

## DONOR SPOTLIGHT

### Major gift launches new exhibit series at Spencer Library

David Bergeron and Geraldo Sousa's connections to KU Libraries loop and crisscross through time, including deep dives into historical research, rigorous rounds of coursework, and a long-held admiration for librarians. With their 2022 major gift to KU Libraries, the couple is establishing an annual exhibit series at the Kenneth Spencer Research Library to foster ties between the libraries, the KU community, and beyond.

Bergeron vividly remembers his introduction to Spencer Library in March 1976 while interviewing for a faculty position in KU's English Department. Outside the windows of Spencer's North Gallery the forsythia were blooming on the bank of Potter Lake, and Bergeron was surprised and "very impressed" by his tour of the library facilities and collections.

"I didn't know what my future was going to be at that point, but Spencer Library was an unexpected resource I didn't realize was here," Bergeron said.

A preeminent Shakespeare scholar, author, and professor emeritus of English, Bergeron just completed his 45<sup>th</sup> year at KU, with the libraries serving as an essential partner throughout his career.

Sousa's ties with Spencer Library intersected with Bergeron's in August 1977 when Sousa came to



KU on a Fulbright scholarship from Brazil. He arrived on campus for his first graduate class, taught by recently hired Professor Bergeron in one of Spencer Library's classrooms.

Sousa went on to earn his Ph.D. at KU, and after teaching at KU, Iowa State University, and Xavier University, joined the KU English Department in 2004 as a full professor — teaching, among other courses, the same graduate course

“*KU has always been an outstanding university, but the libraries have been and are still the heart of it.*”

— Geraldo Sousa

(continued on following page)

# Meet Carol E. Smith, new Dean of KU Libraries

As a child, Carol E. Smith discovered dual-language books in her community library on Long Island, N.Y., poring over pages with English on one side and Spanish on the other, opening new worlds of curiosity and launching Smith on a path that has led her to become the next Dean of KU Libraries.

From a young age, Smith was drawn to libraries and librarianship, adopting the branch manager of her local library as her “first childhood hero” and drawing pictures of the library with her bed in the children’s section. At six years of age, she declared she wanted to be a librarian when she grew up — a plan she followed, although not immediately.

“*Books take you places, sometimes in unexpected directions.*”  
— Carol E. Smith

Exploring the books in her local library, Smith fell in love with languages, culture, and travel, eventually majoring in Arabic and economics as an undergraduate and embarking on a 15-year career in business, including positions in the oil industry and as vice-president of a successful information research firm.

“I knew, though, that at the right point in my life I would turn my attention back to what I always said I wanted to do,” Smith said.

The moment she chose to pursue librarianship was a challenging one, with rapid advances to the internet and mobile devices, but challenges she was keen to lean into.

“At the time I first became a librarian, many were predicting that libraries were dying or obsolete,” Smith said, seeing potential in the moment. “But, I was most excited for libraries at the dawn of the digital age. I’m similarly enthused right now because of all the new technologies that are about to radically transform society.”



These changes come alongside demographic shifts that will affect higher education — and a constantly shifting information landscape, and Smith resonates with the important role of libraries as community platforms in a rapidly changing world.

“We have the opportunity to participate very actively in shaping the future. Libraries are ready to meet the challenges of the day and we have a major role to play,” Smith said.

Smith sees KU Libraries as a leader and a key collaborator in addressing these crucial issues, with expansive partnership as one of the vital elements of success. In addition to the role of libraries in facilitating knowledge creation, they are a university’s campus partners in all aspects of the curriculum and research, and they help spark powerful connections across campus and beyond.

“Even a library system the size of KU’s, with the largest collection in the state of Kansas, cannot attack these grand challenges on its own,” Smith said. “No one library can do it,

so it really is about partnerships and collaboration. KU Libraries is doing so many things so well, and the opportunity to build off of that already fantastic position of strength is highly appealing. Libraries need to collaborate for example, on wholly rethinking our discovery systems to better support users and a more inclusive, expansive view of the world.”

Harkening back to her early days exploring dual-language books in her neighborhood library, Smith has a passion for cultivating international library partnerships. She’s been in contact with colleagues around the world about continuing those relationships at KU and has been excited to learn about the relationships KU Libraries has developed over the years with international partners.

“We’re all part of a global community,” she said. “We need to be learning from each other on a global scale and helping each other on a global scale.”

Smith is enjoying expanding her own view of the world at her new  
*(continued on inside middle)*





## A MESSAGE FROM LIBRARIES LEADERSHIP

As our tenure as interim co-deans comes to an end, we want to express our immense gratitude for your support. It has been a joy serving KU Libraries in our joint leadership roles. From this new vantage point we've come to understand, more clearly than ever, the essentialness of donors and friends.

Your contributions to KU Libraries benefit every Jayhawk and uplift KU's entire scholarly community. Throughout the 2022-23 academic year, we've had many opportunities to shine a spotlight on the vital work of the libraries. Students, faculty and staff, and the surrounding community deeply appreciate KU Libraries for so many reasons, and they are quite eloquent in describing how the libraries have enhanced research, teaching, community engagement, and more. We've also enjoyed sharing services and resources with our users that they've been delighted to learn about for the first time. It has been a privilege and pleasure to be part of these discoveries and connections as co-deans, and we are enormously grateful for your support, advocacy, and engagement, which empowers it all.

As we each transition back to our roles as KU librarians and members of the libraries leadership team, we look forward to continuing to work with all of you and our new dean, Carol E. Smith, to ensure the vital work of the libraries for generations of Jayhawks to come. After everything we've learned and experienced this year, we're more excited and optimistic about the future of KU Libraries than ever.

Thank you for being on this journey with us. We are deeply grateful for your continuing support and service to the libraries.

Sincerely,

*Beth M. Whittaker R. Scott Hanrath*

Beth M. Whittaker & R. Scott Hanrath  
Interim Co-Deans of Libraries, 2022-23

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## Major gift launches exhibit series

(continued from cover)



Geraldo Sousa and David Bergeron viewing one of the Shakespeare folios that will be on display this fall for the inaugural exhibit in Spencer Research Library.

he'd taken with Bergeron, in the same classroom in Spencer Library. Sousa has been a member of the KU Libraries Board of Advocates from its inception.

By establishing the David M. Bergeron and Geraldo Sousa Exhibit Fund for Spencer Library, the pair aims to create new library connections for more KU faculty, as well as for the local, national, and international research community with the new exhibit series. The series will be co-curated by KU faculty and Spencer librarians, with supporting speakers and events that appeal to a wide audience. KU faculty who participate in the annual program will receive a stipend, an incentive made possible by the Bergeron and Sousa Fund.

Bergeron is currently at work on the inaugural exhibit in the series, collaborating with Spencer Library Director and Associate Dean Beth Whittaker. The exhibit will center on the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Shakespeare's First Folio — featuring some of the same materials Sousa worked with in 1977 during his introduction to the library as part of Bergeron's class.

The First Folio celebration exhibit, "To the Great Variety of Readers: Celebrating the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Shakespeare's First Folio," will open September 21 with a public reception where Bergeron will offer an accompanying presentation.

"Collaborations between librarians and archivists and faculty are an exciting way to create exhibits," Whittaker said. "Spencer Library's collections are so vast and diverse that when we work with faculty who dive deeply into research, we are able to gain new insights and bring those to exhibit audiences. It's been delightful working with David, whose knowledge of the folio and its publication is inspiring."

"It really has come full circle," Bergeron said.

*To RSVP to the exhibition opening on September 21, please visit [rockcha.lik/FirstFolio](https://rockcha.lik/FirstFolio).* ■

# Meet Carol E. Smith, new Dean of KU Libraries

(continued from outside right)

home in Kansas. Transitioning from the Colorado School of Mines in Golden, Colo., she enjoys hiking and backpacking. The week she arrived at her new home, she ordered two books on hiking in Kansas and looks forward to getting out on area trails.

Although Smith admits she will miss living in the mountains, she plans to visit friends there often, and the transition to Kansas feels natural to her and her husband, Joseph Armetta.

"We have friends in the Lawrence area, and we know the area and the town," she said. "We were immediately thrilled about going back to a place that we already know and love, and that we know suits us. So, it's a transition certainly, but a very familiar one."

Smith took the helm as dean July 3. ■



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# Libraries Makerspace contributing to campus creativity



Among the many books, journals, and scientific papers supported by KU Libraries are robot parts, a tiny theater set, fruit fly containment panels, and podcasts on environmental geopolitics — the latest additions to the university’s scholarly outputs thanks to the Libraries’ new Makerspace, a collaborative workspace for making, learning, exploring, and sharing.

Although it debuted last fall, the idea for a makerspace in the libraries has been in the works for several years. Careful consideration has been given to addressing the needs of students and faculty on campus in alignment with the libraries’ mission to inspire discovery and creation of knowledge for all. Other makerspaces exist on campus but are generally restricted by major or class enrollment.

When the Journalism School’s Media Crossroads Studio moved from the second floor of Anschutz Library into a renovated Stauffer-Flint Hall in 2020, the vacated library space was an attractive home for the new makerspace due to existing infrastructure. The libraries purchased audio equipment, computers for editing, and a 3D printer as part of the initial offerings. Two more 3D printers were added this spring, joining an assortment of resources aimed at fostering creativity in a welcoming environment for all skill levels, across all disciplines.

“I’m interested in making in the everyday and how we problem solve in our own situations to move forward,” said KU Associate Librarian Tami Albin, who oversees the day-to-day operations. “The Makerspace is a good place to do that because the people in here have a maker-mindset where anything and everything is possible.”

Early collaborations have been impactful, attracting users and building meaningful relationships across campus. The Makerspace has produced more than 300 3D prints, including the robot parts for mechanical engineering students, an entire set design for a theatre master’s student, and instrumentation to separate fruit flies for a researcher in molecular biology. In February, staff also helped 20 visiting English teachers from Brazil develop and record podcast episodes.

Albin has also partnered with KU environmental studies professor Shannon O’Lear to help students communicate their research through podcasting and publish a class digest in Pressbooks. Albin has since worked with O’Lear to completely redesign the course and the partnership yielded one of two dedicated student workers employed by the Makerspace. ■



## A NOTE FROM AMY GRAY, KU ENDOWMENT

KU Endowment is excited to welcome Dean Carol Smith to campus this summer! We look forward to working together to meet the needs of the next generation of scholars, and as Dean Smith begins her tenure, we are poised to partner with the KU Libraries team toward our shared vision of success.

The collaboration between the libraries and KU Endowment is built on the rock-solid foundation of partnership, and on the strategic goals of the University, striving to:

- Enhance the student experience
- Advance discovery
- Build healthy and vibrant communities

KU Libraries are uniquely positioned to make transformational impacts toward each of these three goals.

Alumni and donors are encouraged to participate in ways that speak to them, and I’m excited to hear your thoughts on how your investments in KU and in our libraries can achieve these goals while also helping you achieve your philanthropic goals.

Your support makes KU great, and we thank you for your commitment to the university community and to KU Libraries.

As we approach the monumental milestone of the Watson Library Centennial in 2024, the future looks as bright as the Kansas summer sun.

Rock Chalk!

Amy Gray  
*Development Officer, KU Endowment*

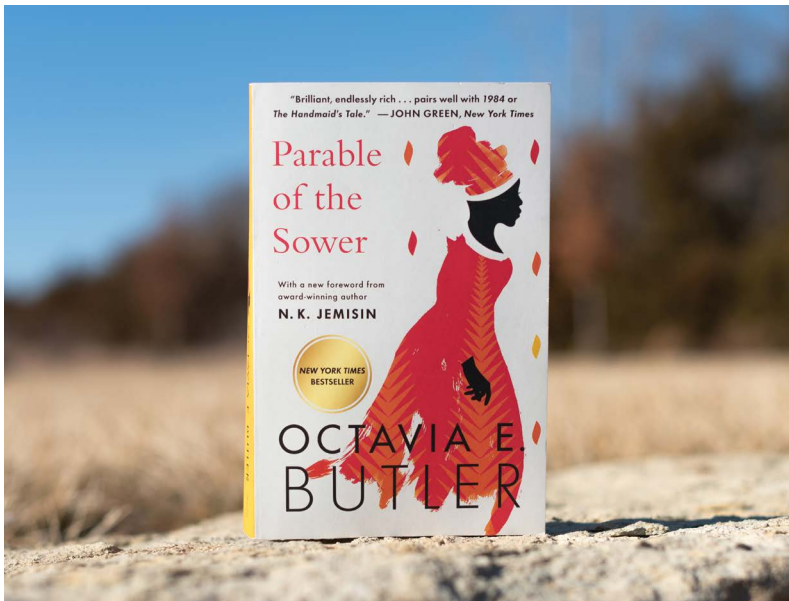
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*To learn more about how your philanthropy supports KU Libraries and the success of all Jayhawk students, contact Amy Gray at [agray@kuendowment.org](mailto:agray@kuendowment.org) or 785-832-7421.*

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# “Parable of the Sower” selected as next KU Common Book



A dystopian science fiction novel, “Parable of the Sower” by Octavia E. Butler highlighting climate change and social inequality, has been selected as KU’s Common Book for the 2023-24 academic year. The selection marks the 11<sup>th</sup> title for KU’s Common Book Program, which aims to build community among students, faculty, and staff; encourage intellectual engagement through reading and discussion; and create shared conversation about topics and issues of significance in today’s world.

A full slate of activities surrounding the KU Common Book is being developed and will be released closer to the start of the fall semester. One of the main highlights is a campus visit and talk from N.K. Jemisin, a Hugo-Award-winning science fiction and fantasy writer, set for April 25, 2024. The KU Common Book program is presented through a partnership between KU Libraries, the Hall Center for the Humanities, and the Division of Academic Success.

“My students have been amazed — sometimes a bit shaken — by the accuracy of some of Butler’s predictions about our current era,” said Giselle Anatol, Interim Director of the Hall Center for the Humanities, Co-Chair of the Common Book Committee and Director of the Gunn Center for the Study of Science Fiction. “The book is an exciting narrative of survival, but also visionary in terms of its representations of environmental crises and the ties between socio-economic disparities and violence ... I’m sure it will provoke interesting discussions about questions of faith, the meaning of community, definitions of strength, and a host of other topics.”

For more information on this and other Common Book events, please visit [commonbook.ku.edu](https://commonbook.ku.edu). ■

## LIBRARIES THROWBACK



**KU Libraries Throwback:** On September 11, 2023, Watson Library will be celebrating its 99<sup>th</sup> birthday. For the past century, this campus icon has been at the heart of the university experience and student success.

Photo credit: KU University Archives, 1947.

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