK, JAYHAWK!



THE OFFICIAL UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS CLASS RING

Fellow Jayhawks share a rich tradition and love for the campus which is now embodied in the new Official Ring collection. The ring tradition creates the lifelong connection between the wearing of the ring and the pride and passion we share for our alma mater. Don't miss your opportunity to participate and show your Jayhawk pride. Rock Chalk!

SAVE \$50

on your qualifying College Ring purchase now through 12/31/2021.*

WITH CODE: JEWELRY50

Shop now at jostens.com/collegerings or call 800.854.7464

*Save \$50 when you design and purchase a qualifying college class ring or jewelry item, through December 31st, 2021 by using promo code JEWELRY50 at checkout on Jostens.com. Promotion applies to college jewelry catalog offering only and excludes any other products. Product collections vary by school and offer not eligible at all schools. Offer excludes: keepsake jewelry boxes, nursing pins, watches, military academy rings, and high school jewelry. Limit one promo code per order. Promotion cannot be combined with any other offer or discounts. Discount will not be applied to taxes, applicable shipping/handling and other fees. Offer subject to adjustment due to returns, cancellations and exchanges. Not valid on prior purchases. Not valid for cash or cash equivalent. Valid only for online orders placed on Jostens.com and shipped to U.S. addresses. Expires 12/31/2021 at 11:59pm CT. Offer may be modified or discontinued at any time without notice. ©2021 Jostens, Inc. 211736



Avera McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Joseph Yockey, c'00, is the David H. Vernon Professor of Law at the University of Iowa College of Law.

2001 Seungyeon Lee, c'01, PhD'15, was elected president of the Southwestern Psychological Association. She is associate professor of psychology at the University of Arkansas at Monticello.

Sam Mellinger, j'01, in December became vice president of communications for the Kansas City Royals. He covered the Royals for over a decade as a columnist for The Kansas City Star.

Steven Sodergren, g'01, PhD'06, a Civil War scholar, is a professor and chair of the

department of history and political science at Norwich University in Northfield, Vermont.

Khem Suthiwan, c'01, is a regulatory manager at Enduring Resources LLC, an oil and gas company based in Denver.

2002 Brian Carpenter, c'02, is national sales manager at ClickSafety. A former Big Jay from 1997 to 2000, he is now head coach of KU's mascot team. Brian and his wife, Sally, live in Overland Park.

Ted Downum, c'02, is a grant writer and researcher at the American Indian College Fund in Denver.

Julie Williams Hurley, g'02, is director of planning and community development for the city of Leavenworth.

Lindsey Lowe Kaminski, b'02, in June was appointed chief financial officer at Belton Regional Medical Center in Belton, Missouri.

Sarah Miley, c'02, is a business analyst at Navy Federal Credit Union.

Yigit Tanol, e'02, is a vice president at Goldman Sachs in New York City.

Jeffrey Wacker, g'02, is vice president and trust officer at Advantage Trust Co. in Salina.

2003 Brian North, c'03, j'03, was promoted to general sales manager at KRON4 in San Francisco.

Lorie Ritschel, g'03, PhD'07, a clinical psychologist, co-founded the Triangle Area Psychology Clinic in Durham, North Carolina, and

is an associate professor in the department of psychiatry at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine.

Born to:

Sennett, c'03, j'03, and **Akiko Imakawa Rockers**, f'03, g'06, son, Conrad, May 26. They live in Baltimore.

2004 Clay Britton, c'04, l'09, in December became vice president of legal and compliance services and general counsel at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas. He was previously chief counsel to Gov. Laura Kelly.

Stephanie Wilkinson Hargett, c'04, is a subrogation specialist at The Hartford Financial Services Group. She

TRAVEL THE **WORLD** WITH THE FLYING JAYHAWKS

TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT THESE FLYING JAYHAWKS ADVENTURES!

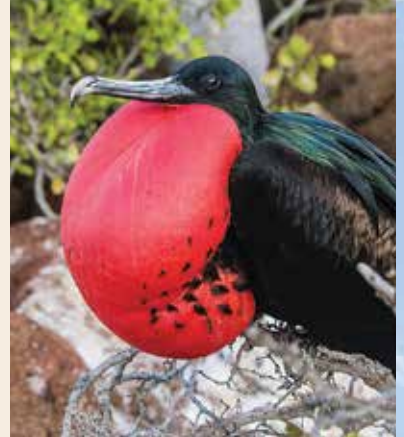


■ Expedition to Antarctica Jan. 4 - 17, 2023

Spend two nights in vibrant Buenos Aires, Argentina, and enjoy a nine-night cruise to “The White Continent,” where you’ll embark on guided excursions amid floating ice sculptures, intricate ecosystems and extraordinary wildlife, including humpback whales, leopard seals and Adélie penguins.

■ The Galapagos Islands Feb. 14 - 21, 2023

Encounter the flora and fauna that famously inspired Darwin and generations of nature lovers. In a setting with relatively minimal human presence, you’ll have the opportunity to experience the islands’ remarkable species—blue-footed boobies, playful sea lions, the iconic tortoises and more—up close.



■ Cuba and Its People Mar. 10 - 17, 2023

Join a seven-night Cuban adventure to explore Old Havana, Matanzas, an organic farm and many more locales. You’ll learn about the lives of local residents, meet entrepreneurs and artists, and gain deeper insight on Cuba’s culture and citizens.

■ Peru, Panama & Palms Mar. 19 - Apr. 6, 2023

Cruise the Panama Canal, explore Mayan ruins in Costa Maya, and swim by the reef in Harvest Caye. Abundant natural treasures, incredible wildlife and relaxing beaches await you on this vibrant excursion.



■ Experience the Victory Apr. 7 - 10, 2023

Travel to New Orleans and the National WWII Museum, which tells the story of the American experience in the war that changed the world—why it was fought, how it was won, and what it means today. Features exclusive access to the campus of the world-class institution.

■ Monaco Grand Prix May 25 - 29, 2023

The Monaco Grand Prix is the most prestigious auto race in the world, contested on one of the most demanding tracks in Formula One. Join us for this once-in-a-lifetime trip to a thrilling event in a breathtaking location.



**ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION**
The University of Kansas

Trip dates are subject to change.
For the latest dates and detailed trip descriptions,
visit kualumni.org/travel or call 800-584-2957.





THE
QuiltMaker

QUILTMAKERQUILTS.COM

T-SHIRT QUILTS



KU QUILTS



SPECIALTY QUILTS



MEMORY QUILTS



Custom quilt made for Coach Self when he was inducted into the Hall of Fame



**REGISTER
ONLINE TO
WIN!**

WIN THIS CUSTOM MADE QUILT to celebrate the National Championship Season!



Let The QuiltMaker turn those sentimental t-shirts into a keepsake quilt that will last forever!

I specialize in making custom t-shirt quilts from your collection of t-shirts, sweatshirts, jerseys, or other clothing items. T-shirt quilts can be made any size, from wall-hanging to king size, and customized to a pattern you choose. Each quilt is unique, just like the memories that the quilt preserves.

The QuiltMaker provides quality workmanship from start to finish, beginning with the preparation of your t-shirts and ending with the hand stitched binding.

Custom designed exactly to your style!

(Licensed with the KU Athletics)

QUILTMAKERQUILTS.COM

KYou

ONE JAYHAWK CONNECTION

**KYou
Networking
Week**

SEPT. 26-OCT. 1



We believe in the power of Jayhawk connections.

As part of Homecoming, Jayhawks across the globe will have the opportunity to connect.

One Jayhawk Connection can:

- Share a new job opportunity
- Provide a business partner
- Be your next hire
- Mentor your career
- Invest in your startup
- Be your best customer
- Change your world



kualumni.org • 800-584-2957

and her husband, **Jason**, c'05, live in Shawnee.

Ben Huebsch, d'04, g'09, in July became principal of Parkview Middle School in Ankeny, Iowa.

Matt Laubhan, c'04, is chief meteorologist at WTVA in Tupelo, Mississippi.

Eric Vidoni, g'04, PhD'08, was recognized by the School of Health Professions as its 2022 Early Career Achievement in Health Professions Alumnus. He is a research associate professor in the neurology department at the KU Medical Center and directs the outreach, recruitment and education core for the KU Alzheimer's Disease Research Center.

Matt Wright, l'04, senior counsel at Koch Industries in Wichita, is a top-ranked professional pickleball player in men's doubles and mixed doubles.

2005 Shamir Bhakta, b'05, is director of operations at Kansas Hospitality Management. He and his wife, Sonal, live in Overland Park.

Zacory Boatright, '05, directs marketing and communications for Scottsdale Arts in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Mario Lainfiesta, c'05, is senior manager of global trade compliance at JBT Corp. He lives in Fuquay-Varina, North Carolina.

Kyle Rohde, j'05, is vice president of brand leadership at Barkley.

Born to:

Paul Vierthaler, c'05, and **Shannon Stewart**, c'06, twin daughters, Alice and Ivy, Sept. 8, 2021. The family lives in Williamsburg, Virginia, where

Paul is assistant professor of Chinese studies at the College of William & Mary, and Shannon is principal research scientist at Altana AI.

2006 David Ochoa, j'06, g'08, is the Mid-America executive director at ALSAC, the fundraising and awareness organization for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. He lives in Fairway with his wife, **Emily**, m'13, and their daughters, Ophelia and Evangeline.

Greg Sovich, g'06, is vice president of customer operations at the biopharmaceutical company AbbVie.

2007 Andrea Chavez, c'07, is executive director of grants and administration at Peaslee Tech in Lawrence.

Michael Daniels, l'07, lives in Austin, Texas, where he is vice president of PKD Inc., a government contractor that specializes in elevator design and construction.

Valerie Daniels, '07, is a research technician at Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College in Asheville, North Carolina.

Michelle Kreutzer Harris, f'07, teaches art at Baldwin Elementary School Intermediate Center in Baldwin City.

Melissa Horen Kaplan, c'07, is a development officer at Jewish HomeLife in Atlanta.

Blake Nelson, l'07, lives in Wichita, where he is a partner at Encore Distribution, a provider of personal protective equipment and medical supplies.

Tracy Perlman, j'07, is executive producer at WCCO-TV/ CBS Minnesota in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Meg Robinson Piercy, j'07, co-hosts the HGTV series "Renovation Goldmine" with her husband, Joe. She is the CEO and co-founder of MegMade, a Chicago-based furniture restoration and design business.

2008 Michael Brunquell, g'08, is an engineering project manager at Mercedes-AMG in Baden-Württemberg, Germany.

Jenny Calvert, l'08, joined Randstad USA as litigation and employment senior counsel. She lives in Atlanta.

Kim Wallace Carlson, j'08, was promoted to director of

strategic communications at the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation. She and her husband, **Sam**, j'08, live in Kansas City.

RoxAna Covarrubias, '08, is a work enrichment specialist at Cottonwood Inc. in Lawrence.

Meghan Monarez Doyle, j'08, is director of philanthropy at the Wichita Community Foundation. She and her husband, **Tyler**, j'08, have a son, James, and daughter, Charlotte.

Meg McCollister, c'08, was appointed by President Joe Biden as regional administrator for the Environmental Protection Agency's Region 7, comprising Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska and nine tribal nations. She lives in Kansas City.

HOME ON THE HILL

Homecoming 2022 events

Monday, Sept. 26

Homecoming Kickoff

5:30-7 p.m., Kansas Memorial Union, Woodruff Auditorium

Silent disco party | 7-9:30 p.m., Kansas Memorial Union, Ballroom

Virtual sign competition

Tuesday, Sept. 27

Campus pop-up event

Hosted by the Kansas City Area Development Council (KCADC)
10:30 a.m.-2 p.m., Kansas Memorial Union, Ascher Plaza

Rock the Mic: Karaoke Night

6-8 p.m., Kansas Memorial Union, Woodruff Auditorium

Virtual sign competition

Wednesday, Sept. 28

Chalk 'n' Rock | 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Wescoe Beach

Kyou Networking Week: Lawrence alumni social

5:30-7 p.m., location TBD

Virtual sign competition

Thursday, Sept. 29

Kyou Networking Week: Kansas City alumni social

5:30-7 p.m., location TBD

Jayhawk Jingles | 6-8 p.m., Kansas Memorial Union, Woodruff Auditorium

Virtual sign competition

Friday, Sept. 30

Home Football Friday: Homecoming Fest

11 a.m.-1 p.m., Kansas Memorial Union, Ascher Plaza

Virtual sign competition

Saturday, Oct. 1

KU vs. Iowa State football game

time TBD, David Booth Kansas Memorial Stadium



front detail

Homecoming T-shirt

Get the official KU Homecoming 2022 T-shirt at the KU Bookstore!
www.kubookstore.com

Visit kualumni.org/homecoming for more details and to confirm event locations, as some are subject to change.

Special thanks to our KU Homecoming sponsors:





1941 Jayhawk



2022 KU Vets Day 5K

9 a.m. Sunday, November 13 • KU Campus

If you can't make it to campus, you can join Jayhawks around the world in our virtual run/walk!



Celebrating the 100th anniversary of the dedication of Memorial Stadium

All proceeds from the KU Vets Day 5K support the KU Veterans Alumni Network, the KU Student Veterans of America chapter and the Lt. Gen. William K. Jones Military-Affiliated Student Center.

Register at kuvetsday5k.com

Questions? Interested in being a sponsor?

Contact Michelle Lang at the KU Alumni Association at 785.864.9769 or michellem@kualumni.org



Lara Thomas, c'08, co-produced the true crime documentary "Fatal Distraction," released in 2021. She is a producer, writer and actor based in Denver.

2009 Chris Dabbs, c'09, is a commercial account executive at the software development company Conga. He and his wife, Danielle, have four children, Wyatt, Ryder, Gracyn and Ayce.

Joanna Dolezal Fleming, n'09, is a family nurse practitioner at Associated Allergists and Asthma Specialists in Orland Park, Illinois.

Aftan Martin Jameson, c'09, is a health educator at KU's Health Education Resource Office. She and her husband, Robert, are parents of a daughter, Stella.

Kursten Metelmann Minnis, c'09, is director of sales at GreatLife Kansas City, a network of golf courses and fitness centers.

Eric Nevels, c'09, g'16, is director of operational excellence at TrueAccord. He and **Linaya Newstrom Nevels**, '11, have a 1-year-old daughter, Olivia.

Candice Schaefer, g'09, PhD'13, is head of employee health and performance at Spring Health. A clinical psychologist, she specializes in workplace mental health and previously led employee wellness at Twitter. She lives in Seattle.

Brian Wachter, g'09, is the hydrogeologist and project manager for Earth Data on its Sustainable Water Initia-

tive for Tomorrow project in southeast Virginia.

2010 Anthony Ceman, c'10, is a psychiatrist with HCA Midwest Health. He and **Hilary Richardson Ceman**, c'14, live in Leawood.

Lindsey Schuler, c'10, is an attorney at Croker Huck Law Firm in Omaha, Nebraska.

Michael Younger, e'10, is a project engineer at EBH Engineering and manages the firm's Pratt office.

2011 Sean Flynn, c'11, is a research and development brewer at Molson Coors Beverage Co. in Milwaukee.

Jessica Heinen, c'11, l'14, in February was appointed judge for Kansas' 3rd Judicial District.

Ryan Hinderliter, c'11, l'14, is an intellectual property associate at Kutak Rock law firm in Kansas City.

Monte Jones, e'11, is an on-board diagnostic calibration engineer at Stellantis.

Jace Robinson, j'11, is public relations counsel at the marketing agency Swanson Russell in Omaha, Nebraska.

Born to:

Max Wescoe, c'11, and Kayla Dreyer, daughter, Tala, Aug. 28, 2021. They live in Arvada, Colorado.

2012 Marvia Jones, g'12, PhD'15, in February was appointed director of the Kansas City, Missouri, Health Department. She is the first



Helping Jayhawks protect life's adventures.

Call **1-800-922-1245** today or visit **www.TheAIP.com/Kansas**

Dental • Vision • Disability • Health • Life • Long-Term Care • Travel • Pet Health Insurance

The **Alumni**
Insurance
Program®



2P8

Black woman to hold the position.

Sierra Winter Otto, c'12, owns Sierra Winter Jewelry. She sells her handcrafted pieces in her shop in Kansas City and online.

Jennifer Redel, g'12, was promoted to associate at Jensen Architects in San Francisco.

Amanda Roberts, j'12, directs marketing and communications for the Lawrence Arts Center.

Bobbi Walden, c'12, in May competed in the U.S. Powerlifting Association's drug-tested national championships, where she won her fourth national championship and set a Kansas record in deadlift.

Joe Walden, g'12, EdD'19, associate teaching professor in the School of Business, in May won his 10th national championship at the U.S. Powerlifting Association's drug-tested national championships. He also set world records in squat, bench press, deadlift and total weight lifted.

Born to:

Alicia Stum Pohl, c'12, and Weston Pohl, son, Brody, March 26. He joins a 2-year-old brother, Walker. The family lives in Lawrence.

2013 Amanda Salisbury Augustine, g'13, is a project architect at Hoefer Welker in Leawood. She and her husband, **Nick**, c'13, e'16, have a son, Bentley, 2.

Britt Frank, g'13, wrote *The Science of Stuck: Breaking Through Inertia to Find Your Path Forward*, published in March by TarcherPerigee, an imprint of Penguin Group. Britt is a therapist, teacher and speaker based in Kansas City.

2014 Chase Brentano, b'14, g'18, is a purchasing agent for Kiewit Supply Network in Denver.

Craig Jackson Jr., g'14, is associate vice president of development and principal gifts at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Dylan Lysen, j'14, is a political reporter for the Kansas News Service.

Thomas Morrison, c'14, is a regular contributor to *Philosophy Now* magazine.

Ernesto "Ernie" Rodriguez, c'14, is a business analyst at Zytara, a financial technology company. He and **Leslie Donahue Rodriguez**, '14, live in Lenexa and have two children, Reese and Ernesto Jr.

Tiffany Schwasinger-Schmidt, m'14, was named the 2022 Early Career Achievement in Medicine Alumna by the School of Medicine. She is an assistant professor in the internal medicine department at the KU School of Medicine-Wichita and director of KU's Wichita Center for Clinical Research.

2015 Liesel Reussner Callahan, c'15, designs stationery, greeting cards and other paper goods, which she sells through her online shop, The Singing Little Bird. She and her husband, Sean, live in Lawrence.

Trevor Otterstein, j'15, manages mobile apps and emerging tech at VMLY&R in Kansas City.

Kylie Quick Rhodes, m'15, is a physician at Washington Regional Fayetteville Family Clinic in Fayetteville, Arkansas.

Huong Vu, c'15, is a research associate at Enable Biosciences in San Francisco.

2016 Laurel Kolacny Bannister, c'16, g'19, is an international student adviser at KU.

Anna Church, b'16, owns Verdigris Digital, which provides graphic design and website development services. A former KU volleyball player, Anna now plays professionally for USC Munster in Germany.

Heather Nelson DeJong, j'16, is an education coach at Primrose School of Lincoln in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Michael De Tello, b'16, is a technology consultant at Protiviti. He and his wife, Courtney, live in Orlando, Florida.

Elizabeth Gunn, b'16, is a senior project coordinator at Cerner.

Brennan Keller, d'16, is director of partnerships at Trueface. He lives in Bozeman, Montana.

Michelle Marron, c'16, g'17, is a special education social worker for Kansas City, Kansas, Public Schools.

Jacob Nemeroff, c'16, P'19, is an attorney at deAndrade Mangieri LLC in Atlanta.

2017 Jessica Allison, c'17, is director of sales operations at the health insurance startup EasyHealth in Beverly Hills, California.

Morgan Cormack, j'17, is executive producer of special projects at FOX4 News in Kansas City.

Vicky Diaz-Camacho, j'17, community reporter for Kansas City PBS's online magazine Flatland, was one of 13 journalists awarded a 2022 Higher

Education Media Fellowship from the Institute for Citizens & Scholars.

Bertilde "Bee" Kamana, g'17, PhD'20, in March was promoted to director of education and clinical services at The Bay School in Santa Cruz, California, which serves students with developmental disabilities.

Greg Leimkuehler, g'17, is senior installation engineer/site lead at Alert Innovation, a robotics automation company.

Lauren Zweig McClung, c'17, is an occupational therapist at Playabilities for Sensational Kids in Leawood. She lives in Overland Park with her husband, **Quentin**, b'18.

2018 Eric Anderson, m'18, is a family physician with Clay County Medical Center. He practices at the center's clinic in Glasco.

Jason Patton, g'18, a U.S. Navy commander, in December joined the Naval Undersea Warfare Center Division Newport in Newport, Rhode Island, as executive officer.

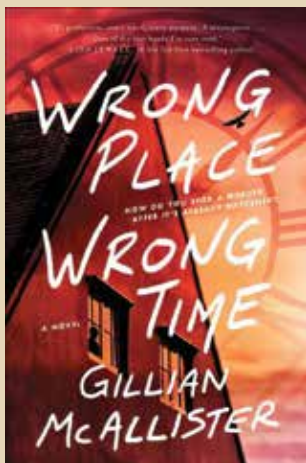
Jackson Smith, e'18, is a project engineer 2 at JE Dunn Construction in Kansas City. He and **Kennedy Schnieders Smith**, j'18, live in Overland Park.

Malasavanh Siriboury, '18, is a retail sales consultant at Mobily.

2019 Darrick Baker, c'19, is a cytogenetic lab technician for The University of Kansas Health System.

Ronald Christian, PhD'19, is assistant professor of marketing at Emporia State University.

Jennifer Gartner, c'19, lives in Omaha, Nebraska, where

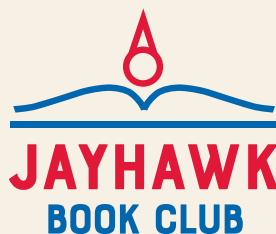


Fall 2022 book

Wrong Place Wrong Time
by Gillian McAllister

Book is available at KU Bookstore

Join the Jayhawk Book Club and virtually connect with Jayhawks around the world.



Here's how it works:

Each semester, KU Libraries staff select a book and create questions for discussion online in a closed Facebook group. We'll hold a discussion at the end of the reading period for each selection.

How to join:

1. Visit kualumni.org/bookclub and fill out the form to join and receive emails.
2. Join the Jayhawk Book Club Facebook Group.

Questions?

Contact Michelle Lang, senior director of alumni programs, at michellem@kualumni.org, or call 785.864.9769.



ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION
The University of Kansas

KU
LIBRARIES
The University of Kansas

she is the scout and Wildlife Safari Park coordinator at Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium.

Lara Korte, c'19, j'19, covers California politics for Politico.

Christopher Koss, g'19, g'19, is an architect with CO Architects in Los Angeles.

Kay Walden, b'19, set a world record in the squat at the U.S. Powerlifting Association's drug-tested national championships in May. She also set Kansas records in bench press, deadlift and total weight lifted and won her weight class and age group.

Isaac Williams, g'19, g'21, is senior analyst of sales analytics at Phreesia, a health care software company.

2020 Abigail George

Alexander, c'20, is an annuity operations consultant at

Advisors Excel in Topeka.

Sierra Franklin, c'20, is box office and marketing manager at the Orpheum Theatre in Wichita.

Spencer Qualls, d'20, is an office claims representative at Farmers Insurance. He and **Anna Mooradian**, j'20, live in Lawrence, where she is a content marketer at Wildman Web Solutions.

Max Wright, c'20, is senior complex spine consultant at Stryker Corp., a medical technology company. He lives in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

2021 Skye Conley, g'21, g'21, is the digital archivist/curator at the Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum.

Nirali Desai, j'21, is a copywriter at A Place for Mom.

Joseph Galvan, j'21, is a human resources assistant at Amazon.

Dutton Hughes, c'21, e'21, is an ensign in the U.S. Navy. He lives in Goose Creek, South Carolina.

Andrew Kelly, b'21, coordinates marketing at Innovation DuPage, a business incubator and accelerator in Glen Ellyn, Illinois.

Mallory Norris, c'21, lives in Overland Park, where she is a recruiter for Yellow Corp.

Courtney Setter, n'21, is a registered nurse with The University of Kansas Health System. She lives in Lenexa.

2022 Edwina Goombi, c'22, is an accounting technician for the Apache Tribe of Oklahoma.

Sarah Woodruff, g'22, directs football operations at Texas Christian University.

ASSOCIATES

G. Paul Willhite, assoc., received the Distinguished Engineering Service Award from the School of Engineering, where he joined the faculty in 1969. He retired in 2019 as the Ross H. Forney Distinguished Professor of Chemical and Petroleum Engineering. He and his wife, Jewell, live in Lawrence.

Roy Williams, assoc., who coached Kansas men's basketball for 15 seasons, in November will be formally inducted into the National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame. He was a member of the hall's founding class in 2006.



SHOW THEM A JAYHAWK'S SUPPORT.

You've encouraged the college-bound students in your life to choose KU. Help us support them, too.

Highlight our early action application deadline of Nov. 1, so they'll be first in line for scholarships and limited-edition gifts.

rockcha.ik/jayhawksupport

THE UNIVERSITY OF
KU KANSAS

In response to numerous readers' requests, we have restored limited career details (when available) to In Memory entries. Thank you to all those who wrote to us, and thanks to Megan Hirt, assistant editor, for her diligence in finding a compromise.

1930s Alice Leonard, c'37, g'39, Lawrence, 106, July 14. Alice was a jewelry maker, painter and a regular at the American Legion on Thursday nights to dance to the Junkyard Jazz band. She was preceded in death by her husband, A. Byron, g'33, PhD'37.

1940s Virgil Ray Alderson, c'48, b'50, Leawood, 97, May 26. Ray served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He spent his career in the trucking industry, retiring in 1983 as executive vice president of Yellow Freight Lines. His wife, Mary Lyth Alderson, d'46, preceded him in death.

Wilfred "Bill" Bell, b'49, Blue Springs, Missouri, 99, Feb. 9. Bill served in the U.S. Army. He worked for 24 years at an insurance investigation company and later at the Social Security Administration in Kansas City.

Mary Ann Deckert Berthelson, '44, Peoria, Arizona, 100, June 24.

Patricia Allen Dreizler, '49, Redondo Beach, California, 95, June 5. Patricia worked for the city of Redondo Beach for over 30 years. As director of community resources, she was the city's first female department head and led more than 35 nonprofits. A high school in Redondo Beach is named for her.

Nina Green Kanaga, c'48, Shawnee, 94, May 4. A former KU Homecoming queen, Nina worked in the education department at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. She was preceded in death by her husband, Clinton, c'42.

Alice Ann Jones Stephenson, c'41, Portland, Oregon,

102, June 11. Alice Ann was a talented seamstress and an avid traveler, camper and hiker. She was preceded in death by her husband, Wayland, c'40, m'42.

1950s Ceasar Albert, c'59, Walnut Creek, California, 83, Aug. 3, 2021. Ceasar served in the U.S. Navy. He taught high school math in Monterey Park and San Jose, California, and later worked as a computer programmer for AT&T.

Thomas Doughty, e'52, Lakewood, Colorado, 91, Jan. 17. Tom, a U.S. Army veteran, spent his career working for Phillips Petroleum. He was preceded in death by his wife, Barbara.

Bill Gillen, m'54, Lenexa, 93, May 3. Bill served as a medical officer in the U.S. Navy. He was an anesthesiologist in Kansas City and spent his last 17 years of practice at Bethany Medical Center. Bill is survived by his wife of 63 years, Jo.

Morris Kay, d'54, Lawrence, 89, May 15. Morris played football at KU, captaining the 1953 team. He served in the Kansas House of Representatives and was later a regional administrator for the Environmental Protection Agency. Morris is survived by his wife, Sandra Gresham Kay, c'66, d'69, g'86.

Sharon Lynch Kimbell, d'58, Hutchinson, 86, June 2. Sharon and her late husband, Charles, b'54, gave generously to the Lied Center, KU football and the Hutchinson community.

Jan Newman McAninch, '56, Prairie Village, 87, Nov. 30, 2021. Jan began the Patricia Stevens Modeling Agency in Wichita in the late 1950s. She was a first-grade teacher and later worked as a travel agent.

Robert Orr, b'51, Dallas, 91, April 24. During his 38-year career in the computer industry, Bob worked at UNIVAC, Intel, NEC America and several startup software companies. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Karen Hall Orr, '53.

Connie Engle Perkins, d'57, Olathe, 88, May 20. Connie established the first art education curriculum for the Olathe school system and taught for 12 years. She is survived by her husband, Sam, b'53. The Spencer Museum of Art named its Sam and Connie Perkins Central Court in recognition of the couple's support.

Darlene Clark Purkhiser, c'53, Vero Beach, Florida, 90, June 28. Darlene founded the roofing contracting company J & D Roofing in Vero Beach with her late husband, James. They managed the business for over 30 years.

David Raab, c'52, m'55, Edina, Minnesota, 91, April 27. David was chief of cardiothoracic surgery at Mount Sinai Hospital and chief of the cardiovascular and thoracic department at Methodist Hospital, both in the Minneapolis, Minnesota, area. He is survived by his wife of 68 years, Peggy.

Frank Shrimplin, p'50, Valley Falls, 94, May 3. A U.S.

Navy veteran, Frank owned and operated Frank's Pharmacy in Valley Falls for 34 years. His wife, Edith, preceded him in death.

Donald Simpson, c'51, Saratoga, California, 95, April 19.

Mary Fran Poe Smith, d'56, g'59, Port Angeles, Washington, 87, Sept. 12, 2021. She taught Spanish/English bilingual education for 41 years to students ranging from preschool- to college-age. Her husband, Max, preceded her in death.

Byron Springer, c'54, l'60, Highlands Ranch, Colorado, 89, June 22. Byron, a U.S. Army veteran, practiced law with the firm Barber, Emerson, Six, Springer and Zinn in Lawrence for 44 years. He also served as president of the Kansas Bar Foundation. Byron is survived by his wife, Marion Peltier Springer, c'57.

Robert Stottle Sr., e'56, Huntsville, Alabama, 91, May 22. Bob, a U.S. Marine veteran, founded the company Thermal Corp. in 1969. He was preceded in death by his wife, Jean.

John Towner, d'54, g'61, Lawrence, 94, May 7. John taught instrumental music in the Shawnee Mission School District. He conducted the New Horizons Band in Lawrence for 17 years and played in the KU Alumni Band until age 92.

Jo White Ungles, n'52, Satanta, 91, May 30. Jo worked at Satanta District Hospital for over 40 years. She was preceded in death by her husband, James.

Gail Cordes Vachon, c'59, Billings, Montana, 83, Sept. 3, 2021. Gail worked in the nuclear industry for most of

her career. After retiring, she taught English in Slovakia and worked as a travel agent. She was preceded in death by her husband, Duane.

Martha Taylor Williams, c'54, Topeka, 90, May 5. Martha was a schoolteacher, director at residential facilities and an administrator at Forbes Air Force Base. She was preceded in death by her husband, Alfred.

Anthony Witt Jr., b'53, Russell, 90, Oct. 21, 2021. Tony, a U.S. Army veteran, worked as a farmer on his family's farm in Russell and as an operator and investor in the oil and gas industry.

W. Joel Wurster, m'56, Parkville, Missouri, 91, April 29. Joel was an otolaryngologist and served as a surgeon in the U.S. Air Force. For most of his career, he practiced at St. Luke's Hospital and St. Joseph's Hospital in Kansas City. Joel's wife of 66 years, Patricia, preceded him in death.

1960s David Baumgartner, a'69, St. Louis, 77, May 11. David worked as an architect in the St. Louis area for over 40 years. His wife, Rosalie, preceded him in death.

Carl Butell, c'65, Baldwin City, 81, April 28. Carl worked at Baldwin State Bank his entire career, beginning as a teller and serving as president from 1986 until his retirement in 2008.

Robert Casteel, d'60, Clarkston, Michigan, 83, Oct. 31, 2021. Bob, a former Jayhawk quarterback, was a teacher and coach in Michigan for 35 years. He is survived by his wife, Julia Cooper Casteel, '61.

Raelene Mai Dietz, '62, Lenexa, 81, June 3. Raelene owned multiple Hallmark

stores and was president of the American Management Association. She later worked at the nonprofit Unbound. Raelene is survived by her husband of over 60 years, Gayle, b'62.

Francis Drake II, e'65, Park Ridge, Illinois, 80, June 3. Frank served in the U.S. Air Force and was honored with the Distinguished Flying Cross, the nation's highest award for aerial achievement. He was a pilot for Delta Airlines for 30 years. Frank is survived by his wife, Sandee.

Mary Anne Marshall Fisher, '64, Lake Quivira, 79, June 21. Mary Anne was a teacher, substitute teacher and librarian in the Shawnee Mission School District. She is survived by her husband of 59 years, Charles, b'62.

Lawrence Greim, p'65, Excelsior Springs, Missouri, 80, June 2. Larry began his 53-year career working at his father's drugstore and later owned Brown's Prescription Drugs in Excelsior Springs. He is survived by his wife, Cheryl Walsh.

Warren Haskin II, j'61, Manchaca, Texas, 82, Feb. 2. He is survived by his wife, Sherry.

John Heil, d'66, Liberty, Missouri, 79, April 18. John worked as a trainer and purchasing agent for McDonnell Douglas in St. Louis. He is survived by his wife of over 53 years, Karen, d'69.

John Hondros, j'66, New Albany, Ohio, 78, May 28. An entrepreneur, John founded several companies, including Hondros College and Verdant Creations. He also developed commercial real estate. He is survived by his wife, Linda.

Gene La Follette, c'65, Alameda, California, 78, April 15.

Gene served in the U.S. Army. He was an attorney and opened his own law office in Alameda in 1999. He is survived by his wife, Carolyn.

Phillip Loncar, b'60, Plano, Texas, 83, May 11. Phil spent his career in chemical sales with Univar Solutions. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Susan Ulrich Loncar, d'77.

Sidney Micek, d'65, g'65, Champaign, Illinois, 79, July 14. Sidney was a faculty member and administrator at Syracuse University and later served as president of the University of Illinois Foundation. His wife, Denise Edgar Micek, d'65, preceded him in death.

Sondra Anderson Pence, c'63, Lawrence, 81, April 29. Sondra was a school psychologist for Lawrence Public Schools for over 20 years and oversaw the Lawrence Learning Resource Center.

Carol Ann Ryser, m'63, Mission Hills, 84, April 14. Throughout her medical career, Carol worked in pediatrics, with victims of abuse, and with patients with debilitating diseases. She is survived by her husband, Michael.

Donna Lamb Simmons, d'60, g'64, Camarillo, California, 82, July 10, 2021.

Rick Snodgrass, a'68, Tucson, Arizona, 78, April 7.

Forrest Alan Stamper, c'64, Tonto Verde, Arizona, 78, Jan. 8. Al worked at Lincoln National Life for nearly 20 years and later started the company Drug Card Inc. He is survived by his wife, Phyllis.

Andrea Speer Tatlock, c'67, Appleton, Wisconsin, 77, May 13. Andrea was a math and science teacher and volunteered at several community organizations in Appleton. She is survived by her husband of

52 years, Tom, c'64, m'74.

Gary Williamson, a'63, Los Angeles, 82, May 14. Gary was a U.S. Air Force captain. His architectural work included churches, restaurants, military bases and the redesign of outdoor spaces in downtown Los Angeles. He is survived by his wife, Erika, '62.

Richard Young, g'64, Marion, Massachusetts, 82, June 5. Rich served in the U.S. Army. His 40-plus-year career in the finance industry included 16 years as president and chief investment officer at Welch & Forbes LLC. Rich is survived by his wife, Doris.

1970s Rebecca Balding, c'70, Park City, Utah, 73, July 18. Rebecca was an actress best known for her roles on the TV shows "Soap" and "Charmed." She is survived by her husband, James Conway.

Mala Nelson Barnes, j'78, Kansas City, 65, June 2. Mala was retired from The Hershey Co., where she worked for 38 years.

Audrey Bradley, c'70, Cameron Park, California, 97, April 18. An England native, Audrey worked as an X-ray technician during World War II. She later managed the office at the Wichita law firm of her husband, Aubrey, c'47, l'49, who preceded her in death.

Kurt Burger, '78, Olathe, 64, April 28. He worked in human resources management. He is survived by his wife of 42 years, Karen Arnold-Burger, c'79, l'82.

Dan Conyers, c'72, h'77, Shawnee, 71, June 9. Dan was a respiratory therapist and worked in The University of Kansas Health System for 40 years, 12 as director of the respiratory therapy depart-

ment. He also served as an adjunct assistant professor. He is survived by his wife of 36 years, Karen Kraft Conyers, h'81, h'82.

J. Robert Kent, g'74, g'76, PhD'84, Lawrence, 81, July 4. Bob was an adjunct researcher in the special education and American studies departments at KU and taught courses in American history and political science. He was a firefighter with Lawrence-Douglas County Fire Medical for 20 years. Bob is survived by his wife, Kay Jones Kent, n'66.

Gerald Koellsted, c'70, Auburn, Alabama, 83, July 9. An avid pilot, Gerald was involved with the Civil Air Patrol for 34 years. He spent most of his career as a public health environmentalist at the Alabama Department of Public Health.

Richard Lynch, b'74, l'76, Des Moines, Iowa, 70, March 11. Richard worked as a tax attorney and was active in several local organizations. He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Nancy Curnes Lynch, s'74, g'76.

Richard MacArthur, m'73, Kansas City, 75, May 25. Rick and his wife established an open-heart surgery program at Hendrick Medical Center in Abilene, Texas. He later worked at Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare and was a faculty member at Florida State University. Rick is survived by his wife, Barbara Gill MacArthur, g'81.

Mary Rieg, c'72, Oklahoma City, 71, March 28.

Scott Sidesinger, c'76, Platte City, Missouri, 69, Feb. 13. Scott worked in title insurance at Chicago Title and Thompson Title. He is survived by his wife, Traci.

Swede Swenson, g'76, Topeka, 94, Jan. 16. Swede, a

U.S. Marine veteran, was a teacher and coach and later served as assistant director of the Kansas Medical Society. He worked as an auditor at the Office of the Kansas Securities Commissioner for over 20 years.

Mary Tuven, g'70, Lawrence, 83, July 19. Mary played viola in the Kansas City Symphony for many years. She was preceded in death by her husband of over 50 years, Charles Hoag.

Jane Warren, g'74, PhD'76, g'83, Lawrence, 73, May 19. A clinical psychologist, Jane provided mental health services to children and adults through her private practice. She is survived by her husband, Dan, c'73, g'79.

Max Wells, c'71, m'76, Austin, Texas, 71, July 25. Max was a surgical pathologist and practiced for 22 years. He is survived by his wife, Gayle Hahn Wells, '70.

1980s Marcy Fevurly Bray, d'82, Lawrence, 61, May 3. Marcy worked at The Merc Co+op and was active in the "Growing Food Growing Health" community garden.

Thomas Talkington, e'84, Lake Lotawana, Missouri, 59, Nov. 30, 2021.

2000s Heidi Karn Barker, c'06, Lawrence, 38, May 8. Heidi began working at KU in 2005. She was most recently a functional systems analyst for Student Information Systems. She is survived by her husband, Bradley, c'06.

Tyler Schmidt, '04, Cedar Falls, Iowa, 42, July 22. Tyler worked for TreviPay for over 18 years. He and his wife, Sarah, g'16, and their daughter, Lula, were murdered while

camping in Maquoketa, Iowa. Tyler is survived by his son, Arlo.

2010s Regan Gibbs, c'19, Lawrence, 25, May 16. Regan was a former goalkeeper for the KU women's soccer team.

Sarah Schmidt, g'16, Cedar Falls, Iowa, 42, July 22. Sarah worked at KU's Monarch Watch program and later at the Cedar Falls Public Library. She and her husband, Tyler, '04, and their daughter, Lula, were murdered while camping in Maquoketa, Iowa. Sarah is survived by her son, Arlo.

UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

Kim Bohmann, Lawrence, 62, June 3. Kim was an administrative associate for the department of theatre & dance, where she worked since 2007. She began her career at KU in 2001 at Watkins Health Services.

John Haslam, Lawrence, 83, July 8. John came to KU in 1968 as assistant professor of chemistry. He was later a research professor at the Higuchi Biosciences Center and, most recently, a research professor for the Biopharmaceutical Innovation & Optimization Center. Throughout his career, John was granted 12 patents. He is survived by his wife, Gale, g'86.

David Jarmolowicz, Lawrence, 45, May 22. Dave joined the department of applied behavioral science in 2012 as an assistant professor. He became an associate professor in 2018 and was director of the Center for Applied Neuroeconomics. Dave is survived by his wife, Allison Tetreault.

James Long, Lawrence, 78, July 27. Jim worked in higher education for 33 years. He was director of the Kansas and Burge unions; associate vice chancellor for student affairs; vice provost for facilities, planning and management; and director for outreach development. He is survived by his wife, Larissa.

George McCleary Jr., Lawrence, 85, June 26. George, a U.S. Navy veteran, was a longtime associate professor of geography. He is survived by his wife of over 60 years, Marilyn, g'83.

Paul Mostert, Lexington, Kentucky, 94, May 6. Paul served in the Navy during World War II and was a professor of mathematics. He was a pioneer in the study of the biomechanics in racehorses, developing software programs that led to the breeding of two Kentucky Derby winners.

Max Sutton, Fayetteville, Arkansas, 85, July 14. Max was professor emeritus of English. In 1993, he received the H. Bernerd Fink Award for Excellence in Teaching. After his retirement in 2004, he published two books of poetry. Max is survived by his wife, Claire.

ASSOCIATES

Jamie Coulter, assoc., Wichita, 81, June 24. Jamie worked in the restaurant business for 46 years. He was CEO of Lone Star Steakhouse & Saloon Inc. and developed and operated Pizza Hut restaurants in several states. He is survived by his wife, Kimberly.

Faye Olmsted Jones, assoc., Lawrence, 103, April 22.



A GRADUAL GOODBYE: Oliver Hall on July 7, amid its slow dismantling. Unlike McCollum Hall, leveled in swift, spectacular fashion in 2015, Oliver's exit was decidedly more piecemeal. Throughout the summer, an excavator claw pulled down portions of the 56-year-old residence hall at 19th Street and Naismith Drive. The demolition progressed from the north, and the last section of yellow brick—the south stairwell—fell in mid-August.

PHOTOGRAPH BY DAN STOREY





SPENCER RESEARCH LIBRARY (2)

TRADITION

Farewell, Oliver

*Reflections on life
at 1815 Naismith Drive*

A FIRST NEST on the Hill for thousands of Jayhawks, Oliver Hall opened in fall 1966 and housed its last occupants in spring 2019. A 1965 KU news release stated the forthcoming nine-story residence hall had a price tag of \$3 million and would accommodate up to 680 students.

To an outsider, Oliver’s most obvious appeal was perhaps its proximity to Allen Field House, which, before the arrival of Downs Hall in 2017, was unrivaled among residence halls. But for those who knew it from the inside, what truly made Oliver—what makes any residence hall—beloved was the trove of youthful memories it embodied. Although parts of the Oliver experience could be guaranteed (a 13-by-9½-foot room, the dining hall, early-morning fire alarms), the magic was in the people we met and the bonds that formed thanks entirely to chance—because Oliver happened to bring us together.

Here’s to your memory, Oliver, and to all those you gave to us.

—MEGAN HIRT



Oliver Hall in spring 1967, during its inaugural school year (top); during construction (middle); and on June 27, 2022, at the start of its demolition (bottom). By August’s end, the residence hall—named for KU’s first chancellor, R.W. Oliver—was no more.



DAN STOREY

A PLACE for DISCOVERY

Uncover the stories that define us within Kenneth Spencer Research Library's remarkable and unique collections. Holding millions of archival items, from ancient stone tablets to historical KU photographs, Spencer Research Library is the place for discovery.

*Preserve the collections for future generations by
becoming a friend of KU Libraries : lib.ku.edu/friend*

KU
LIBRARIES
The University of Kansas

Representing a legacy.



As a true Kansas University fan, you know Jayhawk pride isn't a moment — it's a lifestyle. Complete your gear collection with a personalized credit card. It's only available at INTRUST Bank, and when you use the card, it benefits the KU Alumni Association. From cash back¹ to rewards to building your credit history,² explore our card options and find the right fit for you.

Visit intrustbank.com/creditcards to learn more.



¹ Reward points can be redeemed as a cash deposit to a checking or savings account with this Financial Institution only, which will be deposited within seven business days, or as a statement credit to your credit card account, which will be deposited within one to two billing cycles or as a Rewards Card (\$25 minimum redemption).

² Late payments or going over the credit limit may damage your credit history.

The creditor and issuer of these cards is Elan Financial Services, pursuant to a license from Visa U.S.A. Inc.



ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION
The University of Kansas
1266 Oread Avenue
Lawrence, KS 66045-3100