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UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS LIBRARIES

**ANNUAL
REVIEW**

21



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SUPPORT *from* **STUDENTS**

KU Libraries student employees excelled amidst uncertainty

With library locations across campus reopening and classes continuing — both on the Hill and online — throughout the spring 2021 semester, KU Libraries relied on stellar student employees to keep operations running smoothly.

Students in the libraries complete a wide variety of essential work in every department, from staffing the checkout desks to reshelving materials.

Monica Mascote, a student supervisor in Anschutz Library, has worked for KU Libraries since 2017. She found she had much adjusting to do as the pandemic changed library operations.

“It was important that we continued to offer services and resources during the pandemic because KU Libraries are instrumental to the success of so many students,” Mascote said. “This past academic year has been difficult for most students with such rapid changes at KU.”

In her role, Mascote loves helping library patrons. To honor her dedication, she was nominated by her supervisor for the annual Dean’s Award for Student Employee Excellence (DASEE). In May, Mascote was presented with one of two DASEE awards for her exemplary service.

“Winning the DASEE meant a lot because I’ve been at Anschutz for about four years now, and I appreciated knowing that my hard work and dedication to the libraries is being recognized,” Mascote said. “I believe this is one of the best jobs a college student can have, and I’m lucky to be part of an amazing bunch of students who work for Anschutz.”

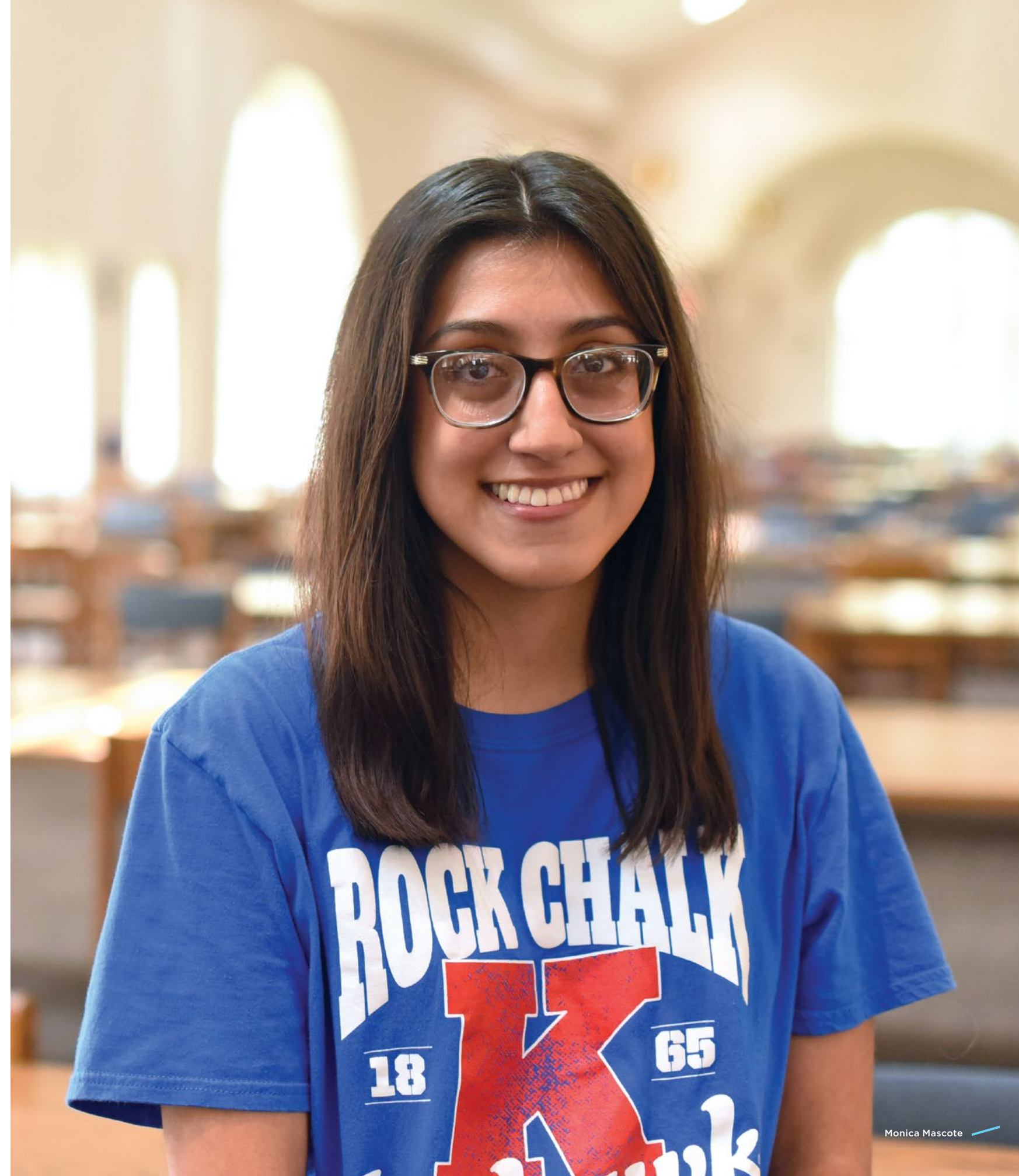
Mascote graduated in 2021 with a Bachelor of Science in molecular, cellular, and developmental biology with a minor in business. She also served as a KU Libraries Student Ambassador during her senior year. ■

“

It was crucial that the libraries continued to offer as many resources as possible while keeping health and safety in mind to not further increase the challenges students faced and to allow them to thrive academically.

— **Monica Mascote,**
2021 graduate

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FOCUS ON COMMUNITY: RESEARCH SPRINTS



Emily Tummons



Aimee Wilson

Faculty and librarians advance constructive collaboration

While 2021 marked the fifth annual Research Sprints, this year's program went fully virtual for the first time ever. Three KU faculty members were selected to participate in the Sprints, an immersive opportunity to collaborate with a team of expert librarians for one week on a teaching or research project. Emily Tummons, lecturer, Latin American & Caribbean Studies; Ignacio Carvajal, assistant professor, Spanish & Portuguese; and Aimee Wilson, assistant professor, Humanities, spent a week in May working on three separate projects — all together.

“Besides providing dedicated time to work on and think about my project, perhaps the most valuable aspect of the Research Sprints was the privilege of thinking through ideas with the team and other Sprints participants,” Carvajal said. “The collaborative effort revealed possibilities, nuances, and potential for my project that I would have simply been unable to reach on my own.”

This year's Research Sprints focused on the theme of generous thinking, as developed by Kathleen Fitzpatrick, author of “Generous Thinking: A Radical Approach to Saving the University.” Fitzpatrick invites academics to listen to their greater communities and build constructive, critical, and collaborative relationships with the public — demonstrating how higher education advances the common public good. In collaboration with the The Commons, KU Libraries hosted Fitzpatrick for an engaging virtual keynote presentation and some small breakout conversations in January 2021. Fitzpatrick is director of Digital Humanities and professor of English at Michigan State University.



Research Sprints participants

“Centering the Research Sprints on Kathleen Fitzpatrick's concept of generous thinking allowed KU Libraries to collaborate with three brilliant scholars and teachers striving to construct inclusive virtual spaces in collaboration with and in support of traditionally marginalized peoples and communities,” said Karna Younger, open pedagogy librarian. “Their community-minded approach to scholarship and teaching helped contribute to a Research Sprints environment of kindness and collaboration.”

Tummons worked to create an online, open-access Kaqchikel language-learning tool with multiple learning modules. Carvajal worked on a digital repository of K'iche' language lessons and literary and cultural content. Wilson aimed to create a digital archive of the “Birth Control Review” and to design assignments to involve students in the use and curation of the archive. All three projects focused on digital humanities and open educational resource creation.

“I would be remiss not to emphasize the care and sense of community collaboration that the team at the libraries brought to the table,” Carvajal said. “I still can't quite believe that such a star team came together to help us. I am very grateful.” ■



HEROES *on the* HILL

Textbook Heroes make headway in reducing textbook costs for Jayhawks

Tiara Floyd



Oleksandra Wallo

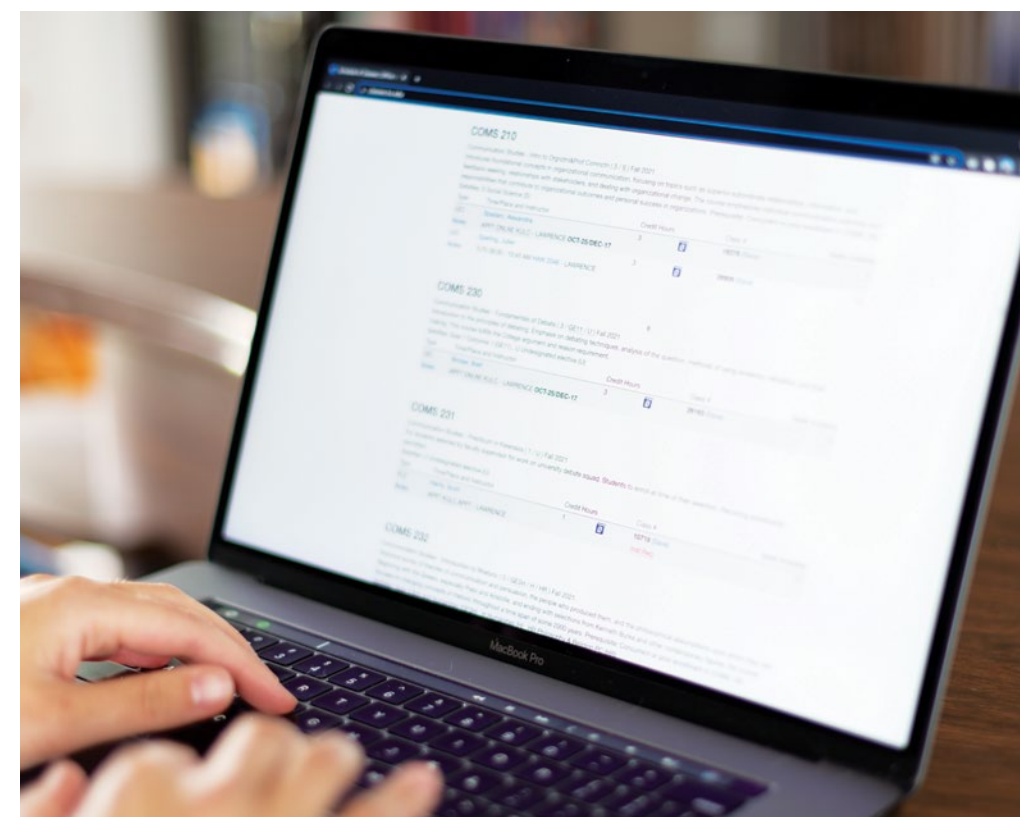


Daniel Hernández

Higher education has long faced issues of accessibility and equity. With textbook costs inflating each year, the University of Kansas and KU Libraries have been dedicated to creating and advocating for low- and no-cost resources for Jayhawk scholars.

The Textbook Heroes initiative, launched by KU Libraries and its Shulenburg Office of Scholarly Communication & Copyright in 2019, acknowledges and expresses gratitude for advocacy and innovation in course materials affordability. The spring 2021 Textbook Heroes cohort includes Tiara Floyd, 2019-20 KU student body president; Daniel Hernández, associate professor, Mathematics; and Oleksandra Wallo, associate professor, Slavic Languages & Literature.

Floyd appealed to KU Chief Information Officer Mary Walsh to formally launch a project to explore potential course marking opportunities at KU. Marking courses as “affordable” increases cost transparency and allows students to plan for required course materials. In fall 2019, a project team began meeting to develop a plan for implementing the now-live course marking at KU.



Hernández adopted an existing OER for his sections of Elementary Linear Algebra.

“I am concerned about the affordability and accessibility of textbooks for undergraduate students, having struggled to manage these costs when I was a student myself,” Hernández said. “As a matter of equity, I think it is important to minimize financial barriers to success — at least the ones I can control.”

Wallo created and personalized her own OER, titled “Dobra forma (good form),” for her sections of Elementary Ukrainian I and II.

“One of my goals in creating this OER was to make Ukrainian grammar accessible and fun, so we have used many authentic photographs and some videos from Ukraine, which place language form into a rich cultural context,” Wallo said.

To learn more about OER efforts or to make a gift to support textbook affordability, visit rockcha.ik/OER.

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OERs and low-cost resources make higher education more affordable. For some, the difference in dropping out or staying in a class is the price of textbooks and resources — which only allows a select few who can afford them to have access to education.

— Tiara Floyd, 2019-20 KU student body president

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Janet Cinelli and Eric Ryan

JAYHAWK FAMILY TIES



Janet Cinelli and Eric Ryan build their legacy through library support

It's all in the family for Janet Cinelli and her husband Eric Ryan, library supporters and proud KU alumni. Both Janet and Eric are surrounded by Jayhawks on all sides — her sister and brother, his son, the list goes on. Their big Jayhawk family holds degrees from schools and departments across the Hill. So when Janet and Eric decided to make a gift to KU, they wanted to find that one thread that would impact every Jayhawk, regardless of their studies.

“We thought, ‘what’s the one thread?’ Of course it’s KU Libraries!” Cinelli said.

Cinelli received her B.S. in Journalism from the William Allen White School of Journalism. Ryan completed both his B.A. in Psychology and Master of Science in Education Counseling Psychology at KU. Together they attend as many library events as possible and have become passionate supporters of open educational resources (OER). In 2020, the couple donated a renovated study carrel in Watson Library, naming it in honor of their parents.

“We learned that the students who study in the Watson carrels felt a connection to the donors who had named spaces there,” Ryan said. “We felt that naming a carrel was a way to go forward and honor our family members who supported us through school — both financially and emotionally.”



Cinelli and Ryan recognize the need for libraries to continue to change with the times and adapt to new needs — and they look forward to supporting the libraries as they evolve.

“The libraries remain relevant, and people need to understand that libraries provide so much more than books,” Ryan said. “The libraries provide opportunities for the community to gather and learn.”

Cinelli joined the KU Libraries Board of Advocates in 2016 and has been an engaged member ever since.

“KU Libraries have really supportive and genuine administrators who truly have the best interest at heart — that of the students and the researchers,” Cinelli said. “Libraries are the glue that holds the university together. Getting involved with KU Libraries has allowed us to honor the Jayhawks in our families across generations.” ■

“

The libraries are the best asset that the University of Kansas has. We, as Jayhawks and as lifelong Kansans, have a collective responsibility to advocate for and support this incredible asset — not only for KU students, but for all Kansans.

— Janet Cinelli, donor

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PATHWAYS to PROGRESS

KU Libraries 2020-22 Strategic Plan goals

In 2019, KU Libraries leadership took a fresh look toward the future, working to develop a framework for the libraries' 2020-22 Strategic Plan. In collaboration with library managers, faculty, and staff, six strategic overall goals were identified to advance us toward our mission. In addition, 12 dedicated actions were formed to support our core goals. When the global coronavirus pandemic hit in March 2020, the libraries found ways to continue advancing strategic priorities by working together — even while apart.

GOAL 1

Build a stronger library and more engaged, collaborative communities by expanding our efforts to create a more diverse workforce, as well as an inclusive, equitable environment — encompassing collections, services, and policies.

GOAL 2

Create experiences that help students thrive in the classroom and beyond. Working with campus partners, the libraries will contribute to student success and retention efforts by enhancing and promoting our services, resources, and spaces.

GOAL 3

Enhance KU's research profile. Through targeted professional development and engagement with partners, we will expand our capacity to support researchers, particularly in emerging areas of digital scholarship.

GOAL 4

Sustain the scholarly record for the KU community and beyond. Ensure we have the right skills, tools, and data to effectively shape how content is produced, acquired, described, and discovered in a changing scholarly communications environment. Refine and align scholarly communications and content priorities.

GOAL 5

Foster engagement with KU Libraries' distinctive resources. By evolving our technologies, employing collaborative workflows, and developing new skills, KU Libraries will improve the discoverability, utility, and preservation of our unique and distinctive resources.

GOAL 6

Encourage the growth and engagement of our faculty and staff by supporting ongoing professional development and learning. Continually improve the ways we work together to advance the collective mission of KU Libraries.

To read about the actions that propel each of these goals, see pages 13-14.

2020-22 STRATEGIC PLAN: ACTIONS

To advance toward the six established strategic goals, libraries faculty and staff created 12 agile action teams, populated by colleagues across departments. These exceptional teams set a course, found ways to connect, and made significant progress throughout the months of uncertainty during the pandemic. As we see more stabilization across campus, these teams will gather momentum and evolve as we move our important priorities forward.

ACTION 1



Continue to improve accessibility of library physical spaces, services and resources. Evaluate usability by format of digitized resources in order to influence vendor development paths.

Supports goals 1 and 2

“In the spring of 2020, our team pivoted to focus on ways to improve disability inclusion and accessibility specifically in virtual spaces, services, and resources in the libraries. We took the opportunity to utilize faculty and staff time for projects related to the accessibility of resource guides, websites, and collections.”

-Amalia Monroe-Gulick, social sciences and collection assessment librarian and Action 1 team co-leader

ACTION 2



Build targeted relationships with students to support strategic information sharing and advocacy on the libraries’ behalf.

Supports goals 1 and 2

ACTION 3



Support and strengthen our current instruction program & share successes across the organization.

Supports goal 2

ACTION 4



Collaborate with campus partners to develop an interdisciplinary makerspace that provides a supportive space for hands-on work in digital scholarship, critical making and learning, and lab components for humanities classes.

Supports goals 2 and 3

ACTION 5



Review and plan for researcher support needs.

Supports goal 3

ACTION 6



Enhance and expand services for graduate students as learners, researchers, teachers, future academics, and professionals.

Supports goals 2, 3, and 4

ACTION 7



Proactively communicate with the campus community around the journals crisis. Assess the potential impact of any future “big deal” cancellations while bridging connections to open access efforts.

Supports goal 4

“The existing model for subscribing to scholarly journal content is unsustainable, but we want campus to know that we are working hard to steward these scholarly journal subscriptions and provide access to the resources our colleagues need to be successful in teaching and research.”

-Lea Currie, head of Content Development and Action 7 team co-leader

ACTION 8



Take initiatives that will promote and ultimately facilitate the transition to a new library services platform.

Supports goal 4

ACTION 9



Build capacity and develop workflows for managing born-digital materials.

Supports goals 4 and 5

ACTION 10



Give intentional emphasis to increasing the visibility of diverse voices across our collecting and digitization programs.

Supports goals 1 and 5

ACTION 11



Support professional enrichment that aligns with strategic priorities and promotes a diverse workforce and an inclusive, equitable environment.

Supports goals 1 and 6

“During the pandemic, we were able to pass along information regarding various virtual diversity workshops and presentations to members of the libraries who might not have had the opportunity to participate in such activities otherwise. The team also worked with various individuals and units to facilitate the creation of a supportive and diverse work environment through EDI-related film screenings, discussion groups, reading groups, and other events.”

-Letha Johnson, Kansas Collection curator and Action 11 team member

ACTION 12



Strengthen employee engagement and connection by supporting the supervisor/supervisee relationship, enhancing internal communication and refining a more coordinated and dynamic mentoring program.

Supports goal 6



Kelly Johnston



CAMPUS CHAMPIONS

Student ambassadors raise library awareness

Ensuring student success and meeting the needs of our student patrons has long been a key tenet for KU Libraries. With student needs constantly shifting, the libraries must evolve and enhance services and facilities that support every Jayhawk. The KU Libraries Student Ambassadors Program works closely with the libraries’ Office of Communications & Advancement to provide student feedback and promote involvement in programming and services.

Kelly Johnston has been an avid book lover throughout her life and has worked as a student supervisor at Anschutz Library for two years. With her unique perspective as a library employee and desire to make a difference for other students on campus, Johnston was eager to apply for the KU Libraries Student Ambassadors Program.

“KULSAP interested me because I think many students are unaware of everything our libraries provide,” Johnston said. “KU Libraries provide students with so many resources: a safe environment where you can study to your heart’s content and a range of materials that you cannot

get anywhere else — from laptops to calculators. You can ask research questions through the library website, find textbooks you need for class, and reserve study rooms. The libraries are a vital resource for myself and for many students.”

KULSAP engages with library donors, giving students the chance to learn about library advancement techniques and strategies.

“Students can be advocates for the libraries by simply asking their classmates to meet at one of KU’s libraries to work on their project together,” Johnston said. “KULSAP is an amazing program to be part of. You get leadership experience and the chance to learn so much about the library and its inner workings — which is super cool for book lovers like me. You also get to feel like you’re making a real change at KU since you’re often giving your input on certain library functions and ideas.”

Johnston is a junior studying elementary education. KU Libraries are grateful to all of our Student Ambassadors for their dedication and support. ■

2020-21 KU LIBRARIES STUDENT AMBASSADORS



Arianna Fallahian
Behavioral Neuroscience, '21

Hanna Fontes
American Studies, '21

Steven Gilmore
English, '22

Kelly Johnston
Elementary Education, '22

Andi Kerbs
History, '22

Romy Keuwo
Speech-Language Pathology, graduate student

Eleni Leventopoulos
Museum Studies, graduate student

Monica Mascote
Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology, '21

Katerina Phouthavong
Pre-Clinical Lab Science, '23

Bea Reiter
Anthropology and Spanish, '20

Phuong Truong
Supply Chain Management, '22

STAYING CONNECTED

Campus partnerships continue to grow unique opportunities

JAYHAWK BOOK CLUB

The Jayhawk Book Club, a collaboration between KU Libraries and the KU Alumni Association, continues to bring together KU alums over a shared love of reading. In fall 2020, the club read “Hidden Valley Road” by bestselling author Robert Kolker, who visited the book club via Zoom for an engaging author talk in December. “These Ghosts Are Family” by Maisy Card was the spring Jayhawk Book Club selection. Card, a former public librarian turned author, joined book club members in May to discuss her debut novel.

“In December, I witnessed a book club group which encouraged critical thinking and deeper engagement with stories of family, research, and schizophrenia,” said Katie Bolton, book club member and KU alumna. “The Bob Kolker event allowed alumni and friends of the university to uniquely engage with an author. What a rewarding and educational experience! I especially enjoyed this event because it engaged me with a book I may have never picked up. Because of this experience, I’m hooked and following the Jayhawk Book Club!”

Learn more and join at rockcha.ik/JBC.



Jayhawk Book Club members engage in a discussion with bestselling author Maisy Card (middle square).

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The Jayhawk Book Club event with Bob Kolker was my first KU event since graduating in 2012 from the university, and it is never too late — or early — to get connected. You’ll always find a Jayhawk reader ready to chat books!

— Katie Bolton, KU alumna

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(top left) KU graduates walking down the Hill at commencement, 1971. (top right) Anti-ROTC protest, 1971. (above) International Women's Day March, March 3, 1971. Photos courtesy of KU Libraries University Archives.

GOLD MEDAL CLUB

To honor the golden anniversary of the Class of 1971, KU Libraries curated a digital exhibition of memorabilia from their time on the KU campus. The variety of photographs and digitized materials from the University Archives, transports alumni back in time to remember their years on the Hill. The digital exhibit features images of student life, homecoming, commencement, and the political unrest and activism that was so impactful during this time.

Learn more and make a gift to the archives at rockcha.ik/give.

REFLECTIONS ON 1970



Dr. Linda Miller in her donated study carrel.

The KU Alumni Association organized virtual Presidents Club tailgates for its large network of Jayhawks worldwide. At one of those events in October 2020, KU Libraries presented its virtual exhibition, “1970: The Year that Rocked KU.” The exhibit was populated with items from University Archives — some of which were even donated by Presidents Club members. Dr. Linda Miller, KU alumna and library donor, graduated from the university in 1970 and has donated personal photographs and ephemera to KU Libraries over the years.

“I kept a scrapbook of photographs from my time at KU, but I disassembled it and sent the pictures to the Archives because I believe you should always leave your legacy — let people know your stories so they can learn from them,” Miller said. “The pandemic made me think about how important it is to make photographs from around the world more accessible, and KU Libraries are doing just that.”



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