

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Donors kick off Watson Centennial with dedication of Administrative Suite



When Cliff and Sue Haka look back over the decades of their successful careers in academia, early experiences and connections at KU stand out as pivotal. In the 1980s, Cliff served as circulation librarian at Watson Library, and Sue pursued graduate degrees in accounting at KU. They credit the education and mentoring they received on the Hill as having a significant impact on their lives, inspiring them to make a major gift to KU Libraries.

Key opportunities at KU opened up new possibilities for both

Cliff and Sue, with important mentors supporting their growth. KU professor Dr. Larry Gordon encouraged Sue to pursue a doctoral degree in accounting, a change from her previous track in secondary education mathematics instruction, and a rare path for women in 1980. Dean of KU Libraries Dr. Jim Ranz mentored Cliff through his first librarian job, sparking Cliff's interest in leadership and administration. Cliff went on to eventually serve as director of Michigan State University Libraries for more than 20 years. Sue excelled in academic

accounting, authoring successful textbooks, and becoming the first female tenured professor and department chair in accounting at MSU. She subsequently was named a Distinguished Professor and served as President of the American Accounting Association.

A desire to give back and show their appreciation to KU was the motivation for the Hakas' gift to the libraries, the intellectual hub of the university.

"Obviously there's a library connection in the family," Sue said. "But also, what better way to support a university than to have accessible materials available so you can learn."

"The library is a special place in that it's all-encompassing to the entire campus," Cliff said. "It's a place where it's understood it's about academics."

The Hakas' contribution also honors Ranz, who led building renovations and the evolution of library spaces as dean of KU Libraries from 1975-1990. Their gift provides for the dedication of the Dean James Ranz Administrative Suite and jump starts support for a renovation of Watson Library.

"[Ranz] was the most perceptive person about library buildings I ever talked to," Cliff said. "He just understood how libraries needed to

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Pop-up book donation enhances collection and invites curiosity

Ann Snow opens a book and forest animals spin and play, valves and veins of the human heart unfurl, and the arches and domes of the Taj Mahal rise and construct themselves from the page. These examples illustrate some of the magic of the Murphy Art & Architecture Library's pop-up book collection, which Snow has augmented with the donation of 125 books from her personal collection. The specialized books also embody one of the library's strengths, extending an invitation to curiosity and the opportunity to dive deeper into learning and research.

Snow retired in 2021 after working at the Art & Architecture library for nearly 42 years, starting in the Cataloging Department in the late 1970s when the art library was on the fifth floor of Watson Library. She moved with the collection to Murphy Art & Architecture Library below the Spencer Museum of Art in the 1980s, with her role evolving over the years to library assistant, working with catalog maintenance, exhibits and other facets of daily library functions.

Snow studied design at KU and had a natural affinity toward three-dimensional art from work in stage design, a talent she sometimes used to enhance library exhibits. Her collection of pop-up books began one day when she visited the bookstore in the Kansas Union and saw the book, "The Facts of Life" by Jonathan Miller and David Pelham on display.

“Each one is like a little kinetic sculpture, and you can open it up and it just kind of leaps off the page or unfurls like slow motion images of flowers blooming.

– Ann Snow



“I saw it and thought it was really beautiful, and I just had to have it,” said Snow.

Snow appreciated that the book offered a rich understanding of the content through immersive elements that brought learning to life.

“It’s the missing manual that I should have had when I was entering adolescence, but didn’t,” she said, demonstrating layered and interactive pop-ups, wheels, and flaps that detail human reproductive organs and a developing fetus.

That opportunity to delve deeper into learning and think creatively about topics is something Fine Arts and Humanities Librarian Andi

Back constantly incorporates into classroom instruction, individual research consultations, and collection development.

“When you do a typical search online, you’re filtering out centuries of work in an instant and looking at the same thing that everyone else is looking at,” Back said. “If you want to get at something deeper, if you’re interested in understanding more about the artist’s process or what drove them, it’s beyond what Google is going to give you, which is the most popular or famous content.”

Consultation with librarian experts and having access to more diverse and different forms of materials is an

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A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Across the globe, Jayhawks are helping to solve the world's most complex problems — and every Jayhawk is part of our community's remarkable impact. *One Day. One KU.* — our 24-hour day of giving on February 15, 2024 — supports the important work that makes a difference in our ever-changing society. Gifts made on *One Day. One KU.* support cutting-edge research, transformative student experiences, and vibrant communities. You will create a brighter future by investing in KU students and projects that will fuel tomorrow's solutions ever onward.

This year, Watson Library celebrates its centennial as a cornerstone of the campus community. So much has changed in the world of information in the past century, and this beloved library has been at the heart of KU's learning and discovery through it all, providing a wide range of resources and the guidance in how to use them.

Thanks to steadfast supporters and new friends, we consistently meet and exceed our *One Day. One KU.* giving tally from previous years. These gifts help KU Libraries provide study spaces, expert research strategies, classroom instruction, distinctive collections, electronic resources, and individualized consultations that are fundamental to student success and scholarly advancement across every academic department at KU.

A number of matching gifts have already been committed for February 15, and with your help we're poised to raise the bar even higher. We hope you'll make a gift in honor of Watson's Centennial to celebrate all that it has offered to generations of Jayhawks and dream with us as we make plans to renovate this beautiful campus icon. Your gift supports the continued evolution of our collections, welcoming environments, and the human connections essential to navigating the digital world.

Sincerely,

Carol E. Smith
Dean of Libraries

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Major gift names Watson suite

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be laid out and what the obstacles were and what things you had to look for.”

Ranz also made an unforgettable impression on Cliff as he calmly stood up against censorship under pressure and in complicated circumstances.

“He was a great believer in library principles and really carried them out, and it helped me more than anyone can imagine,” said Cliff, who described thinking about what Ranz would do whenever he faced difficult situations as director of MSU libraries.

The Hakas also understand the need for the continued evolution of contemporary library spaces for the benefit of the campus community. More than 40 years ago, during Cliff's time at KU Libraries, was the last time Watson Library underwent a renovation, a process Cliff remembers well. He was selected to serve as the staff representative to the renovation committee, which included meetings with library department chairs and unit heads from across the university helping to guide improvements, an experience that broadened Cliff's perspective of the library and its impact across campus.

“I'd get to hear all about a unit and what they needed and thought was important, and the relationships they had with other parts of the library,” Cliff said.

He was also part of the physical transformations that took place, leading a crew who literally shifted all the books out of each space so the contractor could work.

“We had about 3 million books here [at that time] and they all moved at least once and most of them moved twice,” Cliff said. “It was just unbelievable, but so satisfying that we did it.”

The Hakas knew that making a major gift aimed at ensuring the continued evolution of library spaces was an especially appropriate way for them to support the university that planted the seeds of their success — but Cliff will let someone else move the books this time around. ■

Highlights by the Hundreds traveling exhibit

From the top of The Hill to new heights of achievement, including record-setting performances, scores of Jayhawks have made their mark on campus and around the globe. KU Libraries' traveling exhibit for 2023-24, "Highlights by the Hundreds: A Tribute to Jayhawk Milestones and Memories," celebrates a century of KU greats — both the people who have reached high, and the places and experiences that shaped their journey.

Featuring historic images from the University Archives and kicking off a centennial celebration of beloved Watson Library, the exhibit has been showcased at KU Alumni networking events. We are excited to share our timeless KU history and connect with more friends of KU Libraries in cities nationwide. ■



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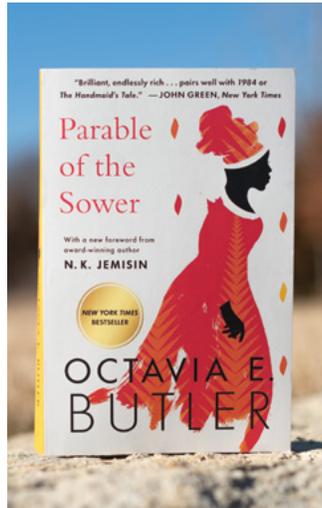
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Common Book keynote by N.K. Jemisin slated for April 25



N.K. Jemisin author photo by Laura Hanifin.



An Evening with N.K. Jemisin, an award-winning science fiction writer influenced by Octavia E. Butler, highlights the remaining activities surrounding the University of Kansas' 11th Common Book, "Parable of the Sower." Jemisin, the first author in history to win three consecutive Best Novel Hugo Awards, wrote the forward to the most recent edition of "Parable of the Sower." She will read from her "Broken Earth" trilogy and speak about the influence of "Parable of the Sower" and Butler on her work virtually via a Hall Center Crowdcast on April 25 at 7:30 p.m. Register to attend at rockcha.ik/JemisinKeynote.

The university community continues its year-long exploration of the novel which highlights climate change and social inequality among other important topics. The Common Book program, presented in partnership by KU Libraries, the Hall Center for the Humanities, and the Division of Academic Success, aims to build community among students, faculty, and staff; encourages intellectual engagement through reading and discussion; and creates shared conversation about topics and issues of significance in today's world.

"This year's KU Common Book selection, 'Parable of the Sower,' has been extremely popular," said Jill Becker, head of the Center of Undergraduate Initiatives and Engagement and co-chair of the Common Book steering committee. "We have distributed over 2,000 copies of the book to students, faculty, and staff across campus and are excited to cap off this year's program with N.K. Jemisin's visit in April. Jemisin's work embodies the goals of the Common Book program by representing diverse perspectives and exploring complex issues through storytelling."

For more information on this and other Common Book events, please visit commonbook.ku.edu. ■



A NOTE FROM AMY GRAY, KU ENDOWMENT

This past October, KU Libraries joined the rest of the University of Kansas community for the launch of the Ever Onward campaign — an ambitious effort to raise funds for numerous programs, projects and initiatives designed to transform education, spur discovery, and create a healthier world. As the new year began, the campaign was more than halfway toward its \$2.5 billion goal!

Campaign priorities focus on three areas: Student Access & Success, Healthy & Vibrant Communities, and Research & Discovery. Our broad and bold priorities will create meaningful change for our campuses, classrooms, centers of discovery, clinics, cities, country and — most importantly — our students.

As a friend of KU Libraries, you know the libraries have foundational, far-reaching effects in each of these three areas, empowering and expanding the success of all Jayhawks. Your gift to the libraries amplifies discovery and creativity, with unique impacts that shine across campus, the greater community, and the world.

Check out the Ever Onward campaign video here: kueveronward.org. Watch and be inspired. It gives me goosebumps...every time. Take a moment and think about how you will add your voice to the chorus in support of KU Libraries. Reach out to me at: agray@kuendowment.org to set up a visit or a call to ensure you can be a part of this historic campaign.

Ever Onward!

Amy Gray
Development Officer, KU Endowment

To learn more about how your philanthropy supports KU Libraries and the success of all Jayhawk students, contact Amy Gray at agray@kuendowment.org or 785-832-7421.

Pop-up book donation enhances collection and invites curiosity

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important part of the library experience that can uniquely enrich and expand research and learning.

"We have blueprints and magazines from all over the world," Back said. "We have exhibition catalogs of shows you could only see if you traveled to New York or Los Angeles. There's also the visual and the tactile and all these different ways to interact with our collection and think about our collection beyond the usual concept of text."

The expanded pop-up book collection adds to the wide variety of ways students and faculty can be empowered at the library. Though a large portion of the books are art or architecture specific, including explorations of Leonardo da Vinci's or M.C. Escher's works or the buildings of Frank Lloyd Wright, for example, the collection also spans children's books, film, and human biology, as well as books on paper engineering and how to construct pop-ups.

"Art feeds the soul. It's as simple as that. I don't think humanity would be much without art," Snow said. "It's inspiring, it's exciting, it makes you think, it makes you feel all kinds of different emotions. It's an essential thing." ■

Support all Jayhawks during *One Day. One KU.*



On February 15, join KU Libraries for *One Day. One KU.*, the 24-hour campaign in support of the University of Kansas. On this day of giving, alumni and friends are encouraged to contribute to the KU programs that are most meaningful to them. We hope you will share your support for KU Libraries this February 15.

Visit rockcha.ik/ODOKU-Lib24 to learn more. ■

LIBRARIES THROWBACK



KU Libraries Throwback: On September 11, 2024, Watson Library will be celebrating its 100th birthday. In 1923, construction began on The Hill to make way for this campus icon. This view to the southwest shows the basement being dug as students look on.

Prior to Watson's construction, KU's library holdings bounced from Old North (1866) to Old Fraser (1872) to Spooner Library (1894) as the number of volumes grew. Over the years, Watson itself has been renovated numerous times to adapt to expanding collections and changing needs of the campus community.

Photo credit: KU University Archives, 1923.

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