DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Expanding her legacy

KU Libraries strive to be known as every Jayhawk’s home on the Hill. Dr. Kala Stroup went further than that, saying that the libraries were actually “her life.” Stroup makes it clear that the University of Kansas and its libraries had an incredible impact on her career as a national leader in higher education. A Jayhawk through and through, Stroup proudly displays three KU diplomas on her walls: a Bachelor of Arts in speech and drama, a Master of Science in educational psychology, and a Doctorate of Philosophy in speech communication.

Stroup, a member of KU’s first class of Honors students, was in a class taught by Robert Vosper, a celebrated librarian and former KU Libraries director. It was under Vosper’s direction that Stroup became familiar with the libraries.

“I learned the ins and outs of KU Libraries from Dean Vosper,” Stroup said. “When I discovered the library stacks, they saved my life. I basically lived in the stacks for 12 years as I worked toward my master’s and doctoral degrees.”

Stroup’s first position at KU was as an assistant hall director in 1959. She would later serve in a number of iconic roles, including dean of women at KU. She was the first female vice president of academic affairs in the Kansas Regents system at Emporia State University and the first woman to become a college president within the Kentucky higher education system when she led Murray State University. She also served as president of Southeast Missouri State University and as Missouri’s commissioner of higher education.

“Libraries are absolutely central to a university’s academic standings,” Stroup said. “Libraries have always been an important part of my job, and as a higher ed administrator, ensuring that everyone understood the value of libraries was key.”

“It’s vital to the health of a university to invest in its libraries. You cannot have a quality university without a strong library system to support its scholars.”

(continued inside left)
Award winners display dedication, appreciation for KU Libraries

2020 RUBINSTEIN/MASON AWARD: SOPHIA SOUTHARD

Librarianship, as a profession, is deliberative and contemplative. Those words also describe Sophia Southard, winner of KU Libraries’ 2020 Rubinstein/Mason Award and recent KU Class of 2020 graduate. The Rubinstein/Mason Award supports graduate study in librarianship and honors the late KU librarians Joseph Rubinstein and Alexandra “Sandy” Mason.

Southard worked alongside Deborah Dandridge, African American Experience curator, in Kenneth Spencer Research Library, where she had the opportunity to learn about archives and academic librarianship. Southard curated a temporary exhibition for Black History Month that was on display in both Spencer and Anschutz Libraries. Producing “Ho Chi Minh, the Black Panther Party, and the Struggle for Self-Determination” was one of Southard’s favorite experiences during her tenure at KU Libraries.

“I loved working with all the wonderful archivists, librarians, and staff at Spencer.”

– Sophia Southard

2020 GRETCHEN AND GENE A. BUDIG DISTINGUISHED LIBRARIAN AWARD: SALLY HAINES

With dynamic and engaging years of professional performance, a broad variety of scholarly output, and wide-ranging consultation expertise, Sally Haines is an exemplary recipient of the Gretchen and Gene A. Budig Distinguished Librarian Award. Haines, special collections librarian at Kenneth Spencer Research Library, has dedicated more than five decades to her work at the libraries. Throughout her tenure, she has authored several books, curated a variety of exhibitions, and crafted compelling exhibit catalogues.

Haines jokes that she “majored” in rare books while pursuing her library degree and was thrilled to find that Spencer’s collections were rich in all her favorite subjects.

“I came to Kansas from New Jersey in 1966 with a freshly minted library degree from Drexel Institute of Technology, and I started working in special collections that fall,” Haines said “I was dumbfounded when I found out I had won the Budig Award — I still don’t quite believe it!”

The award, endowed by the Budigs in 2001, is intended to recognize an individual’s lifetime achievements. It is given annually to a library faculty member who demonstrates meritorious professional performance and service. The award was even more resonant this year, being the first time it was presented after Gene’s passing in September. A passionate library advocate, Chancellor Budig left an incredible legacy at KU, and his support for KU Libraries will be long remembered.
A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

As I approach five years as the dean of KU Libraries, I continue to be impressed by the dedication and hard work of my colleagues. And this year, the passion, commitment, and care shown by our library faculty and staff have been truly unrivaled. While navigating the global coronavirus pandemic has altered some of our originally planned directions, we adapted to ensure our core mission — transforming lives by inspiring the discovery and creation of knowledge — was upheld.

Despite the separation we all experience, KU Libraries faculty and staff continue to thrive amid the distance, connecting with students, faculty, and researchers on the Hill and beyond. I witness countless examples of exemplary support for research needs and extensive measures to locate and share critical scholarly materials with those who count on us.

The energizing support of our friends and donors continues to be invaluable in fueling new and creative efforts. While much has changed over the past year, your unwavering support has remained. We are fortunate to have had the opportunity to engage with donors and supporters virtually, and I am confident we will continue building and strengthening these connections as we move forward.

In this issue of Bibliophile, you will see a range of stories that highlight some of the remarkable individuals and essential work happening at KU Libraries throughout this unparalleled year.

Sincerely,

Kevin L. Smith
Dean of Libraries

Expanding her legacy (continued from cover)

Serving on KU Libraries’ Board of Advocates from 2010 to 2020, Stroup has been a passionate supporter. Board members serve as advisors to the dean, helping to develop strategies that increase a sense of pride, loyalty, and connection with the libraries among alumni, friends, and the community. Her knowledge and background in academic libraries fueled strong influence during her tenure as chair of the Board of Advocates in 2013. Stroup’s generous contributions throughout her decade of service will continue to make an impact on Jayhawks for years to come.

“It’s so important to explain the value in supporting KU Libraries,” Stroup said. “It’s vital to the health of a university to invest in its libraries. You cannot have a quality university without a strong library system to support its scholars.”

Stroup’s affection and appreciation for the Watson Library stacks were made tangible when she made a gift to name a study carrel in 2018. This quiet space that she relied on during her academic career is named in her honor and will forever be part of her KU legacy. Over the years, Stroup has also contributed generously to Kenneth Spencer Research Library and has made KU Libraries part of her planned giving portfolio.

If you are interested in making a gift to name a carrel or to support library enrichment, contact Christy McWard, cmcward@ku.edu.

Spotlight on collections: African American Human Rights Activities & Movements

Featuring key resources and images from the Kansas Collection’s African American Experience Collection, University Archives, and the Wilcox Collection of Contemporary Political Movements in Kenneth Spencer Research Library, an African American Human Rights Activities & Movements LibGuide is helping researchers access vital information. This LibGuide highlights resources that document African American activism on the KU campus, in Kansas, and across the country. Collections listed include the Chester I. Lewis Collection, Charles S. Scott Collections, KU’s Black Student Union records, and the “Black Panther” newspaper.

Visit the LibGuide at rockcha.lk/LibGuideBib.
Dandridge named as Dorothy Porter Wesley Award winner

In June, Deborah Dandridge, African American Experience curator, was selected as the 2020 recipient of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) Information Professionals’ Dorothy Porter Wesley Award.

The Dorothy Porter Wesley Award, established by ASALH in 2018, serves to honor and memorialize the important work of information professionals — from archivists and librarians to collectors and bibliophiles. Awardees are recognized for their work in preserving African American history, aiming to document the past for future generations of scholars.

“Not only is it a great personal honor to receive this award, but it means a great deal because it acknowledges the key role that archival field work plays in developing local and regional African American historical research collections,” Dandridge said. “It also highlights the essential role that collective efforts play in the acquisition of these collections as donations. To me, this award is shared by many.”

Dandridge has played an essential role within the libraries for three decades, first joining KU Libraries as a field archivist for a 1986-89 National Historical Publications and Records Commission grant that was awarded to Kenneth Spencer Research Library in support of its Kansas Collection.
Little Free Libraries across Lawrence promote BIPOC experiences through books

The first-known Little Free Library appeared in Hudson, Wis., in 2009. The wooden library, painted red to resemble a one-room schoolhouse, was built by Tod Bol, and the ‘take a book, leave a book’ concept was met with overwhelming joy. Today, there are more than 75,000 Little Free Libraries across the world — and several in Lawrence. This fall, a group of local residents and Leadership Lawrence graduates organized a book donation drive, seeking materials written by Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) that illuminate the experiences of BIPOC people. KU Libraries were proud to be donors and supporters of this impactful effort.

With community members Demetrius Kemp and Tyler Lindquist at the helm of the Little Free Libraries’ Race Education And Development (READ) Book Drive, the effort achieved incredible success, yielding a collection of more than 800 books.

“I was humbled to see so many groups from throughout the community that were passionate about being involved in the READ Book Drive,” Lindquist said. “Having a partner in KU Libraries certainly made a great impact, and we were so appreciative of their support.”

A full list of partners included local bookstores The Raven Bookstore, Signs of Life, and The Dusty Bookshelf, as well as the Haskell Foundation, Leadership Lawrence, 3 Clever Broads, Royal Crest Lanes, Solomon & Associates, eXplore Lawrence, and Rainbow International of Northeast Kansas. In addition, the effort was supported by Success by 6 Coalition of Douglas County and the Kansas Volunteer Commission.

“Most of the 800 books collected went to existing little libraries, though some are being saved for new libraries that we plan to build and install later this year,” Lindquist said. “By analyzing data and looking at book desert maps, we identified areas of the community that are in need of little libraries, and we hope to add up to 15 more in those specific locations across town.”

A NOTE FROM LAURA MEYER, KU ENDOWMENT

Have you considered a legacy gift to KU Libraries?

Your time on the Hill was undoubtedly memorable, and being part of the KU family certainly fills alumni with great pride. Through a planned gift, your legacy can live on in the libraries and make an impact for current and future generations of Jayhawks.

One of the easiest ways to make a meaningful contribution to KU Libraries is through an IRA or similar retirement account.

Retirement accounts allow donors to create beneficiary designations, which makes it easier to pass along specifically identified assets. IRAs are not controlled by the terms of a will and instead use separate beneficiary forms to determine who receives them. Updating beneficiary designations for your retirement funds is free, whereas updating a will can be costly.

In addition, there are tax advantages to leaving tax-sheltered money to KU Libraries through retirement accounts. Most assets received through a retirement account incur additional tax payments, but direct gifts to KU Libraries through KU Endowment are untaxed.

If you are interested in learning more about planned giving, it would be my pleasure to talk to you about your options — including a legacy gift to KU Libraries.

Sincerely,
Laura Meyer
Director of Development, KU Endowment

Laura Meyer cultivates and stewards major gifts for the libraries and the School of Social Welfare. Feel free to contact her at lmeyer@kuendowment.org or 785-832-7372.

Information in this column is informational and educational in nature. It is not offering professional tax, legal, or accounting advice. For specific advice about the effect of any planning concept on your tax or financial situation or with your estate, please consult a qualified professional advisor.
A new online exhibition from KU Libraries, “1970: The Year that Rocked KU,” features historic materials from the University Archives. In 1970, students at the University of Kansas stood up to a variety of injustices through demonstrations, student uprisings, and protests. The exhibition includes photographs and underground publications from groups like the Black Student Union, the Lawrence Gay Liberation Front, and the Women’s Coalition.

Visit rockcha.lk/KULib1970 to view rare and relevant items from KU Libraries in “1970: The Year that Rocked KU.”

KU Libraries’ Throwback: Welcome back, Jayhawks! A friendly reminder that our spaces are open, but proper facial coverings are required! Basketball net masks, not so much...


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