Spring 2019

KU giving

SETTING THE STAGE FOR SUCCESS

Award unlocks doors for students facing daunting challenges

FIRST-GENERATION GUIDANCE

DISCOVERING OUR ORIGINS

Kenneth Spencer Research Library

Built on a half-century of support

A gift from the Kenneth and Helen Spencer Foundation established the library in 1968. Since then, generous contributions have enhanced the building and greatly expanded its collections. In 2011, the Marilyn Stokstad Reading Room was dedicated in honor of the late professor emerita of art history. Support from former librarian Ann Hyde and the Friends of KU Libraries made possible the North Gallery renovations in 2017. *See more about the library's history on Page 10.*

SPRING 2019

KU giving

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KU ENDOWMENT
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LET'S BE SOCIAL

ON THE COVER
Some current Hixson Scholars gathered at the Lied Center to talk about how the award has helped them. Photography by Mark McDonald.

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A FRUITFUL INVESTMENT

THE FIRST LETTER, IN 2002, CAME OUT OF THE BLUE. I could tell the author had spent considerable time and care to draft it, and he mentioned an interesting offer — a $1 million gift to further research into the Paleoamericans, the first inhabitants of the Central Plains and western Midwest.

It was the first time I had ever heard of the author, Joseph L. Cramer, a Colorado-based geologist with no formal affiliation to the University of Kansas. He wrote that "it is well known that research for identification of the first Americans constitutes the great mystery of the New World."

HANDS-ON RESEARCH: Joe Cramer (center) and Rolfe Mandel (right), executive director of the Odyssey program, survey a dig site in Kanorado, Kan., in 2003.

He recognized that KU was in a unique position to conduct this research, as he had followed the work of two outstanding anthropology faculty members: Rolfe Mandel and Jack Hofman. Thanks to his support, the Odyssey Geoarchaeological Research Program was born, and Mandel became its executive director. The program supports research, and undergraduate and graduate students involved in summer field investigations.

Over the years, Cramer maintained his involvement with the Odyssey program, and even went on some digs with KU faculty and students. The earliest humans came to the High Plains hunting for camels, bison and mammoths that were abundant in this area. At a dig site in west central Kansas, Mandel's team discovered a 15,500-year-old mammoth with prehistoric human artifacts scattered nearby. This suggests that humans hunted there about 2,000 years earlier than previously thought, a potentially significant discovery.

Among other locations, Mandel and his team also have been excavating at a site near Kanorado, Kan., close to the Colorado border, where they discovered artifacts from the Clovis culture (about 13,000 years ago) and Folsom culture (about 12,300 years ago). "This endowment allows us to go back and explore sites every year, where we have made numerous discoveries," Mandel said.

You can read more about the program and additional gifts made by Joe Cramer and his wife, Ruth, in the story titled "Discovering our Origins" in this issue. Joe died in 2013 and Ruth in 2018, leaving an even larger legacy gift as part of their estate.

The ability to conduct research is an essential component of a comprehensive university like KU. It's the pillar of building new knowledge through discovery. And it offers graduate students the opportunity to get practical experience.

Joe Cramer knew that the seeds he planted at KU would someday produce extraordinary findings. After all, to solve a great mystery, it takes a tremendous amount of patience, persistence and talent — three qualities that abound at KU.

FIRST-GENERATION GUIDANCE

ALTHOUGH IT WAS NOT WELL-KNOWN, PROFESSOR BILL BEEDLES WAS A FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENT. During his 40-year career as a finance professor at KU, Beedles won numerous teaching awards and was beloved by students for his candor and upbeat spirit. He believed that a personal connection was an important factor in student success and was able to relate to the many challenges that first-generation students face. Students have said that Beedles was a natural mentor who listened and helped them find their own path to success.

After his retirement in February 2018, School of Business faculty and staff teamed up with KU Endowment to start a LaunchKU crowdfunding campaign in Beedles' honor. They wanted to raise money to establish the Bill Beedles First-Generation Student Scholarship, a fitting tribute since Beedles was committed to providing all students with equal opportunities.

The initial goal of $25,000 was raised by faculty, staff and former students in the first few days of the campaign, prompting the team to raise the goal to $50,000. Many donors left comments filled with admiration for Beedles that were compiled and shared with him and his family.

"You have been a mentor and friend to so many Jayhawks over the years," wrote John Holland. "Thank you for all that you have done beyond teaching us how to think."

OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR: KU Finance professor Bill Beedles had a long list of professional accomplishments and published articles; however, he was best known as a dedicated teacher who served the university and the Lawrence community for decades.

Brett Leigh wrote, "Thank you for being a brilliant professor, a caring role model and a true inspiration to me."

The LaunchKU project ended on Jan. 1, 2019, with more than $65,000 raised. Nearly 100 donors contributed to support first-generation students in his honor. The first scholarship will be awarded in fall 2019.

Bill Beedles died on Sept. 24, 2018. His legacy will continue through the Bill Beedles First-Generation Student Scholarship for many years to come.

"As a family, we are blown away by the generosity of Bill's students, colleagues and friends to the First-Generation Award and for it to be able to 'live on' is thrilling," Ann Beedles said. "It is a testament to his commitment to ensuring that students have the resources they need to succeed."

VICTORIA SICKINGER


JAYHAWK WELCOME CENTER

JBAR

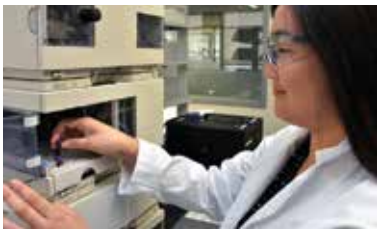
WHY I GIVE

"We enjoy passing on opportunities that we had at KU. We believe in working with young people to develop their leadership skills, and that led to working with the KU Alumni Association to support student alumni leaders. Now, we are combining our original idea with our passion for recruiting young people to the university as a part of the Welcome Center."
Donald Brada Sr., M.D., bachelor's in psychology 1961, M.D. 1965, residency 1972, retired associate dean of the School of Medicine-Wichita, and Kay Brada, bachelor's in personnel administration and political science 1961, Lawrence, Kan.
Gift to the Jayhawk Welcome Center

"I think with everything that's going on with the world today — changes in journalism and digital media and social media — journalism as we knew it has changed radically. It's going to be critical for the William Allen White School to stay ahead of that curve."
Kyle Craig, bachelor's in journalism 1969, Denver, Colo.
Gift made through the Kyle Craig Family Future of Journalism Fund to establish the JBar at the William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications

"I often consider Professor Wright's impact on my life. I hope each recipient of financial assistance from the Beatrice A. Wright Faculty Scholarship in Health and Rehabilitation Fund gains an equal amount of wisdom."
Dennis Swiercinsky, Ph.D. in psychology 1974, Portland, Ore.
Gift to the Beatrice A. Wright Scholarship in Health/Rehabilitation Psychology

"My wife's experience as a young refugee and my childhood ties to Kansas greatly inspired me to make this gift. Providing an incentive to graduate is important, and a loan repayment award like this one encourages students to persevere."
Eugene Carter, Ph.D., Arlington, Mass.
Gift to establish the E. Eugene Carter Foundation opportunity award for female Hispanic students in the School of Engineering




CAÑON CITY

"I was looking for an opportunity to do something to bridge the academic experience at KU with the outside world to help better prepare students for what they would encounter on the job."
Richard Hoover, bachelor's in engineering 1971, and Elizabeth Hoover, bachelor's in chemistry 1971, Northport, Mich.
Gift to establish the Richard H. Hoover Chemical Engineering Applied Research Laboratory at KU's School of Engineering

"Blue Ridge field camp was a life experience that my father-in-law, Bob Harrison, a 1938 alumnus, never forgot. He wanted to be able to assist future KU geology students to have similar opportunities. This was important to the family and something my late husband, Phil, also a KU alumnus, supported."
Beth Harrison, Lawrence, Kan.
Gift made through the Harrison Family Fund to purchase 600 acres of land outside of Cañon City, Colo., for the Department of Geology

"This endowment is my way of giving back to the community — my home. I want medical students in southeast Kansas to see the opportunities that rural and community medicine can provide and know that they can achieve their dreams in smaller communities."
Virendra C. Patel, M.D., and Urvashi V. Patel, Plano, Texas
Gift to establish the Virendra C. Patel, M.D., and Urvashi V. Patel Scholarship for KU School of Medicine-Wichita students

"Pioneer Services is pleased to partner with and support KU's Military-Affiliated Student Center. We appreciate the opportunity to assist the 1,400 student veterans, active-duty service members, military spouses, and others that use the center as a resource annually — and our local team members are proud to make a difference so close to home."
Jodi Vickery, president of Pioneer Services, Kansas City, Mo.
Gift to the Lt. Gen. William K. Jones Military-Affiliated Student Center

SETTING THE STAGE FOR SUCCESS

HIXSON OPPORTUNITY AWARD HELPS STUDENTS PURSUE THEIR DREAMS

BY VALERIE GIELER

Christina Hixson

AS A YOUNG GIRL, EDAN ALEMAYEHU BELIHU TOOK THE JOURNEY OF A LIFETIME — TRAVELING 8,176 MILES FROM HER BIRTHPLACE IN NAZRET, ETHIOPIA, TO BE REUNITED WITH HER FATHER IN KANSAS. Although Belihu was excited to see her dad after years apart, she also was terrified. She had recently lost her mother and didn't speak any English. "I had high hopes for my future, but I often got frustrated because I couldn't communicate with people," Belihu said. "I was behind academically and felt I wasn't capable of achieving my dreams."

With a lot of hard work, adjustments and extraordinary support, Belihu graduated

OVERCOMING DIFFICULTIES: In just a few years, Edan Belihu had to learn English, adjust to a new country, catch up on schoolwork and begin preparing for college. Being a Hixson Scholar has been a tremendous source of support, and Belihu hopes her experiences will enable her to help children facing challenges in the future.

from high school in Shawnee, Kan., and is now a KU sophomore majoring in social welfare and pre-medicine. She plans to get a master's in public administration and nonprofit management to help children in underserved communities receive health care and education.

A place to start

Belihu is just the type of student Christina Hixson hoped to benefit when she established the Hixson Opportunity Award with a $5 million gift in 2006. "I wanted to help everyday students — first-generation students who many times don't think it is possible to obtain a college education," Hixson said. "The scholarship provides a starting point, an opportunity for students to accomplish something that has not been a part of their upbringing."

Hixson is the sole trustee of the Lied Foundation Trust of Las Vegas, Nev. The foundation was the principal donor for the Lied Center's construction and is a longtime supporter of KU students. The Hixson Opportunity Award program selects 10 incoming freshmen each year for a $5,250 annual scholarship, renewable up to three additional years. Eligible students must be graduates of Kansas high schools who, because of personal or financial challenges, might not consider attending college. They also must show commitment to their education; the average GPA for scholars is 3.67. The need for this type of scholarship is evidenced by the 80 to 100 students who apply each year.

"I wouldn't be able to attend KU without the Hixson scholarship," Belihu said. "I am very grateful. It helps students like me who otherwise wouldn't be able to dream big."

Supportive community

Along with the funding, Hixson Scholars participate in a variety of support services provided by the Hixson Advisory Council, including mentoring, tutoring, peer discussion groups and the summer bridge program to get a jumpstart on their college careers.

For KU junior Bryan Vasquez, of Great Bend, Kan., the support is as important as the financial assistance. Vasquez was diagnosed with cancer at the end of his senior year in high school. "I knew I was supposed to take a break from my education, but I really wanted to keep going," he said. This past summer, Vasquez was diagnosed with cancer recurrence. Although his GPA has suffered a little while he focused on his health, he is still on track to meet his goals, thanks in part to the encouragement from peers and advisers.

"The Hixson Scholars really is a community of students with a shared interest in succeeding," Vasquez said. "Everyone who I've met through the program has helped me to be where I am right now. The help is phenomenal."

Vasquez is majoring in biochemistry and is passionate about making health care more affordable through easy-to-use devices for health screenings that could replace expensive tests. "Ms. Hixson is making it possible for students' dreams to be more attainable," he said. "Words will never be able to show the gratitude I have."

TIME FOR RESEARCH: Bryan Vasquez didn't know he was passionate about research until he completed his Research Experience for Undergraduates. His scholarship made that possible, and he has already worked on designs for health screening devices that could be widely used someday.

Evidence of need

Approximately 90 percent of Hixson Scholars are first-generation college students. All have been eligible for the Federal Pell Grant, and 90 percent of them have an expected family contribution (from the Federal FASFA form) of $0 — financial need is a consistent requirement for the award.

KU junior Hailey Solomon, of Oswego, Kan., said she knew early on that she would have to pay for college on her own, so she dedicated herself to schoolwork and community involvement, while also helping to care for family members with disabilities. "I was determined to become a person who was worthy of receiving scholarships," Solomon said. "I also got my first job when I was 12 and immediately started putting a portion of each paycheck directly into my savings account."

Sara Vancil, assistant director of financial aid and scholarships, has worked with the Hixson Scholars since the program began. In addition to the 10 scholars selected each year, three students from the pool of applicants receive scholarships of the same value — two receive the Wilt Chamberlin Opportunity Scholarship, and one

BUILDING THE FUTURE: ***Above,*** **Hailey Solomon loves construction work and plans to use her engineering degree to serve others. She is already giving back through construction-based volunteering and has big plans to improve communities around the world.**

PERSONAL TOUCH: ***Below,*** **Christina Hixson visits with the Hixson Scholars every year. She is shown here with the 2017 class.**

CHRISTINA HIXSON'S PORTRAIT IN THE LIED CENTER

Ernest F. Lied, a KU alumnus, established the Lied Foundation Trust and named Christina Hixson the sole trustee prior to his death in 1980. Hixson was hired as an assistant for Lied at the age of 17 and worked for him her entire career. She graduated from high school in Clarinda, Iowa, but college was not an option because she was helping to support her six siblings. Hixson has focused the charitable giving of the foundation on creating opportunities. "I think the things we've done in facilities for the performing arts or first-generation scholarships all touch everyday people and give them experiences they might not otherwise have had," Hixson said.

HIXSON SCHOLARS BY THE NUMBERS

10 scholars selected each year (out of 80–100 applications)

25 average ACT score, average GPA is 3.67

90 percent are first-generation college students

100 percent are eligible for the Federal Pell Grant

87 percent freshman to sophomore retention rate, compared with:

- 81 percent for all KU students
- 70 percent for first-generation students

65 percent six-year graduation rate, compared with:

- 64 percent for all KU students
- 51 percent for first-generation students

receives the the Elizabeth Ann Hylton Scholarship. This leaves about 90 students annually who need to look for assistance elsewhere. And with the rising cost of tuition and room and board, the scholarship doesn't cover as much of the costs as it used to.

"The Hixson program has been transformational for the students involved and for KU, and we are so appreciative of Ms. Hixson's generosity," Vancil said. "Our challenge is that we don't have enough scholarship funds for all the deserving students. We are always looking for ways to help more students."

Benefits magnified

The program's success is proven by a six-year graduation rate of 65 percent for Hixson Scholars, which is one percent higher than the overall KU graduation rate and 14 percent higher than the rate for first-generation students. The scholars are making positive contributions to our communities, too — graduates have gone on to earn advanced degrees, participate in service fellowships and have meaningful careers as lawyers, engineers, teachers, nonprofit event coordinators and pharmacists.

Christina Hixson is personally invested in the students and travels to campus each year to meet with them. She often tells students to listen to the person next to them because you can learn something from everyone you meet. "I'm always impressed at the varied interests and career aspirations the students have," Hixson said. "They are very motivated to give back and help others."

Because of the scholarship, Solomon is able to volunteer and advance her knowledge of civil engineering at the same time. She fell in love with construction work during a high school spring break community service trip and has volunteered with Habitat for Humanity, the Alternative Breaks program and Engineers Without Borders at KU.

"My long-term goal is to one day create an organization that constructs homes, bridges and water-treatment plants in developing countries," Solomon said. "I will pay the kindness that I have received forward."

YOU CAN HELP

To create more opportunities for deserving students, contact Whitney Escalante at 785-832-7463 or wescalante@kuendowment.org.

A CELEBRATION OF KNOWLEDGE SHARING

BY VALERIE GIELER

SPENCER RESEARCH LIBRARY TURNS 50

A SINGLE GIFT ESTABLISHED KU's Kenneth Spencer Research Library when it opened in 1968. The ripple effects of that act of generosity are difficult to quantify — the library has enriched untold lives by elevating discovery for generations of knowledge-seekers around the world.

Founded by Helen Spencer in honor of her late husband, the library is commemorating its legacy with events year-long, kicked off by "50 for 50: Celebrating 50 years of Kenneth Spencer Research Library." To create an exhibit unlike any it had done before, the library asked researchers, students, colleagues and friends to suggest items that have made an impact on them.

"We made an attempt to represent all the areas of our collections and to focus on stories of how they have shaped the world through contact in classes, personal impact or publication breakthroughs," said Beth Whittaker, director of Spencer Research Library. The items span the globe and human history; a few that represent KU and Kansas include a 1930 Jayhawker yearbook, Potter Lake photographs, a KU Monopoly game and a Kansas flag that was carried to the moon.

The exhibit's publication can be viewed at rockcha.lk/50for50. For the library, preserving the past is as important as cataloging the present, and it is honored to continue that tradition.

"Each day, I am overwhelmed by the richness and variety of the library's collections, the knowledge of our staff, the curiosity of our patrons, and by the generosity of the donors who have entrusted us with their beloved books, manuscripts and photographs," Whittaker said.

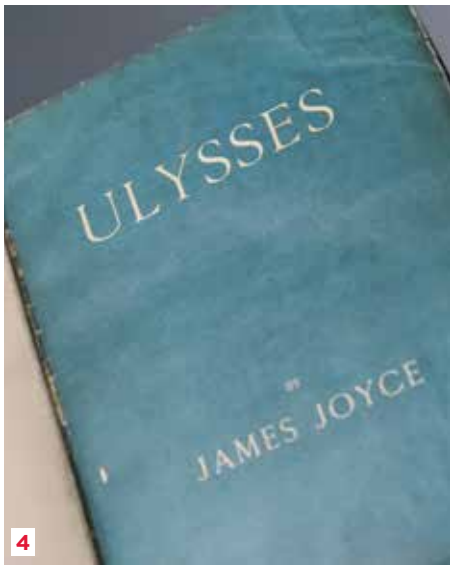
ROCK CHALK, OINK?: This 1909 photo shows the football team with their temporary live mascot, a pig named Don Carlos. Not much else is known about him.

1


2

A GLIMPSE OF THE LIBRARY'S ARTIFACTS: 1 The *Jayhawker* yearbook is an invaluable source of information about KU, and the 1930 art deco-styled book is a gem. 2 *The Vosper Book of Hours,* a late 15th-century devotional book from France, is the library's most ornate manuscript. 3 NASA presented this flag to the people and state of Kansas after it was carried to the moon aboard Spacecraft America during the Apollo 17 mission in December 1972. 4 This 1922 signed, first-edition *Ulysses* is part of a James Joyce collection with more than 900 items. 5 KU alumnus John B. McClendon Jr. was a basketball coaching star and civil rights trailblazer with many "firsts" to his credit, including being the first African-American coach to be inducted into the Naismith Memorial Hall of Fame; this is his scrapbook.

3



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5

DISCOVERING OUR ORIGINS

ODYSSEY PROGRAM EXPLORES THE MYSTERIES OF THE GREAT PLAINS' EARLIEST PEOPLE

BY MICHELLE TEVIS

RESEARCH IS EXPENSIVE, AND GEOLOGIST JOE CRAMER KNEW IT. Cramer and his wife, Ruth, of Denver, gave $1 million in 2002 to establish the Odyssey Geoarchaeological Research Program at the University of Kansas, to support research into the mysteries of the earliest people to inhabit the Great Plains. The Cramers believed in the program so much that they planned for its future after they were gone. An additional $6.9 million estate gift from them in 2018 will give opportunities to generations of KU students and researchers.

IN THE FIELD: Professor and Odyssey program Director Rolfe Mandel enjoys the opportunity to teach students how to study remains and look for something valuable.

Joseph Cramer died in 2013, and Ruth Cramer died in 2018.

Rolfe Mandel, Ph.D., executive director of the Odyssey program, also is director of the Kansas Geological Survey and University Distinguished Professor in the Department of Anthropology. He said Joe Cramer didn't want students and faculty to spend all their time trying to generate money; he wanted them out in the field, doing research.

"He was willing to provide the support and then say, 'Now go do it,'" Mandel said.

The multidisciplinary aspect of the fund adds to its value. Mandel said graduate students in several departments benefit, because geoarchaeologists cross three disciplines: anthropology, physical geography and geology. The estate gift will further benefit research by the Kansas Geological Survey and the KU archaeology program in the Department of Anthropology.

STUDENTS ON SITE: Odyssey provides students with hands-on learning. Crew members excavated at the Coffey site in Pottawatomie County, Kan., in 2014.

The gift will enhance support for the Odyssey program, which is part of the Kansas Geological Survey. The program is dedicated to using geo-scientific methods to search for evidence of the earliest human presence in the Central Great Plains and western portions of the Midwest, and to gaining a better understanding of the environments that affected those people. Those efforts have taken place in the field and in laboratories and have focused on Paleoamerican archaeology and geoarchaeology in Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, Colorado, Oklahoma and Missouri.

Mason Niquette, a Ph.D. student from Lexington, Ky., has worked at three sites as part of the Odyssey program: Two Rivers in the Ozark National Scenic Riverway; Spring Valley in Carter County, Mo.; and the Scheuerman Mammoth site in Scott County, Kan. He said the Odyssey program gave him valuable field experience.

"I learned a lot about soil science — how it relates to archaeology, seeing firsthand its usefulness," Niquette said. "Without Odyssey, there's no way I could have done this research or gotten this much experience doing what I want to do."

When he established the fund in 2002, Joe Cramer said he chose KU based on the reputation of the Kansas Geological Survey and the strength of the archaeology program. Answers to complex questions about the origins of people need the archaeological expertise that a university such as KU can provide because of the challenges created by topographical changes to the landscape over thousands of years.

"This search will require application of multidisciplinary expertise in order to be successful," Cramer said.

Mandel said the program has been able to support some students entirely, the way a fellowship would. Students receive a graduate research assistant position, and all of their efforts focus on the program's goals.

"It also has supported field research for students who are doing their thesis or dissertation that is somehow related to the peopling of the Americas, particularly the Great Plains or Midwest," Mandel said.

Participants in the Odyssey program spent part of the summer of 2018 at Magic Mountain in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains in Golden, Colo. They spent two 10-day sessions conducting initial testing of a buried soil to determine whether cultural materials were present.

The Cramers' grandson Chris Cramer, of Littleton, Colo., said his grandparents would be pleased with the program's accomplishments and potential.

"They wanted to be able to capture as many people who are interested in archaeology as possible and make sure that resources would be there to develop their interest as far as it might go," Chris Cramer said. "I think they would be very proud."

GO ONLINE
For more information about the Odyssey Geoarchaeological Research Program, visit www.kgs.ku.edu/odyssey.

WHAT'S IN YOUR BACKPACK?

"A MODEL OF A BRAIN," SAID AARON CARRILLO, a junior majoring in human biology and specializing in pre-medicine. Carrillo is an anatomy teaching assistant and is inspired by what the medical community will discover about the brain, and how his students may contribute. "The brain is so complex. Advancing our understanding of it is something they can accomplish."

Carrillo initially majored in biomechanical engineering before he realized he wasn't getting the human interaction he craved. He doesn't regret changing majors. "I've been able to teach, I've had great professors and advisors who have improved me as a person. I love it."

The connections physicians make with their patients inspires Carrillo, and he is eager to follow in their footsteps. As a child, his family couldn't afford health insurance so visits to the doctor were rare — until his mother needed treatment for cancer. "Seeing those doctors, how they bridged this gap between having a doctorate and working with people who hadn't even gone to high school. I got addicted to that."

Carrillo said he has faced obstacles as a Vietnamese-Hispanic-American with limited financial resources. Thanks to scholarships, he is able to attend KU and volunteer at the hospital. He also studied abroad in Vietnam and interned at two organizations there, one for children who are HIV-positive and the other for undocumented children living in poverty. "All the people who have given money to KU, I owe my education to. Thank you for understanding that there are students here who don't have the resources."

EMILY COX

WHAT'S IN YOUR BRIEFCASE?

"MY LAPTOP," SAID AMY DEVITT, professor of English. "It helps me study all the ways language is used and to write my blog, *Genre-Colored Glasses*." The blog focuses on the different genres of writing — from literature to greeting cards to Twitter profiles to jury instructions — and their effects on how people read and write. "I'll take current events, something that's going on right now, and see it through *Genre-Colored Glasses*."

Devitt has taught writing, rhetoric and English language studies at the University of Kansas for over 30 years and is a Chancellors Club Teaching Professor. She says it is an honor that her teaching and research are appreciated by supporters of the university. "The Chancellors Club Teaching Professorship has contributed to my staying at KU as long as I have, both through its financial benefit and its proof that teaching has long mattered here."

Devitt's passion for teaching stems from her enjoyment of working with students and sharing her perspective in order to help them see new things. "I love working with students who are discovering new perspectives about the world — first-year college students, first-time graduate teaching assistants, graduate students discovering their own research areas."

Devitt sees her blog as an opportunity to share knowledge outside of the academic community. It started as a way for her to practice writing for a wider audience. "The Department of English and KU have been supportive of my desire to reach outside the university, through permitting me time for giving seminars at workplaces and universities around the world and through recognizing my blog as important scholarly work."

EMILY COX

CAMPUS HAPPENINGS

KU Endowment board elections

The KU Endowment Board of Trustees elected several alumni as leaders at their annual meeting in September. David B. Dillon was elected as chair and William R. Docking as vice chair. John G. Brandmeyer and Gayle A. Sims were chosen as new trustees.

A gift for languages

Established in the fall of 2014, the KU School of Languages, Literatures & Cultures has received a $247,000 gift from the estate of Helen Brownson to support scholarships. A Kansas native, Brownson studied French, German and Spanish, earning her bachelor's from KU in 1938. A pioneer in the field of information science, Brownson dedicated her life to public service as a federal employee.

New Center for Construction Safety

A $3.5 million gift from KU alumnus Craig Martin and his wife, Diane, of Pasadena, Calif., established the Craig & Diane Martin National Center for Construction Safety. Based in KU's civil engineering department, the center advances safety management, research and development with the goal of directly improving safety outcomes and productivity in the construction industry. Martin graduated in 1972 with a bachelor's in civil engineering and later earned an MBA at the University of Denver. He retired from Jacobs Engineering Group in 2015, where he worked for nearly a decade as its CEO. "I would like to thank the Martins for their generosity and ingenuity in creating a center that will put KU in the national spotlight for innovation in construction safety leadership," said KU Chancellor Douglas A. Girod.

Lectureship honors late professor

The inaugural R. Neil Schimke, M.D. Lectureship welcomed KU alumna, Dr. Louanne Hudgins, as its featured speaker in September. Hudgins, who was mentored by Schimke, is a national leader in genetics at Stanford University. Schimke was a KU alumnus and a KU Medical Center Professor of Internal Medicine and Pediatrics who died in 2016. He had expertise as both a clinical geneticist and endocrinologist for more than 40 years with over 180 medical publications on topics as broad as cancer, birth defects, endocrinology, heart disease, kidney disease, connective tissue conditions and developmental delay. More than 45 donors have contributed to the fund.

Self Fellows continue KU education

Thanks to the generosity of two late KU benefactors, Madison "Al" and Lila Self, the inaugural class of Self Graduating Senior Fellows started earning their graduate degrees last fall. The fellowship recognizes outstanding undergraduate seniors who have been accepted into a master's or doctoral degree program at KU. The selected students receive $10,000 and participate in professional development.

KPR raises $327,000

Kansas Public Radio, the Kansas Association of Broadcasters 2018 Station of the Year, raised $327,000 during their fall membership drive. In 2017, state budget cuts to higher education resulted in a reduction of $200,000 to KPR's budget, so private support is more important than ever.

Tech company supports future of blockchain

A $2 million gift from the Silicon Valley financial technology company Ripple will support a KU program to research technologies related to blockchain, cryptocurrency and digital payments. It will advance research in the Information and Telecommunication Technology Center at the KU School of Engineering. Ripple's $50 million University Blockchain Research Initiative began in 2018 with 17 universities; KU is part of the second wave of eight universities.

"There are 2 billion people worldwide who do not have a bank account or access to a financial institution," said Brad Garlinghouse, Ripple CEO and KU alumnus. "Financial inclusion is key to reducing poverty, and technology, specifically blockchain, could play a huge role in solving this global issue."

Honors at Edwards Campus

Academically gifted students in Kansas City have new opportunities through the KU Edwards Campus Honors Program. An extension of KU's top-ranked University Honors Program, students take specifically designed courses, participate in hands-on learning, and receive personalized advising to help them succeed.

Wind powered by 2020

KU will become the first university in Kansas to be entirely powered by wind. Westar Energy will provide the Lawrence campus with 31 megawatts of energy from a wind farm in Nemaha County. It is expected to be operational by the end of 2020. The contract will potentially save KU as much as half a million dollars the first year.

You said it

"I am giving on behalf of my late father who was a KU grad and avid KU football and basketball fan."

LAURA BAILEY, CHARLOTTE, N.C.
1990 KU ALUMNA

"I am supporting this fund because as a graduate student in the Department of Comparative Biochemistry and Physiology, I was the initial recipient of the William King Candlin Award."

JERRY MITCHELL, DETROIT, MICH.
DOCTORATE IN COMPARATIVE BIOCHEMISTRY AND PHYSIOLOGY 1969

"I'm giving to the Laurence G. Long scholarship fund. It was set up after my brother's death to benefit a student of the trombone."

JOHN LONG, EVANSTON, ILL.
BACHELOR'S IN CIVIL ENGINEERING 1971

"This is being given to sponsor the Humanities Think Tank."

ADAM WRAY, KIRKLAND, WASH.
BACHELOR'S IN ENGLISH 1993

NEW HOME FOR RURAL HEALTH EDUCATION

THE SALINA CAMPUS OF THE KU SCHOOLS OF MEDICINE AND NURSING moved into a new home with the June 2018 opening of the Salina Health Education Center. The downtown building, purchased by the Salina Regional Health Foundation and renovated entirely with private contributions, provides the same kinds of cutting-edge technology found in the Health Education Building in Kansas City, Kan.

The KU School of Nursing established a presence at the Salina campus to attract and educate nurses who are interested in practicing in rural Kansas communities.

An inaugural class of nine students is scheduled to graduate this spring. Class sizes are expected to grow to 18 students in 2019, 24 students in 2020, and by year five, the campus will have reached its capacity of 48 students.

"We have a very unique opportunity to be in the same learning environment with the School of Medicine," said Lisa Larson, assistant dean of academic affairs, KU School of Nursing-Salina. "We have more sophisticated technology in this building where we can create more realistic learning scenarios for our students."

The modern environment facilitates interprofessional learning and offers simulation technology, clinical and anatomy labs, and flexible learning spaces. Both schools follow the same curricula as their counterparts on the Kansas City campus, and instruction is enriched by ample clinical experiences at the Salina Regional Health Center and other community-based sites.

Students witness the exceptional care being delivered in rural Kansas and see the quality of life afforded by living in these communities. University leaders believe this approach to health education can serve as a model for the nation.

JODI BOUYACK

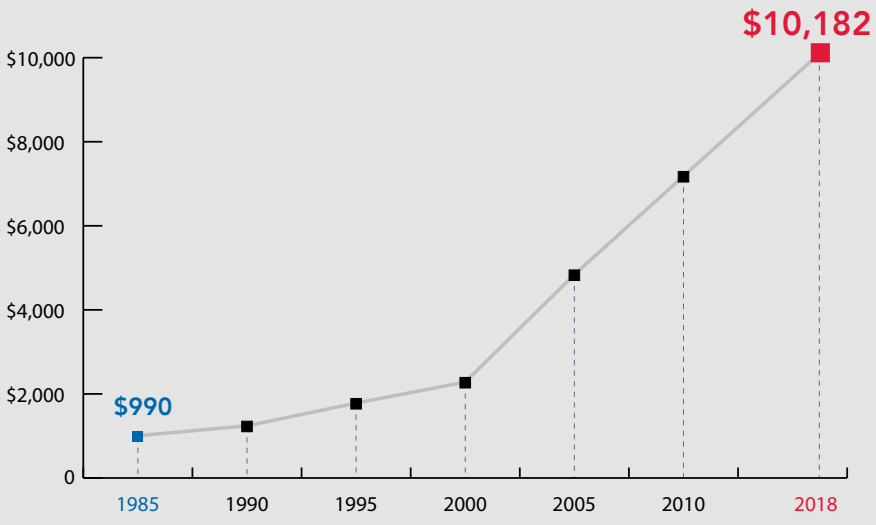
MAKING KU AFFORDABLE

ACCESS TO A UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS EDUCATION SHOULD NOT BE LIMITED BY A STUDENT'S FINANCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES. Investments in endowed scholarships ensure support for a diverse, vibrant community of students who learn from one another and enrich KU.

Donors provide annual scholarship support for about 6,500 students at KU, but many more of the 28,000 currently enrolled could use some assistance. In fact, about 59 percent of them apply for financial aid.

As state support wanes, investments in scholarship funds are more crucial than ever. For much of KU's history, tuition costs were low enough that most Kansas families could afford to pay. Today, that is no longer the case.

Undergraduate tuition cost, 1985–2018



Includes standard in-state tuition. Does not include required campus fees, school differential fees, room and board, travel or personal expenses.

How an endowed scholarship can provide critical support for students

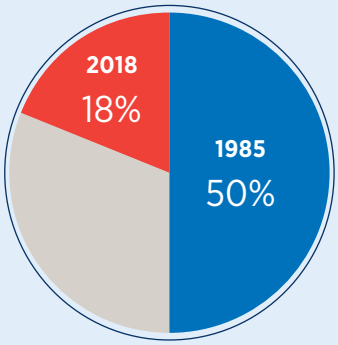
ENDOWED GIFT	ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT (IN PERPETUITY)
$50,000	$2,300
$75,000	$3,450
$125,000	$5,570
$250,000	$11,500

WHY YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS

More than ever, private giving opens doors for students to attend KU. Consider some sobering changes over the past 30 years:

In 1985, state appropriations covered about 50 percent of KU's operating budget.

This academic year, the state will supply less than 18 percent.



In 1985, a student working for minimum wage could pay for tuition by working 6 hours a week. She could cover tuition plus required fees by working 7.4 hours a week.

Today, a student working for minimum wage to cover tuition must work 26.8 hours a week.

To cover tuition plus required fees, he must work 29.3 hours a week.

SYMBOLS OF SERVICE AND GENEROSITY

SOME FACULTY MEMBERS LEAVE A MARK AT UNIVERSITIES. Retired professors Barbara and Richard (Dick) Schowen are quintessential examples. They are scholars who became a part of the fabric at KU through outstanding service, teaching and mentoring.

The Schowens began their 55-year careers as faculty members after completing their doctorates in chemistry at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. During their careers, they became well-known for their leadership and earned national accolades for innovation.

In addition to their service to the University of Kansas, the Schowens have made philanthropic gifts for 42 consecutive years, qualifying them as some of the most loyal donors in the Jayhawk Faithful recognition program.

ENDURING CONTRIBUTIONS: Barbara and Dick Schowen shared their teaching talents at KU for decades and are among the university's most loyal donors. They also have inspired giving by others. In their honor, donors have established several awards: the Barbara Schowen Undergraduate Research Mentor Award, the Richard and Barbara Schowen Opportunity Fund, and the Barbara Schowen Scholarship in Chemistry.

> "We felt that we should give back and help support those departments and programs we both enjoy and find meaningful."
>
> —BARBARA SCHOWEN

"We have always enjoyed attending lectures, performances and events in disciplines outside our professional areas," Barbara said. "Although we have contributed to various science departments, we also felt that other units at the university might benefit from our support, such as the Libraries, the Hall Center for the Humanities, the Theatre Department and the Spencer Museum of Art."

Barbara taught chemistry at KU before being named director of the Honors Program. During her tenure, she created the Undergraduate Research Symposium. She was nationally recognized for her leadership in championing undergraduate research for science majors. Barbara received the Kemper Award for Teaching Excellence at KU and was elected to the Kansas Women's Hall of Fame. She retired in 2003.

Dick had faculty appointments in chemistry, molecular biosciences and pharmaceutical chemistry. He received an NIH Research Career Development Award and the Dolph Simons Sr. Award for Research in the Biomedical Sciences. He also was awarded the prestigious Solon Summerfield Professorship. Moreover, he traveled extensively within the United States and abroad as a visiting professor. He retired in 2000 as distinguished professor emeritus.

Barbara and Dick had different upbringings. Barbara obtained her undergraduate degree from Wellesley College, where she developed a broad cultural awareness. "Dick had to work in manual labor for several years before attending the University of California at Berkeley," Barbara said. During his free time, he became an avid reader of literature and history. This interest in the liberal arts informed their decision to not merely enjoy but to financially support the cultural opportunities at KU.

Through the decades, the Schowens became symbols of service and generosity to KU, the institution they came to know as their home.

ROSITA ELIZALDE-McCOY

A PERENNIAL TRIBUTE

THE LIED CENTER OF KANSAS DEDICATED A SCULPTURE in September to celebrate the center's 25th anniversary and to honor the Lied Foundation Trust.

In 1988, the Lied Foundation, led by Christina Hixson, made a gift of $10 million to build a new performing arts center in Lawrence. The center opened in 1993 and has entertained more than 1 million people in a variety of performances since then.

The Friends of the Lied commissioned the 20-foot, red-and-yellow sculpture titled "Bloom" from renowned artist and KU alumna Jan Gaumnitz. She drew inspiration from the center's mission to engage Lawrence through experiential learning and wanted to create a large flower to represent the growth and creativity the Lied Center fosters in the community. Gaumnitz had a few goals for the sculpture — it must be visible from long distances, able to withstand harsh weather and suitable for a large open area with challenging winds.

"Bloom" is located in the middle of a sustainable pollinator garden and monarch waystation designed and tended by donors Doug and Susan Rendall, of Lawrence. The garden was meticulously planned — the Rendalls considered the origin of the plants, their position in relation to the sun, aesthetics and color scheme when arranging them in the garden.

EMILY COX

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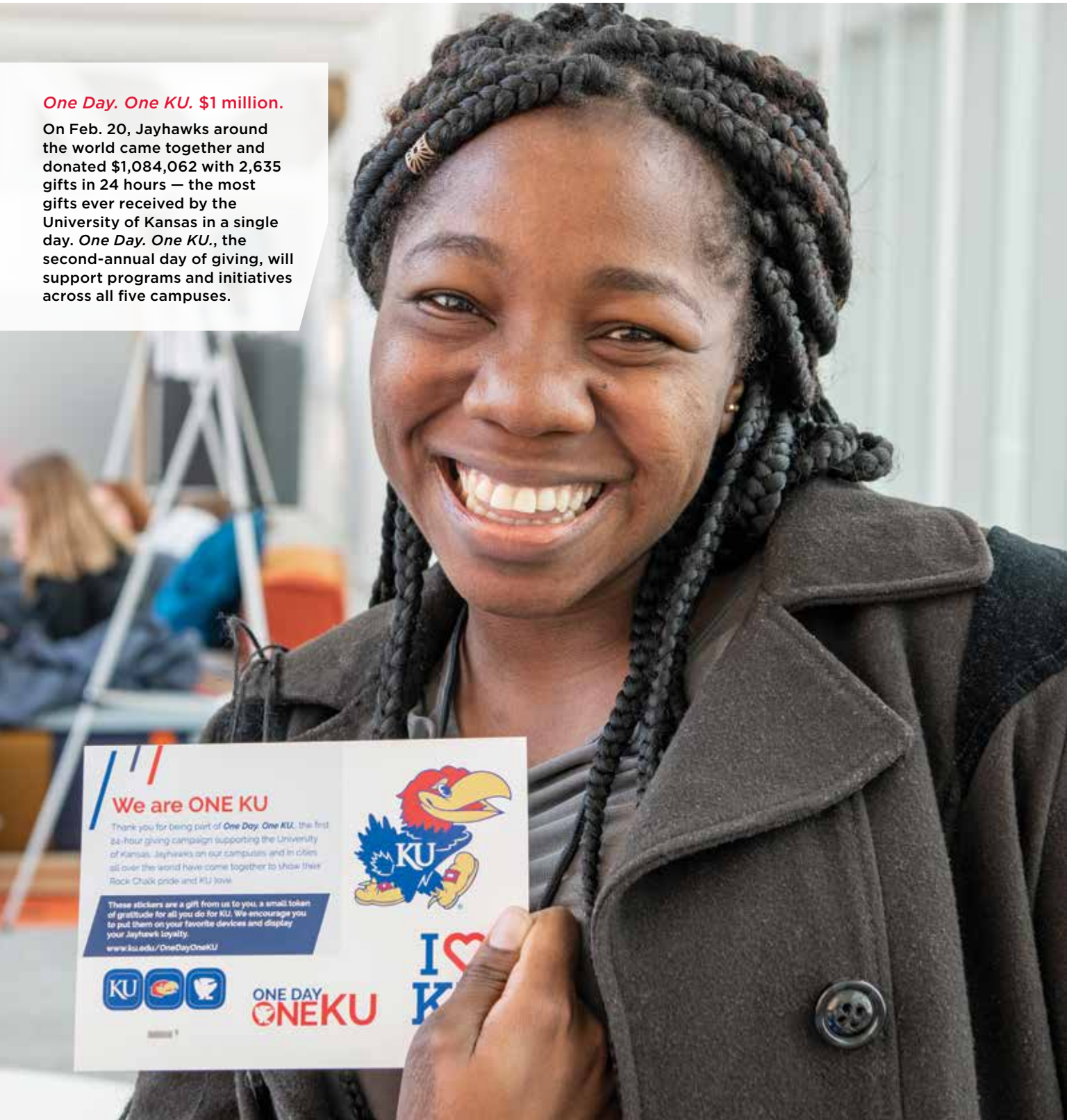

One Day. One KU. $1 million.

On Feb. 20, Jayhawks around the world came together and donated $1,084,062 with 2,635 gifts in 24 hours — the most gifts ever received by the University of Kansas in a single day. *One Day. One KU.*, the second-annual day of giving, will support programs and initiatives across all five campuses.