

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Early gift becomes family tradition, provides strong start to libraries campaign

Laura Lewis has witnessed hundreds of first serves, tipoffs, and kickoffs — often followed by a KU victory — as a former member of the Kansas Jayhawks athletics department staff. She and her husband, Danny, a former Kansas football player, understand the importance of a strong start and its impact on the rest of the game. It's part of the reason the duo have committed to an annual lead-off gift to KU Libraries on *One Day. One KU.* for the past four years.

Last year's gift was the first of 101 total gifts received by KU Libraries and part of the \$34,560 total. That was KU Libraries' highest tally in the five-year history of the university's annual day of giving and marked a 25 percent increase over 2021.

"It's definitely become a tradition for us," Laura said. "I particularly love the idea of *One Day. One KU.* because of the crowdfunding component — I think it's the future of giving and is so accessible to everybody. Anyone can go and make a gift — \$25, \$5, whatever it is. We love doing it early in the year as well and it gets funding off to a great start."

Laura grew up in Cleveland, Ohio, with libraries as a central part of her life, spending summers in various children's book sections while her mother completed continuing



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– Laura Lewis

(continued on following page)

Scholarship that lasts

While cleaning out his office, George Wilson, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Chemistry, stumbled upon old copies of his students' dissertations from as far back as 1991. Although Wilson's first instinct was to throw out the dated papers, he reached out to KU Libraries to ask if there was any interest in keeping them.

Marianne Reed, digital publishing and repository manager at KU Libraries, wanted to go beyond simply keeping them. She saw this as the perfect opportunity to digitize this scholarship in KU ScholarWorks, KU's digital open access repository. By publishing in ScholarWorks, this previously unpublished work on topics such as diabetes and antibodies would be accessible to all.



George Wilson and Marianne Reed discuss the digitization of dissertations.

“Even if it’s not the newest information, these dissertations can be of interest to people who are doing current research because it includes data that had previously been hidden.”

– Marianne Reed



A hard copy of one of the many publications digitized in this project.

“Uploading the dissertations to ScholarWorks lets anyone with an internet connection reach it,” said Reed. “It’s a service that costs them nothing yet allows them to share their research and to establish a scholarly legacy.”

Before moving forward, Wilson reached out to the students to get their permission to publish, reconnecting with students he hadn’t talked to in decades. Reed and Wilson also sent the students the bound paper copies of their dissertations. Wilson, who described himself as a sort of father figure to

his students, said the experience was very meaningful to him. One student he reached out to said he is looking forward to presenting the bound copy of the dissertation to his sons upon their graduations from their own doctoral programs.

“I was delighted to get all of this into ScholarWorks, but I have to say that I didn’t fully understand and appreciate what the impact was going to be,” Wilson said. “I got responses out of many of them that I never probably would have gotten otherwise.”

The work Reed has done with Wilson and others is part of a larger effort by KU Libraries to create and support open access initiatives across campus and extend the reach globally.

“The support Marianne provides for KU ScholarWorks and open journal publishing is exceptional,” said Scott Hanrath, interim co-dean of KU Libraries and the associate dean of research engagement. “She is endlessly patient and creative in working with a wide variety of authors and editors to understand their needs and find solutions for making their work openly available.”



A MESSAGE FROM LIBRARIES LEADERSHIP

In our six short months of shared leadership, we have seen the profound impact of libraries donors on student success and scholarship at the University of Kansas. A contribution to KU Libraries benefits every Jayhawk, regardless of discipline or major. Your gifts uplift KU's entire scholarly community by growing our collections, making resources more accessible, and building welcoming spaces that inspire student learning.

This comes as no surprise to us. As KU librarians, we've long witnessed how donor support benefits library programs, but from our new vantage point, we have renewed appreciation for the many ways you offer your financial support and service. You not only faithfully make annual contributions, but you integrate the libraries into your long-term planned gifts. You not only attend our events, but you bring new friends and introduce them to library opportunities.

As champions for KU Libraries, you empower support for:

- open educational resources (OER), resulting in textbook savings for thousands of students;
- open access, increasing reach and impact of scholarship;
- collection development, helping us continually acquire materials that meet student and faculty research needs;
- digitization of resources, extending access of collections beyond campus; and
- our facilities, ensuring that library spaces are safe, comfortable, and collaborative.

These are only a few of the many opportunities to support KU Libraries. Thank you for your contagious enthusiasm. Our appreciation for you is boundless.

Sincerely,

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

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Strong start to libraries campaign

(continued from cover)



Danny and Laura Lewis looking at Phog Allen's papers with Mark Allen. Photo by LeAnn Meyer.

education credits as a kindergarten teacher. Laura's early history led to involvement with community library efforts in Eudora where she's helped a building campaign reach more than half a million dollars, with aims to increase access and activities for patrons of all ages, including her own children, Carter and Hadley.

Lewis came to Kansas for a position in athletics media relations – a public relations role with emphasis on serving as a historian and source of information for KU's athletics department. That literally put her courtside for many of the Jayhawks' great athletic moments during the early 2000s as she traveled with KU volleyball, softball, and men's basketball. It's also how Laura met Danny, who served KU for 14 years at the KU Alumni Association.

The Lewises first contributed to KU Libraries with their time and talent, aligning connections to alumni and athletics with their affinity for libraries to champion the campaign for the digitization of the Phog Allen Papers. The experience led Laura, now chief communications officer for CREW Network, to a position on the KU Libraries Board of Advocates where she has served as chair and observed the positive campus impact.

"KU Libraries are so important, they touch nearly every student on campus," Lewis said. "The library is a gathering space; it's a place where students come to collaborate. They still get those traditional resources that are so important, and it's a safe space. Programs have grown and adapted to meet students' needs. It's not just a building of books anymore. Putting students first is so important to libraries, and it shows."

Laura and Danny have already circled Feb. 16, 2023 – the date of the next One Day. One KU. – and plan to continue their family tradition of contributing early in hopes of an even bigger day and results that go beyond last year's total.

"It's definitely rewarding to see those final numbers," Laura said, "but I would say what's even more rewarding is later in the year when the students who are recipients of a lot of those funds come to our board meetings ... there are such tangible results in everything that you're supporting with your gift." ■

Rock Chalk Rally: Celebrating Classic Kansas Comebacks

KU Libraries' newest traveling exhibit, "Rock Chalk Rally: Celebrating Classic Kansas Comebacks" made its debut this fall at KU Alumni Association's Jayhawk Roundup in Wichita and at the Champions Classic in Indianapolis. The exhibit features historic images from the University Archives, offering a look back at inspiring moments where KU and Lawrence prevailed against the odds. From the rebuilding of Lawrence after Quantrill's Raid, to the 2022 NCAA Men's Basketball Championship, "Rock Chalk Rally" serves to remind us of Jayhawks' fighting spirit and resilience. "Rock Chalk Rally" will be showcased at Presidents Club pregame events this basketball season and is set to travel to KU Alumni network events across the country.



See the which cities we're coming to at rockcha.lk/RockChalkRally. ■

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Spencer Research Library's latest exhibit, "Keeping the Books"



On November 1, the University of Kansas Libraries hosted an evening reception to celebrate the latest Spencer Research Library exhibit, "Keeping The Books: The Rubinstein Collection of the Orsetti Family Business Archive." Guests gathered in the Spencer gallery to view samples of business records from the Orsetti family dating primarily from the 16th through the 18th centuries. The Orsetti family was an influential noble family in the city of Lucca in Tuscany, Italy, and their business manuscripts offer a look into what life was like at the time and how business and personal expenses were kept.

This exhibition, curated by Whitney Baker, head of conservation services at KU Libraries, displays items that highlight unique binding styles and how different books were used for distinct accounting purposes. The manuscripts feature the Venetian double-entry accounting system, which was the accepted form of bookkeeping of the time. The information presented in the exhibit came from Baker's own research conducted during her sabbatical.

"I always made a point of showing this collection to new employees and interns and have long been interested in studying them further," Baker said during her remarks at the exhibit celebration. "An opening in Spencer Library's exhibit schedule afforded me the opportunity to share my interest in these volumes with people outside of my corner of academia and I have tried in this exhibit to provide various entry points for enjoying this collection."

These records are part of the Rubinstein Collection, which was acquired in 1974 and named after Joseph Rubinstein, the first curator of the Department of Special Collections at KU Libraries who was instrumental in helping KU acquire the Orsetti family papers. The collection contains 294 bound volumes, 84 maps and five boxes of unbound accounting and family records, making it one of the largest of its kind in the U.S.

"This is a collection that hasn't been used as much as I wish it was and hasn't been displayed before as far as I know," Baker said. "There's a lot of different ways people can enjoy it, and I hope people become interested in it."

[View the digital exhibit at rockcha.lk/KeepingBooks.](https://rockcha.lk/KeepingBooks) ■



A NOTE FROM DAN SIMON, KU ENDOWMENT

The new year dawns with the promise of new beginnings and discoveries on Mount Oread. The energy is particularly noticeable given the new faces in leadership at KU Endowment. President Dale Seuferling retired last fall after more than 40 years of service to the university and our donors. Succeeding Dale as president is Dan Martin a Jayhawk with three KU degrees: M.B.A., J.D., and Ed.D.

A challenge of the past year was market volatility. Yet, the KU Endowment Association reported to its Board of Trustees that fiscal year 2022 was the best year in Endowment's history. Such donor dedication demonstrates the literal rock-solid foundation on which KU and KU Libraries stand.

While change can be hard, on Mount Oread the challenges are mitigated by the consistency of the generations of Jayhawks before us who have invested in making the University of Kansas a special place. This includes faculty, staff, and students who have given of themselves to serve the KU community. It also includes our generous donors who provide investments in the people working to lift society and enhance the student experience, advance discovery, and build healthy and vibrant communities.

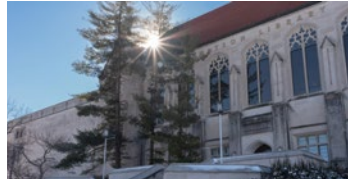
We invite you to join in the promise of what KU and our libraries can achieve together. While we plan for the celebration of Watson Library's Centennial in 2024, we also recognize the need to invest in resources to help today's students. We are stronger because generations of Jayhawks have provided for the future. Whether through an outright gift that supports discovery or a planned gift that provides the next generation of students with endless opportunities, we invite you to join us and cement KU Libraries' rightful place as a world-class international education community.

Rock Chalk!

Dan Simon
Assistant Vice President, Development

To learn more about how your philanthropy supports KU Libraries and the success of all Jayhawk students, contact Dan Simon at dsimon@kuendowment.org or 785-832-7378.

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



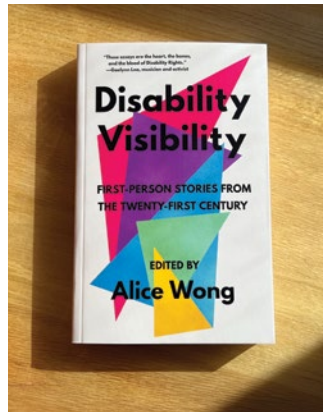
On February 16, join KU Libraries for *One Day. One KU.*, the 24-hour campaign in support of the University of Kansas. On this day of giving, alumni and friends are encouraged to contribute to the KU programs that are most meaningful to them. We hope you will share your support for KU Libraries this February 16.

Visit rockcha.ik/ODOKU-Lib23 to learn more. ■

Common Book editor set for virtual visit



Alice Wong, photo by Eddie Hernandez.



A virtual visit from disability rights activist Alice Wong highlights the remaining activities surrounding the University of Kansas' 10th Common Book, "Disability Visibility: First-person Stories from the Twenty-First Century." Wong, the book's editor, will give a public talk on Feb. 22 and will participate in an informal conversation with students on Feb. 23. The university community continues its year-long exploration of the anthology which provides diverse perspectives on the lived experience of both visible and invisible disabilities.

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.

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

LIBRARIES THROWBACK




KU Libraries Throwback: Jayhawks skating into the new year. Potter Lake has always been a popular place for Jayhawk recreation. These students in the 1940s laced up their skates to enjoy the campus winter wonderland.

Photo credit: KU University Archives, 1940s.

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