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Talk and squawk in the news



*“Good morning! If you hear any droning, ritual chants in your workplace today, that’s just a Kansas fan still celebrating.”*



STEVE PUPPE

—Sports writer Chris Branch, leading off The Athletic’s April 5 daily email update.

**“When it comes to breakfast, the chicken’s involved, but the pig’s committed.”**



MATT TAIT

—Lawrence Country Club golf pro and KU All-American Chris Thompson, b'99, on why he played 96 holes in 11 hours at six local courses in April. The longtime supporter of the Kaw Valley Junior Golf Foundation wanted to deepen his commitment to the nonprofit’s mission of promoting youth golf in northeast Kansas, he told the Lawrence Journal-World, “and this seemed a great way to do it.” Thompson’s golf-a-thon raised \$5,000.



@KUGROUNDS

**“We aren’t going to let some rain prevent us from a quick turnaround on KU campus color for our #KUgrads. You worked hard, we do too.”**

—@KUGrounds tweet on May 2, one of many from KU’s landscaping and grounds crews. Named the best new social media account by KU Information Technology, @KUGrounds also highlights news you can use—Tulip bulb sale at KU Surplus! Prairie Acre renovation! Buddy System safety reminders!—making it a must-follow for Jayhawks near and far.

**“Spider-Man ended up finding me on Instagram less than 24 hours after I posted the picture, which was an awesome message to receive.”**

—Photographer Griffin Hastings, who captured a shot of the Marvel mascot—crowd-surfing in a shopping cart, naturally—near Ninth and Massachusetts streets after KU defeated North Carolina April 4 in the national championship game.



GRIFFIN HASTINGS

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**COVER STORY**

**How Lucky We Have It**

A fourth NCAA title brings joy back to Lawrence and beyond with a nerve-wracking run to remember.

*by Chris Lazzarino*

*Cover image by Steve Puppe*



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**Road to Recovery**

With alumni support and innovative approaches to research and treatment, KU's Cofrin Logan Center is helping people with substance use issues chart new paths to healthier lives.

*by Jen Humphrey*



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**Happy Campers**

A Jayhawk couple find midlife adventure—and a new calling as travel gurus—exploring America's national parks.

*by Steven Hill*



**Profile: Noah Smutz**

Returning tomes and other printed matter to working order is a hands-on labor of love for book restorer.

*by Steven Hill*

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We’ve been here before.



**SPRING 2022**

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Established in 1902 as  
*The Graduate Magazine*  
Volume 120, No. 2, 2022

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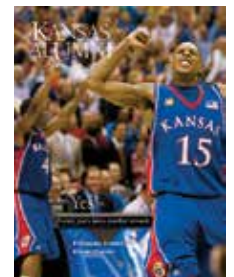
Everybody loves a parade: Lawrence celebrates KU’s newest NCAA championship.



Graduates from 1970 and 1972 joined the University’s newest alumni for a long-delayed walk down the Hill.

**From the Archives**

Mario’s Miracle—the shot heard ’round the Jayhawk Nation—popped the cork on a championship celebration 20 years in the making. “Redemption and Relief,” issue No. 3, 2008.



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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](mailto: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

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## Book smart

THANK YOU SO MUCH for the recent alumni magazine and the great article about Danny Caine and The Raven Book Store [“Danny and Goliath,” issue No. 1]. It is so good to know that the store is still there and that Mr. Caine has made such a difference for local booksellers. Now I know to order books online from The Raven.

Just as I have never bought from Walmart because of their wiping out of small-town businesses in the '80s, so too I never shop with Amazon. The Raven story is another good reason why. The same week I got my alumni magazine, I found an article in the business section of the Sunday New York Times that described the floating pricing of Amazon.

Good job to both *Kansas Alumni* and Danny Caine.

—Constance Tanis, d'66  
Columbia, Missouri



## Positively grateful

THE WINTER ISSUE of *Kansas Alumni* was one of your best! My congratulations and appreciation to the editorial team for the selection of feature stories and the quality of the writing.

From The Raven's Danny Caine to Audrey Coleman's "Lessons in Leadership" to "Everybody Has a Story," about Lt. Harrison Manlove, I was uplifted by the caliber of individuals associated with the University of Kansas. I also was grateful for stories that are about building up our society versus tearing it down and blaming others in a posture of victimhood.

Not that I need reminding that KU is solidly anchored in the best values and tenets of our country, but the Winter issue was genuine and contemporary affirmation.

—Lindalyn Hutter, j'85  
Alexandria, Virginia

## A good man

ONE FACT LEFT OUT of Glenn McCubbin's story [“Everybody Has a Story,” issue No. 1] was that he was a member of Acacia Fraternity and is missed by his many friends and fraternity brothers. The article did provide a couple of points of which I was unaware. Thank you for recognizing Glenn. He was a good friend and a good man.

—Tom Linn, d'64  
Niceville, Florida

*Editor's note: Retired Lawrence attorney David Richards, l'72, who grew up with Glenn*

*McCubbin, informed us that, contrary to our statement that Maj. McCubbin had no known surviving family members at the time of his burial in Norton, he had a brother, Harold, who graduated from the School of Law. Further research revealed no family links between the two brothers noted in either's official alumni records. We reached Harold McCubbin, l'71, now a retired attorney in Littleton, Colorado, who was excited to learn of Lt. Harrison Man-*



*love's research and expressed interest in returning for the ceremony that one day will honor the second star to be*

*Vietnam Memorial in recognition of his brother no longer being missing in action. Due to weather delays and renovation contracting hurdles, work on the memorial had not begun as of press time, but it remains a KU priority.*

## In Memory

WHEN I RECEIVED my Winter alumni magazine, I, a Life Member, class of 1964, went first to Class Notes and then to In Memory. (Let's face it: I'll be 80 in May, as will most of my cohorts educated at KU in the early 1960s.)

That's when I realized the value placed on our family's lifetime devotion, as I read the abbreviated In Memory—just name, graduation year, place of death, age and date of death. Period.

My 10-year-old grandson, Ariya Hebroni, proudly wore his favorite Christmas gift, a

Jayhawk sweatshirt from me, every day I visited his family home in Beverly Hills, California.

His grandpa, John J. Williams, c'63, g'66, is also an alumnus and a walk-on member of the KU basketball team from 1960 to '63. Great-grandpa, Dr. Homer J. Williams, c'28, m'31, would have been delighted with his great-grandson and the three-generation connection with our University.

I would suggest that editors rethink the reasons we honor alumni when they die, the support for KU, the pride we express all our lives, and the memories and friendships we recall when reading Class Notes or In Memory.

—Marilyn Murphy, d'64  
Scottsdale, Arizona

I APPRECIATE THE reasons for your new “lite” format [KU Voice, issue No. 1], but the circumscribed notes for former faculty members do not recognize the sweep of their impact on your readership.

Alumni like me will be recognized by, perhaps, a few dozen fellow alumni this many years later. However, in my decades of college teaching, I had over 5,000 students, and in random encounters I still have people pleased to say, “I had your class.” My fellow students at KU were important to me, of course, but I am keen to know news of my erstwhile teachers, who had such lasting impact.

—Ron Rarick, c'75, g'80, g'84,  
PhD'87

Muncie, Indiana

*Continued on p.6*

HERE'S A PLEA to restore the obits of In Memory to their slightly longer original format.

Those few more bits of information added considerably, over many years, to my memories and appreciation of friends and acquaintances who have taken up residence on the Hill Eternal. Definitely worth the additional editorial effort.

—John Smith, c'65, l'68  
Lake City, Colorado

I AM VERY DISAPPOINTED with what you have done with the In Memory section. It now tells nothing other than the place and date of death. How sad.

—Kenneth Fligg, c'55, l'57  
Kansas City

I DO NOT LIKE the new format of In Memory. The notices are too cut-and-dried and impersonal.

For example, Dennis Moore, who passed away last year, was not identified as a U.S. Congressman. Many alumni should be recognized for their achievements, not just their name, city and date of death.

I will not miss the listing of relatives who were KU alums. There has to be a happy medium worked out.

—Cindy Whitton, b'79, l'82  
Southlake, Texas

### Changes a bit, mostly

KANSAS ALUMNI LOOKS amazing. Nice job by the staff in reimagining the magazine.

Your magazine has also become a book source for me. I am now reading *Gravedigger's Daughter* ["Book brief," Rock Chalk Review, issue No. 1], a delightful book of growing up in

Kansas, and have read a sample of *The Education of Corporal John Musgrave* ["Always faithful," Rock Chalk Review, issue No. 1], which I am going to order and read in full. It looks to be an outstanding book. Thanks for the reviews and information on the authors—a good service.

I will sound off on the decision about obits. I think you did the right thing, especially with the numbers you are facing, along with limited magazine issues. I suppose that eventually the magazine may be forced to go totally online. I am old enough to treasure magazine and newspaper pages in my hand, but I understand that the audience is changing fast and you must keep up with the way people get information.

My only complaint would be with the University Community listings. There I think the department that the person was affiliated with is important information for the reader and the jogging of memories.

A big thank-you to all the staff for the great job writing, editing and designing the magazine. It's still the best one in the USA!

—Peter Haggart, g'63  
Moscow, Idaho

### Action Jackson

THANKS FOR Michael Pearce's article in the Winter 2022 issue about Kent Jackson, c'85, l'88, and his participation in Formula One Air Racing in an attempt to satisfy his need for speed ["Pilot savors speed, tactics that air racing demands," Always Jayhawks].

I was one of Kent's first students when he became a licensed flight instructor. Though I no longer fly, I will always be grateful for his assistance in helping me become a pilot and experience the exhilarating freedom of flight in a small aircraft, even though it was at a much slower speed than his hobby now takes him.

—Stephen Kessler, j'71, l'74  
Topeka

### A fitting honor

I RECENTLY READ a book that Bob Dole wrote about being a student and playing basketball at KU after being recruited by Phog Allen.

Mr. Dole graduated from Russell High School, where he was a star athlete. He left KU to enter the service during World War II. He always wanted to return to KU to

play sports again, but after being severely injured in Italy just three weeks before the war in Europe ended on May 8, 1945, his hope of playing sports was over. Since his recent death, my husband and I have thought that retiring his basketball jersey would be an appropriate honor.

I am also from Russell County and remember well meeting Sen. Dole, in my hometown of Luray, at the 1961 commemoration of 100 years of Kansas statehood. He shook the hands of

even those too young to vote, like myself, as he possibly foresaw a long career in politics. It stood out that he shook hands with his left hand, as his right hand and arm were too severely injured from the war.

He went on to serve our government for many years. It is notable that he helped to save Social Security, pass the Americans with Disabilities Act, and raise funds for the National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. In his 90s, he visited all 105 Kansas counties to thank them for their support over the years.

To honor such a hero who gave so much to our country, I propose that Sen. Dole's basketball jersey be raised to the rafters of Allen Field House. He was a great Jayhawk, a great Kansan, and a great American who honored himself as public servant and war hero.

—Neva Bender Allison,  
c'69, g'70  
Palm Desert, California







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Carolyn Pyle Mathis, d'72, and Kelly Mathis, p'70, McPherson, were among the 1970 and '72 graduates who finally walked down the Hill May 15, a half-century after rain canceled their walks. "We were so surprised and pleased with the reception and many congratulations, happy faces and smiles from others experiencing their Commencement for the first time," Carolyn says "It was a super day, and one that we will always treasure." For more on Commencement, see p. 60.

PHOTOGRAPH BY STEVE PUPPE



Using critiques from 2017 as its guide, KU Cancer Center created a strategic plan based on eight primary needs, including faculty training, community outreach and engagement, boosting its clinical research portfolio, and geographic consolidation.



KU MEDICAL CENTER

KU MEDICAL CENTER

## Next big step

*KU Cancer Center seeks NCI's coveted 'comprehensive' designation*

WHEN BREAST CANCER researcher Roy Jensen in 2004 left Vanderbilt University to return to his home state as director of the University of Kansas Cancer Center, what he found at KU Medical Center was, in a word, underwhelming.

The entire center and its six employees were easily accommodated then in one wing of a single floor at 39th and Rainbow and annually attracted about 1,700 new patients and a relatively modest \$14 million in cancer-related funding. Even more troubling, about 15% of all Kansas cancer patients statewide were forced to leave Kansas for treatment, and Kansas City was the country's largest metro area without a National Cancer Institute-designated cancer center.

Jensen's job was to change that, and he saw that the University was serious about the daunting task when then-Chancellor Robert E. Hemenway in 2006 declared NCI designation as KU's top priority.

"That was absolutely key," Jensen says, also noting the leadership of KU Medical Center's executive vice chancellor at the time, Barbara Atkinson, as well as all top KU leaders who followed, including chancellors Bernadette Gray-Little and Doug Girod.

The KU Cancer Center in 2012 achieved NCI designation, followed five years later by a successful

renewal of the federal grant. The news, however, was not all good in 2017: The NCI denied KU's application for its coveted "comprehensive cancer center" status, which Jensen, '80, at the time spun into a positive by assuring that work would begin immediately on yet another application for comprehensive designation.

That 1,700-page application was filed last September, and in February Jensen and his KU Cancer Center leadership team met with NCI administrators in a COVID-mandated virtual site visit—a task made less cumbersome by The University of Kansas Health System's state-of-the-art TV production studio—in support of their applications for renewal and upgrade.

Jensen says he has few worries about the renewal application; far trickier is the comprehensive designation. KU expects to hear a final answer in mid-June, at the conclusion of the National Cancer Advisory Board's meeting, and it is hoped a public announcement can be made when the congressional delegation returns to Kansas for the Fourth of July holiday.

Using critiques from 2017 as its guide, KU Cancer Center created a strategic plan based on eight primary needs, including faculty training, community outreach and engagement, boosting its clinical research portfolio, and geographic consolidation. (Researchers currently work out of KU Medical Center, the Lawrence campus, and Kansas City's Stowers Institute for Medical Research and Children's Mercy Hospital.)

The glittering centerpiece of that plan is a proposed 670,000-square-foot home for the KU Cancer Center—a collaborative effort among the University, The University of Kansas Health System

and community partners—to be built on the KU Medical Center campus with an estimated price tag of at least \$450 million.

“Regardless of what the NCI has to say about our application, that is going to be my focus moving forward,” Jensen says, “because that building addresses a lot of the issues that were brought up at the last site visit. If we’re still found wanting in terms of comprehensive status, the answer is the building. If they decide that we have met comprehensive status, and we want to continue to grow and build out our vision for the Cancer Center, the answer is the building. And so I’ve got my marching orders.”

The vastness of that undertaking stirs in Jensen a reflective consideration of where this journey began. Along with Hemenway’s unflinching endorsement, he also cites the Kansas Legislature’s approval of \$5 million in annual funding to help build the center’s basic infrastructure—last year upped to \$10 million—as a “major, major turning point.” The \$5 million Johnson County Education and Research Triangle (JCERT) sales tax, which voters approved in 2008, has since grown to \$50 million.

“Those were three huge events,” Jensen says, “from which everything else traces its origin.”

Also critical: The Hall Family Foundation donated the building that currently houses KU Cancer Center’s headquarters, the Kansas Masonic Foundation has provided more than \$30 million,

and KU through 2020 had contributed \$84 million to help fund its top research priority. Notable, too, are support from local governments and the health, business and philanthropic communities across the metro.

Regardless of the outcome of its application for comprehensive status, Jensen says, the effort will ultimately benefit Kansans and their families who face frightening diagnoses. Now harnessing about \$57 million in direct cancer-related annual funding—and more than \$1 billion of funding from all sources since the pursuit of NCI designation began—the KU Cancer Center and its 250 employees treat more than 7,000 cancer cases each year.

Jensen anticipates that 7.5% of Kansans diagnosed with cancer will leave the state for treatment this year, half as many as when he launched KU’s pursuit of NCI designation, and by the time of KU’s next application for renewal he hopes it will be less than 5%.

“There are things academic medical centers can do that simply can’t be done anywhere else. Taking care of the toughest patients, training the next generation of health professionals across many different disciplines and driving economic growth,” Jensen says. “I think that’s something that resonated with a lot of constituencies through this area and has been key to our support, not only in the philanthropic community but also in the state Legislature.”

—CHRIS LAZZARINO

KU MEDICAL CENTER



Roy Jensen estimates that “under normal circumstances,” he hopes to spend 25% to 30% of his work hours at his lab bench: “We like to joke that once the site visitors ride out of town, I can get back to my day job.” That won’t be easy, though, as he is now trying to make KU Cancer Center’s new headquarters a reality. “I certainly see a lot of good signs that this is going to come to fruition, but, at this point, we still have a lot of work to do.”

**“It’s a gorgeous instrument. I don’t know of such installations like this anywhere around the world. Of course the people in Kansas should be very proud of this.”**

—Olivier Latry



STEVE PURPE (2)

ACADEMICS

## Maestro-in-residence

*Notre Dame organist, displaced by 2019 fire, resumes KU appointment interrupted by pandemic*

OLIVIER LATRY, one of three organists at Notre Dame de Paris cathedral and professor of organ at the Paris Conservatory of Music, on April 15, 2019, watched in horror and heartbreak as the early Gothic sanctuary was consumed by flames burning long into the night. He went to bed certain he would never again play Notre Dame’s grand organ, with its 8,000 pipes pushing out music that for centuries had stirred humanity’s very soul.

“So I was very surprised the next day when the manager of Notre Dame called me,” Latry told *Kansas Alumni* shortly before his April 22 concert in the Bales Organ Recital Hall as the William T. Kemper Artist-in-Residence at the KU School of Music. “He was at the organ loft and he said, ‘Well, I do not see anything. Everything seems normal.’ And he went to the organ and he said, ‘Well, there’s a bit of water on the organ, but that’s it. Nothing else.’”

“So, yes, it was quite a surprise. I think it is that the spire just fell down in the church and made this



Professor James Higdon (r) says of his friend and colleague Olivier Latry, “He teaches with humor and he’s a wonderful person. The very best musicians in the world are not arrogant. The very best musicians are humble, and so if you come across musicians who think highly of themselves, they’re not that good, OK?”

big opening, you know? And that allowed the heat to go out, to escape. Otherwise all the pipes would have melted.”

Latry’s playful eyes sparkle at the memory, and he confirms with a happy nod that renovation plans are currently on schedule for Notre Dame to reopen in 2024.

“That is what is planned for the moment. We still hope. We cross fingers.”

Following the tragic fire, Latory—described by KU’s James Higdon, Dane and Polly Bales Professor of Organ, as “the greatest organist in the world and a fabulous teacher”—accepted an invitation from his old friend to return to Mount Oread, which Latory had visited many times since his first trip here, in 1986, following his 1985 appointment at Notre Dame.

Made possible with the enthusiastic support of Kansas City philanthropists Jonathan and Nancy Lee Kemper, the residency—with visits scheduled each semester for three years—would allow Latory an opportunity to work with KU students and perform on the 45-stop mechanical action organ, built in 1996 by the famous Canadian firm Hellmuth Wolff & Associés for a custom-designed hall adjacent to the Lied Center.

“It’s a gorgeous instrument. I don’t know of such installations like this anywhere around the world. Of course the people in Kansas should be *very* proud of this,” Latory says. “Nothing is really devoted to the organ. It is always something that we have

to share with the other instruments, with other occupations. But here, students can come and practice day or night, and it’s really their place.

“It’s incredible in America to hear this, the hall sounding like it is for the organ. Usually in America, the places are very dry. There is no reverberation, and this reverberation is part of the organ.”

Shortly after completing his first of six scheduled visits as Kemper Artist-in-Residence, in fall 2019, Latory returned to Paris; locked down by pandemic restrictions, he did not travel again until this spring, and his April return to KU was his first U.S. trip in two years.

Here, Latory says, he helps promising students—some of whom he predicts are destined for the “top level” of organ-performance renown—understand not only technique, but also symbolism embedded within music that has historically been written for performance in churches and cathedrals.

“For example, this morning we spoke about the chorales by Johann Sebastian Bach, and the symbolism of the pieces.

Each word is really symbolized by something special in the music, so we have to make people aware of a lot of little things that are really important. You know, everything which is hidden behind the notes.”

With planning underway for the Bales recital hall’s 25th anniversary celebration next fall, Higdon notes with pride that KU’s spectacular instrument, open day and night for student practice, is played more than any other organ in the world; Latory disagrees, but says the only others played more are at the Paris Conservatory. They do agree, in a fanciful flourish of French shared between friends of more than 30 years, that all three keyboards are “worn out” and in desperate need of donor sponsorship for replacement.

“This is great, that you can have this kind of instrument, which is so reactive and so musical, because the instrument is really the first teacher,” Latory says. “We can say that we are not there to teach the students; we are there just to connect them to the instrument and to connect their ears to the fingers.”

—CHRIS LAZZARINO

## Lifelong friends and Jayhawk artists

(l-r) Mike Savage, f’80, and Charlie Podrebarac, ’81, are among the artists who took part in Kansas City’s Parade of Hearts. The outdoor art exhibition benefited The University of Kansas Health System and other local organizations that have assisted the community during the pandemic. Visit [theparadeofhearts.com](http://theparadeofhearts.com) to view all 156 hearts, which will be auctioned off this summer.



COURTESY CHARLIE PODREBARAC AND MIKE SAVAGE (4)





*A prolific economics scholar and 20-year faculty member whose research has led to more than \$7 million in grant funding and whose classroom work has earned her multiple teaching awards is the state's newest Regents Distinguished Professor. Donna Ginther, the Roy A. Roberts Distinguished Professor of economics and director of the Institute for Policy & Social Research at KU, received the title from the Kansas Board of Regents at its February meeting. Regents Distinguished Professorships are intended to attract and retain established scholars whose research augments the state's economic and industrial development.*

STRONG HALL

## Budget boost

*Lawmakers restore operating funds, add new investments in higher education*

THE KANSAS LEGISLATURE in late April approved the most heartening higher education budget in years, investing in essential operations, infrastructure, need-based student scholarships, faculty and staff salary increases, and economic development projects.

Although lawmakers did not fully fund all of Gov. Laura Kelly's recommendations, they approved spending for many of the key priorities she highlighted when the legislative session began in January. In his May 4 weekly video update to the campus, Chancellor Doug Girod said the budget "is still looking like the best higher education budget we've had in recent memory. We are optimistic that it will get signed, and then we'll have a much better understanding of where we are, but fingers crossed, so far, so good."

As *Kansas Alumni* went to press, Kelly had not yet signed the budget; lawmakers planned to return to Topeka May 23 to debate non-budget measures before final adjournment.

The Legislature's fiscal year 2023 state budget includes:

—a \$37.5 million increase to base-budget operations funding for the six universities; the Kansas Board of Regents had supported Kelly's proposal to restore operations funding to the pre-pandemic levels by adding \$45.7 million in exchange for holding tuition flat.

—5% salary increases for state employees, including KU faculty and staff;

—\$19 million for need-based scholarships for students at all public and private colleges and universities in the state, to be matched by funds from each school;

—\$35 million for deferred maintenance projects, to be matched by universities;

—\$10 million for a demolition fund;

—\$20 million for information technology security enhancements;

—\$135 million for various economic development projects in coordination with institutions across the entire Regents system.

The economic development investments affirm higher education's important role in driving the state's economy, Girod said, and he thanked members of Jayhawks for Higher Education and others who urged support for colleges and universities: "We thank everyone who advocated on our behalf with the Legislature and the governor's office to drive the higher education agenda for the state of Kansas."

—JENNIFER JACKSON SANNER



**Fresh prints:** A hopeful hunch—that the men's basketball team would win it all—led to a crowning achievement for another KU institution, The University Daily Kansan. The newspaper's victory-proclaiming front page was in fans' hands in the immediate, euphoric aftermath of the NCAA title game April 4, thanks to student journalists' roll-of-the-dice decision to print 3,000 copies ahead of the Final Four—1,000 to go to New Orleans, the rest to downtown Lawrence. "It was a very calculated gamble that ended up working out great in the end," says Nathan Swaffar, Kansan sports editor for the spring semester. The full 12-page edition commemorating the men's and women's basketball seasons went to press shortly after the 'Hawks triumphed and was available free to students. The cover photo of forward David McCormack was shot by Kansan photographer Emma Pravecek at last November's game against Stony Brook. "It was a really rewarding moment," Pravecek says of the post-championship revelry, "to see a community come together and celebrate and also have the UDK in the mix."





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**“We’re absolutely thrilled this year to receive five Goldwater Scholarships, and I’m happy to be able to celebrate with our outstanding recipients. Each of them has demonstrated a remarkable capacity to come up with new ways to tackle some of our planet’s greatest challenges.”**

—Chancellor Doug Girod



#### SCHOLARS

## Five for five

*In historic sweep, all of KU’s Goldwater applicants win the coveted undergraduate fellowship*

A MARCH ANNOUNCEMENT on the Barry Goldwater Scholarships brought news that a school-record five Jayhawks had won the nation’s premier undergraduate award for excellence in science, engineering and math—and set off some back-channel inquiries by KU administrators to confirm what they were seeing was real.

“We kept refreshing our screens on the application portal as the announcements were updated,” recalls Phillip Drake, faculty fellow in the Office of Fellowships. “It took a couple of hours to verify there wasn’t a hack, because [the outcome] was so unexpected.”

KU joins Columbia University, Dartmouth College, the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Michigan as the only schools to receive the maximum five scholarships for the 2022-’23 academic year. The awardees, all juniors, are Bryce Gaskins, biochemistry and Spanish major; Jessica Miears, physics and astronomy; Sarah Noga, biochemistry; Mary Severt, chemical engineering; and Kade Townsend, microbiology.

The five are among 417 students nationwide to receive the Goldwater, which provides up to \$7,500 annually for tuition, fees, books and room and board. An estimated 5,000 sophomores and juniors apply for the scholarship each year, according to the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation, which established the award in 1989 to honor former Sen. Barry M. Goldwater.

“It speaks to the quality of academic excellence, innovative research accomplishments and just sheer resilience of our nominees. Our students are just extraordinary,” says Drake, who is an associate professor and director of graduate studies for the English department in addition to his role helping students hone their applications for highly competitive national fellowships. “But I think it also speaks to a very robust advising structure. That’s coordinated by the Office of Fellowships, but it also involves individual faculty advisers and the Goldwater internal committee.”

“We’re absolutely thrilled this year to receive five Goldwater Scholarships, and I’m happy to be able to celebrate with our outstanding recipients,” Chancellor Doug Girod said. “Each of them has demonstrated a remarkable capacity to come up with new ways to tackle some of our planet’s greatest challenges.”

Indeed, all five scholars plan careers in academia that build on the impressive undergraduate research they’re already exploring at KU.

Gaskins conducts research in the lab of Zarko

## NEWS BRIEF

### Donors give \$3 million in University's annual 24-hour fundraising event

Five Goldwaters for 2022 brings to 76 the number of Jayhawks who've won the prestigious scholarship since it was launched in 1989. Kade Townsend (l-r), Sarah Noga, Mary Severt, Bryce Gaskins and Jessica Mears.

Boskovic, assistant professor of medicinal chemistry. He plans to pursue a doctorate in organic chemistry and then teach at a university, focusing his research on organic and synthetic chemistry.

Mears conducts research with David Besson, professor of physics. She plans to earn a doctorate and focus her academic career on astroparticle physics and on helping students from nontraditional backgrounds pursue their interest in the field.

Noga will enter a biotechnology PhD program to conduct drug development research. A member of the Slusky Lab, led by Joanna Slusky, associate professor of molecular biosciences, Noga is a key researcher in projects aiming to inhibit a protein involved in antibiotic resistance.

Severt, who is testing lab manager at the KU Biodiesel Initiative, run by Susan Williams, Charles E. and Mary Jane Spahr Professor of Engineering, plans to pursue a doctorate in chemical engineering and focus her research on lessening the world's dependence on fossil fuels.

Townsend will devote his academic career to bacterial genetics research. He is a member of the Chandler Lab, led by Josephine Chandler, associate professor of molecular biosciences, who studies antibiotic-resistant pathogens.

Building a solid foundation to someday turn those ambitious goals into achievements is the real value of applying for scholarships like the Goldwater, Rhodes and Churchill, Drake believes.

"We have a motto, of sorts, that we're focused on process rather than outcomes," he says. As nice as it is to go five for five and set a KU record for Goldwater success, "what's much more important to the Office of Fellowships is that the experience was valuable to the students. They learn about themselves. They learn to craft essays that later become graduate school statements; they identify skills and experiences and develop relationships that benefit them further down the line.

"It's kind of a launching point for them to expand academically, professionally and as people."

—STEVEN HILL

IF THERE'S ANYTHING that One Day. One KU. has taught us in five years, it's that Jayhawks rise to a challenge.

The annual 24-hour giving event that raises money for schools, units and programs on all five KU campuses brought in more than \$3 million through 4,790 gifts Feb. 17, and challenge and matching gifts were a major reason.

Donors set up 134 challenges that inspired others to give and increased the impact of their gifts. Among the most notable was a team effort by the KU Endowment Board of Trustees and Chancellor Doug Girod and his wife, Susan. Together the trustees and the Girods matched all gifts to the Greater KU Fund up to \$50,000. The unrestricted endowment supports the areas of greatest need at the University.

Provost Barbara Bichelmeyer, j'82, c'86, g'88, PhD'92, and Director of Athletics Travis Goff, c'03, j'03, established the Provost and Director of Athletics Global Challenge for Jayhawk Student Support, which attracted 2,500 gifts and raised \$10,000. In a separate challenge, Goff also contributed \$50 for each of the first 150 gifts made to support mental health, wellness, diversity and inclusion efforts for student-athletes.

Started in 2018 to encourage gifts of all sizes, One Day. One KU. is held on or near the anniversary of the Legislature's decision to locate the University in Lawrence. Signed into law on Feb. 20, 1863, that bill passed by just one vote, demonstrating the power of one person to make a difference.



## CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

For more information on events, visit the websites below. For Alumni Association events, see p. 59.

### KU Mini College

**June 6-8**

[kuminicollege.org](http://kuminicollege.org)

### Lied Center

**June 11** Rosanne Cash

[lied.ku.edu](http://lied.ku.edu)

### Spencer Museum of Art

"Debut," through fall 2022

[spencerart.ku.edu](http://spencerart.ku.edu)

### Dole Institute of Politics

Kansas veterans virtual memory wall, through 2022

**July 7** "Bleeding Kansas and British Kaffraria in the 1850s"

**Aug. 4** "Victory at Sea: World War II on Film"

[doleinstitute.org](http://doleinstitute.org)

### Academic calendar

**June 7** First day of summer classes

**July 29** Last day of summer classes

**Aug. 22** First day of fall classes



**Dr. Barney Graham** ["Make the Dream Work," issue No. 3, 2021], a driving force behind creation of the messenger RNA vaccines the world has come to rely on in the battle against COVID-19, on March 31 returned to campus to deliver the 17th Higuchi Memorial Lecture, focused on how COVID-19 vaccine development will shape the future of pandemic preparedness. Graham, m'79, who last August retired as deputy director of the Vaccine Research Center at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, also delivered a scientific lecture on vaccine development and the future of vaccinology for School of Pharmacy students and faculty.



MYRIAM BORZEE/ISTOCK

## RESEARCH

## 'Unique network'

*KUMC seeks participants to bolster diversity of 'long COVID' study*

AS THE HIGHLY contagious omicron variant tore its way through the country and around the world last winter, the health care community struggled to manage soaring numbers of patients with infections, especially those arriving at hospitals already functioning at or beyond capacity. That was the public health emergency.

But there's another public health crisis looming: the impact of "long COVID," the condition attributed to people who suffer from persistent and potentially serious symptoms weeks or months after their acute COVID-19 illness has passed. These symptoms—including pain, headaches, fatigue, "brain fog," shortness of breath, anxiety, depression, fever, cardiovascular problems, chronic cough and sleep problems—affect a striking number of people who've been infected by the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

"We estimate that somewhere between 20% and 30% of people who've had an acute COVID-19 infection will develop symptoms of long COVID," says Dr. Mario Castro, vice chair for clinical and translational research in the department of internal medicine and a pulmonologist at KU Medical Center. "This is likely to be one of the top public health problems we face in the near future and probably for the next decade."

This spring, Castro and his colleagues enrolled their first participants in a multisite clinical trial to understand how and why some adults develop "Post-Acute Sequelae [symptoms] of SARS-CoV-2 infection" (PASC), which includes long COVID, while others do not. The trial, coordinated by New

York University Langone Health, is sponsored by the National Institutes of Health and is part of the NIH Researching COVID to Enhance Recovery (RECOVER) Initiative.

KU Medical Center received a \$1.1 million grant to participate in the RECOVER study as part of the IDeA States Consortium for Clinical Research (ISCORE), a network of 11 states that helps ensure diversity in medical research funding.

"We were chosen purposely because we have quite a bit of diversity within ISCORE, including Native Americans, African Americans, Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders and rural populations," Castro says. "That made our network unique in that regard."

In total, the study will enroll more than 17,000 adults at least 18 years of age from 77 institutions across the United States. Working with their clinical partners at The University of Kansas Health System, KU Medical Center aims to enroll more than 200 participants. Participants will include people who have not contracted COVID-19 as well as those who have, and people with PASC symptoms as well as those without. The study will follow the participants for up to four years.

"Our hope is that at the end of the day, we will be able to give clinicians a strategy to manage these patients," Castro says.

Because it's not yet known who is at a higher risk for long COVID, it's hard for physicians to know how to treat this patient group. Some people with long COVID were not even very sick to begin with. Some have prolonged symptoms, while others develop new symptoms after getting over an acute case of COVID-19. Moreover, the severity and array of PASC symptoms vary widely among patients.

"We'd like to understand better what are the risk factors that lead to not just CoV-2 infection, but the development of PASC. We don't really have a good understanding of that at this point," Castro says. "Social determinants may also lead to PASC, such

as having poor access to care or not being able to get prompt treatment, and we need to understand these better.”

There are also, of course, unique aspects of the virus itself that likely lead to the symptoms, Castro says. He points to work led by Navneet Dhillon, professor and director of pulmonary research at KU School of Medicine, as one potential answer to the biological puzzle of long COVID. Dhillon has conducted research on patients hospitalized with COVID-19 and found that extracellular vesicles, membrane-bound nanosized particles circulating in patients, can be used as non-invasive biomarkers of the inflammatory response and disease severity of COVID-19, and can also damage endothelial cells, which line the blood vessels. The vascular injury leads to organ damage, such as to the heart and lungs, in some COVID-19 patients.

Dhillon and her colleagues believe this phenomenon could also lead to PASC. “We are hypothesizing that maybe there’s a sustained injury that continues, that leads to this long-haul disease,” she says.

Everyone participating in the study, including the people who have never been exposed to the SARS-CoV-2 virus, will have a basic physical exam and bloodwork and complete a health questionnaire. Depending on their symptoms and infection status, they may undergo more detailed testing such as chest CT, heart MRI, electromyography and testing of nerve function. People entering the study believing that they have never been infected with SARS-CoV-2 will have an antibody test to confirm that they have not been exposed.

Those tests, conducted by KU Medical Center in partnership with The University of Kansas Health System, may help study participants and their physicians better understand problems that are due to COVID-19.

The results of the study will be important in understanding the body’s long-term reaction to COVID-19.

“The RECOVER study is extremely beneficial for anyone with PASC symptoms, as the main aim of the study is to better understand symptoms post-COVID-19 infection,” says Adam Ruff,

the clinical research coordinator for RECOVER at KU Medical Center. “The study is open to enrollment for individuals at least 18 years of age who have previously had COVID-19, are currently positive with COVID-19 and individuals that have never tested positive or had symptoms of COVID-19.”

Ruff notes the range of illness severity in the people he’s talked to as he has begun to enroll participants. “I’ve talked with many of them that have extremely severe symptoms and are trying to get into the study as soon as possible. I’ve also had conversations with individuals who have

mild to moderate symptoms,” he says. “So, for scientific integrity and research purposes, it’s important that we enroll as many people and collect as much data as possible, even on individuals who aren’t experiencing a lot of symptoms.”

—KRISTI BIRCH

*Birch is a science writer and assistant editor in news and media relations at KU Medical Center.*

*To participate in the RECOVER study or learn more about it, email covid-research-team@kumc.edu or call 913-574-3932.*



STEVE PUPPE (2)

***Creative gallery:*** *The department of visual arts and KU Endowment recently opened the Edgar Heap of Birds Family Gallery, a reimagining of the gallery space long stationed at the entrance to Chalmers Hall. Funded by an anonymous private gift, the gallery honors Heap of Birds, f’76, whose installation on the Spencer Museum of Art lawn, “Native Hosts,” was vandalized last year. The new gallery space opened with an exhibition of artworks by Heap of Birds, Cheyenne and Arapaho nations, and Associate Professor Norman Akers, Osage Nation, and will regularly feature Native American artists, including KU students. “This exhibit establishes a permanent space for Indigenous artists here at KU, and that’s what makes it remarkable,” Tweesna Rose Mills, g’21, ’22, co-chair of the First Nations Student Association, told the Lawrence Times. “It’s about having Indigenous representation here on campus.”*



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JOURNALISM

## Doctor in the house

*CNN's Sanjay Gupta headlines  
William Allen White Day program*

ON CAMPUS to accept the 2022 National Citation from the William Allen White Foundation at the Kansas Union on April 21, CNN chief medical correspondent Sanjay Gupta noted the connections between his “two chosen loves,” medicine and media.

“Sometimes we are fueled by the same things in these professions, and, like it or not, sometimes we are defined by it,” Gupta said in a speech to journalism students, faculty and foundation members. “Defined not necessarily by what we got right, but what we got wrong, what we could have done better and where we fell a little short. In medicine and media, even if other people don’t notice these things, we do.”

A practicing neurosurgeon who is now associate chief of neurosurgery at Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta, Gupta joined CNN in August 2001 to write about health care policy, a topic to which he devoted a year as a White House Fellow

during the Clinton administration. He found himself on a different journalistic path after 9/11, which occurred just three weeks into the CNN job.

“The bosses came to me and said, ‘Look, we’re probably not going to be doing health care policy for a while, but you’re a doctor now working at an international news network in the midst of all this. Are these stories that you want to cover?’” Gupta recalled. “And I did.”

The terror attacks and their aftermath, the anthrax scares, the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq all provided “some of the most human stories I’ve ever heard,” Gupta said, calling his on-the-job journalism training a “true baptism by fire.”

Gupta is highly decorated in both his chosen professions. He was elected in 2019 to the National Academy of Medicine, among the highest honors in the medical field. He has won multiple Emmy Awards, including for his coverage of Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and the Haiti earthquake

in 2010; contributed to several Peabody Award-winning projects at CNN; and wrote four New York Times bestsellers, including last year’s *World War C: Lessons from the COVID-19 Pandemic and How to Prepare for the Next One*. Yet he confessed to experiencing some doubt upon learning he’d been selected for the KU honor.

“I’m not worthy, some variation of that,” Gupta said. “Not worthy of an award in the name of William Allen White, the Sage of Emporia, the national unofficial spokesman for middle Americans, upon whose backs America was built.”

Gupta attributed that feeling to his role as “my own best critic” and the reality that journalism’s impact is a difficult thing to measure objectively.

“This award means more than you can really know, not just because it carries the name of someone whose legacy has withstood the test of time,” Gupta said of White, 1890, “but because if there can be such a thing as a measure, I can think of no better arbiters than all of you to create that measurement and to use it. So thank you very much for this.”

In her introduction, Kathleen Conkey, c’80, j’80, chair of the White Foundation, noted that Gupta has exemplified White’s call to speak the truth in plain language accessible to all during his 20 years at CNN, “but never so much as in the past two and a half years, when Dr. Gupta has reported the truth and the science of the coronavirus pandemic. Offering a calm and authoritative voice in the midst of conspiracy theories, panic, sickness and death, Dr. Gupta gave viewers a safe harbor of truth, facts and science.”

The National Citation has been awarded since 1950 to honor the Emporia Gazette editor and namesake of the School of Journalism and Mass Communications. William Allen White Day also includes the presentation of student scholarships and faculty awards.

—STEVEN HILL

EARL RICHARDSON



SERVICE

## Positive progress

*Focusing on strengths, students counsel Kansans while earning service credits*



*Nicole Hodges Persley, associate professor of American studies and of African and African American studies, was named acting vice provost for diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging in January. She is a decorated teacher whose scholarship focuses on race and performance, including hip-hop and African American theatre. Persley was appointed to the role following the resignation of D.A. Graham, who acknowledged plagiarizing a message sent to campus honoring Martin Luther King Jr. Day. A national search is now underway for the next vice provost for DEIB.*

SHORTLY BEFORE the Positive Psychotherapy Clinic was to open on the Lawrence campus, the COVID-19 pandemic forced everyone to work and learn from home. But that temporary delay enabled the clinic to reach far beyond campus and provide hundreds of hours of free counseling services to people across the state who never would have been able to make it to KU before. The clinic now has a new group of graduate students providing counseling to Kansans for a number of concerns, all while focusing on what is right in people's lives.

The counseling psychology program in the School of Education and Human Sciences has long required students to start seeing clients in their second year. Brian Cole, associate professor of educational psychology and director of training in the doctoral program, says there were plans to open a clinic to see clients in Joseph R. Pearson Hall about six weeks before the pandemic upended everyone's lives. Even though campus has reopened, there are no plans to go back to in-person services in the clinic. A telehealth format that complies with federal law restricting release of medical information has proved to have a far broader reach than eastern Kansas and enables students and faculty to serve far more people. So far, the clinic has provided more than 800 hours of services to people across Kansas.

Counseling psychology master's students are required to complete 240 hours of service, which will soon rise to 280. The clinical program helps students complete required training without adding another year of schooling.

"I started thinking of this clinic as a way to get more hours for our students while providing a service to the state. We do the traditional therapy, but the way we approach treatment is a bit different," says Cole, c'06, g'08. "The idea of positive psycho-

therapy is there is more to life than being symptom-free. It's not about living in neutral."

Traditional psychotherapy focuses on treating symptoms. For example, if a person were experiencing depression rating at a negative six—meaning they had significant symptoms but were still able to make it through the average day—the goal might be to get them to a zero, meaning they did not experience symptoms, but they were not thriving or making positive gains either. Positive psychotherapy works with clients to focus on their strengths (what they do well, what is going well in their lives) and use those positive factors to set goals, work toward them and use strengths to address areas of concern.

Students in the program have provided services for people dealing with pandemic-related stress as well as traditional concerns like depression, anxiety, divorce, academic stress and related areas. And KU's Positive Psychotherapy Clinic, among the first of its kind in the nation, has proved to be effective: Evaluation of clients has shown that about 70% have made significant progress in their eight-week program, well above the traditional average, Cole says.

Clients who live as far away as Garden City, about 350 miles from Lawrence, check in weekly to gauge progress. At the completion of the program, counselors can make referrals to other therapists if clients would like and also plan a one-month follow-up. About 50 graduate students have taken part in the program so far, and an additional 15 provided assistance as the clinic renewed services in Febru-



STEVE PUPPE

Brian Cole oversees the clinic, which has provided more than 800 hours of telehealth counseling to Kansans.



ary. Anyone interested in taking part can inquire at the clinic's website: [ampp.ku.edu/current-projects/clinic](http://ampp.ku.edu/current-projects/clinic). Clients must be an adult living in Kansas.

KU has long been a leader in positive psychology and its application in positive psychotherapy. The late Rick Snyder was a pioneer in the area; he and one of his mentees, the late Shane Lopez, g'97, PhD'99, were both faculty members and highly respected in the field. For his part in launching the Positive Psychotherapy Clinic as well as research and service in the field, Cole recently was awarded the American Psychological Association Society for Counseling Shane J. Lopez Award for Professional Contributions in Positive Psychology.

"It means a lot, especially being named for my mentor," Cole says of the award. "I learned about hope therapy, counseling psychology and so much more from Shane here at KU. Things have come full circle in a lot of ways."

Cole, who leads the clinic with Kristen Bast Hensley, c'01, g'06, PhD'08, associate professor of the practice and training director of the counseling psychology master's program, says the clinic is entirely grant-funded. The hope is to work with University and community partners to secure permanent funding in order to meet the need for counseling and mental health services across the state.

The students who are now learning about positive psychology and positive psychotherapy have taken the practice into their professional careers in Veterans Affairs Hospitals, college counseling centers, private practices and other areas. Recent graduates often have training their supervisors have not received and are able to establish the practice in their places of work.

Meanwhile, on KU's campus, counseling psychology students will continue to reach out across the state.

"Focusing on what is right with people can be a meaningful way to reduce stress and suffering," Cole says. "A lot of people don't have the money, time or transportation to get to therapy, and we've been able to eliminate a lot of barriers and help people we never would have been able to before. There's a ton of need out there. And while this was all very new two years ago, now it's commonplace in almost every practice site. One thing the pandemic has shown is telehealth is effective and it's here to stay."

—MIKE KRINGS

*Krings is a public affairs officer in the KU News Service.*



STEVE PUPPE

## NEWS BRIEF

### Union director concludes long tenure

WHEN ALLEN FIELD HOUSE video cameras found Big Jay striding toward David Mucci during halftime of the March 3 men's basketball game, Mucci quickly grasped that his friends' offer of primo tickets had been a ruse: He was there to be honored for his 23 years as director of KU Memorial Union, a distinguished tenure that closes with his June 30 retirement.

As applause began to gather, a little boy rushed forward and embraced Big Jay in a hug for the ages; cheers swelled at the sweet scene, and, in a flash, Mucci's moment in the spotlight faded in favor of a happy young Jayhawk—which mirrored his career: Young people come first.

"The sheer joy of that moment," Mucci says with a laugh, "was just spectacular."

Mucci began his career in student unions while an undergraduate at the University of Kentucky. After stints at Texas A&M and Ohio State, Mucci jumped at an opportunity to build a new union at the University of Idaho. Six years into that tenure, a colleague whose daughter was studying at KU urged him to apply for the job that came open with the retirement of Jim Long, who in 1983 had succeeded the legendary Frank Burge.

KU Memorial Union was then, and remains, admired nationally for a rare portfolio, including food service and bookstores, that pays enough bills to keep union fees about \$30 less than the next-closest Board of Regents university—and yet its primary role remains as a campus crossroad.

"Our focus," Mucci says, "is to bring the Jayhawk nation together."

Vice Provost for Student Affairs Tammara Durham, who supervises the Union director's position, says she appreciated Mucci's unwavering response of "let's see what we can do" when presented with any idea or suggestion.

"That's one of the things I learned from him, and I wish we had more of that," says Durham, EdD'09. "It's not a no. It's not a yes. It's, 'Let's meet somewhere in the middle.'"

Durham expects to name an interim director soon, before launching a national search in the fall.

—CHRIS LAZZARINO

*Mass Street & more*

**'Somebody Somewhere' is here!**

**MYSTERY SOLVED:** Jayhawks lucky enough to discover HBO's charming comedy series "Somebody Somewhere," set in Manhattan, have surely noticed that charismatic star Bridget Everett highlights her character's Lawrence connection by wearing KU and Louise's West T-shirts. As a trickle of occasional screenshots turned to a stream of "Have you seen this???" text messages, Louise's West general manager PJ Mather was delighted by the neighborhood bar's brush with fame yet completely in the dark as to the how and why—right up until Mather pointed out the pub's front window on a recent Sunday afternoon and shouted,



COURTESY PJ MATHER

"There she is!" Sure enough, in walked Everett (cradling her pup, LuLu) with her brother, Brock, c'92. "We like to stop through and grab a schooner during our trips home," reports Brock, whose own acting career got a boost with his role as a cop in the movie "Good Mourning," directed by Machine Gun Kelly. "I, of course, needed some

PJ Mather (center) with her new favorite Westies, Brock and Bridget Everett—and little LuLu, too.

championship garb. She grabbed some Louise's West swag, so possibly there will be a sighting in season 2 of 'Somebody Somewhere.'

**NEWS BRIEF**

**Endowment trustees**

**FOUR ALUMNI** recently elected to join KU Endowment's Board of Trustees are Kannon Shanmugam, of Great Falls, Virginia; Petra "Tedde" Tasheff, of New York City; Elizabeth Boldridge Tovar, of Iowa City, Iowa; and Frank Tsuru, of Houston. Shanmugam, '90, chair of Supreme Court litigation for a Washington, D.C., firm, established a neurosurgery research fund in honor of his late father, Sam, a distinguished professor of electrical engineering. Tasheff, c'78, former chair of the Alumni Association's Board of Directors and a Life Member, is retired from the National Center for Law and Economic Justice. Tovar, c'02, g'09, PhD'11, senior associate athletics director at the University

of Iowa, in 2005 was honored as a KU Woman of Distinction and is a member of the Women Philanthropists for KU advisory board. Tsuru, e'83, is CEO of both Momentum Midstream, which he co-founded in 2004,

and Indigo Natural Resources, a Louisiana exploration and production company. He is president of the National Eagle Scout Association and is a member of the Boy Scouts of America national board.

In other Endowment news, Chancellors Club teaching professorships were recently awarded to Mikhail Barybin, professor of chemistry; Scott Moser, associate dean of curriculum at the School of Medicine-Wichita; Cynthia Teel, associate dean for academic affairs at the School of Nursing; and George Tsoflias, professor of applied geophysics.

STEVE PUPPE





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**“I fully expect Maui to be the highest-drafted player in Kansas baseball history.”**

—coach Ritch Price, on shortstop Maui Ahuna’s prospects for a career in Major League Baseball



KANSAS ATHLETICS (2)

BASEBALL

## The sweet science of shortstop

*Ahuna’s hard-hitting athleticism wows major-league scouts*

WATCHING SOPHOMORE Maui Ahuna patrol shortstop or dig in at the plate, it’s not a reach to project the lean, strong athlete as a boxer: lateral movement, coiled strength, athletic aggression. Turns out that’s what coach Ritch Price saw when he first watched Ahuna, then a high school sophomore, at a Tampa Bay Rays scout showcase near Ahuna’s Hilo, Hawaii, home.

Turns out, too, there’s good reason for the sweet-science analogy to come to mind.

“Boxing is actually a huge thing for me,” Ahuna says. “It helped me get quicker. Better bat speed. Footwork. Balance.”

There’s no professional career awaiting Ahuna in the ring, but the dream he’s chasing, to play Major League Baseball, is within his grasp. His .454 batting average led the country heading into conference play; as of the week of May 9, 18 games into KU’s Big 12 schedule, Ahuna’s 14-game hit streak and 22 multi-hit games were both second in the powerhouse conference.

The sophomore will be draft-eligible following next season, and eager pro scouts attend every KU game.

“I had a scout tell me that if Maui keeps making progress, he has him turned in as a first-round draft pick,” Price says. “I fully expect Maui to be the highest-drafted player in Kansas baseball history if he continues on the upward trajectory that he’s on right now.”

Ahuna committed to KU on his first and only campus visit—needing only to borrow a KU baseball jacket to stay warm during his winter excursion to Mount Oread—and hit .316 with 11 doubles and 25 RBI while starting all 50 games as a freshman.

That’s a pattern of early success that Price cultivates intentionally, especially at shortstop.

“Almost every shortstop who’s played the game since I’ve been here has signed a pro contract. It’s been the premier position on our roster,” says Price, currently in his 20th year at KU. “We recruit the best freshmen we can get and play them early.”

Now a lean 170 after adding 20 pounds of rock-solid muscle, Ahuna has attracted the attention of not just pro scouts, but also Baseball America and SI.com, both of which have featured him. While good for boosting the KU brand and Ahuna’s profile, the national coverage also means opposing pitchers no longer let him feast on fastballs.

Maui Ahuna says constant attention from pro scouts does not make him nervous: “I relax during the game. I don’t think about the hits. I don’t think about, what happens if I do horrible? Would my draft go down? I don’t think about that. I just play. Have fun. Be me, be the real Maui.”

“He’s doing a better job of identifying it, but he’s still chasing pitches out of the zone, so it’s an area that he needs to improve on,” Price says. “Which is a good part of the growing experience, part of the learning experience. It’s going to make him better in the long run.”

The long run, for Ahuna, means reaching “the show”—“He’s wanted to play pro ball since the time he could walk,” Price says—but don’t expect the long run to also include boxing training with his Hawaii baseball friends.

“We were never doing actual boxing, in competitions, but we trained hard. It was footwork, mostly, and we did a lot of running. A *lot* of running.” Grimacing at the memory, Ahuna adds with a chuckle, “Oh, gosh, I hated those days.”

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

## Breakout season

*Women’s hoops hauls in honors galore*

PICKED BEFORE THE SEASON by conference coaches to finish last in the Big 12, women’s basketball responded with an 11-7 record in Big 12 play, good for fifth in the grueling conference, and entered



KANSAS ATHLETICS (2)

Taiyanna Jackson (1) and her teammates reveled in their 77-58 win over Georgia Tech in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

the postseason 20-8, the Jayhawks’ first 20-win mark since 2000.

Even more good news awaited: The Jayhawks earned their first NCAA Tournament bid since 2013 and beat Georgia Tech in the tournament’s first round before losing to defending national champion Stanford. Junior guard Holly Kersgieter became KU’s first All-Big 12 First Team honoree since 2015, and seventh-year coach Brandon Schneider was named Big 12 Coach of the Year, the first such honor for KU since Marian Washington in 1997.

“Building things the right way doesn’t always happen as quickly as you would

like,” Schneider said March 9, after he was awarded a new four-year contract. “We tried to stay the course and stay true to the values and pillars of the program, knowing that one day we would build something that could be very sustainable.”

Although the season ended with the 91-65 loss March 20 to Stanford, the young Jayhawks (21-10) trailed by only two, 33-31, at halftime against a Final Four team playing on its home court.

Reflected Schneider, “I would hope it would create a good thirst in our program to continue to grow and develop and be a consistent participant in this tournament.”

## UPDATE

Senior **Kate Steward** was named Big 12 Women’s Swimming and Diving Scholar-Athlete of the Year. Steward, a three-time Academic All-Big 12 honoree with a 4.0 GPA, was also named the Dr. Marlene Mawson Exemplary Woman Student-Athlete. She qualified for her first NCAA meet, in the 100- and 200-yard breaststroke, and closed her memorable career with three Big 12 event titles and five school records. ...



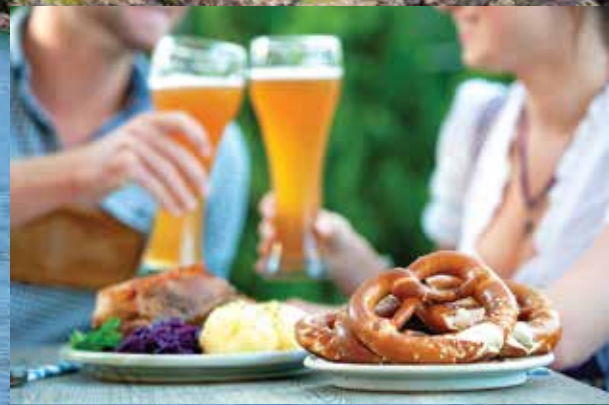
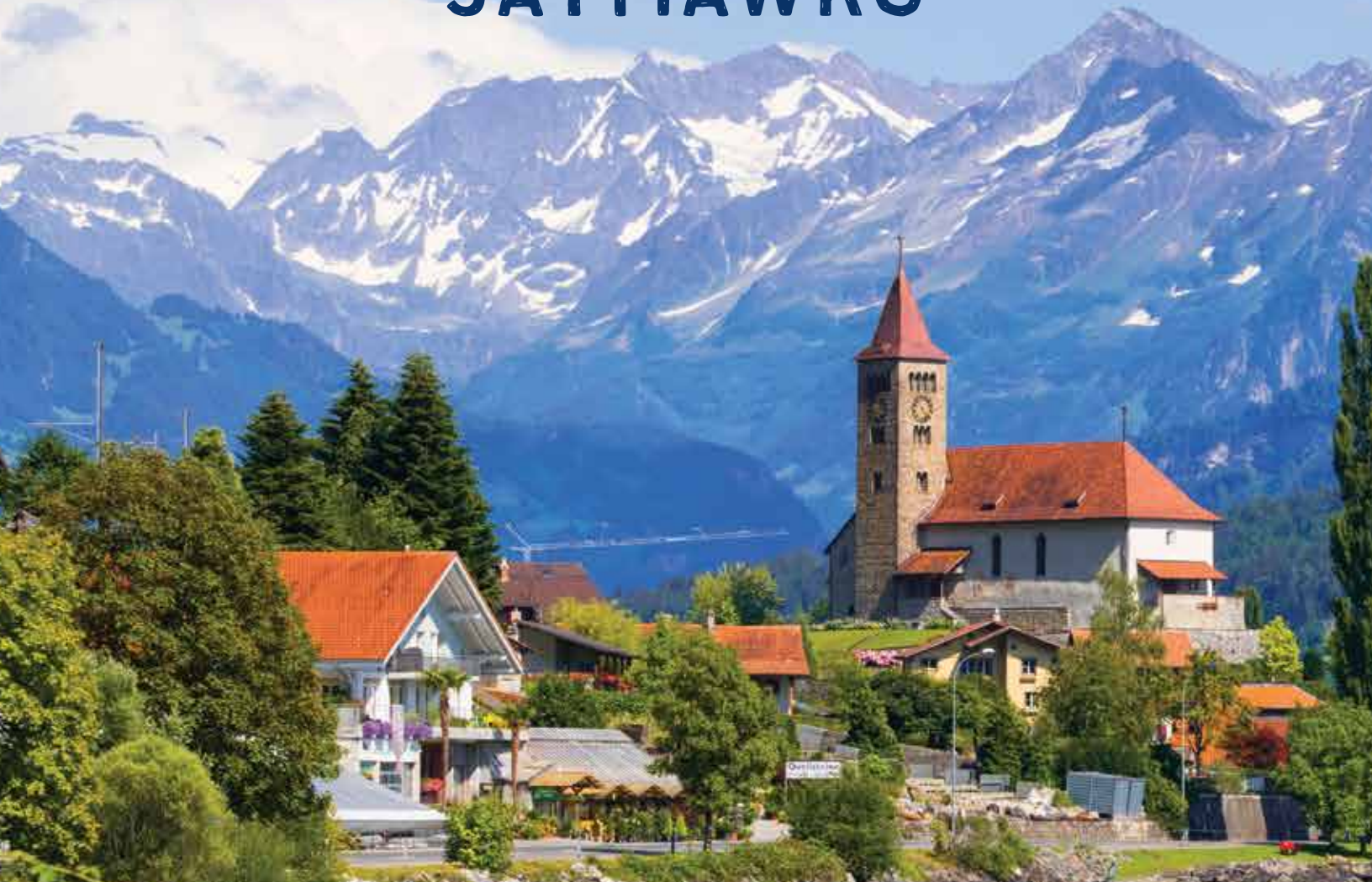
Steward

Senior forward **David McCormack**, c’21, who earned his undergraduate degree in three years, joined Steward as Big 12 Scholar-Athlete of the Year, representing men’s

basketball. McCormack worked toward a master’s degree in digital content strategy while helping lead the ‘Hawks to their fourth NCAA title. ... Junior **Rylee Anderson** won her second-consecutive Big 12 indoor high jump title with a leap of 6 feet, 1.25 inches, breaking the 29-year school record. ... Senior **Dawson Engle** on Jan. 29 scored his 102nd career goal, topping KU hockey’s all-time goals list. Also in KU club sports, men’s rugby advanced to the National

College Rugby title game, falling 22-17 to undefeated Fresno State April 30 in Arlington, Texas. ... With a 1-under-par 863, women’s golf set the 54-hole school record Feb. 28 at the Westbrook Invitational in Arizona. ... Paced by senior **Harry Hillier**’s one-stroke individual victory, men’s golf on April 17 won its fifth tournament of the season at Iowa’s Hawkeye Invitational. **Jamie Bermel** capped his 10th season as men’s golf coach with a five-year contract extension.

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August 18-25
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August 24-September 6
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- **Romance of the Douro**  
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- **Radiant Spain & Italy**  
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- **Croatia & the Dalmatian Coast**  
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# ROAD TO RECOVERY

by  
Jen Humphrey



# The Cofrin Logan Center is advancing addiction science to help people find new ways to live

**J**olie Lippitt was ready for a new start in 2018. She liquidated her possessions in Madison, Wisconsin. Then she packed what remained into two suitcases and, clutching her preschooler's hand, boarded a Greyhound bus bound for Topeka.

By then she'd invested in herself to earn seven years of sobriety and move beyond the traumas she carries. Her biological parents, struggling with alcohol use and criminal activity, were unable to care for her or provide a safe childhood. Her mother "couldn't find a new way to live" and died when Jolie was 10. Jolie's history includes 11 foster care homes by the time she turned 6, sexual assault, domestic violence, joblessness, substance use and struggles with her mental health.

"I came here with the intention to bloom where I am planted," she says of her move to Kansas.

When Heartland Regional Alcohol & Drug Assessment Center (RADAC) took a chance on hiring her despite limited work experience, it provided additional training through the Douglas County Peer Fellows program, in which participants complete 750 hours of work experience and 150 hours of training. Through the program, Lippitt met people like Bruce Liese, professor of family medicine and psychiatry at the KU Medical Center, who helped her apply her lived experiences to assisting others in restoring their own lives.

"Everything from trauma, recovery, to learning how to navigate life: It's empowered me and enabled me to kind of be that light in the darkness for somebody else," Lippitt says.

She is one of the scores of people whose lives have intersected with the Cofrin Logan Center for Addiction Research and Treatment since it was established four years ago through a gift to KU. Cofrin Logan Center scientists and students have navigated the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic for more than half of the center's existence, a time when substance use and deaths attributed to addiction increased dramatically in the United States.

The center's impact reverberates in the community that forms through the center's online and in-person peer support groups, which attract local participants and people from across the country. It multiplies through partnerships with community health programs, the graduate students the center trains, and researchers who strive to meet the underserved needs in Black, Latino, Indigenous and LGBTQ+ communities. As the center grows, its activities are informed by the insights and opinions of the people it aims to help.

STEVE PUPPE



Jolie Lippitt celebrated being sober for 11 years in April this year. She applies her life experiences to help clients see that no matter where they come from, no matter what they've done, they can put forth the action to change their lives.

**T**reatment for addiction is everywhere, says Dan Logan, c'75, who with his wife, Gladys Cofrin, gave \$2 million to establish the center that bears their names. In the past decade, he and Gladys noticed that the number of treatment facilities in Florida had ballooned to meet the rising numbers of people with substance use problems across the country. Little was known about the treatment centers' track records for success, says Logan, who lives near Gainesville and is a retired emergency room physician and professor of medicine. "People who know nothing about addiction can hang out a shingle and start treating people," he says of the treatment industry. "It was our hope in creating the center that we could offer treatment that was informed by research to deliver the most effective interventions."

As a couple who have experienced substance use disorders and long-term recovery, they also wanted to channel their gratitude into helping others.

"This is one of the ways we could give back a little of what we received," Cofrin says. "We wouldn't have the life we have now without the gift of recovery."

Their support helped recruit Richard Yi, professor of psychology, from the University of Florida to KU to direct the Cofrin Logan Center. He has built the center's infrastructure and staff, developed community partnerships and helped bring in \$4.6 million in external funding for research. The center has grown to include investigators and graduate students from diverse KU departments including behavioral science, psychology, communications, social welfare, and architecture and design. The success has inspired Cofrin and Logan to make additional investments, including an endowed chair to be filled in the 2023-'24 academic year, and an endowed operations fund to sustain the center.

The center, which is part of the KU Life Span Institute, is tucked into an office suite on the third floor of the Dole Human Development Center. The walls are adorned with colorful pencil drawings contributed by participants in the center's local art programs. The laboratory down the hall is the center's most distinctive feature.

Known as the "bar lab," the room resembles the neon-lit hangouts on Mass Street, complete with the TV screen for watching basketball games. Plush swivel stools line high-top tables and the large bar, which features plenty of beer taps. Behind the bar are glass shelves stocked with bottles of liquor and wine—or so it appears. Creative mixes of food coloring and water give the contents in the brand-name bottles their authentic look.

Everything about the room is meant to feel like a bar, which is the point of an alcohol administration laboratory, says Michael Amlung, Cofrin Logan's associate director for training and associate professor of applied behavioral science. The KU bar lab is one of three he has helped develop in the past 10 years.

In the lab, participants are exposed to environmental cues under controlled circumstances. Researchers can study individual motivation to use alcohol, how much participants value alcohol, and the decisions they make about drinking.

Recently, Amlung and his research team added an e-cigarette environment laboratory across the hall. Like the vape shops that dot strip malls nationwide, it includes neon lighting, a vaporizer and tiered rows of vaping devices and nicotine cartridges.

"If we are going to study motivation to use e-cigarettes, we need to temporarily break down the four walls of the lab and try as best we can to make the lab a better approximation of the real world," Amlung says.

Adding vaping cues to alcohol use also reflects the reality that people often use more than one substance and that there are influences for both. It's unreasonable to think people can completely avoid all environments that have alcohol and e-cigarettes, Amlung says. Restaurants, grocery stores, gas stations, sporting events and movie theaters can supply those cues.

"We can help people to better recognize when they are experiencing those urges and arm them with skills to adjust their response, so that they aren't immediately going straight for the urge to use," he says.

The bar lab studies are just a portion of the research happening among the teams of investigators, postdoctoral researchers and graduate students at the center. Some study the neural mechanisms associated with health behaviors, or explore novel interventions for particularly high-risk populations, such as KU students. For example, investigator Tera Fazzino, associate director of the center and assistant professor of psychology, works with freshmen in University 101 classes to study an intervention based on what students value.

"The insights we gain in this area of research are not about pushing substances away, but about embracing what helps us live enriching lives," Yi says. "It's about how we approach life in a way that is consistent with our values and priorities, so we make those a bigger part of our lives, which then tilts the scales so that you're less likely to engage in problematic misuse."



Steve Poppo

Professors (l-r) Tera Fazzino, associate director; Richard Yi, director; Michael Amlung, associate director for training; and Bruce Liese, clinical director, apply different areas of expertise to lead the Cofrin Logan Center's diverse activities.



Gayla and Patrick Guthrie

Washington research professor Christine Lee, a national leader in the field who spoke during the Cofrin Logan Center's seminar series in 2021. She says the changes for young adults that occurred during the pandemic affected mental health and substance use.

"Our work indicates that young adults had concerns and stress related to the COVID-19 pandemic that were associated with specific domains of life, such as finances, work, education and relationships," Lee says. "These stressors, in particular job distress and social or relational concerns, were associated with poorer mental health early in the pandemic, as well as through the pandemic, and greater alcohol use among college students."

The pandemic also shaped existing research in unexpected ways. Briana McGeough, assistant professor of social welfare at KU and a Cofrin Logan Center investigator, had planned an in-person research study on a substance use peer support program.

The study was to focus on the needs of people who identify as LGBTQ+ seeking help for substance use. The LGBTQ+ community brings an additional layer to substance use and recovery; individuals may hold critical feelings about their identity because of societal expectations, discrimination, religious background or family relationships, McGeough says.

"It's fairly common for folks to cope with these self-critical voices in

**G**ayla Guthrie remembers her brother Patrick Guthrie, '99, for his wicked sense of humor and his intense love of his family and KU.

He turned his passions for rock music and culinary creativity into a two-decade career in the restaurant industry. The long hours, job insecurity and exposure to alcohol fueled his substance use problem, which he kept hidden until 2015, when he told his family he was struggling. Several years of treatment, recovery and multiple relapses followed.

In the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic, Patrick had just completed another 28-day inpatient treatment program. While his sister had to limit contact with him because of her family's health vulnerabilities, Gayla always answered his calls, spoke with treatment providers on his behalf and tried to connect him with resources. Patrick ultimately died of complications from alcohol use in June 2020.

Gayla says her brother fundamentally knew that more research is needed to form a better understanding of substance use. That interest prompted the family to create the Patrick Guthrie Hawks for Hope research awards at the Cofrin Logan Center in his memory.

"We need to break through the stigma, shame, guilt and embarrassment that are so prevalent and treat addiction like the disease that it is, like we treat cancer and other life-threatening illnesses," Gayla says.

Patrick was among the nearly 100,000 people in the United States whose deaths were attributed to alcohol in 2020. The figure was a 25% increase from the previous year. Similarly, from 2019 to 2020, opioid overdose deaths increased 38%, and deaths involving synthetic opioids such as fentanyl increased 55%.

Some scientists are exploring possible connections between the pandemic and substance use. They include University of

As the pandemic shuttered businesses, altered child care routines and pushed schools online, it also halted community programs such as those offered by the Cofrin Logan Center. Now arts programs offered by the center's artist-in-residence, John Sebelius, are back to meeting in person.

On a Monday afternoon at Bert Nash Community Mental Health Center, Sebelius, 62, enters a room on the main floor and places colored pencils and paper on the tables and desks squeezed into the space. Class participants, who range from millennials to boomers, file in and take their seats. Each is or has been a client of Bert Nash, which offers a variety of mental health, wellness and outreach services.

Sebelius explains the session's one-hour activity: Draw the home they imagine for themselves three years in the future. It could be a beach shack, a cabin in the woods, or under the ocean, but the key instruction is to make it as detailed as possible. The artists, who may not have had an

encouraging experience with artmaking in 10 or 20 years or more, are then asked to identify who lives in the imagined home. What pets do they have? Are there carpet or wood floors? There are no limits, he emphasizes.

As Bob Marley's "Buffalo Soldier" ripples from a Bluetooth speaker, Sebelius ambles around the room, talking to the participants about their creations. One woman illustrates a scene with layers of sunny skies, the ocean below, a sandy beach, and a small purple hut in the foreground. A beach ball bounces along the waves. Another woman draws Earth and stars as viewed from the moon. In an hour, the class concludes, and people tuck artworks into bags and backpacks, or leave them for Sebelius to collect.

"We're challenging people to daydream and physically render it on a sheet of paper," he says.

The activity is one of a suite of options he offers at Bert Nash, at residential treatment programs in Lawrence and at

intimate situations by using alcohol or methamphetamines, for example, and unfortunately that can be a barrier to having meaningful connections."

When the pandemic forced the project to move online, the switch allowed broad geographic representation. Rural LGBTQ+ individuals, who may be more isolated, could interact with people anywhere in the nation. People with physical disabilities were drawn to the meetings as well; an online meeting didn't present a mobility barrier, and Zoom offers a closed-caption option.

Although McGeough was reluctant to move her research of peer support online, the results have been heartening, she says.

"It's been overwhelming in terms of how beautifully people support each other. One participant said, 'I've been feeling isolated, but really connected with you all.' And another participant was moved by that and began weeping. There was a concern that people weren't going to feel a connection with each other, but they are. From my perspective, that is one of the most important things."

She's quick to acknowledge that while moving meetings online may benefit some individuals, it can leave out youths and others who aren't "out" at home, which may be the only place they can tune in. It also leaves out people with poor Wi-Fi connections or access to the technology.



JEFF BURKHEAD/BERT NASH CENTER (3)

Participants in Cofrin Logan Center art programs are offered a safe and encouraging space to explore their creativity.



John Sebelius, artist-in-residence for the Cofrin Logan Center, says introducing people to simple art materials can help them express themselves and relieve stress.



JEFF BURKHEAD/BERT NASH CENTER (2)

Warriors' Ascent, a Kansas City-based program for veterans and first responders struggling with post-traumatic stress or substance use. The art programs dispel myths about creating art and help participants feel comfortable with the materials such as pencils, paint and clay as means of creative expression.

At some locations, participants may be dealing not only with mental health challenges such as substance use, but also with insecure or unsafe housing. Imagining a future home can provide peace, Sebelius says. The exercise also taps into episodic future thinking, an intervention that helps people use the vision of what they want in the future to help address substance use in the present.

Director Yi, who studies episodic future thinking, works with Sebelius to conduct evaluations of the exercise before and after to determine its impact. Overall, the arts programs help people apply what they learn in peer or individual therapy to other areas

of their lives, and help them stay engaged, Yi says. "The hard work in a behavioral intervention is the 23 hours a day you are not in a group or in individual therapy. We're delivering elements of those interventions in ways that are engaging so that someone can do them in their regular, everyday life."

In addition to the arts programs, SMART Recovery, or Self-Management And Recovery Training, is a staple of the Cofrin Logan Center's community programming. Professor Bruce Liese, who also is the center's clinical director, launched SMART Recovery meetings at the Lawrence Public Library in 2019. He leveraged private and county funding to train additional facilitators, including peer trainees in recovery, professionals such as social workers, and KU staff. The effort multiplied into seven weekly in-person SMART Recovery meetings in the county. That year, 229 people participated in those meetings; more than 20% had attended five or more sessions.

When the pandemic shuttered the library and halted in-person meetings, Liese moved to an online format and worked with the newly trained facilitators to offer a local substance abuse hotline. Today the meetings occur both in person and online simultaneously. They draw people from across Douglas County and as far away as New York City.

Thomas is among the participants in the meetings this spring. As he was completing his undergraduate degree in Georgia, he began drinking to suppress the anxiety and panic he had endured since his teen years. Every evening he consumed as many as 10 to 12 drinks to stifle cascading and paralyzing fears about his job and future.

When he arrived at KU in fall 2021, then sober for two years, he no longer had the support systems he had at home. The pressure to achieve in his graduate program began to push his anxiety to new heights, and he began drinking heavily again.

"Even though I kept saying, 'I'm going

## “THERE HAS TO BE A DIALOGUE BETWEEN RESEARCH AND THE REAL WORLD. AND IT GOES BOTH WAYS: THE COMMUNITY CAN INFORM THE INTERVENTION.” —Richard Yi

to quit, I’m going to quit,’ I would keep having these mental health issues,” he says.

The University’s student mental health services often have a backlog of requests, and it took many weeks for Thomas to be seen by a psychiatrist. In the meantime, an online search of area programs pointed him to SMART Recovery. The meetings provided positive encouragement when he needed it right away, he says.

“It makes you feel supported and less ashamed. It’s no longer, ‘Oh, there’s something that’s really wrong with me.’” Sober since that first week in February, Thomas continues to attend the meetings.

Offering free community programs is part of the Cofrin Logan Center’s commitment to reaching people where they are, no matter their identity, Amlung says. Substance use affects people from all socioeconomic, racial, ethnic, cultural, religious and national backgrounds and identities.

“It also disproportionately affects some groups more than others,” he says. “So while it can affect everyone, there are certain groups of people that are at a greater likelihood of experiencing the negative impacts because of systemic racism, discrimination and policy. What’s exciting about the Cofrin Logan Center is we are trying to use the science to reach some of those groups that are traditionally underserved.”

Yi says that’s one reason why the community programs are so important to the science. People participating in art programs such as the imagined future home exercise can help scientists be informed about how an intervention works in a person’s daily life.

“There has to be a dialogue between research and the real world,” he says. “And it goes both ways: The community can inform the intervention.”

Jolie Lippitt could help make those connections. She is an enrolled member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, with roots in the Ho-Chunk and the Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa nations. When she first worked for Heartland RADAC, she commuted from Topeka to serve in Lawrence, which is home to more Indigenous people than the surrounding areas.

Now sober for 11 years and the single mother of 9-year-old Sky, Lippitt smiles big and warm in a way that disarms her clients and strangers alike. Her easy laughter belies the trauma in her past. Lippitt says she can be the person that she didn’t see growing up: “I often remind myself to ‘be who you needed when you were younger.’”

“I help other people, through my own experience, bring into fruition what they want to do with themselves.”

She combines her experiences with the training she completed in February through the county’s Peer Fellows program, which included education sessions led by KU professor Liese.

Bob Tryanski, Douglas County director of behavioral health projects, says four years ago the county recognized that its outreach lacked a critical element, so it joined forces with the Cofrin Logan Center, Bert Nash, Heartland RADAC, LMH Health and other agencies. “It was clear that we needed people with lived experience who want to help people with their lived experiences, and we don’t have

a workforce to do the work in systems of care,” he says. “The idea is to create a different type of first responder.”

Lippitt says Liese is an example of someone she wouldn’t otherwise have met because she hasn’t been through university training.

“People like me can get the professional training that the ‘school of hard knocks’ didn’t teach me,” she says of the program. “Peer Fellows absolutely and intentionally exists to create space and create a platform for marginalized people to get trained and be able to connect with communities not only that they serve, but the communities where they are from. There’s power in that.”

Lippitt now serves clients in the Topeka area. She tries to explain that the goal is the restoration of life, with an aim to go from surviving to thriving, and that the process is not linear.

“It takes time,” she says. “Recovery is the process of not giving up.”

*Humphrey, j’96, c’03, g’10, is director of external affairs at the KU Life Span Institute.*





KANSAS ATHLETICS

# HOW LUCKY WE



# FOURTH NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP IGNITES MEMORABLE HOOPS HYSTERIA



STEVE PUPPE

## 6:10 A.M., MONDAY, APRIL 4:

Downtown Lawrence would never bustle at this early hour, but this enveloping calm feels different.

For the second time in three days, city crews are closing intersections with 120 hollow barricades to be filled with 200 gallons of water apiece—“*Twice*,” cracks a reflective-vest-clad city employee, referencing the same street-closure exercise conducted the morning of April 2. So, let’s see: 200 gallons, times 120, doubled ... “*You do the math*,” the worker cuts in as he runs a hose from the big white water-tank truck stationed at Sixth and Mass from one barricade to the next.

Joggers and dog walkers happily, haphazardly meander right down the middle of a Massachusetts Street that is utterly empty of cars, moving or parked. Flexing mad camping skills honed over long seasons in pursuit of prime seats in Allen Field House, a dozen or so hardy students are already lining up in the 700 block, hoping to claim perches for the long day to come in the hot downtown bar of the moment.

Still more city workers with a lift-bucket truck staged at Ninth and Mass string crimson-and-blue lights on corner trees. Sanitation crews have already come and gone—oh, to own the coffee truck concession at the public works shop—having rolled out rugged blue barrels lined with heavy-duty black plastic while also removing the heavy metal lids, capable of inflicting unspeakable damage to property and person, from permanent trash bins already stationed at every corner and midblock crosswalk.

# HAVE IT

BY CHRIS LAZZARINO

CHRIS LAZZARINO



Downtown Lawrence is being readied, of course, for the NCAA Tournament championship game, pitting the favored Jayhawks against their blueblood rival, the North Carolina Tar Heels, in the New Orleans Superdome. Most attention downtown is rightly focused on KU men's basketball's first title-game appearance since 2012, when the Jayhawks lost to yet another storied rival, Kentucky, in that same Superdome.

But for folks intimately attuned to the rhythms of Mass Street life, thoughts also drift away from the happy rituals of a deep run in the NCAA Tournament.

Two years earlier, nearly to the day, Mass Street, like every street, sat hollow for reasons dark and frightening in the early hours of the pandemic in spring 2020, and the inconceivable notion the entire NCAA Tournament—in which KU was the overwhelming favorite—would be canceled had already given way to the weird new reality of downtown devoid of life and life devoid of downtown.

This year's sea of celebrants swarming Mass Street made dystopian 2020 feel like an ancient time that maybe never really happened at all. In 2020, Mass Street was empty and edgy because we were scared and had no idea whatsoever when there might be "a return to normalcy," in the parlance of the COVID times; in 2022,

STEVE PUPPE



the emptiness would not last long.

The calm, this time around, preceded a predictably timed storm. Life would return.

Oh, boy, would it return.

Filmmaker Marc Havener, c'96, founder of Lawrence-based Resonate Pictures, created an enduring artistic record of the 2020 pandemic year with his short film "Dear Larry: A letter to home." With state-of-the-art digital cameras and drones, Havener documented the haunting emptiness of parks, playgrounds, dance studios, concert venues and, of course, campus. "One Day At A Time LFK," counseled the Granada's marquee. "#RiseLawrence," "Lawrence Love" and "Be Kind / Be Well / We Will Be Back Soon" read other



DAN STOREY



STEVE PUPPE (2)



Celebration scenes included (this page) a mad dash down Mass after KU's semifinal victory over Villanova and the Granada marquee updated after KU's Elite Eight triumph over Miami; city crews stringing crimson-and-blue lights (opposite) the morning of the championship game and emotions unleashed after KU qualified for the Final Four; and (previous spread) locker room jubilation in New Orleans and, early that morning, a Jayhawk posted sentry in a downtown that awaited the championship yet to come.



Happy 'Hawks celebrated Elite Eight and Final Four victories downtown and at Allen Field House watch parties (this page), and erupted in unbridled glee (opposite) after the title-game triumph over North Carolina.



missives captured in the “Dear Larry” time capsule.

On Saturday, April 2, as a raucous crowd 20,000 strong thundered down Mass Street after KU quashed Villanova in this season’s national semifinals, Havener ventured downtown to film for the first time since the beginning of the pandemic.

Moments after the Jayhawks’ 81-65 victory—so resounding that even former Villanova great Jalen Brunson proclaimed it “legit revenge” for Villanova’s never-in-doubt victory over KU in the 2018 semifinals—Havener grabbed his Red Komodo camera rig, hopped on his motorized one-wheel board and zoomed north from his house at 16th and New Hampshire streets.

As brilliantly captured in “One More,”

the film he finished in the predawn of championship Monday, what Havener encountered at 14th and Mass, where students poured down the long hill from campus and made the left turn toward downtown, was, in a word, electric. Downtown was about to receive an energy boost that could only be topped should KU prevail two days later.

“It was something you hadn’t seen,” Havener reflects, “for a long time.”

As evidenced by “Dear Larry,” Havener took seriously the pandemic and its associated precautions—including masks and, for a time, social isolation—and it’s an attitude he still embraces. Except during this celebration, this uncorking of the bottle and spray of jubilation.

“It’s like the floodgates of heaven have

opened,” Havener says. “Everybody’s uptight, right? You’ve got the pandemic, you’ve got Will Smith slapping people, you have airplanes having to land to get passengers off, but on Mass Street, after that game, nobody has a grudge. It’s like, welcome home. Everyone’s welcome, everyone’s your friend, and it’s nothing but love and acceptance. Everybody’s worthy to be down there.

“In a way, without us knowing it, there’s this social sort of mask that we’ve become comfortable with, and for two hours on Saturday night, when we were celebrating, it transported us back. It’s like this whole time we’re talking about getting back to normal, and for those two hours it felt like normal without even being conscious of it.”



Steve Purpe (7)

# BIG PARTIES IN THE BIG EASY

KANSAS ATHLETICS



DANIELLE HOOVER



BRETT LEONARD



More than 4,000 KU fans gathered at designated Jayhawk hot spots in New Orleans during the Final Four. Alumni Association president Heath Peterson (l-r) and staffers Danielle Hoover, Angie Storey, Austin Johanning, Brett Leonard, Michael Stigler and Heather Hawkins welcomed members and their families to sold-out rallies at the House of Blues, while Beach on Bourbon hosted a come-one-come-all party. Nationwide, the Association's alumni networks hosted 78 watch parties in 35 states and Washington, D.C., for the championship game, and 304 such events across the NCAA Tournament's three weekends.

**"HE'S ACCOMPLISHED PRETTY MUCH EVERY GOAL HE SET OUT TO ACCOMPLISH. HE'S FUN TO PLAY WITH, HE'S SUPER UNSELFISH, HE'S SUPER HUMBLE."**

—Christian Braun on teammate Ochai Agbaji

Once we collectively catch our breath and move beyond the elation of KU's fourth NCAA men's basketball championship, and second under 19th-year coach Bill Self, it seems fair to consider that from now on, whenever Jayhawk talk in Lawrence and among alumni worldwide turns to our beloved hoops, this season's team will live on as a particularly rewarding delight.

For those paying close attention all along, the worthiness of the 2022 Jay-

hawks as a storytelling subject was on display every week of the long season in media outlets that poured precious resources into wall-to-wall coverage.

Former beat writer Scott Chasen, j'17, g'20, g'20, now an editor at the University of Missouri-Kansas City and co-host of WIBW's "The Drive," noted on Twitter shortly after the season concluded that "KU fans are spoiled by INCREDIBLE beat coverage." Citing, among others, The Kansas City Star's Gary Bedore, j'79, and Jesse Newell, c'06, j'06; the Lawrence Journal-World's Matt Tait, j'01; and The Athletic's CJ Moore, j'07, Chasen added, "The BEST college beat PERIOD." That sentiment was echoed by veteran sports writer Kevin Flaherty, j'05, national college basketball writer for 247Sports and CBS Sports, who replied, "Sometimes I wonder if Kansas fans realize how wonderful they have it."

All of which is notable because the beat fleet—which of course also includes laudable radio and TV broadcast teams on Jayhawk Sports Network and Big 12 Now/ESPN+—this year sailed alongside a team that refused easy analysis, yet rewarded (for commentators and consumers alike) in-depth reporting spiced with up-to-the-second social media posts.

The obvious starting point for the story of the 2022 Jayhawks, of course, is consensus All-American Ochai Agbaji, a senior guard whose No. 30 jersey will one day hang from the Allen Field House rafters. Agbaji returned for his senior season after pulling his name from last year's NBA Draft, fueled by feedback from one

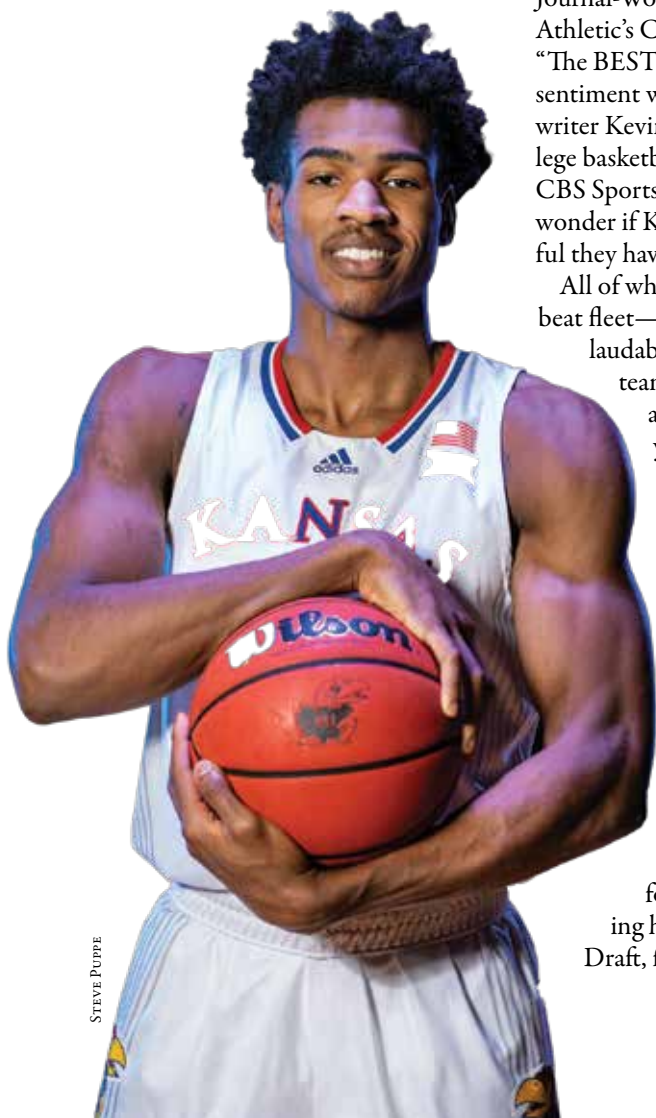
respected league executive who counseled him to become more assertive on the court. Agbaji by all accounts worked harder than ever over the summer, but when he returned to assert his place atop the team hierarchy, he instead saw super-senior transfer teammate Remy Martin—who had yet to play a game for KU, and had in fact beat the Jayhawks twice during his career at Arizona State—named the Big 12's Preseason Player of the Year, as voted by league coaches.

Self shrugged it off—"I don't know that I buy into all that," the coach said, noting that, yes, Martin would be the league's leading returning scorer, had he ever played in the league—and yet he didn't mention Agbaji as the worthy alternative for the honor. For his part, Agbaji never even mentioned the snub, at least not in front of the media.

Instead he blazed out to a league-leading scoring average of 20.6 through KU's first 15 games, becoming the first player in Self's long tenure to score more than 20 points a game in the nonconference season. He finished the season as the league's scoring leader, unanimous Big 12 Player of the Year and Most Outstanding Player of both the Big 12 and NCAA tournaments.

"It started last summer," junior guard Christian Braun said after KU's Big 12 Tournament title-game victory over Texas Tech. "He's accomplished pretty much every goal he set out to accomplish. He's fun to play with, he's super unselfish, he's super humble."

Agbaji was one of multiple players whose twisting, turning journeys through the 2022 season will long fascinate the Jayhawk faithful: Braun; Martin; sixth-year senior Mitch Lightfoot, who played in 17 NCAA Tournament games and 168 overall, both KU records; sophomores



STEVE PUPPE

Jalen Wilson, Dajuan Harris Jr. and Joseph Yesufu; promising newcomers KJ Adams Jr., Zach Clemence and Bobby Pettiford; and super-senior transfer Jalen Coleman-Lands, a wily veteran of four teams in six seasons whose 172nd career game, in New Orleans, tied him for No. 2 on the all-time NCAA list.

It was Coleman-Lands who got the party started last fall at preseason Media Day by saying, “I feel like this is an opportunity for me to do something I’ve never done before, which is win a national championship.”

Such confident proclamations are rarely spoken in November. Did he mean what he said? Could this team’s ceiling really be so high?

“Definitely,” Coleman-Lands replied. “Don’t take one practice for granted. Don’t take any opportunity that we have to grow together for granted. I feel like carrying that mindset is only going to help us get to where we want to go, which is to win a national championship.”

**W**ith their 102-83 victory over Kansas State Feb. 22 in Allen Field House, fueled by 23 points by Agbaji and 64.1% team shooting, the fifth-ranked Jayhawks positioned themselves to secure at least a tie for the Big 12’s regular-season championship with their next victory. But the K-State romp was followed by back-to-back losses at Baylor—a game also notable for the return of Remy Martin, who had missed seven games because of a bone bruise in his right kneecap—and at TCU.

At Baylor, the Jayhawks lost by 10 after leading by 13. Agbaji lamented the “lost opportunity,” but added, “We still have everything right in front of us.” The March 1 game at TCU, the first of three for KU in the final week of the regular season, offered an opportunity to win the Big 12 championship outright, yet, once again, the Jayhawks lost by 10.

They would not lose again.

Next came a share (with Baylor, the defending national champion) of the Big



STEVE PUPPE (2)

12 title, KU’s 16th in 18 seasons, thanks to a grueling overtime victory over Texas on Senior Day, the regular-season finale. Then the Big 12 Tournament title, KU’s 12th in the Big 12 and 16th overall, then its 50th all-time and 32nd consecutive NCAA Tournament bid and a No. 1 NCAA seed, the 15th in program history.

The tournament opened in Fort Worth, Texas, with victories over Texas Southern and Creighton. The following week in Chicago, KU beat Providence in the Sweet 16 and, in the Elite Eight, overcame a six-point halftime deficit against Miami. That game launched KU to its 16th Final Four and fourth under Self, secured the Jayhawks’ first 32-win season since 2016 and







KANSAS ATHLETICS

Memorable moments included (opposite) Mitch Lightfoot's reaction to Ochai Agbaji's dunk against TCU in the Big 12 Tournament and (above) a second-chance shot down low by David McCormack that put KU up for good with 1:21 remaining in the title game.

pushed KU atop the sport's all-time wins list at 2,355, finally surpassing Kentucky, toppled early by this year's memorable Cinderella, the Saint Peter's Peacocks.

Then came the national semifinal victory over Villanova—which proved to be the final game in coach Jay Wright's Hall of Fame career—after which TBS commentator Charles Barkley, perhaps in a bid to never pay for a drink should he ever visit Lawrence, proclaimed, “Let me tell you something: Not only are they going to play for a national championship Monday, they are going to *win* the national championship Monday. I've seen enough.”

Back home, students and fans were already flooding Mass Street while in New Orleans Self assured his team in the postgame locker room that “the best is still yet to come.”

KU opened the title game against Carolina with a 7-0 lead, yet trailed by 16 with 2:23 left in the first half and 15 at halftime. A determined rally tied the game at 50-50 with 10:53 remaining, setting up a thrilling stretch drive between a pair of tightly matched teams representing proud programs, and a post play for the ages that cemented a legacy for senior forward David McCormack, who overcame his vocal detractors by delivering when the game was in his often-doubted hands.

Two moments in the long postseason run will live eternally in the hearts of devoted Jayhawks: Agbaji's powerhouse dunk against TCU in the second game of the Big 12 Tournament (opposite), which seemed to light the fuse for everything that followed, and impassioned play in the paint late in the title game by Mc-

Cormack, who put KU up for good with 1:21 remaining on a second-chance shot (above) created by his own offensive rebound. With 22 seconds left, McCormack ended the scoring with a baby hook—already dubbed “The Shot”—that secured KU's 72-69 victory and the largest comeback in NCAA title game history.

“It was a big play, and it shows how much trust coach and my teammates have in me,” McCormack said. “Coach called the play and said, ‘We're going to throw it inside. We have trust in you and faith in you to deliver and get us a basket.’ I just prevailed. I made the basket happen.”

Said Agbaji, “If I had a most outstanding player throughout the entire Final Four, it would be David.”

As KU players race onto the court, their classmates back home do the same at the Allen Field House watch party, and others closer to the Mass Street scene swarm the length of downtown in jubilant communal celebration.

10:41 p.m., Monday, April 4: The night is just getting started.

**“AFTER THE WAY THESE GUYS PLAYED THE LAST MONTH, I THINK THIS TEAM CAN PLAY WITH ANY TEAM KANSAS HAS EVER PUT ON THE FLOOR.”** —Coach Bill Self

In New Orleans, players avenged the loss of their 2020 tournament dreams, and on Mass Street, fans young and old, most on what one observer described as “their betterish behavior,” returned downtown to its rightful state of revelry.

Lawrence police reported that the mad-house crowd of 70,000 resulted in only three arrests, one notice to appear without a physical arrest and no serious injuries. Marc Havener was of course there with his camera rig, as well as at the parade the following Sunday that stretched from Sixth to 19th streets. He promptly posted the finale of his Lawrence trilogy to YouTube, where they can all be viewed.

And with that, downtown slipped back into its quieter routine. City workers caught up on overdue sleep, and everyone with a Jayhawk heart replayed the long, nerve-racking run that will be remembered as one of the greatest stretches in the history of Kansas basketball.

“After the way these guys played the last month,” Self said, “I think this team can play with any team Kansas has ever put on the floor.”

Turn out the lights. This party is over. Until we’re lucky enough to do it again.

Bill Self and Jalen Wilson (above) and Christian Braun (right) celebrated their one shining moment in a sea of Superdome confetti.

The jubilant month concluded with the April 10 Mass Street parade (opposite), where kids and canines showed up in support of their favorite 'Hawks, including Remy Martin (cradling his niece) and Jalen Wilson.



KANSAS ATHLETICS (2)





STEVE PURPE

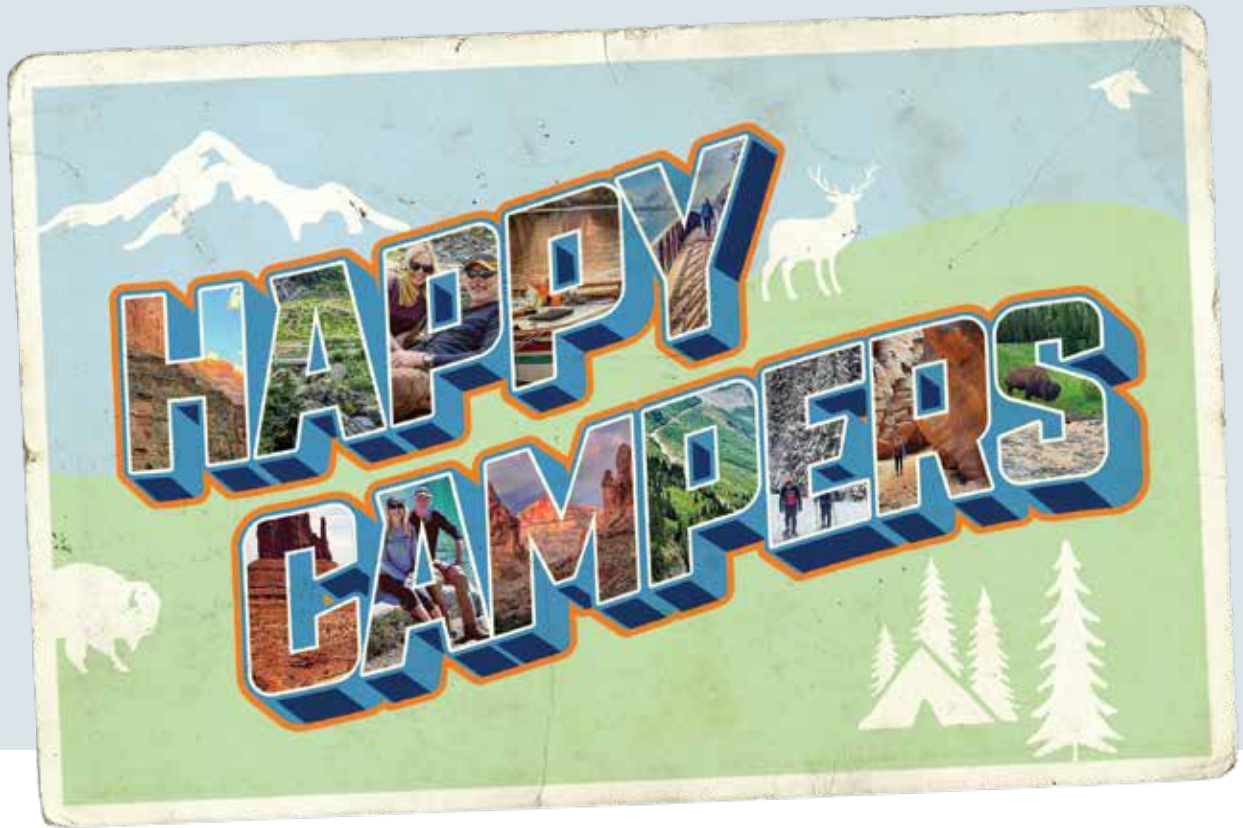


DAN STOREY



STEVE PURPE





## *Saying yes to adventure, a Jayhawk couple make the most of their passion for parks*

**“Y**ou know what I really like about doing the podcast from our visitor center?” Karen Smith asks.

“Noooo.”

“The fact that I can just be in my pajamas and no one will ever know,” she says. The final word trails off into rippling laughter. As giggles go, it’s a rill on rocks, a Class 1 rapids of merriment. “Know-ho-ho-hee-hee ...”

“Is that your dream?” Matt Smith asks. The laughs burble up again, louder, livelier: Class 2. There’s amusement in his voice too, but it’s slyer, acerbic, a put-on incredulity that’s gently mocking but not malicious. Teasing. “Your dream come true is to, like, be in your pajamas all the time?”

“Pretty much.”

“You should probably shoot a little higher,” he says.

Matt, c’97, and Karen Broucek Smith, j’82, are kicking off episode 1 of “Dear Bob and Sue: A National Parks Podcast,” sharing stories of their treks through U.S. National Parks and other outdoor destinations. It’s January 2020, and the Seattle couple have no idea that the adventuring that seems to them as basic as breathing will soon feel like the impossible dream of some halcyon yesteryear because of a deadly virus people are only just waking up to. They have no idea, ahead of statewide lockdowns and travel bans and canceled everything, that in six weeks a whole lot of us will be working in our pajamas.

*by Steven Hill*

*Photographs by Matt and Karen Smith*



A decade earlier, amid another global upheaval, the Smiths made a decision that eventually changed their lives: They would visit every national park in the United States. And they would do it in a year.

At the time there were 58 protected areas designated as national parks and operated by the National Park Service. You don't have to be great at math to figure out that visiting nearly five dozen sites spread across 30 states and a couple of far-flung U.S. territories in only 52 weeks is no part-time lark. It's a full-time quest.

"So, in the spring of 2010, during the worst economy in our lifetime—with no guarantee we would find employment when we finished," they write in their book *Dear Bob and Sue: One Couple's Journey Through the National Parks*, "we quit our jobs and began our journey."

Matt was managing director of retirement services at BMO Global Asset Man-

agement. Karen worked at the Seattle Red Cross. Empty nesters turning 50, they'd sent three kids to college, including their son Matt, b'13, who was then at KU.

They'd also seen friends and family pass away before their time, including Karen's sister, who died of cancer at 50.

"We kind of had this realization that, if there's a list of things we want to do, we might want to get on that," Matt recalls. "Because none of us knows how much time we have. One day I just said, 'Let's take time off and go see all the national parks.' And a month later we're off on our first trip."

One year became two. Six months in, they started the book, intended not as a how-to guide, but as a compendium of their impressions and experiences. It was tough going. One day Matt dashed off a letter to their good friends, Bob and Sue Craik, recounting the latest in a series of

Love of national parks spurred Matt and Karen Smith to write four books, start a podcast and even remodel their living room to resemble a visitor center, complete with a rustic stone fireplace and a taxidermic bison head purchased on Craigslist. Page 50: Relaxing on the Middle Fork of Idaho's Salmon River during a six-day rafting trip.

.....  
misadventures that seemed a hallmark of their travels.

"He said, 'Gosh, if writing a book was as easy as writing a letter to Bob and Sue, I think we could do this,'" Karen recalls. "And I said, 'Well, why don't we do it that way?'" The travelogue unfolded as a series of emails from the road to the friends who had inspired their interest in national parks in the first place.

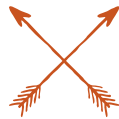
They wrote a second book, *Dories, Ho!*, about a Colorado River float trip through

the Grand Canyon, followed by two more Bob and Sue collections. They began building a social media presence, which now boasts 15,000 followers on Facebook and 18,000 on Instagram. Podcasting seemed a natural next step to interact with that burgeoning audience.

“You spend years writing a book, and you’re not really sure if you’re hitting your mark until it comes out,” explains Matt, who previously hosted a financial planning podcast at BMO. “We needed a more immediate way to connect, and since I had done a podcast before, I thought, ‘Well, let’s try this medium.’”

Now in its third year, at 80 episodes and counting, “Dear Bob and Sue” mixes good-humored jousting, useful travel tips and a point of view broad enough to accommodate biting sarcasm and genuine wonder at America’s vast natural treasures. Think Bill Bryson meets Click and Clack the Tappet Brothers.

The podcast gets 50,000 downloads a month and consistently ranks in the top 30 on Apple’s Places & Travel podcast chart. Though the Smiths returned to work for a time after their two-year quest was complete, they now travel about 150 days a year. They’ve visited all the national parks (which now total 63), many more than once, and they’ve added national forests and monuments, state parks and other outdoor experiences to their rolling itinerary.



**T**hey met during Country Club Week, that freewheeling interregnum between dorm move-in and the start of classes that once upon a time marked the unofficial beginning of a new academic year on the Hill.

“It coincided with my birthday, so I went out with a bunch of girlfriends to The Hawk and The Wheel, and Matt was there with a bunch of his guy friends,” Karen recalls. “We met the old-fashioned way—in a bar.”

A year later they were engaged; a year after that they married. Karen was newly graduated with a journalism degree in the radio and television track. Matt was in the middle of his senior year, already working in Kansas City, and he left school a few hours short of his bachelor’s degree in art history. He finished in the mid-’90s.

They moved to Seattle in 1998. Having spent their lives in Kansas, with childhood forays to Colorado, they were stunned by the Pacific Northwest’s grand scenery and abundance of outdoor recreation. Enrolling her kids at the local elementary school, Karen met Sue Craik and they became fast friends. Bob Craik’s job had moved the family around the country, giving them a chance to explore America’s national parks. Bob and Sue’s travel stories inspired Matt

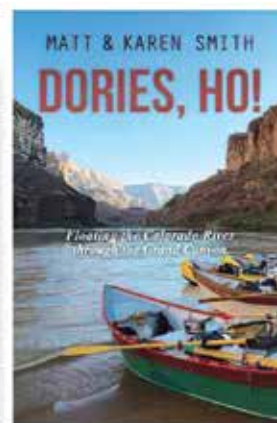
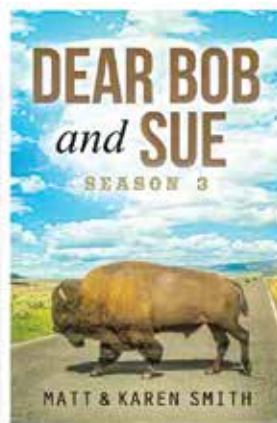
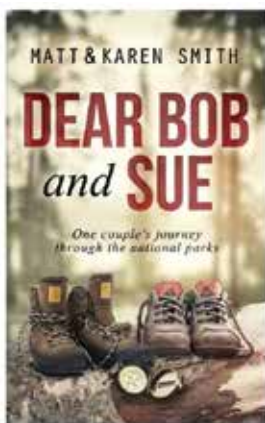
and Karen to plan trips of their own. A decade later, when they began mapping out their quest to visit every national park, they asked Bob and Sue to come along.

“Bob and I looked at each other and said, ‘Hey, that sounds great.’ And then we kind of hit ourselves in the head and remembered we still had a child at home,” Sue says, laughing. “They were empty nesters; we were not.”

“It was great, though, because it’s one of those things you always wish you had the ability to do and you couldn’t,” Bob says. “To see somebody you know actually live their life that way was really spectacular. We loved hearing about every place they went, and it felt like we were there with them.”

The vicarious enjoyment of someone else’s adventure is no doubt part of the “Dear Bob and Sue” appeal. Listening to Matt and Karen relive their trip to the tropical Dry Tortugas as you slog through a Kansas snowstorm is healing balm. Doing so in the midst of a pandemic, when it seems no one will go anywhere ever again, is downright existential. They hear as much from their listeners every week.

“Your podcast might just be fun and games for you, or maybe even a side hustle, but it’s much more than that for me,” a fan emailed in March. “It’s kind of a lifeline, an automatic way to restore my mental health when it’s flagging.” A stay-at-home dad of



two daughters under 6 whose wife is a busy oncologist, he related the joys and challenges of full-time parenting, noting that hiking beautiful wildlands is their go-to option for family vacations or a couple's getaway—and the Smiths' podcast is his go-to resource for planning those treks and dreaming of others to come.

"When the girls are driving me insane, I think of you two and remember that this will get better. One day they'll be adults, my wife will work less or none, and we can live the sort of life you two are sharing with the world right now," he wrote. "I know you get hate mail but \$@#! the haters. I want to be like y'all when I grow up."

Podcasting has what Jonah Geil-Neufeld tactfully calls "a low barrier to entry." He and Annie Fassler are the husband-and-wife co-founders of Puddle Creative, an agency that specializes in podcasts and narrative audio. Puddle Creative helped the Smiths launch "Dear Bob and Sue" and produced it for the first year.

"Everybody can record themselves and their friends and put it out on Apple and Spotify," Geil-Neufeld says. "It doesn't take a lot of resources. But there's just so many podcasts being started at any given time. The way you cut through all the noise is to keep doing it, and that's something they've done really well."

More than 2 million podcasts exist in the world, according to Listen Notes, the leading podcast search engine, and 2020 was by far the biggest growth year, with more than a million new shows launched. But a report from Amplifi Media suggests that only about 36% produce 10 episodes or more; another study says the average podcast lasts six months and produces only eight episodes. Apparently the barrier to exit is pretty low, too.

"It's a lot of work recording and editing, and a lot of people don't understand all it takes," Fassler says. "They get 10 episodes in, and they're like, 'This is too much for us.'"

"When it gets really hard, it can't be just, 'Oh, this was fun at the beginning and now it's not, so why are we doing it?'" Geil-Neufeld says. "If you have that thriving kind of mission behind it, a deeper mission than it's a fun or interesting thing



Though now separated by two time zones, Sue, Bob, Matt and Karen still rendezvous once a year to vacation at a national park. Walking the catwalk on the Bridge Walk at New River Gorge National Park, West Virginia.

to do, that is what will keep you going in the hard times."

The Smiths' mission: Pass along a bit of the life-changing magic they found when they took time off to do *now* the things they hoped to do *someday*.

"One of the things we're trying to do with our books and podcast is encourage people to get outdoors," Matt says. "Being outdoors is good for your mind, your body, your soul. I came to that by seeing how it helped ours when we went to these incredible natural places."

Watching the Milky Way blaze like a river of light as they slept under the stars on the dory trip. Hiking with grizzlies at Katmai. Peering over the rim of the Grand Canyon the first time. Seeing a lone wolf bound past them on a snowy trail, the snippet of smartphone video they captured a pale simulacrum of the ecstatic shock of the encounter. Soaring above Alaskan glaciers in a Piper Navajo.

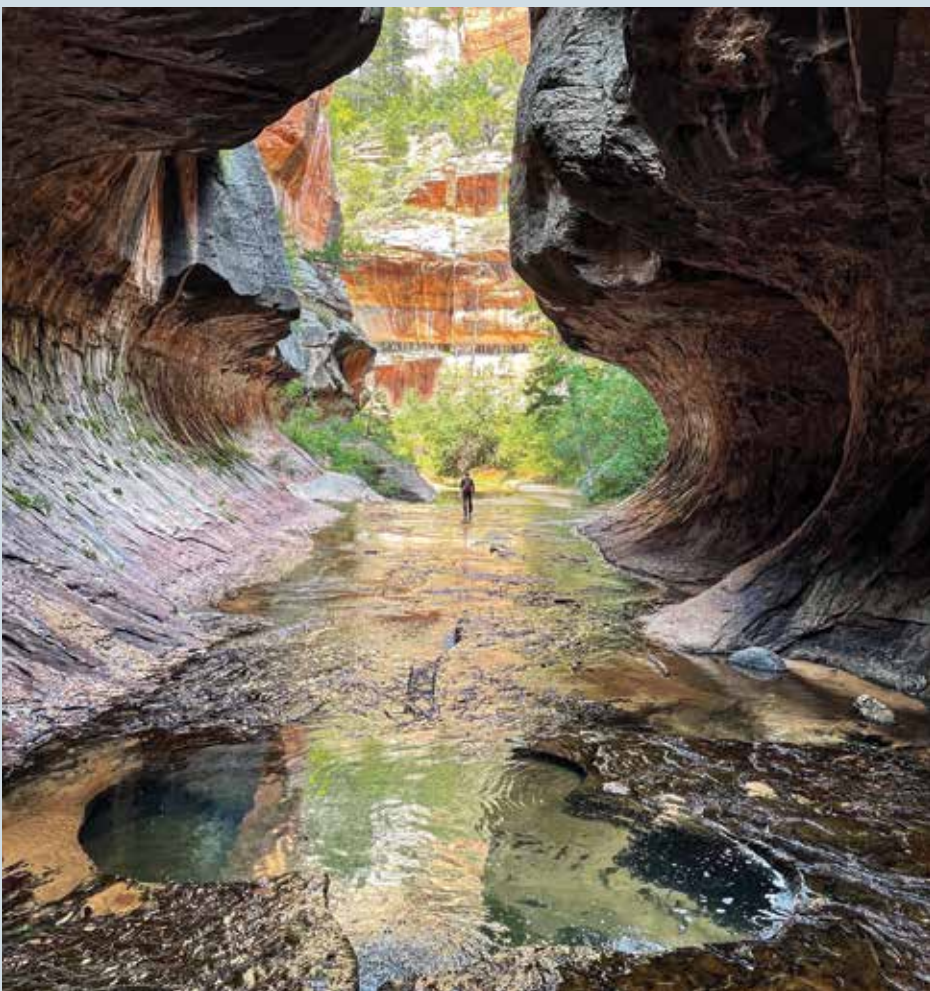
"You're looking out the window of this tiny plane at this blue, blue glacier,

and it's tough to take it in, especially for a girl from Kansas, you know? I've never seen anything like that," Karen says. This was early in their national parks journey, more than a decade ago, but the feeling is still fresh and powerful enough to bring tears. "There have been tons of moments like that, where something just takes your breath away."

Matt and Karen clearly enjoy each other's company. ("I always loved editing the show, because it feels like you're hanging out with this really fun couple," Fassler says. "It's like going on a double date with your friends, and they're telling you the story of their vacation.") They banter and josh their way through every episode, poking fun and laughing a lot, often at themselves. But they've thought of quitting more than once. Then another inspiring email lands in their inbox.

"Just hearing what people have done because they've listened to our podcast is very gratifying," Karen says. "We had a woman who told us she'd never hiked





Clockwise: A snow-covered bison in Lamar Valley, Yellowstone National Park; happy hour along the Scenic Drive, Capitol Reef National Park, Utah; Karen snowshoeing at Hurricane Ridge, Olympic National Park, Washington; Matt in the Subway, Zion National Park, Utah; a view of the Middle Fork of the Flathead River from historic Belton Bridge, Glacier National Park, Montana. "We love visiting the parks in the winter," Karen says, "when there are very few other visitors."

before, but she was gonna hike in Zion for her 70th birthday. She did, and she sent us photos. It's things like that. Usually I cry when I read 'em, they're so touching."

"Karen cries every podcast," Matt cracks. The quip is a small kindness, not a barb. Comic relief. "That's how we know the episode is complete. It's like, 'Right, put that in.'"



**T**ravel jars us out of our routine, forces us to face the unfamiliar. If we stretch a bit, if we reach beyond our comfort zones even a little, it can show us what we're capable of. It might even change who we are.

"When they first started going to national parks, they were all about getting there, seeing the park for sure, but taking care of business and getting it checked off the list," Sue says. They initially planned to complete the circuit in only a year, after all, and there was no time to dally.

That changed as they discovered how much there is to see and do at iconic parks like Yosemite and Yellowstone, crown jewels of the public land system, and at hidden gems that are less than household names. Easy 2-mile loops around the visitor center gave way to more challenging excursions. On a five-day Grand Canyon float trip in 2016, they overnighted on the river, Karen's first time sleeping in a tent; that led the next year to car camping and eventually to backpacking trips, including a 6-mile "straight uphill" hike in Washington's North Cascades National Park that culminated with a campout on Sahale Glacier, surrounded by mountain goats.

"That's just their personality," Sue says of her friends. "They're willing to dip their toes in, but by the end they're scuba diving."

The transformation was gradual, the result of small changes, something the podcast—with its goofy give-and-take and self-deprecating humor—emphasizes.

"It's not like we're climbing Mount Everest," Karen says. "We're going on road

trips and talking about scenic drives. It's not always some big adventure; sometimes we'll be in Yellowstone and a huge bison will cross the road and stand in front of us, and we're just in our car looking at this massive bison. There have been a million moments like that, where you just happen to be there at the right time."

The key is to be there.

Matt says lots of people hear them talking about some incredible serendipitous moment and ask, OK, how do I do that?

"Our answer is, 'You can't. You can't do that one.' But you can put yourself out there, and if you're out there enough, something's going to happen that you can't anticipate." In other words, that one's ours: Go find your own.

"We're both in our 60s now," Matt adds. "People in their 60s can get out and do almost all these outdoor adventures, but I think a lot of times they think maybe that moment has passed them by. We're here to say, 'Just go try. You'll be surprised at what you can do. We did it and we're just average people. We're nobody special. Maybe you can too.'"

More than once they've planned one last visit, one final hike to see a beautiful vista or stunning feature they've missed,

expecting this will be their last trip to that particular park, that they finally will have seen everything it offers. "Every single time we do that," Matt says, "we come away from those trips planning another one. It changes you in ways that you don't expect."

Early on in their travels, Matt and Karen realized they each had a very different concept of a term they'd been bandying about.

"She thought a 'bucket list' meant you write your wishes down on scraps of paper and put them in an imaginary bucket," Matt says, needling his wife. "And I'm like, 'No, that's not what it means! It's a list of things you want to do before you kick the bucket.'"

But as time has gone by, he's come to appreciate Karen's take on the idea.





“I think a lot of times people have this idea that a bucket list is something that gets shorter—but our bucket list just keeps getting longer.”

They are still “very, very aware,” Matt says, that “we only have so many days.” But with each trip, their future broadens rather than narrows. The possible adventures grow in number. The world gets bigger, not smaller.

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The Smiths enjoy adventures easy to reach (top left: Upper Royal Basin, Olympic National Park, near their Seattle home) and harder to access (bottom left: Brooks Camp in Katmai National Park, Alaska, where brown bears outnumber visitors). The Wave (above), a Bureau of Land Management site in Arizona, is open only to a lucky few who win a permit via lottery. “We had tried unsuccessfully for years to get a permit, and then one day a woman who had read our books emailed and asked us to join her and her friends,” Karen says. “She had won six permits.”

“I guess that’s another way all this has changed us. It just kind of made our future brighter—not more complete, but less complete, you know?”

“We said this in one of our podcast episodes,” Karen adds, “but I think the key to a happy life is to never run out of wishes in your wish bucket, right? You always are adding to the list of things you want to see; you always have a goal of somewhere you want to go.”

On their way up Sahale, they crawled hand over foot across a steep slope of boulders and scree, heavy packs tugging them sideways as they fought to keep their balance. “I was like two seconds from bursting into tears, it was so hard,” Karen recounts in episode 2. They encountered a German hiker, who was practically skipping as he whistled his way down from the peak they were struggling desperately to reach, and confessed they didn’t think they could make it.

“He was very encouraging,” Matt says, taking up the story. “Very positive. ‘You can do it; just rest and be careful.’ And then he says, ‘But it’s treacherous.’”

They crack up at the memory, talking over each other and laughing at the hilarity of that dazzling insight.

“We’re like, ‘No shit it’s treacherous,’” Karen says. “We felt like we were going to fall off the side of this mountain at any time.”

They made it, though, and were treated to spectacular vistas—including what the park ranger touted as “the best toilet view in the world”—and impossibly close encounters with mountain goats that came into their camp and even nuzzled Matt’s head through the tent walls as Karen slept.

Looking back on the experience, “I remember thinking, ‘When we started the journey I never imagined that I could do something like this,’” Karen recalls. “And look at us now.”



Listen to “Dear Bob and Sue: A National Parks Podcast” at [thedearbobandsuepodcast.com](http://thedearbobandsuepodcast.com).

The 25 alumni volunteers on the Association's national Board of Directors convene three times annually in Lawrence and participate in online committee meetings throughout the year.



DAN STOREY

## ASSOCIATION

## National alumni leaders

*Board chooses new officers, directors to begin terms July 1*

IN THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION'S first elections since 2020, the national Board of Directors met April 29-30 in Lawrence and elected officers and two new directors, signaling a return to the normal succession process after the disruption of the pandemic.

In spring 2020, as the pandemic began, the Association canceled its customary two-day, in-person board meetings in Lawrence and moved all meetings online for half-day sessions. Amid these changes, the board in 2021 chose to offer directors the option to extend their five-year terms by an additional year. In addition, the board elected national chair Jay Kerutis, c'82, and chair-elect Keturah Harding Pohl, f'04, a'08, who had served during the 2020-'21 fiscal year, to serve through June 30, 2022, to provide continuity during a period of financial uncertainty and recovery following the pandemic and during the construction of a major capital project, the Jayhawk Welcome Center.

The changes marked only the second time in

the Association's 139-year history that it extended board members' terms; the first instance occurred during the 1918 influenza pandemic.

After serving two years as chair-elect, Harding Pohl on July 1 begins her one-year term as national chair. She chaired the Adams Alumni Center Committee in preparation for the Welcome Center project; construction began in summer 2021 and is expected to be finished in November. She has continued to serve on the building committee along with staff members from the Alumni and Endowment associations and the University.

Harding Pohl co-owns and manages Putnam Family Dental in Findlay, Ohio, with her husband, Brad, c'05. They moved to Ohio from Lawrence, where she was an architect with Treanor Architects after earning her KU degrees in industrial design and architecture. For the Welcome Center and Adams Center renovation, she has continued to meet regularly with project leaders from Helix Architecture + Design and McCownGordon, the general contractor.

Board officers for the 2022-'23 year are (l-r) Keturah Harding Pohl, national chair; Jay Kerutis, immediate past chair; and Michael Happe, chair-elect.

She also serves on the Association's Executive Committee. Before joining the board in 2016, she volunteered for the Lawrence Network and served five years as the Association's representative to the KU Memorial Union board. She and Brad are Life Members and Presidents Club donors.

She succeeds Kerutis, of Mesa, Arizona, who remains on the board for an additional year as immediate past chair. He has chaired the Executive and Revenue Development committees. Kerutis retired from his career as a computer software professional after rising through the ranks at Digital River Inc. to become president of the software and digital commerce services division.

On the Hill, he competed on the KU swim team and, as captain, led the Jayhawks to two conference championships. In 2011, he organized a reunion of his teammates. A Life Member and Presidents Club donor, he joined the board in 2016. He is married to Pat Caldwell.

The 2022-'23 national chair-elect is Michael Happe, j'94, of Eden Prairie, Minnesota. He leads Winnebago Industries as president and CEO, a role he began in 2016 after 20 years in senior leadership positions with The Toro Co. He majored in broad-

cast news at KU and earned his master's in business administration from the University of Minnesota. For the Association, he serves on the Executive Committee and has chaired the Revenue Development Committee. He is married to Shannon Fitzsimmons-Happe, j'94; they are Life Members and Presidents Club donors.

The board elected two new directors, Tamara Huff-Johnson, c'12, and Jonathan Ng, c'03, j'03, who will begin five-year terms July 1.

Huff-Johnson, of Bel Aire, is a public policy expert and technical coordinator for the Kansas Parent Information Resource Center.

She has led the Association's Black Alumni Network (BAN) as president since 2019 and will continue in that role until fall 2023. She has regularly advised Chancellor Doug Girod and his team on vital issues concerning equity and social justice as well as the recruitment and retention of Black students, and she serves on the Provost's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Advisory Council. In addition, she has helped ensure that the legacies of the BAN's early leaders, especially the late Thomas Vaughn, l'78, continue to inspire and guide African American students and alumni. She is a Premium Annual Member of the Association.

Ng currently serves as an attorney advisor for the U.S. Agency for International Development. He also is an adjunct professor at Georgetown Law, where he teaches a course he co-created on social entrepreneurship, impact investing and the law. He previously served as the first global legal director for

Ashoka: Innovators for the Public and as a project finance attorney at White & Case LLP in New York. As KU student body president from 2002 to '03, Ng helped lead the effort to build the Sabatini Multicultural Resource Center. He also worked on The University Daily Kansan and as a New Student Orientation assistant, and he was a founding father of Pi Kappa Phi fraternity. He received the Agnes Wright Strickland Award for his campus leadership.

## CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

### *Alumni Association events*

**June 15** Burger Night, San Antonio

**June 25** Jayhawks Brew Bus, Tampa, Fla.

**July 20** Burger Night, San Antonio

**Aug. 12** KU Kickoff at Corinth Square, Kansas City

**Aug. 17** Burger Night, San Antonio

**Summer 2022** Hawks & Highways

Please visit [kuconnection.org](https://kuconnection.org) and watch your email for additional events, including **Hawks & Highways** gatherings throughout Kansas this summer.



COURTESY TAMARA HUFF-JOHNSON

Huff-Johnson



COURTESY JONATHAN NG

Ng

He earned his law degree from the University of Notre Dame.

Board members concluding their terms June 30 are Steve Dillard, c'75, Wichita, and Portia Kibble Smith, c'78, Overland Park. In June 2021, Janet Lusk Murfin, d'75, of Wichita, and Immediate Past Chair Dave Roland, e'83, of Excelsior, Minnesota, completed their terms.

The board now includes 25 members. The Nominating Committee reviewed all nominations submitted by the March 1 deadline and selected the slate for the full board's review and election at the spring meeting. Harding Pohl chaired the Nominating Committee, which also included Brenda Roskens Dicus, b'83, Topeka; Michael Flowers, c'77, Apollo Beach, Florida; Jacqueline Sloan Hall, c'75, Sublette; Kibble Smith; and Kerutis as an ex officio member.

### New team member

MEGAN HIRT, c'08, j'08, joined the Association team in March as assistant editor of *Kansas Alumni* magazine. She earned degrees in French and journalism and has worked as an editor since graduating from KU, first at Mother Earth News magazine and later at Golf Course Management magazine. As a student, she wrote for and edited Jayplay, the weekly magazine published by The University Daily Kansan at the time. An article she wrote for the Kansan in 2008, about college students struggling with alcoholism, placed second in the nation in the in-depth writing category of the Hearst Journalism Awards Program. Megan lives in Lawrence and enjoys exploring the Sunflower State, particularly small or abandoned towns.



DAN STOREY

Hirt

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## COMMENCEMENT

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STEVE PUPPE

Graduates of 1970 and '72, who were forced to settle for Allen Field House ceremonies 50 years ago when rain canceled their original walks down the Hill, gathered May 15 at the Victory Eagle on Memorial Drive. For the story and additional photos, see p. 62.



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- KU wall calendar
- Merchandise discount at the KU Bookstore (in store and online)
- Savings on insurance
- And much more! Visit [kualumni.org/benefits](http://kualumni.org/benefits) for a complete menu of benefits



Steve Papp (7)





COMMENCEMENT

## Worth the wait

*Postponements pay off with idyllic spring day for graduation festivities*

IT WAS A WALK years in the making.

For the Class of 2022, of course, the route to donning caps and gowns was marked by pandemic-necessitated adjustments that made for a decidedly atypical academic experience. But joining the newest alumni descending the Hill Sunday, May 15, were members of KU's classes of 1970 and 1972, whose original opportunities to walk through the Campanile 50 and 52 years ago had been derailed by inhospitable weather on Commencement Day.

So, after a half-century delay, what was another four hours?

Heavy rain and high winds the morning of this year's ceremony pushed back the procession's start from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., when the bluster had given way to blue skies, birdsong and soft breezes—a picturesque afternoon on Mount Oread. Water droplets on flower petals and a slight slickness on grass seemed the only traces of the day's stormy beginnings.

"We were thinking, 'If we don't walk today, we'll have to wait 50 *more* years,'" joked Carolyn Beauchamp, c'72, describing the sentiment she and her husband, Gary, c'66, m'70, had shared earlier in the day, as Mother Nature once again seemed determined to foil their plans. The Beauchamps were grateful to gather with about 60 classmates to celebrate, reminisce and at last take their trip down the Hill.

"And it looks like the third time's a charm for the Class of 1970," Chancellor Doug Girod said in his opening remarks to the crowd gathered at David Booth Kansas Memorial Stadium. (A second try at the 1970 walk had actually been slated for 2020, only to be abandoned as the coronavirus dismantled even the most tried-and-true routines.)

The bond among all generations of Jayhawks was underscored in comments from Jay Kerutis, c'82, chair of the Alumni Association's national Board of Directors, who spoke to grads about the vast network of alumni, 350,000-plus strong, ready to embrace them, and the Jayhawk Welcome Center that will soon be ready to greet them anytime they return to the nest. Said Kerutis, "We look forward to welcoming you back to the Hill for years to come."

—MEGAN HIRT

Smiles were as sunny as the sky when the Class of 2022, joined by alumni from 1970 and '72, strolled down the Hill and into the stadium May 15. Jay Kerutis, c'82, the Alumni Association's national chair, welcomed the newest alumni to the worldwide Jayhawk network.



## New Life Members

*The Association thanks these Jayhawks, who began their Life memberships Feb. 1 through April 30. For information, visit [kualumni.org/join](http://kualumni.org/join) or call 800-584-2957.*

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|--|--|
| Sierra M. Bauer & Kevin W. Smith                 | Jacob H. Nemeroff                                |
| Justin M. Berry                                  | Larry C. & Amy Wideman Newman                    |
| Italo D. & Catherine Bett                        | Katherine A. O'Hara                              |
| Lori A. Blaylock                                 | Joshua S. Orner                                  |
| Margarita G. Caulfield                           | Trevor M. Otterstein & Amy N. Noon               |
| Thomas P. Clark                                  | Steven D. Powel                                  |
| Wayne H. Cook                                    | Sophia A. Reclosado                              |
| Michael D. Daniels                               | Corey Nason Reese & Jeff Reese                   |
| Pamela Davis-Vaughn                              | Debra A. Robe                                    |
| Robert D. Durst Jr.                              | Ernesto F. & Leslie Donahue Rodriguez            |
| Erin E. Fowler                                   | Leland D. Rogers                                 |
| Caitlin N. Gibbs                                 | Travis B. Roth                                   |
| Adam J. & Margaret Strayer Godderz               | Brian K. Russell                                 |
| Christina Ogle Godwin & James A. Godwin          | Justin G. Scott                                  |
| Linda K. & Gregory D. Goff                       | Joyce N. Shinn                                   |
| Paige L. Gugat                                   | Gregory J. Sovich                                |
| Michael D. Hand                                  | Darrell E. Stein, II & Kimberly A. Stein         |
| Sharon Parise Heidemann & Theodore S. Heidemann  | Michael E. & Meredith Mitsch Stigler             |
| Lenora A. Ivy                                    | Rachel Braaten Stone                             |
| Brett W. & Megan Pogue Johnson                   | Thomas S. & Carolyn Strevey                      |
| W. Jeffrey Jones                                 | Joseph V. & Abbigail Ascher Swanton              |
| Molly Thompson Jin & Mike Jin                    | Steven R. Sweeny                                 |
| Allison Draffan Kaufman & Christopher J. Kaufman | Robert W. Tormohlen                              |
| Kristi Cooper Keefer                             | Ngan T. Tran                                     |
| Chandler Hudson Kenny & Charles A. Kenny         | Emily Jeter Valdez                               |
| Robin Smith Kollman                              | Michael G. Weillbacher                           |
| George Kwok                                      | Benjamin C. Williams, & Whitney Bartlow Williams |
| Timothy A. Lamb                                  | Michael B. Wirth                                 |
| A.C. Langworthy Jr.                              |  |
| Allyson Y. Maska                                 |  |

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## Jayhawk Profiles



MIA SMUTZ-ULMER/BIRCH TREE STUDIOS (3)

**NOAH SMUTZ**

### Conservator masters art and craft of book restoration

by STEVEN HILL

A client who brings Noah Smutz a crumbling Bible that lists births and deaths and marriages is handing him more than a book; she's turning over a cherished heirloom that tells a story about her family history.

Smutz also sees more than a book. He sees a combination of craft, materials and engineering that makes a machine built to be used—a machine that will not only look better, once his restoration is done, but also work better.

"I'm a book mechanic," says Smutz, c'12, who runs a private studio, NS Conservation, from the basement of his Affton, Missouri, home. "It's really about making the book work again. I take family heirlooms and make them usable."

The work combines his love of reading with his affinity for hands-on labor.

"I always enjoyed working with my hands growing up, whether it was whittling or woodcarving or helping my dad with projects around the house," Smutz says. "I might have had to replace a few windows I broke with a baseball here or there. And one of my main hobbies, since a very young age, was reading books. This job brings those two together."

Smutz came to KU to study classics after taking four years of Latin at Shawnee Mission South High School in Overland Park. Fascinated by Greek and Roman history and culture, he was set on pursuing a career in archaeology. During a summer trip to Greece his junior year, he secured a spot on a dig in Crete with the help of classics professor John Younger.

"I had a fantastic time, met a bunch of great people and realized archaeology wasn't for me," he says. "A lot of that had to do with digging in the dirt in 120-degree heat, but there were a few other realizations."

After artifacts were unearthed, their next stop was a team of conservators whose job was to clean, photograph, catalog and repair these objects. "I saw this stuff come out of the ground, and it was like, 'Oh, I'm kind of interested in seeing that put back together,'" Smutz recalls. While archaeological conservation ended up not being his focus, it did help point the way to book conservation. When he got back to campus, he landed a student job in KU's Conservation Services, working with conservators Whitney Baker, c'94, and Roberta Woodrick, f'93, g'09, on materials from the KU Libraries collections.

After a few weeks, he knew he'd found his field.

"It clicked right away, and I really enjoyed learning about and appreciating the mechanical structures that go into making a book work," Smutz says.

Materials of thread, cloth, paper and leather form a simple machine, he explains. "When you open a book, the spine is acting as a lever to allow the book to open. When you're trying to repair a book, you

can see, ‘OK, it broke here because of this stress, so this is how I’ll repair it to compensate, so it won’t break that way again.’”

After graduation, Smutz worked as a conservation intern at the Smithsonian Institution Archives, earned a master’s degree in conservation from West Dean College in England, and served an internship at the Bodleian Libraries at the University of Oxford. In 2017, he returned to Smithsonian Libraries as the Adopt-a-Book conservator, leading conservation projects sponsored by donors. He came back to the Midwest and opened NS Conservation in 2019 after his wife, Sophie Barbisan, a paper conservator, landed a job at the Saint Louis Art Museum.



“I come from the approach that there’s a perfect tool for every job, and I should own them all,” quips Noah Smutz. He makes many of his tools, including the Turkish, French and English-style knives (above) used for paring and lifting leather, essential for putting a new leather spine on a book.

Among the projects that have crossed his bench are a Hebrew text from 1342 that was part of a digitization partnership between the Bodleian and the Vatican; a series of midcentury love letters between a St. Louis emigrant and his future wife back in Italy, brought in by the couple’s children; and a commemorative World War II map found in a flea market in France and presented to the daughter of the U.S. 83rd Infantry Division officer it originally belonged to.

“This month alone, I have had 20th-century children’s books on my bench as well as a book from 1542,” Smutz says, “so it can be quite a range.”

While he does some projects for institutions, most are for private clients. These jobs produce some of the more joyful moments of his craft: the big reveal when a restored item is unveiled.

“They haven’t dealt with conservators before and they don’t know what’s possible, so there is generally more surprise, as well as excitement, because this book that’s been in a box for 40 years because everyone was afraid to handle it is back in working order,” Smutz says. “That’s one of my biggest things: Yes, I want it to look better than when it came to me, but most important is that it works so well they can actually use it. It really is great to help families use those heirlooms again.”

**BARI ROBINSON**

## **After breaking barriers In her own career, author tells story of young ‘pioneer’**

by JENNIFER JACKSON SANNER

Bari Robinson, c’69, still remembers her high school teacher, Charles Drew, who encouraged her to write or attend law school. Now in her “third career,” Robinson thanks Drew and other mentors in the foreword of her first novel, *An American Daughter of Brown*. “In the past 20 years, I started to focus more on my passion,” Robinson says. “I just call it being a late bloomer.”

She first channeled her talents into teaching French and Spanish to students in high school and community college. Later she advocated for clients as a longtime attorney in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Though Robinson enjoyed legal writing and litigation, she also pursued notions of novels. After creating outlines and tossing them through the years, Robinson finished the first half of *An American Daughter of Brown* more than 15 years ago, then lost it in a computer glitch that ultimately proved a blessing. “I was a different person when I resumed it,” she recalls, “so I can see how the novel developed as I became a more experienced writer.”

Her book’s title harks back to the U.S. Supreme Court’s landmark 1954 decision in *Brown v. Board of Education* that declared school segregation unconstitutional. The novel follows Lauren Sullivan, a girl of Robinson’s era, from age 8 through her years at KU, a path that largely mirrors Robinson’s but diverges at key points.

Growing up in Kansas City, Missouri, young Lauren is among the first African American students to be moved from her segregated school to a predominantly white school. When Lauren’s confidence gives way to self-doubt in response to subtle cues from teachers and students who ignore or even ostracize her, she turns to her mother, Helen, who also is a teacher.

Helen explains to her daughter that, even though she is only 8, she is a pioneer, as are the other children and teachers who are adjusting to the experiment of integration. “I’m proud of you for trying hard to make the best of a difficult situation,” Helen says.

Robinson, who also grew up in Kansas City in a family of teachers, says Lauren’s story highlights a community whose everyday challenges are often overlooked. “My family was conservative and middle-class, a segment that the larger population misses when talking about the history of civil rights and Black families,” she says. “There is a strong tradition of middle-class families, and a lot of the ways they think were patterned after the larger society, even though the larger society did not treat us in the same way.”

When Robinson has read her novel for audiences in San Francisco and Oakland, her longtime home, other Black women have thanked her. “They’ve told me, ‘You wrote my story,’” she says. “Our shared experiences were so prevalent. I knew I was on the right track.”



Robinson

Like Robinson, Lauren attends KU, where she thrives in the residence halls despite a disappointing first encounter with the parents of a white student who don’t want their daughter rooming with a Black student. As a junior, Lauren embarks on a study-abroad trip to France that transforms her, just as it did Robinson, who says she chose KU for exactly such an opportunity. “My mother said I needed to look for a smaller school,” she recalls, “but I told her, ‘The world is big, and I need some kind of testing ground.’”

As a student, Robinson became a resident assistant in Oliver Hall. On a dare from women on her floor, she tried out for the Spirit Squad. “They offered to buy my dinner every Sunday, when the hall cafeteria didn’t serve, so I agreed,” she says. She doubted that her years of ballet would translate to cheerleading, but she made the team as the first Black member of KU’s Spirit Squad.

When the 1968-’69 KU Jayhawks advanced to the Orange Bowl, Robinson’s role became a national story, prompting death threats from members of the National States Rights Party. She still gratefully recalls the affirming support she received from Emily Taylor, dean of women, and Kala Mays Stroup, c’59, g’64, PhD’74, assistant dean.

More than fear from the threats, Robinson remembers her own internal drive for perfection that typifies what she calls “Black middle-class syndrome.”

“You’ve got to excel so the people coming behind you won’t have such a hard time,” she says. “That’s a lot, but that’s what a lot of young people who aren’t in the majority go through.”

Her studies in France “smoothed things out for me and fulfilled a lifelong dream,” she says. She has returned to France nine times through the years.

After earning her master’s in French at the State University of New York-Binghamton and teaching in the region, Robinson moved to California, where she taught in community college. When the college president asked her to teach English and writing courses to inmates at

Soledad Prison, she accepted the challenge, and as she got to know her students, she found herself yearning to attend law school. She recalls telling the college president of her ambition: “He took a deep breath and said, ‘You’d be damn good.’”

She earned her law degree from the University of California at Berkeley, clerked for Judge Harry Edwards of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, and later returned to the Bay Area, practicing first with large firms and later on her own until she retired in 2021.

Now, as she contemplates adding to Lauren’s story in another novel, Robinson relishes her third career. “It keeps me relevant,” she says. “It’s new and exciting.”

## MACKENZIE HANNA

### Health hardships guide social worker

by MEGAN HIRT

Those receiving treatment for neurological conditions in The University of Kansas Health System have a particularly compassionate advocate in Mackenzie Hanna. A social work case manager on the neurology unit since July 2021, Hanna was a patient there herself just a few years ago, afflicted by a mysterious illness that, among other tolls, caused her to lose use of her right hand. In small tasks and interactions throughout her workday, her special empathy shines through.

“I need patients’ signatures a lot of the time, and it’s often hard for people to sign if they’re going through something like I did,” says Hanna, g’21. “Some patients are like, ‘I don’t know if I can sign; I don’t have very good handwriting.’ I tell them, ‘You just need to make a little mark. I have bad handwriting too; I can’t really write either!’ I understand the difficulty of using their hand, or if talking is hard and they’re not able to get the words out.”

Even before her own experience with a debilitating illness—which would take her to five medical facilities in five states—

Hanna, who completed her master's in social work at KU in May 2021, was drawn to helping others. Growing up in Leawood, she enjoyed doing volunteer work locally and traveled twice to Haiti to serve at orphanages. Social work as a profession, however, didn't appear on her radar until her freshman year at Baylor University, in a class for undecided students to explore various career paths.

Hanna's path veered suddenly in fall 2016, during her sophomore year, when she was beset by headaches, fever and extreme fatigue. Her neck and back hurt, and her eyes began to bounce. She sought care at a hospital and was discharged, but her puzzling condition worsened.

"I very rapidly lost my ability to make much meaningful movement. I could still walk, but I couldn't do any higher-level activities than that," Hanna says. "At probably the worst point, I was not able to speak multiple words in a row. I would maybe say five words a day. I couldn't follow conversations. It was as if I was in a toddler's brain."

Hanna's parents brought her home to Kansas that November, and, after two visits to KU Hospital, she was diagnosed with autoimmune encephalitis, an inflammation of the brain caused by the immune system attacking healthy brain cells. Hanna says doctors theorized that medication she began taking in high school to manage Crohn's disease—a chronic inflammation in the gastrointestinal tract—triggered the rare disorder.

For treatment, doctors started Hanna on intravenous steroids to reduce the inflammation. In late December 2016, she traveled with her parents to Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, where she received intravenous immunoglobulin therapy and therapeutic plasma exchange. Her next stop, in January 2017, was Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital in Lincoln, Nebraska, where the clouds at last appeared to lift. "Her speech became better; she could express her thoughts better," remembers Hanna's father, William, c'86. "Her response time when answering questions would be faster. You could hear a natural inflection in her voice—like her



Hanna

normal voice—as opposed to monotone. And she was developing better use of her right hand."

Hanna returned home in March 2017 and started outpatient therapy—speech, physical and occupational—at Ability KC in Kansas City. She attended five days a week, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and continued the regimen into summer. Incredibly, she was able to resume her studies at Baylor in August 2017. Hanna graduated with her bachelor's degree in social work on her original four-year timeline, her calling now clear to her: She would pair social work with a role in a medical setting like those she had experienced during her treatment and recovery.

As part of her master's program in the KU School of Social Welfare, Hanna—a lifelong Jayhawk fan from a KU family—did her practicum at Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City. To land a job in a hospital post-graduation, however, Hanna figured she may first need more experience. She broadened her job search, but held on to the goal of medical social work, applying for a case manager position with The University of Kansas Health System. She landed an interview, then the job offer, but the greatest gratification was yet to come. "I didn't know exactly what part of the hospital I would be in. I was open to

truly any area," Hanna says. "On my official first day, they said, 'You're going to be on neuro general and neuro epilepsy.' I was blown away."

Hanna helps patients with their next steps, such as coordinating rehab and making sure they have a safe place to recover after leaving the hospital. Reflecting on her own journey, she advises anyone who faces a long road back from an injury or illness to look at "progress" as a collection of small steps: "Focus on what is in front of you for that day. Often, a lot of my anxiety came from looking at the big picture, and I had to just focus on the little wins—like, 'Hey, I got myself dressed today'—instead of looking at how far I needed to go."

Though she doesn't typically share her story with patients, her awareness of how far she has come fosters genuine connections, a gentle rapport. "I think it makes me have a better heart for what patients are going through and able to relate to them on a different level," Hanna says.

She hasn't regained use of her right hand, but views this new normal as a reminder of her faith, her strength and the gift of health. "They don't think it'll come back," Hanna says of doctors' assessment of her hand function, "but that's OK with me."

**1950 Duane Harvey**, '50, in November received the Legion of Honor, degree of Chevalier (Knight), from the French government for his service as a paratrooper during World War II. He lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

**1953 Donald Decker**, c'53, m'56, is a retired physician. He was a flight surgeon in the U.S. Navy stationed in Florida from 1957 to 1959. He lives in Halstead with his wife, Alice, and attends the Veterans Day program at Halstead Middle School every year.

**1960 Ellen Jurden Hockaday**, c'60, served as honorary chair of the 2020 and 2021 Jewel Ball at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City. She was a Jewel Ball debutante in 1957.

**1961 Bruce Darlington**, PhD'61, was reelected to the city council in Wadsworth, Ohio, for a ninth term. He retired as senior research fellow at Mead Central Research in 1997.

**Frank Einhellig**, d'61, retired as provost at Missouri State University in Springfield. He was also a biology professor and served as chancellor of the university's Mountain Grove campus.

**1964 H. R. "Skip" Granger**, c'64, l'67, and **Mary Ann Johnson Granger**, d'65, retired to Sun Lakes, Arizona. The couple owned Starry Night Winery in Sonoma County, California, which they sold in January 2020.

**1965 Don Dale**, c'65, is CEO of Specialty Welding Supplies in San Diego. He is currently a consultant and supplier for the construction of lithium-processing facilities in California's Imperial Valley.

**1967 Bertram Caruthers Jr.**, c'67, retired after 45 years as a dermatologist in private practice in Kansas City. For decades, he was considered the go-to dermatologist for minority patients in the area, according to The Kansas City Star.

**1969 Linda Urba Helling**, c'69, is a travel consultant at SeaShores and More Travel Escapes in Spring Hill.

**Chris Stark**, c'69, l'72, in March was inducted into the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame for rifle shooting. He lives in Springfield, Missouri.

**Clyde Toland**, c'69, l'75, wrote *American Hero, Kansas Heritage: Frederick Funston's Early Years, 1865-1890*, which was published in March.

Clyde, a recipient of the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences' Alumni Distinguished Achievement Award, is a semi-retired attorney in Iola, where he lives with his wife, **Nancy Hummel Toland**, g'74.

**1970 Larry Bruce**, f'70, retired as owner of Bruce Furniture & Carpet in Gardner. The store, which the Bruce family owned since 1949, closed following Larry's retirement.

**Kenneth Delano**, e'70, who retired in 2007 after 20 years as manager of the Grant County Soil & Water Conservation District in John Day, Oregon, was honored by the district in January when it named its office the Kenneth H. Delano Agricultural Service Center. Kenneth and his wife, Dorene, live in Mount Vernon, Oregon.

**Gary Waldron**, c'70, l'79, was named to the 2022 Southern California Super Lawyers list, a distinction given to no more than 5% of the state's lawyers. He is an attorney at Weintraub Tobin in Los Angeles.

**1971 Rebecca Sitterly**, c'71, splits her time between Albuquerque, New Mexico, and Grand Rapids, Michigan. A former New Mexico District Court judge, she is a practicing trial lawyer in Albuquerque

and volunteers as a nurse-paramedic in a rural emergency medical service when in Michigan.

**1972 Richard Cheatum**, j'72, was reelected to the city council in Pocatello, Idaho. He was first elected in 2017.

**Leslie Flint Cunningham**, c'72, retired as a physical therapist at Mercy Health Center.

**Pam Redden Drenner**, b'72, was elected president of The Fort Worth Club in Fort Worth, Texas. She is the first woman to lead the social, business and athletic club.

**Robert Frederick**, d'72, retired as chief judge for the 25th Judicial District. He now works in private practice at Kennedy Berkley law firm in Garden City.

**Wayne Gaul**, c'72, g'83, g'83, received the 2021 William A. McAdams Outstanding Service Award from the American Board of Health Physics. He retired as senior program manager at Tidewater in 2021 and lives in Columbia, South Carolina.

**1973 Cameron Jones**, c'73, m'76, retired after practicing rheumatology for 38 years in the Kansas City area.

**Dwight Keen**, l'73, in January was elected chair of the Kansas Corporation

**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

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Commission, to which he was first appointed in 2018. He lives in Winfield.

**Denis Viscek**, b'73, g'75, retired as chief financial officer at By the Bay Health in Larkspur, California, where he worked for 13 years. He lives in Prairie Village.

**1974 Ann Vigola Anderson**, c'74, wrote *Posts of a Mid-Century Kid*, a memoir about growing up in 1950s and '60s Kansas. She lives in Lawrence and coaches tennis at the Jayhawk Tennis Center.

**James Doepke**, d'74, was invited to play the national anthem at the 2022 Baseball Hall of Fame Classic May 28 in Cooperstown, New York. Doepke, a trumpet player, has performed the anthem at all 30 Major League Baseball parks.

He lives in Estero, Florida, and returns to Lawrence often to perform at Allen Field House.

**John Hanis**, b'74, is senior group underwriter at Anthem in St. Louis.

**Thomas Kivisto**, c'74, is the owner and founder of Lakeshore Energy Capital, which invests in startups in the oil, real estate and technology sectors. He is based in San Clemente, California.

**Dennis Leiker**, g'74, retired as area vice president at Newbridge Networks/Vivid Consulting Group.

**Janet Lipke**, n'74, g'02, retired as an adult nurse practitioner at Saint Luke's Cardiovascular Consultants.

**Evan Olson**, c'74, l'77, retired as senior counsel at Exxon Mobil Corp.

**Dennis Schapker**, e'74,

l'79, retired in January after 42 years at Black & Veatch, where he was senior vice president/senior group legal counsel for business transactions.

**1975 Greg Sharp**, c'75, in January received the Arizona Constable of the Year Award from the Arizona Constables Association. He is a constable in Navajo County, Arizona.

**1976 Frank "Chip" Brosius III**, c'76, m'79, professor of medicine at the University of Arizona in Tucson, was named the KU School of Medicine's 2022 Distinguished Medical Alumnus.

**John Skupny**, f'76, and **Tracey Armel Skupny**, c'77, own Lang & Reed Napa Valley, a winery they founded in 1993 in St. Helena, California.

**1977 Kellye Abernathy**, d'77, wrote *The Aquamarine Surfboard*, a middle-grade novel published in January. She lives in Plano, Texas.

**Humberto Campins**, c'77, was named a 2021-2022 Jefferson Science Fellow and is spending one year in Washington, D.C., working within the U.S. Department of State. An international expert on asteroids and comets, Humberto is the Pegasus Professor of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Central Florida in Orlando.

**Kurt Knoff**, b'77, g'81, retired as executive vice president at CBRE in Minneapolis.

**Anthony Kovac Jr.**, m'77, was recognized by the KU School of Health Professions as the 2022 Honorary Health Professions Alumnus. He is

the Kasumi Arakawa Professor of Anesthesiology in the KU School of Medicine.

**D. Patrick McNeal**, c'77, retired as a special education teacher with McPherson Public Schools.

**1978 James Riggert**, c'78, g'80, owns Jim Riggert Co. in Dallas.

**Loren Sullivan**, c'78, g'80, retired as a program analyst with the Defense Contract Management Agency.

**1979 Joe Bussell**, f'79, is a painter and sculptor in Kansas City. His "Fraggs" sculptures were recently on display at the Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art at Johnson County Community College in Overland Park.

**Karen Epperson**, d'79, retired as an aviation safety inspector with the Federal Aviation Administration.

**Richard Royse**, s'79, g'80, is president and CEO of Crittenton Services, a behavioral health care provider in Wheeling, West Virginia.

**1980 Jamie Cook Myers**, n'80, g'84, PhD'11, was honored by the KU School of Nursing as its 2022 Distinguished Nursing Alumna. She is a research associate professor at KU Medical Center.

**1981 Vikki Appleton Fielden**, f'81, is a folk singer and songwriter based in the U.K. Known as the "Yorkshire Yankee," she released her single "Interesting Times" in 2021.

**Ardena Garth Hicks**, l'81, is president of Chattanooga Endeavors, which assists and advocates for former offenders in eastern Tennessee. She also

practices law in the Hamilton County Juvenile Court in Chattanooga.

**Cheryl Unruh**, d'81, wrote *Gravedigger's Daughter: Vignettes from a Small Kansas Town*, which was published in October. She lives in Emporia.

**J. Jay West**, f'81, is an artist in Hawaii. In December she released a series of abstract oil paintings, "Standing Still, mini-series." She often uses found and recycled materials in her work.

**1982 William Howard III**, h'82, was named the 2022 Distinguished Health Professions Alumnus by the KU School of Health Professions. He is senior occupational therapist at CHI Health in Omaha, Nebraska, and a retired U.S. Army colonel.

**Evan Jones**, c'82, is senior business area manager at Ball Aerospace. He is a retired U.S. Navy commander.

**Mary Murguia**, c'82, j'82, l'85, was elevated to chief judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit. She is the first Latina to serve as chief judge of a federal appellate court. Her chambers are in Phoenix.

**1983 Douglas Amend**, b'83, is interim minister at Belmont Boulevard Christian Church in Salina.

**Sandra Clark**, j'83, in February became CEO of StoryCorps. She was previously managing editor at *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, where she led the paper to a Pulitzer Prize for Criticism in 2014. She then served as vice president for news and civic dialogue at WHYY, the main PBS and NPR affiliate in Philadelphia.

**Cindy Funk**, c'83, g'86, wrote the book *Am I Too Late? A Mother's Reflection on Her Son's Gap Year and How It Prepared Him for an Uncertain World*. She lives with her husband, **Mike Myers**, e'84, in Seabrook, Texas, and is a higher education consultant and career and life coach.

**J. Richard Gruber**, g'83, PhD'87, retired as director emeritus of the Ogden Museum of Southern Art at the University of New Orleans. He lives in Louisville, Kentucky.

**Kim Martens**, l'83, is a workers' compensation defense attorney at Martens Work Comp Law. His firm is based in Wichita.

**Lori Tawney-Fike**, d'83, g'94, retired as a physical education teacher with Kansas City, Kansas, Public Schools.

**Anthony Thompson**, a'83, e'83, was named The St. Louis American's 2021 Person of the Year, in recognition of his community outreach and philanthropy. Anthony is president and CEO of Kwame Building Group, a construction management firm he founded in St. Louis in 1991.

**Ray Velasquez**, j'83, resumed his role as DJ and host of the radio show "Nocturnal Transmission," which he started in 1983 on KJHK. The show, which aired for several years on 105.9 The Lazer in Lawrence, returned in October on Kansas City's 90.9 The Bridge.

**Richard Wendt**, m'83, an orthopedic surgeon at OrthoKansas in Lawrence, in October was named among *Ingram's Magazine's* 25 "Top Doctors for 2021" in the Kansas and Missouri region.

**1984 Anabella Villalobos Johnson**, g'84, PhD'88, is senior vice president of biotherapeutic and medicinal sciences at Biogen in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

**Jennifer Walter McCaughey**, j'84, is assistant vice president of consumer banking operations at Synchrony Financial.

**Jeffrey Murphy**, b'84, is an agent with The Rob Ellerman Team at ReeceNichols in Overland Park.

**Cheryl Roberson-Kouadio**, c'84, m'89, is a family physician with Tampa General Medical Group in Wesley Chapel, Florida.

**Eric Smith**, c'84, retired as an information security analyst with the State of Kansas.

**1985 Kristin Anderson Chanay**, j'85, g'89, was promoted to assistant director of the Mulvane Art Museum in Topeka.

**Matthew De Galan**, j'85, was named vice president of communications for the Carter Center, a nonprofit human rights organization founded by former President Jimmy Carter.

**Jim Garner**, c'85, l'88, was selected to serve as the administrator of the Office of Unemployment Insurance in the U.S. Department of Labor, joining the federal government's Senior Executive Service.

**Mark McAnarney**, g'85, retired in December as city manager of Emporia.

**Grady Phelan**, f'85, founded the company ProXR, which develops grip technology for sports equipment. Pete Alonso of the New York Mets won the 2021 Home Run Derby with a bat featuring a ProXR grip.

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**Sarah Strunk**, l'85, in January was appointed to the board of directors of Arizona Sonoran Copper Co. Based in Phoenix, she practices business and finance law and has represented numerous clients in the mining and natural resource industries.

**Connie McKernan Tilton**, d'85, is a program analyst with the Kansas Governor's Grants Program in Topeka.

**1986 Kelly Patrick**, c'86, is a project engineer at New Frontier Technologies in Overland Park.

**Steve Powers**, g'86, in February retired as city manager of Salem, Oregon.

**Rich Smith**, e'86, g'91, is president emeritus at Henderson Engineers in Lenexa. He previously led the company as CEO and president for nine years.

**1987 Christine Hess-Baker**, d'87, is self-employed as a yoga instructor.

**Bill Jaeger**, g'87, is a stained glass artist based in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii.

**Ralf Salke**, n'87, lives in Jefferson City, Missouri, where he is managing director of Salke Advisory Group.

**Stacy Shofner Vobach**, c'87, works in global investigations for Walmart. She lives in Kansas City.

**1988 Ervin Cash**, e'88, is president and CEO of Polaris Insights Inc. in Southlake, Texas.

**David Hatesohl**, p'88, in March was named the U.S. Army Medical Command Civilian of the Year. He is a pharmacist at the Irwin Army Community Hospital at Fort Riley and has served the Fort Riley community for 13 years.

**Katherine Lehman**, f'88, was named executive and artistic



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director of Spivey Hall, a performing arts venue at Clayton State University in Morrow, Georgia.

**Shala Mills**, l'88, is an associate provost and dean at the State University of New York-New Paltz.

**Michael States**, c'88, is the inaugural associate dean of diversity, equity and inclusion at the University of Wisconsin Law School in Madison.

**Jane Tuttle**, EdD'88, retired in December as associate vice provost for student affairs at KU. She worked in the Office of Student Affairs for 25 years and was named one of KU's Women of Distinction in 2012.

**1989 Jeff Robertson**, c'89, in January became dean of the College of Health, Science and Technology at the University

of Central Missouri in Warrensburg.

**Lesley Watson**, c'89, is a program analyst with the U.S. Department of the Interior in Lakewood, Colorado.

**1990 Kira Moore Barnes**, c'90, is a cataloging and metadata librarian at Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, New York.

**Guerin Emig**, j'90, a sports writer at the Tulsa World, was named the 2022 Oklahoma Sportswriter of the Year by the National Sports Media Association.

**1991 Jan Mills Carson**, b'91, is a project manager and business analyst at Security Benefit in Topeka.

**K. Scott Gibbar**, c'91, is an enterprise account manager at Nutanix, a cloud software

company. He and his wife, Kristin, live in Overland Park and have two children, Davis and Emma.

**Yitai Hu**, c'91, joined the law firm Norton Rose Fulbright as a partner. He is an intellectual property litigator based in the firm's San Francisco office.

**Samuel Marsh**, l'91, retired as magistrate judge for the 11th Judicial District. He plans to continue to raise cattle on his family farm in southeast Kansas and hopes to open a canine rescue shelter.

**James Obermaier**, j'91, is a public sector engagement manager at Resultant, a technology and analytics consulting firm. He and his wife, **Sally Perkins**, g'88, PhD'91, live in Indianapolis, where she is an insight storyteller at Authenticx.

**Larry Swall**, l'91, is a family law attorney serving the Kansas City metropolitan area.

**Taiju Takahashi**, j'91, was inducted into the Silver Circle of the Southeast chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, in recognition of 25-plus years as a TV news professional. He is the news director at WJTV 12 in Jackson, Mississippi.

**1992 Kanishka de**

**Lanerolle**, c'92, is director of information technology at PARC, a research and development company in Palo Alto, California.

**Scott Frier**, c'92, is senior director of strategic business transformation at Make-A-Wish America in Phoenix.

**Tom Michaud**, c'92, is director of design and user experience at ZVerse.

**John Mullies**, b'92, h'97, is a lead PathNet consultant with Cerner, where he has worked for 25 years. He lives in Olathe with his wife, Carrie, and daughter, Daphne.

**Isaac Turner**, g'92, is interim city manager of Hutto, Texas.

**1993 Donald Braun**, c'93, m'97, is the founder of Vitruvian Health in Overland Park.

**Renee LaBelle Cacchillo**, b'93, g'97, was promoted to president and CEO of Safelite AutoGlass. She lives in Columbus, Ohio.

**Danny Davies**, e'93, is president and CEO of C&C Group in Lenexa.

**1994 Christopher Boyer**, b'94, is vice president of global security and technology policy at AT&T. He is based in Washington, D.C.



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**Scott Collin**, j'94, is co-founder and executive creative director at The Creative Cartel, an advertising agency in northern Virginia.

**Steve Merchant**, b'94, was promoted to chief operating officer at Newcastle Limited, a real estate firm in Chicago.

**Steven Witte**, c'94, is director of the Biologics Development Module at the USDA National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility in Manhattan.

**1995 Anne Wehmeyer Bertie**, b'95, is controller at Hugo's Industrial Supply in Independence, Kansas. She and her husband, Aaron, have a son, Brecken, and daughter, Brynn.

**Christopher Hummer**, g'95, in January was named CEO and plan president at

Western Sky Community Care in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

**Kendra Spaeth Lewison**, l'95, in November was appointed to the Advisory Council on Dispute Resolution by the Kansas Supreme Court. She is a judge for the 21st Judicial District.

**1996 John Blair**, c'96, in January became city manager of Santa Fe, New Mexico.

**Ted Miller**, j'96, lives in Washington, D.C., where in November he joined the D.C. board of trustees of the Point Foundation. He is senior vice president of development and external affairs at the Cancer Support Community.

**1997 Peter Getz**, d'97, is principal at Valencia High School in Valencia, California.

**1998 Creighton Coover**, b'98, g'01, is an enterprise customer success manager at LivePerson. He lives in Overland Park.

**Vance Lassey**, c'98, c'99, m'04, was elected president of the Direct Primary Care Alliance's board of directors. He lives in Holton, where he is a family physician at Holton Direct Care, which he founded in 2016.

**Christopher Warren**, c'98, is director of curatorial affairs at the Smithsonian National Postal Museum in Washington, D.C., where he lives with his wife, Jennifer, and sons, Donovan and Dempsey.

**1999 Matthew Anderson**, b'99, lives in Chicago, where he is senior vice president at Bank of America.

**Keri Adams Hissong**, h'99, is lab director at Castle Rock Adventist Hospital and Littleton Adventist Hospital in Colorado.

**Jonathan Hoffman**, c'99, is senior consultant at Project Control Consultants in Kansas City.

**2000 Elissa Anderson Auerbach**, g'00, PhD'10, is professor of art history at Georgia College & State University in Milledgeville.

**Ian Guenther**, a'00, is an associate at Myefski Architects in Chicago.

**Brian Tongier**, c'00, is a funeral director at Dove Cremations & Funerals in Topeka.

**2001 Ashley Bowen Cook**, j'01, became chair of the board



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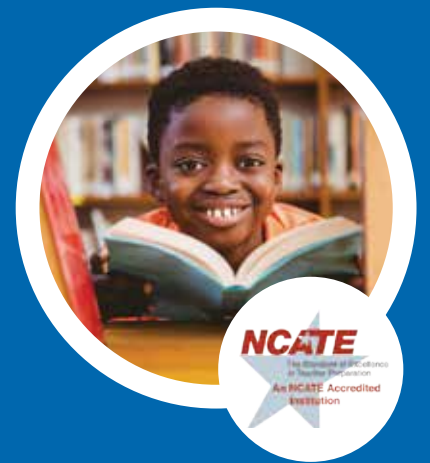
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1. Based on the national average. Teachers salaries vary by state and district. Retrieved on March 18, 2021 from [teacher.org/topic/teachersalary-what-to-expect/](https://www.teacher.org/topic/teachersalary-what-to-expect/)  
2. Applies only to those of our programs that lead to licensure in the state of Kansas



of directors of the Wichita Aero Club in January. She is the first woman to lead the organization. Ashley is vice president and brand director at Greteman Group, an aviation marketing and communications agency in Wichita.

**Kirsten Flory**, c'01, is principal of Clear Choice Commercial, a real estate firm that opened in Lawrence in September.

**Matthew Franzenburg**, c'01, l'08, is assistant city prosecutor in Olathe.

**Tamara Niles**, l'01, is city attorney in Englewood, Colorado.

**Nikaela Zimmerman**, c'01, g'04, is collections manager and registrar at the Mulvane Art Museum in Topeka.

**2002 Chris Gregory**, j'02, g'14, in November was named to the new position of chief marketing officer at KU. He previously directed marketing and public relations at the KU Edwards Campus.

**Katharine Milberger Haynes**, b'02, c'02, l'05, is vice president, corporate secretary and chief ethics officer at H&R Block.

**Andrew Maass**, a'02, was promoted to chief operating officer at BRR Architecture in January. He is based in Philadelphia.

**Mariah Walters Meyer**, a'02, in January became president and CEO of BRR Architecture, headquartered in Overland Park. She is the first woman to be president and CEO of the firm.

**Mike Rigg**, j'02, is director of content marketing for SuperBook Sports.

**Eric Sexton**, PhD'02, is a government affairs consultant at Foulston Siefkin law firm in Wichita.

**Charlene Wilson**, l'02, was promoted to vice president of people and culture at H&R Block in Kansas City.

**Clay Wirestone**, c'02, j'02, is opinion editor at the Kansas Reflector. He lives in Lawrence.

**2003 Mark Mansfield**, e'03, is an engineer at UDC USA in Grain Valley, Missouri.

**Carol Stewart**, n'03, retired as a nurse. She lives in Basehor.

*Born to:*

**Ryan**, j'03, and **Michelle Burhenn Malashock**, j'05,

daughter, Sylvie, Oct. 25. They live in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where Ryan is a teacher and Michelle is senior director of internal communications and employee experience at General Mills.

**2004 Anthony Krsnich**, c'04, president and CEO of Flint Hills Holdings Group, is the developer of Penn Street Lofts at Eighth and Pennsylvania streets. Last year he commissioned Lawrence artist **Stephen Johnson**, f'87, to design the paintings of sunflowers and roses on the complex's exterior.

**The Rev. Tom Reid**, c'04, is associate director of the Miller Center for Interreligious Learning & Leadership at Hebrew College in Newton,

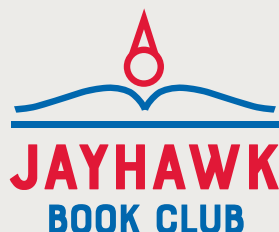


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### Questions?

Contact Michelle Lang, senior director of alumni programs, at [michellem@kualumni.org](mailto:michellem@kualumni.org), or call 785.864.9769.



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Massachusetts. He is the pastor at Newton Presbyterian Church.

**2005 Jeff Hrabe**, d'05, is a financial adviser at Legacy Financial Strategies in Leawood.

**John Kollhoff**, PharmD'05, was elected to the Abilene City Commission. He and his wife, **Sue Hamon Kollhoff**, PharmD'07, are owners and pharmacists at Kollhoff Pharmacy in Junction City. They live in Abilene.

**Jasmin Moore**, c'05, is the director of sustainability and impact at Earthjustice, a nonprofit environmental law organization.

**Kyle Rohde**, j'05, is vice president of brand leadership at Barkley.

**Brandon Snook**, f'05, is a real estate agent in New York City and New Jersey.

**2006 Jeremy Allen**, b'06, g'12, is a sales engineer at TouchNet in Lenexa.

**Meghan Bahn**, g'06, is director of development at Grandstreet Theatre in Helena, Montana.

**Brian Benson**, PharmD'06, is interim CEO at Greene County Medical Center in Jefferson, Iowa.

**Alison Schmidt Flores**, f'06, in January was appointed to a three-year term on the IRS Advisory Council. She is a principal tax research analyst at H&R Block.

**David Holsinger**, DMA'06, a composer and conductor, is professor of music at Lee University in Cleveland, Tennessee.

**Maryna Tov Hudgins**, e'06, lives in Atlanta, where she is

vice president/owner of Rainwater Construction Co.

**Megan Maise**, c'06, works at IBM, where she is chief of staff to the general manager of IBM Technology Support Services.

**Connor Moore**, c'06, is executive creative director at Listen, a music and sound agency. He is also the founder and principal of CMoore Sound in San Francisco and has created audio programs for brands such as Google, State Farm and Uber.

**Rob Werling**, b'06, g'06, is a partner at KPMG. He lives in Lenexa.

### Married

**Weston Rockers**, b'06, to Kelly Gillett, Oct. 15 in Temecula, California. They live in

San Francisco, where Weston is a partner at Polsinelli.

**2007 Lindsay Barnett**, j'07, is vice president of retirement solutions B2B marketing at Morgan Stanley in Denver.

**Crissey Del Percio**, c'07, j'07, was selected by Missouri Lawyers Media as a 2021 Women's Justice Awards honoree in the public service category. She is an attorney at Legal Aid of Western Missouri in Kansas City.

**Kris Kennedy**, c'07, j'07, is associate creative director at VMLY&R in Kansas City.

**2008 Whitney Eriksen Chang**, c'08, j'08, is a teacher in the Shawnee Mission School District. She and her husband, **Ken**, b'05, g'08, live



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in Fairway with their daughter, Nora, and son, Dawson.

**Chris Conti**, c'08, e'12, g'12, is CEO and co-owner of ContiCorps Labs in Galena, Missouri.

**John Jordan**, b'08, manages accounting and payroll at the Corridor Group in Mission.

**Colleen O'Donnell**, c'08, is a strategic account manager at Salesforce. She lives in Chicago.

**Randy Oliver**, EdD'08, associate principal at Van Horn High School in Independence, Missouri, was named the 2022 Missouri Assistant Principal of the Year.

**2009 Allyn Denning**, c'09, was promoted to director of public affairs at the Kansas Office of Information Technology Services in Topeka.

**Courtney Montel Haller**, j'09, is executive director of marketing and communications at Baker University.

**Alexandra Helmuth**, b'09, lives in Prairie Village, where she is the owner and president of Balanced Business Solutions.

**Chase McFarland**, c'09, is a public affairs officer for the U.S. Air Force.

**Molly Naccarato**, b'09, g'09, is assistant controller at J.E. Dunn Construction Co. in Kansas City.

**Jaime Pena Gonzalez**, c'09, g'11, g'11, is general manager at Jardin Paraiso. He lives in Asuncion, Paraguay.

**Mike Rivera**, c'09, g'16, is associate broker at Asset Management Group in Overland Park.

**Matthew Tornow**, c'09, lives in Naples, Florida, where he is general manager and chief operating officer at

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**Stephanie Webster**, c'09, lives in Austin, Texas, where she is a marketing professional at DPR Construction.

**2010 Seth Mowe**, c'10, is a technology sourcing manager at T-Mobile.

**Brian Smith**, j'10, is director of parish engagement at Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

**Nick Woolery**, g'10, is assistant city manager of Georgetown, Texas.

**2011 Lucille Bever**, g'11, is a project manager at Burns & McDonnell in Kansas City.

**Dustin Glessner**, b'11, is an infrastructure engineer at Maven Wave. He lives in Denver.

**Rachel Kaegi Green**, b'11, g'12, was appointed chair of the board of the Educational Foundation of the Kansas Society of Certified Public Accountants. She is an accounting lecturer in the School of Business.

**Kirsten Oswald Hastings**, g'11, is a prototype architect for Walmart. She and her husband, William, have four children, William, Izabel, Abigail and Eugene.

**Liam Kirby**, c'11, in December became chief operating officer at Proof, a legal-technology company. He and **Allie Fiss Kirby**, d'12, live in Arvada, Colorado.

**Kassandra Miller**, c'11, d'11, g'12, teaches Spanish at Louisburg Middle School and in October was named Louis-

burg USD 416's Secondary Teacher of the Year.

**2012 Natalie Sellers DeBoer**, d'12, is an application analyst II at LMH Health in Lawrence.

**Jacob Estes**, c'12, is a program associate at the American Association of Veterinary State Boards in Kansas City.

**Andrew Fillmore**, j'12, works at Netflix, where he is YouTube digital operations manager. He lives in Los Angeles.

**Paige McClure Hewitt**, c'12, is administrative assistant to the executive vice president at Missouri Southern State University in Joplin.

**Jacob Petrosky**, m'12, is a physician at Cleveland Clinic Indian River Hospital in Vero

Beach, Florida. He specializes in bariatric surgery.

**Robert Ramsey**, c'12, is senior application system technical analyst at Intermountain Healthcare in Salt Lake City.

**Hadley Skeffington-Vos**, g'12, is deputy village manager for the village of Palatine, Illinois.

**Zach Tarhini**, c'12, owns and operates Meta Coffee Roasting Co. in Kansas City.

*Married*

**Joshua Finnicum**, c'12, to Emily Hammerman, Oct. 2 in St. Louis, where he is an account executive at Square.

**Sarah Murphy**, c'12, to Eric Riley, Oct. 30 in Olathe. Sarah is a branch manager

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1. Retrieved on April 11, 2022 from [usnews.com/education/online-education/university-of-kansas-155317](https://usnews.com/education/online-education/university-of-kansas-155317)  
2. Retrieved on July 7, 2021 from [usnews.com/best-graduate-schools/top-business-schools/mba-rankings?location=Kansas](https://usnews.com/best-graduate-schools/top-business-schools/mba-rankings?location=Kansas)

at First Federal Bank of Kansas City.

**2013 Angela Horsfall**, p'13, PharmD'13, is the managing pharmacist at AuBurn Pharmacy in Abilene.

**Lauren Luhrs**, l'13, is senior director of development at the Kansas 4-H Foundation. She lives in Overland Park.

**Pat Strathman**, j'13, is sports director, assistant program director and an on-air host at ESPN Wichita 92.3.

**2014 Thomas Clark**, e'14, is a plumbing and fire protection engineer II at Integrated Project Services. He lives in Lawrence.

**Brian Grover**, b'14, is senior business analyst at Sovereign Sportsman Solutions. He lives in Overland Park.

**Kate Winkler**, d'14, lives in Kansas City, where she is an instructional designer at the National Association of Insurance Commissioners.

*Married*

**Ashley Zolt**, d'14, to Blake Altman, Oct. 9 in Wheeling, Illinois. They live in Chicago, where Ashley is a preschool special education teacher.

**2015 Rebecca Ernesti**, e'15, is a paralegal/tax specialist at Stinson. She and her husband, **Brian Sussman**, g'19, live in Olathe.

**Evan Rattenborg**, j'15, creates customer service web content at Zoom. She lives in Fort Collins, Colorado.

**Corinne Schwarz**, g'15, PhD'18, is assistant professor of gender, women's and sexuality studies at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater.

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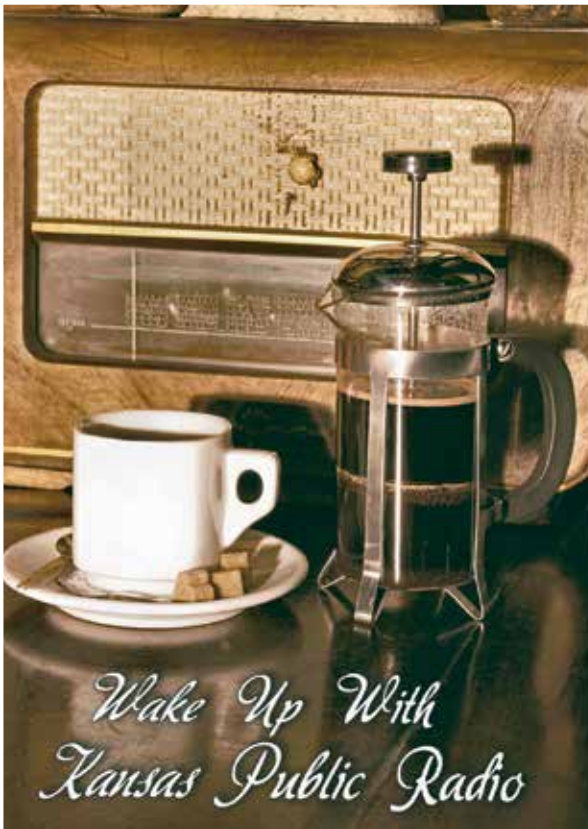
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**Cristi Slocum**, g'15, is a librarian at Mason County M. Beven Eckert Memorial Library in Mason, Texas.

*Married*

**Ashley Booker**, j'15, to **Tanner Brunhoeber**, e'15, Oct. 23 in Wichita.

**2016 Cody Craig**, c'16, is an escrow processor at International Title & Escrow in Cocoa Beach, Florida.

**Stephen Hetro**, c'16, is an account executive in the athletics department at Louisiana State University.

**2017 Laura Foster**, d'17, g'20, g'20, g'20, is assistant equipment operations coordinator at Arizona State University.

**Cameron Mooney**, p'17, PharmD'17, is the managing

pharmacist at Patterson HealthCare Pharmacy in Abilene.

**Joshua Smith**, j'17, is a creative strategist for Kevin Hart's Laugh Out Loud Network in Los Angeles.

*Born to:*

**Luke**, g'17, g'18, and **Jessica Peterson McElwain**, b'19, daughter, Tatum, Aug. 5. They live in Overland Park.

**2018 Anna Cleland-Leighton**, m'18, is a primary care and maternal care provider at Amberwell Hiawatha in Hiawatha.

**Adam Faircloth**, g'18, g'18, is senior manager, continuous improvement at Evergy.

**Shofi Ull Azum Shofi**, g'18, g'18, is operational innovations and performance manager for the Kansas City

Area Transportation Authority. In November he was named one of Mass Transit magazine's "40 Under 40."

**Ben Tschudy**, d'18, is an account manager at Integrity 9 Sports & Entertainment in Kansas City.

**2019 Emalee Crosser**, j'19, is a social media manager at MMGY Global in Overland Park.

**Lauren Lanz**, j'19, is a marketing specialist at Community Brands in Groton, Connecticut.

**Nathan Reed**, p'19, g'22, PharmD'22, is a pharmacist at Walmart in Topeka.

**Brett Roberts**, b'19, g'20, is an audit associate at KPMG in Philadelphia.

**Alexander Stadler**, c'19, is a licensed real estate agent with Smart City Locating.

**Rebekah Swank**, j'19, manages paid social media at Wpromote in Los Angeles.

**2020 Spencer Chestnut**, g'20, is a process development engineer at Cingulate Therapeutics in Kansas City.

**Hadley Oehlert**, j'20, is a social media marketing specialist at Hallmark Cards.

**Calvin Schuette**, l'20, is an indigent defense attorney with the State of Kansas.

**Joseph Skevington**, b'20, g'21, is an audit assistant at Deloitte in Kansas City.

**Kirsten Stathos**, j'20, is a global manager at Elite World Group in New York City.

**2021 Sylvia Bryan**, c'21, is a research assistant for the Congressional Research Service in Washington, D.C.

**Emma House**, c'21, lives in Daytona Beach, Florida, where she is a weekly racing operations coordinator at NASCAR.

**Abraham Pfannenstiel**, l'21, is an attorney and lobbyist at Kearney & Associates Inc. in Topeka.

*Associates*

**Keith Rodgers**, assoc., retired as project manager at Hallmark Cards.

**Weijing Sun**, assoc., was named president of the International Society of Gastrointestinal Oncology. He is the Sprint Professor of Medical Oncology and director of the medical oncology division in the School of Medicine, and associate director for clinical research at the KU Cancer Center.

**1930s** Rosemary Delap Mondale, c'38, Bella Vista, Arkansas, 104, Feb. 28.

**1940s** Charles Berthot, e'49, Clarkdale, Arizona, 95, Feb. 12.

**Albert Blakeslee**, d'49, Hutchinson, 93, Feb. 21.

**Nancy Smith Bohman**, c'48, San Antonio, 96, Dec. 22.

**D. Robert Buechel**, c'47, m'49, Sausalito, California, 97, Jan. 3.

**Joann Clough Burns**, d'49, Atlanta, 95, Feb. 10.

**Earl Coriell**, m'49, Polson, Montana, 97, Feb. 12.

**C. Milton Coughenour**, c'48, Lexington, Kentucky, 95, Jan. 26.

**Dorothy Higginbottom Flottman**, b'46, Wichita, 97, March 19.

**Georgina Stayton Goetz**, '49, Leawood, 95, April 10.

**Harold Goss**, b'47, Leawood, 99, March 19.

**Jerry Griffith**, c'40, f'46, Lawrence, 102, March 8.

**Theodore Hanske**, b'49, St. Louis, 97, Jan. 9.

**Jean Atherton Hartzell**, '47, Flagstaff, Arizona, 96, Sept. 16.

**John Hawley**, e'48, Alma, Nebraska, 96, Jan. 5.

**Theodore Hoff**, c'49, m'52, Orlando, Florida, 94, Jan. 11.

**Ethelmae Craig Humphreys**, c'48, Joplin, Missouri, 94, Dec. 27.

**Sally Rowe Jones**, j'49, Liberty, Missouri, 93, Feb. 22.

**Barbara Olson Kaufman**, f'49, Wichita, 94, Jan. 1.

**Jack Kemp**, e'46, Hanford, California, 96, April 3.

**J. Bert Ladd**, e'49, Los Angeles, 98, Dec. 31.

**Donald Marks**, j'49, Kearney, Nebraska, 97, Feb. 12.

**Peggy Howard McManus**, c'48, Mesa, Arizona, 90, April 9, 2021.

**Ira Meador**, e'49, Oklahoma City, 97, March 4.

**Bonnie Veatch Miller**, d'48, Charlotte, North Carolina, 95, March 18.

**Mary Lou Penny**, '45, Lawrence, 98, Jan. 9.

**Emily Hollis Pfitsch**, b'46, Grinnell, Iowa, 96, Jan. 21.

**Alvin Russo**, m'49, La Jolla, California, 97, Feb. 28.

**William Walker**, e'48, Fort Worth, Texas, 97, Jan. 11.

**Patricia Strang Weber**, c'49, Salina, 94, Jan. 11.

**Frances Metzger Weeks**, c'41, n'43, Kansas City, 102, Feb. 27.

**Arthur Wiens**, c'48, g'52, Mercer Island, Washington, 95, Dec. 18.

**Donald Woolpert**, e'47, Sun City West, Arizona, 96, March 2.

**Ruth Leigh Yeager**, b'45, Riverside, California, 98, Nov. 15.

**1950s** Dorla Abbott, g'57, Merriam, 92, Dec. 25.

**Barbara Nesch Abrams**, d'52, Raymore, Missouri, 91, April 17.

**Patrick Alkire**, p'56, Wichita, 88, March 22.

**Ann Sutter Anthan**, d'59, West Des Moines, Iowa, 84, March 23.

**Robert Ariagno**, c'57, Overland Park, 88, Dec. 29.

**James Ascher Sr.**, '51, Overland Park, 93, Feb. 2.

**Robert Ball**, c'54, Austin, Texas, 89, Jan. 15.

**Thomas Bath**, e'59, Portage, Michigan, 84, April 16.

**Donald Beene**, d'58, f'58, g'64, Tucson, Arizona, 86, Feb. 21.

**Duane Bellinger**, e'51, Tulsa, Oklahoma, 96, Jan. 9.

**Robert Beu**, e'50, g'52, Ooltewah, Tennessee, 93, April 12.

**Sarah Underwood Black**, f'50, Atlanta, 92, Jan. 6.

**Nancy Parker Brittain**, c'59, Denver, 84, March 27.

**Richard Brownrigg**, c'57, m'61, Creede, Colorado, 86, April 14.

**John Campbell**, c'54, m'58, Portland, Oregon, 90, Feb. 1.

**Catharine Challiss Cappel**, '53, Meridian, Idaho, 91, March 22.

**Ann Whittier Closser**, c'53, Leawood, 90, Feb. 2.

**William Cole**, b'50, Assaria, 95, April 5.

**Edward Cooper Jr.**, f'50, Wichita, 97, April 5.

**Nancy Cooper**, '52, Leawood, 98, Jan. 7.

**John Corporon**, j'51, g'53, Brooklyn, New York, 92, Feb. 4.

**Esther Dahl**, h'59, Hillsboro, Oregon, 89, June 25, 2021.

**Dale Darnell**, c'55, m'59, Prairie Village, 87, Feb. 6.

**John Davis Jr.**, e'58, PhD'63, Littleton, Colorado, 85, Jan. 7.

**Louise Swigart Davis**, f'53, g'60, Prairie Village, 90, Feb. 10.

**Margaret Horalek DeBord**, d'52, Centralia, 91, Oct. 9.

**Richard Dedo**, c'57, Hillsborough, California, 86, Dec. 20.

**Patricia Davis DeGoler**, c'55, Kansas City, 88, Dec. 24.

**Jean Gordon Dibble**, d'55, Sausalito, California, 88, March 16.

**Kenya Torrance Donohue**, d'57, Kansas City, 85, Nov. 22, 2020.

**Marilyn Lovelady Donovan**, f'55, d'57, Albuquerque, New Mexico, 89, Jan. 28.

**Joseph Duerksen**, m'54, Roeland Park, 94, Jan. 15.

**Leland Duvall**, e'53, g'70, Overland Park, 90, Jan. 24.

**Joe Eichhorn**, b'59, Cottonwood, Arizona, 84, Nov. 23.

**Howard Ellfeldt**, c'59, m'63, Bradenton, Florida, 85, Feb. 26.

**Jane Keith Evans**, c'50, Madison, Wisconsin, 93, Dec. 4.

**Delmar Falen**, b'59, Lawrence, 87, March 11.

**Isobel Atwood Falkens-tien**, '50, Lawrence, 92, Jan. 28.

**J. Paul Flower**, b'55, Lawrence, 88, March 19.

**Alan Frame**, j'53, Oakland, California, 92, Jan. 20.

**Robert Frentrop**, e'51, Las Vegas, 93, March 3.

**William Friedman**, c'58, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, 88, Aug. 14.

**Caroline Crosier Gaston**, d'52, Oakland, California, 90, Nov. 21.

**Nancy Neville Glick**, j'55, Cape Canaveral, Florida, 88, March 27.

**Harold Glimpse**, d'53, Overland Park, 94, Jan. 29.

**Daryl Hall**, j'57, Lincoln, Nebraska, 86, March 14.

**Jack Hammig**, d'55, g'62, Overland Park, 88, Feb. 25.

**Janie Schaaake Harris**, d'57, Lawrence, 87, March 14.

**Jeanne Hardy Hatch**, g'50, Chicopee, Massachusetts, 96, Feb. 9.

**Don Heath**, b'57, Lawrence, 86, Dec. 22.

**Joy Wood Henley**, '54, Lawrence, 90, Feb. 1.

**John Hieber**, e'58, Bel Air, Maryland, 85, Feb. 24.

**Jimmie Jones**, e'59, Tempe, Arizona, 86, March 31.

**Karl Kumli**, PhD'59, Boulder, Colorado, 94, Dec. 2.

**Theodore Kuwana**, PhD'59, Seattle, 90, Jan. 1.

**Carolyn Blouch Laurencelle**, f'55, Fairbanks, Alaska, 89, Sept. 28.

**Treva Lee Lewis**, f'58, McKinney, Texas, 86, Jan. 13.

- William Lienhard**, b'52, Lawrence, 92, Feb. 8.
- Nancy Myer Linville**, c'52, Salina, 91, Dec. 23.
- Charles Littell**, c'55, Hugoton, 89, March 28.
- Richard Love**, b'56, Leawood, 87, Jan. 11.
- A. Lorraine Lovette-Rake**, d'53, EdD'77, Wichita, 92, April 6.
- Bernard Malkmus**, b'56, Decatur, Alabama, 90, April 7.
- William Marshall**, c'58, m'62, Fayette, Missouri, 86, Sept. 25.
- Hugh McCaughey**, c'51, m'53, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 94, April 12.
- Thomas McGuire**, c'53, m'56, Kansas City, 89, Jan. 11.
- William McKay**, e'54, Kansas City, 90, Feb. 1.
- Paul McKee**, g'59, Ballwin, Missouri, 92, March 7.
- Janette McKinley**, b'59, Georgetown, Texas, 83, April 3, 2021.
- John McMillion**, j'56, Two Harbors, Minnesota, 92, March 15.
- Coleta McNamara**, d'56, Phoenix, 91, March 18.
- Ralph Meyer**, b'59, Lenexa, 84, March 16.
- Marion Mikinski**, c'58, Linwood, 90, Jan. 26.
- Dale Miller**, b'51, Land O' Lakes, Florida, 93, Nov. 7.
- Robert Miller**, e'52, g'53, Fort Worth, Texas, 94, Feb. 19.
- Don Mosher**, c'53, m'56, Lubbock, Texas, 90, July 24, 2021.
- James Neihart**, g'55, Overland Park, 93, March 26.
- Marilyn Kendall Nellis**, d'53, Topeka, 90, Dec. 29.
- George Nettels Jr.**, e'50, Pittsburg, 94, March 5.
- Clayton Nuss**, c'59, Lawrence, 89, Dec. 28.
- John Olsson**, d'50, Dallas, 93, Feb. 7.
- Maureen Gernon Ong**, c'59, Overland Park, 85, March 21.
- Dolores Lindholm Parker**, d'58, Overland Park, 85, March 18.
- Dudley "Dud" Potter**, b'50, Overland Park, 93, Nov. 28.
- Rozanne Atkins Prather**, j'54, Grandview, Missouri, 91, Jan. 22.
- Carol Ketcham Rogers**, c'55, Florence, Massachusetts, 88, Feb. 23.
- Philip Rosenshield**, c'59, g'62, PhD'67, Rye, New Hampshire, 83, Jan. 11.
- Mary Toombs Rudenberg**, d'51, g'53, Galveston, Texas, 92, Feb. 2.
- Norvin Schuman**, m'57, Rio Rancho, New Mexico, 90, Jan. 28.
- Harold Simpson**, e'53, Edmond, Oklahoma, 92, Aug. 9.
- Carol Plumb Singer**, d'59, Palacios, Texas, 83, March 6.
- Jerry Smith**, e'54, g'60, Norman, Oklahoma, 90, March 22.
- C. D. Stenberg**, c'51, Houston, 97, Feb. 13.
- Betty DeLisle Stevens**, c'51, d'62, Tonganoxie, 92, Feb. 5.
- Shirley Stout Strauch**, d'58, Gilford, New Hampshire, 85, Jan. 29.
- Harold Swanson**, g'55, La Crosse, Wisconsin, 91, Jan. 1.
- Leland Tatum**, e'55, Colorado Springs, Colorado, 89, Dec. 31.
- Robert Terry**, e'55, Federal Way, Washington, 88, March 31.
- Willard Thompson**, b'51, l'58, Wichita, 91, Jan. 25.
- Terry Tracy**, c'57, Lawrence, 87, April 7.
- Helen Stealey Valentine**, n'57, Ridgefield, Connecticut, 88, March 15.
- Arkie Vaughn**, '51, Lawrence, 93, Sept. 9.
- Roger Wehrs**, m'59, Auburn, Alabama, 96, Dec. 28.
- Byron Werges**, b'50, Canandaigua, New York, 92, Aug. 7.
- Cloyce Wiley**, b'58, Springfield, Ohio, 89, March 30.
- Jack Williams**, c'50, PhD'54, Tulsa, Oklahoma, 95, March 10.
- Sara Gilbert Woods**, d'56, Lawrence, 87, Dec. 26.
- Janet Chun Yee**, d'59, Honolulu, 88, Sept. 16.
- 1960s Carl Albers**, b'68, Escondido, California, 76, Aug. 1.
- Charles "Chuck" Anderson**, c'62, g'66, Fort Worth, Texas, 81, Jan. 9.
- Marcia Fink Anderson**, n'60, Salina, 84, Jan. 29.
- Barbara Bechtel Armstrong**, c'61, g'66, Clemson, South Carolina, 82, Sept. 20.
- John Armstrong**, c'60, Ogden, Utah, 89, Feb. 7.
- Dorothy Taylor Bauer**, d'66, Southlake, Texas, 78, Jan. 25.
- Fred Benson III**, b'60, Overland Park, 83, March 23.
- Mike Bogard**, d'63, EdD'77, Lawrence, 81, Feb. 3.
- Corwin Bredeweg**, PhD'63, Midland, Michigan, 84, March 25.
- Dorothy Brueggeman**, g'67, Gardner, 85, Jan. 13.
- Claus Buechmann**, g'65, St. Peter, Minnesota, 86, Oct. 7.
- Lawrence Carter**, PhD'66, Overland Park, 81, Feb. 18.
- Gary Chaffin**, c'60, Overland Park, 84, Dec. 20.
- R. L. Clancy**, PhD'65, Prairie Village, 88, Feb. 10.
- Sandra Erwin Coblentz**, f'65, Lee's Summit, Missouri, 80, Jan. 21.
- Robert Cooksey**, e'61, g'62, Garland, Texas, 83, Jan. 3.
- John Cramer Jr.**, g'62, Covington, Louisiana, 87, March 30.
- Keith Culver**, b'69, g'70, Palm Springs, California, 74, March 31.
- Mary Brookens Dettmer**, n'68, Shawnee, 75, March 2.
- Judith Phipps Dozier**, d'65, Leawood, 79, April 2.
- Joan Stromberg Ewy**, d'65, Eagle, Colorado, 78, Feb. 14.
- Barbara Pfaff Finlayson**, d'62, Omaha, Nebraska, 81, Sept. 25.
- Edward Funston III**, l'60, Topeka, 90, Feb. 16.
- Ralph Gage Jr.**, j'64, Lawrence, 80, Jan. 29.
- Alan Geery**, e'63, e'70, g'71, Tecumseh, 81, Nov. 10.
- Mary Root Ginavan**, n'60, Emporia, 83, Oct. 2.
- Dorothy Hain Gotway**, g'64, High Ridge, Missouri, 80, March 10.
- Judith Withroder Graber**, d'65, Fort Worth, Texas, 78, March 22.
- Isaac Grillo**, m'60, San Antonio, 91, April 4.
- Lawrence Grosdidier**, g'68, Shawnee, 85, April 9.
- Ronald Hanson**, j'67, Manchester, Missouri, 76, Feb. 7.
- William Harrison**, c'61, m'65, Kansas City, 87, Jan. 23.
- Janith Rodgers Hedrick**, d'60, Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, 82, April 21, 2021.
- Samuel Henry**, e'69, g'71, PhD'74, Salina, 74, Dec. 23.
- John Hiebert**, c'62, Olathe, 79, April 1.
- Ronald Hinkle**, b'64, Stilwell, 80, Jan. 17.
- Robert Hinton**, e'61, Coldspring, Texas, 81, Sept. 30.
- Roger Hughey**, l'68, Wichita, 78, Jan. 8.

**Mark Kirkpatrick**, c'68, Meridian, Idaho, 76, Dec. 30.  
**Jack Knops**, g'67, PhD'70, Savannah, Georgia, 84, Feb. 5.  
**Jack Knuth**, g'67, Overland Park, 93, Feb. 12.  
**Dennis Kortman**, b'68, Littleton, Colorado, 76, Feb. 19.  
**Gail Leatherwood**, f'60, Spring Hill, Florida, 87, March 26.  
**Saul Lerner**, g'61, PhD'66, Hammond, Indiana, 85, Feb. 8.  
**Don Lill**, c'63, l'66, Clearwater, 80, Jan. 16.  
**Marvin Gene Luttrell**, b'63, Largo, Florida, 85, Dec. 14.  
**Robert Martin**, e'62, Grand Junction, Colorado, 84, Jan. 2.  
**Marilyn McDaniel**, g'67, Blue Springs, Missouri, 84, Jan. 6.  
**Burney Bailey Mendenhall**, PhD'64, Topeka, 93, Sept. 2.  
**Susan Metz**, d'67, Kansas City, 78, March 7.  
**Dennis Mitchell**, g'68, Lee's Summit, Missouri, 77, April 6.  
**Robert Owens**, g'68, Shawnee, 90, April 10.  
**Serafin Ramon**, PhD'67, Goodwell, Oklahoma, 87, Dec. 4.  
**Theodore Resnik**, b'68, Newton, 76, Jan. 20.  
**Joyce Ballew Rich**, d'62, Lakewood, Colorado, 80, Jan. 20.  
**Clark Richert**, f'63, Denver, 80, Dec. 24.  
**Robert Russell**, c'60, Warrensburg, Missouri, 86, April 17.  
**Melvin Saferstein**, c'61, l'66, Huron, Ohio, 83, April 27.  
**Anthony Schmidt**, g'65, Richardson, Texas, 89, Feb. 14.  
**Marty Wellinger Schmidt**, c'67, g'69, Denver, 77, Dec. 2.  
**Charles Settle Jr.**, b'65, g'66, Hoxie, 78, Dec. 14.  
**Charles Shofner**, e'67, Overland Park, 80, Jan. 28.

**Thomas Skutka**, d'60, Rockaway, New Jersey, 84, Nov. 24.  
**Robert Smith**, g'64, PhD'70, Overland Park, 85, March 19.  
**Roger Stanton**, c'60, l'63, Prairie Village, 83, March 4.  
**Glen Strevey**, e'61, Boulder, Colorado, 85, Jan. 23.  
**Frank Swenton**, e'68, Kansas City, 78, Jan. 13.  
**Margaret Teates**, g'62, Riner, Virginia, 85, Feb. 7.  
**Judy Hook Van Rest**, j'68, Milton, Massachusetts, 75, Nov. 24.  
**Forest Walker**, e'61, g'63, Roeland Park, 83, Jan. 20.  
**Janice Wenger**, c'60, g'62, Oak Brook, Illinois, 83, Nov. 25.  
**Robert Westerhouse**, e'62, Marble Falls, Texas, 86, Feb. 3.  
**Virginia Nellis Wilkinson**, n'61, Estes Park, Colorado, 82, March 13.  
**Lee Woodard**, b'60, l'63, Wichita, 86, March 13.  
**Juliana Yuan**, g'69, St. Louis, 75, Feb. 10.

**1970s Dorothy Hanger**

**Adams**, g'79, Lawrence, 95, Feb. 28.  
**Barbara Schultes Bell**, c'76, c'77, h'77, Shavano Park, Texas, 67, April 5.  
**Ronald Bishop**, j'77, Lawrence, 75, Dec. 9.  
**Alfred Bjelland**, g'71, Waco, Texas, 79, Dec. 25.  
**Edith Godfrey Bogart**, d'75, Lawrence, 91, March 27.  
**Charles Boyd**, c'75, g'76, Marshall, Virginia, 83, March 23.  
**Hilke Breder**, m'79, Brattleboro, Vermont, 79, Dec. 7.  
**Fred Brotherson Jr.**, g'74, Cambridge, Wisconsin, 89, March 6.  
**Janice Bruckdorfer**, PhD'77, Washington, Missouri, 79, Jan. 6.

**David Brueggeman**, f'70, Spokane Valley, Washington, 74, April 28, 2021.  
**H. Daniel Chegwidan**, j'74, East Lansing, Michigan, 69, Jan. 14.  
**C. Clair Claiborne**, c'73, Apex, North Carolina, 69, Oct. 24.  
**Lois Clark**, c'76, g'79, Lawrence, 87, Feb. 26.  
**Jimmie Crow**, m'78, Collinsville, Oklahoma, 68, Oct. 17.  
**Randall Darche**, c'76, Leadville, Colorado, 68, May 6, 2021.  
**Dennis Eisele**, c'74, c'75, g'82, g'94, Lake Jackson, Texas, 70, Dec. 10.  
**Frances Fort**, b'76, Paola, 68, July 28, 2021.  
**Britt Fulmer**, j'76, Wichita, 66, June 28, 2021.  
**Marta Martin Gerstenberger**, c'73, d'74, Scottsdale, Arizona, 70, Dec. 30.  
**Jimmie Gill**, EdD'76, Leawood, 80, Feb. 3.  
**Maude Gridley**, f'78, McKinney, Texas, 65, Feb. 1.  
**John Hagman**, j'72, Overland Park, 72, Jan. 27.  
**Gary Hand**, p'74, Colwich, 71, April 21.  
**Larry Herring**, '71, Cocksaysville, Maryland, 73, Dec. 27.  
**Andrew Heyl**, l'71, Fort Collins, Colorado, 77, Jan. 27.  
**Brita Horowitz**, g'75, Overland Park, 85, April 15.  
**Patricia Glotzbach Huddleston**, f'74, Camillus, New York, 91, March 5.  
**Gregory Hupp**, '77, North Richland Hills, Texas, 66, March 1.  
**David King**, c'73, g'75, Worthington, Ohio, 74, Dec. 2.  
**Donald Krenkel**, g'72, Fairfield, Connecticut, 90, Feb. 21.  
**Jean Laidig**, c'75, Holmdel, New Jersey, 68, Jan. 29.

**Rita Leiker**, '70, Hays, 94, Aug. 5.  
**Charles Marvin Jr.**, c'72, g'75, l'75, Shawnee, 73, Jan. 4.  
**Phyllis Mayer**, d'71, New Bremen, Ohio, 72, Jan. 31.  
**Robert McGurk**, g'77, Columbus, Georgia, 83, Feb. 16.  
**Donna Mikols**, c'74, g'76, Lawrence, 69, Dec. 29.  
**Richard Miller**, d'72, g'93, Lawrence, 72, Dec. 19.  
**Richard Nelson III**, e'72, Auburn, New York, 72, April 23.  
**John Newman**, d'75, g'82, Fayetteville, Arkansas, 74, March 25.  
**Paul Norbet Jr.**, d'72, Millstadt, Illinois, 73, Feb. 17.  
**Roger Novak**, b'70, Leawood, 75, April 9.  
**Gary Nuzum**, d'72, Lawrence, April 13.  
**George Osmer**, c'77, Kansas City, 69, March 24, 2021.  
**Bruce Passman**, c'72, g'75, PhD'87, Lawrence, 72, Dec. 24.  
**Tim Paul**, b'71, Tulsa, Oklahoma, 72, April 12.  
**Frances Petri**, g'75, Shawnee, 93, Jan. 15.  
**Robert Schoonover**, EdD'74, San Antonio, 87, Sept. 25.  
**Lynn Wilson Shultz**, f'73, Lenexa, 71, March 2.  
**Patrick Slattery**, j'78, Olathe, 71, Dec. 20.  
**Edward Smith**, d'72, Madrid, Iowa, 72, March 13.  
**Donald Spies**, g'75, Wichita, 72, Jan. 30.  
**Norman Stahl Jr.**, b'71, Topeka, 76, March 10.  
**Ursula Stammer**, '78, Olathe, 88, Feb. 27.  
**Mary Susan Sudlow**, c'70, Forestville, California, 73, Feb. 2.  
**David Thompson**, m'76, Lee's Summit, Missouri, 71, Jan. 26.

*Many obituaries can be found online. Search name, city and state for best results.*

**Dee Tiday**, j'78, l'81, Overland Park, 68, Jan. 19.

**Beverly Bahnmaier Van Dyke**, g'70, Lawrence, 94, Feb. 18.

**John Weltmer**, j'78, Lawrence, 68, Feb. 1.

**1980s Barbara Baer**, g'83, Kansas City, 72, Feb. 3.

**Joan Bengtson**, g'85, Overland Park, 88, Feb. 6.

**John Chalfant**, b'81, Prairie Village, 62, Jan. 30.

**Jo Couchman**, g'83, Overland Park, 90, Feb. 28.

**Linda Burgess Denniston**, c'81, g'82, Mesa, Arizona, 78, Jan. 12.

**Jill Young Giroux**, b'81, Naperville, Illinois, 63, Sept. 23.

**Janet Gunnels**, c'80, Prairie Village, 63, Dec. 6.

**Bryan Hayes**, b'85, Lincoln, Nebraska, 58, Feb. 22.

**Debra Hinkson**, g'85, Maize, 68, March 4.

**Barry Jeffrey Jordan**, g'82, Sarasota, Florida, 63, Dec. 31.

**Steven Kimble**, g'84, Belleville, Illinois, 73, Feb. 8.

**Kathleen Kreek**, g'83, Oregon, Missouri, 67, Feb. 24.

**William Leetch**, g'85, Youngstown, Ohio, 66, March 9.

**Mason Linscott**, b'86, Eden Prairie, Minnesota, 58, Oct. 23.

**Ramona Medina**, h'84, Concordia, 84, July 16, 2021.

**Patrick O'Connell**, c'86, g'90, l'90, St. Paul, Minnesota, 57, April 17.

**Deloris Strickland Pinkard**, g'80, EdD'95, Kansas City, 77, March 24.

**Audrey Pollard**, g'80, Leawood, 94, April 12.

**Diane Flott Senne**, d'81, Lawrence, 79, Jan. 31.

**Howard Sheriff**, e'81, Denver, 65, Dec. 31.

**Suzanne Caldwell Smith**, g'89, Lenexa, 87, Feb. 3.

**Cort Stinnett**, e'84, Sammamish, Washington, 61, March 12.

**Gregory Tanner**, b'81, Chandler, Arizona, 62, July 24, 2021.

**Deborah Taylor**, g'84, PhD'88, North Fort Myers, Florida, 65, Oct. 6.

**Georgia Walker**, g'86, St. Louis, 74, March 7.

**William Wright**, l'84, Garden City, 62, Dec. 30.

**1990s Darla Arnold**, h'96, Wichita, 51, Jan. 18.

**Kathy Byrd**, g'96, Augusta, 60, March 7.

**Wayne Chapin III**, b'94, l'99, Shawnee, 51, Feb. 20.

**Stephan Clancy**, g'98, Shawnee, 55, March 5, 2021.

**Patrick Gamber**, d'94, Olathe, 52, Jan. 12.

**Karen Jones**, n'93, Overland Park, 69, Jan. 13.

**Judith Klepac**, n'99, Olathe, 82, March 22.

**Fred Kniggendorf**, PhD'95, Merriam, 71, Feb. 14.

**Roy Lynn**, PhD'91, Highlands Ranch, Colorado, 79, April 30, 2021.

**Alan Murray**, g'93, Kansas City, 61, Feb. 20.

**Janice Rolig Olsen**, g'97, Overland Park, 83, Feb. 1.

**Preston Pulido**, l'95, Prairie Village, 51, Feb. 24.

**James Sirridge**, c'91, Platte City, Missouri, 52, Sept. 15.

**2000s Shellie Brandon**, s'02, Overland Park, 70, Oct. 30.

**Wendy Eliason**, g'02, g'03, Cromwell, Minnesota, 57, March 2.

**Robert Elton**, c'00, Leawood, 48, Dec. 17.

**Betsey Hart**, c'00, Alamogordo, New Mexico, 43, Nov. 21.

**Adam Hutchison**, c'03, Pittsburgh, 41, March 4.

**Deborah Locke**, l'01, Wichita, 50, Jan. 18.

**Kirstin Robertson**, c'02, Spanish Fork, Utah, 43, Oct. 13.

**Matilda Rosenberg**, g'08, Overland Park, 69, Feb. 25.

**2010s Margot Pickering Bogner**, l'12, McPherson, 35, Dec. 31.

**2020s Gabriela Sandino**, s'21, Overland Park, 31, Feb. 11.

**Levi Ward**, '24, Wichita, 20, April 16.

#### UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

**John Adee**, Rantoul, 52, Dec. 28. He was a storeroom supervisor for KU Information Technology.

**Kenneth Armitage**, Lawrence, 96, Jan. 6. He was the Baumgartner Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and one of the founders of the undergraduate environmental studies program.

**Pamela Botts**, c'65, PhD'91, Lawrence, 78, Jan. 18. She served Lawrence and KU as a licensed clinical psychologist and was associate director of KU Counseling and Psychological Services.

**Peter Hierl**, Lawrence, 80, Feb. 18. He was a professor of chemistry and taught at the University for 45 years.

**David Holmes**, Westwood Hills, 82, Dec. 20. He was a professor of psychology and received numerous awards during his 43-year career at KU, including the Chancellors Club Teaching Professorship in 1999.

**Norge Jerome**, Leawood, 91, Dec. 21. She was a

pioneering researcher and a renowned health and nutrition specialist. She taught in the School of Medicine for 40 years.

**Roger Lambson**, Shawnee, 82, Dec. 1. He was vice chancellor for administration at KU Medical Center from 1984 until his retirement in 1999.

**Dana Leibengood**, j'55, g'69, Lawrence, 89, April 5. He was director of student services and an associate dean of the School of Journalism. He retired in 1998 after 29 years of service.

**Narciso Luna**, '81, Topeka, 86, Dec. 26. He worked for KU Information Technology for 38 years.

**Norma Winn**, h'47, g'70, Lawrence, 98, April 6. She was an associate professor of dietetics and nutrition at KU Medical Center.

#### ASSOCIATES

**Sharon Bach**, assoc., Newport Beach, California, 92, Sept. 25.

**Robert Broddle**, assoc., Lawrence, 75, Oct. 25.

**Alliyene Brownsberger**, assoc., Springfield, Missouri, 100, Dec. 12.

**Virginia Clevenger**, assoc., Yakima, Washington, 96, March 18.

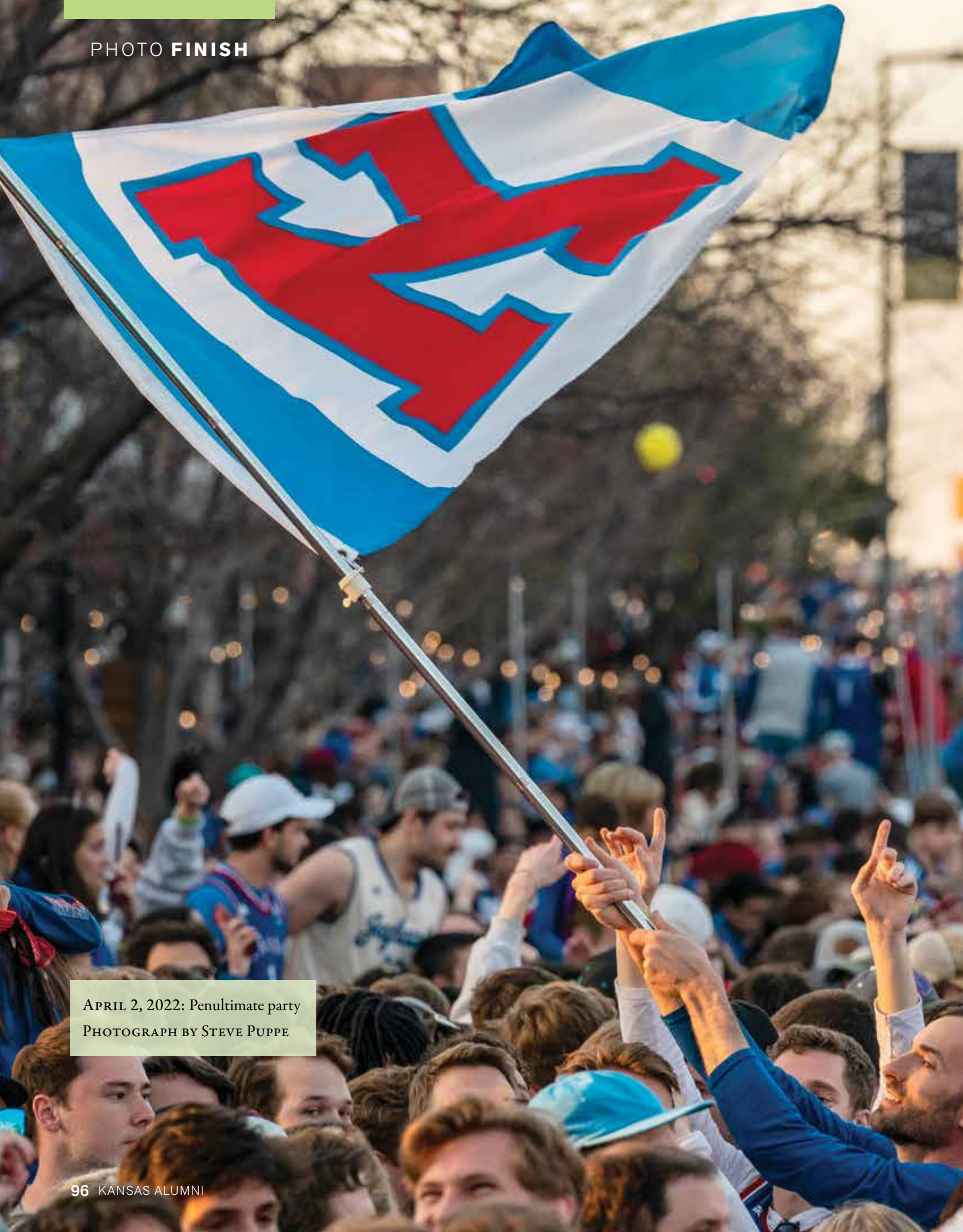
**David Ice**, assoc., Lawrence, 84, Nov. 4.

**Elizabeth Lucas**, assoc., Wellington, 84, March 25.

**Denise Aduddell Regnier**, assoc., Rancho Santa Fe, California, 59, Aug. 7.

**Mary Cay Russell**, assoc., Santa Fe, New Mexico, 75, Sept. 10.

**Adelaide Cobb Ward**, assoc., Kansas City, 88, Jan. 7.



APRIL 2, 2022: Penultimate party  
PHOTOGRAPH BY STEVE PUPPE







EARL RICHARDSON



STEVE PUPPE



STEVE PUPPE



KU ARCHIVES



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HISTORY

## Glory years

*'22 title joins the pantheon*

THE DIGITS NEED NO TRANSLATION: '52, '88 and '08 conjure Jayhawk lore and crystal-clear images of exactly where we were (or where parents and grandparents

were) when KU clinched its first three NCAA titles. In '52, coach Forrest "Phog" Allen and the Jayhawks trounced St. John's, 80-63, in Seattle in the final of the 16-team tournament. In '88, Danny Manning, the Miracles and coach Larry Brown triumphed over Oklahoma, 83-79, in Kansas City after the score had been tied, 50-50, at halftime of the 50th anniversary title game. In '08, coach Bill

Self cut down the nets in San Antonio after KU, down by nine late in the game, surged past Memphis in overtime, 75-68. Mario Chalmers, whose miraculous, last-second three-pointer propelled KU to overtime, joined his teammates in parading down Mass Street to greet grateful fans—the crowning tradition for Jayhawk champions past, present and future.

—JENNIFER JACKSON SANNER

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