

# CONNECTIONS

FALL 2008



*Onlookers couldn't stop the flames that gutted Nichols Hall in 1968, but a grassroots student initiative eventually saved The Castle, which still stands 40 years later.*



ARTS & SCIENCES  
COLLEGE OF  
KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY





## Dear Alumni and Friends:

I'll greet you in this new issue of *Connections* with a rousing thank you! K-State completed its Changing Lives campaign at the end of 2007, having raised a total of \$529 million. The campaign began in July 2000 and was far and away the university's most successful fundraising endeavor.

The College of Arts and Sciences raised over \$42 million, exceeding its goal by \$7 million. I cannot overstate the importance of your support. A few numbers may help illustrate why our donors are more important than ever.

In 1989, 45 percent of the university's money was supplied by the state, a figure in line with our peers and the very thing

*“Through a range of scholarships and other opportunities, our generous donors help students continue to afford higher education.”*

that makes us a “public” university. Nearly two decades later, the figure rests at 25 percent.

In our current budget, this 20 percent change in allocation represents nearly \$135 million that once came from the state and now must come from other places. Our situation is far from unique. Many other states fare worse. For example, California has fallen below 15 percent in state support, and our neighbor, Colorado, joins Vermont and New Hampshire in relying on less than 10 percent support.

This steady drop in state-allocated dollars drives much of the conversation about a crisis in higher education. We've had to look into new ways to help fund Kansas State University and our students' educations.

We're doing our part. I am proud of our Arts and Sciences faculty's ability to secure grants and contracts, which are at an all-time high in helping supply overhead income. We have also had the good fortune of establishing eight endowed faculty chairs during the Changing Lives campaign.

Though we remain one of the country's best educational bargains according to U.S. News & World Report, this shift accounts for why tuition has continued to rise. It also explains why your gifts are crucial to our college. Through a range of scholarships and other opportunities, our generous donors help students continue to afford higher education and have access to the kind of outstanding scholarly and leadership opportunities that have come to define our college.

As we move toward a new phase of support, our emphasis will remain on students. Times are challenging, but challenges bring opportunity.

Best wishes,

Stephen E. White, dean

## *Weathering the Storm*

On the evening of June 11, 2008, a tornado swept through Manhattan and the K-State campus, causing a minimum of \$20 million in reported damages to the university. The most damage was sustained at Cardwell Hall, Ward Hall, Burt Hall, Weber Hall, the engineering complex, the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity house, and several parking lots.

The tornado was rated an EF4 at its most intense point — the second strongest tornado classification — as it barreled through the Amherst Avenue area and Miller Ranch neighborhood. Around 50 homes were destroyed, along with three businesses. Major damage occurred at more than 70 additional homes and 10 additional businesses.

“I think the campus community is just grateful no one was seriously hurt,” said Dean Steve White. “For such a treacherous storm, we were lucky. Although there was considerable damage to the university, I'm confident that alumni, local citizens and the state will help us rebuild.”



*Tornado clean-up efforts on campus*

The Kansas State University Foundation has created the K-State Tornado Relief Fund to help the university's recovery efforts, funding any needs not covered by insurance or state and federal aid. To contribute, please contact the Foundation at [www.found.k-state.edu](http://www.found.k-state.edu) or 800-432-1578.



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# *A Hand in History*

*Alumnus preserves hometown history,  
puts history students in the field*



*Spoils from  
an early  
1900s  
fishing trip*



*Broughton stores, pre-1910*





*Sign marking the Broughton townsite today*



*Broughton following a snowstorm in the early 1900s*



*Mark Chapman's father, Leo (center), and friends after a day of hand fishing*



*Looking west from Broughton, 1950s*

**S**omewhere, quietly, the memory of a Kansas town is dying. Fading away so slowly and simply that few outside the community even feel the subtle shift in the local landscape.

But Mark Chapman, '65 B.A. history and political science, felt the change. He sensed the shift when his hometown of Broughton, Kan., fell victim to the Milford Dam project in 1966...fated to lose its history in the process.

That is, until Chapman — now an investor in Cat Spring, TX — decided to call on his alma mater's Department of History in 2004.

### **The Broughton Project**

"He started talking about his hometown with such affection, such meaning. He said it was destined to be gone in memory because no one had written the history," said Sue Zschoche, department chair and associate professor.

"He said, 'I'm wondering if students could start looking into the history of this town.'"

And so the work began, under the direction of assistant professor MJ Morgan. With Chapman's funding, the Broughton Project (as it came to be called) launched in 2004 and took four years to complete. Four years of faculty and students driving to the old town site, interviewing more than 30 of Broughton's 150 former residents (many of whom are now in their 80s and 90s), restoring photographs, and digging through records in the Clay County Museum and the Clay County Courthouse.

Nearly 40 graduate and undergraduate students — in history, rural sociology, engineering, anthropology, economics and journalism, just to name a few — earned real-life experience discovering and cementing the history of a lost Kansas town. And in an age of digital *everything*, much of the work consisted of capturing good old fashioned oral history.

"You have to be willing to go 50 miles up the road and talk to strangers, and you don't know what's going to happen," said Sandra Reddish, doctoral history student. "I've met some great friends. This is what keeps me in the history game — this is the fun stuff."

The Project culminated in a May 6 reception at the K-State Student Union, bringing faculty, students and former Broughton residents together again to celebrate the preservation of Broughton's history. The centerpiece of the event was a book featuring photos, facts and accounts chronicling the town's nearly 100-year history.

### **The Chapman Center for Rural Studies**

The Broughton Project was supposed to be a one-shot deal. There were no plans for expansion...until Chapman got wind of the intense student interest.

"When I was getting the feedback of the interest of the students, I could see that it had a future to it," Chapman said.

“This work is going to go on because of this guy, because he thinks about how you can have history that you can wrap your arms around.”

— Sue Zschoche



*Early view of main street*



*Broughton service station*

“It seemed to ignite an interest that was hidden, and really surprised everybody. And all at once, you’ve got a history that’s alive and meaningful.”

Inspired by the commitment of students and faculty alike, Chapman made a gift of \$495,000 to the College to establish the Chapman Center for Rural Studies, a hub for unearthing the histories of past and present rural Kansas towns. Slated to open in 2009, the Center will be housed in a Leasure Hall space that will be renovated to include a classroom/research laboratory where students can delve into community studies. Students will even have the chance to earn scholarships in conjunction with their research.

A natural, if unexpected, extension of the Broughton Project, the Center ensures that future students will also get the chance to chronicle “live” history, saving the stories of other small towns that have been wiped off the map.

“They’ll drive to the little town they’re looking at, and they’ll walk the ground, and see where the blacksmith shop was,” Chapman said. “I think it will be a very meaningful thing to many of the history students.”

And for former residents who have lost their own hometowns — as Chapman’s parents were displaced from the Broughton community — a documented history means they won’t be forgotten. According to Chapman, this research

touches on people’s desire to “feel their life had meaning, and that they have a heritage.”

As students learned throughout the Broughton Project, the process cannot start soon enough for many of these towns.

“We lost one Broughtonite over the course of the four years,” Reddish said. “But that’s why you have to get this stuff down — because you don’t know what will happen.”

With the history of Broughton secured and the Chapman Center for Rural Studies underway, there’s hope that more rural Kansas histories will be reclaimed.

“This work is going to go on because of this guy, because he thinks about how you can have history that you can wrap your arms around,” Zschoche said.

For his part, Chapman is excited to see how the Center will grow and develop.

“It’s a really gratifying thing and a tremendously wonderful way to spend money and see the results. It’s a blessing to be a part of it,” he said. “Who knows where it’s going to go, but I think it’s going to be something important for the university and the entire state.”

*If you would like more information about the Chapman Center for Rural Studies or the Broughton Project, please contact Sheila Walker, director of development, at [sheilaw@found.k-state.edu](mailto:sheilaw@found.k-state.edu) or 800-432-1578.*

# Supporting Scholarship



*Broughton, pre-1920*

It's no wonder Mark Chapman felt at home in the College of Arts and Sciences. With interests as varied as history, art, political science and sports, he found plenty to ponder during his undergraduate days.

"It's the process of growing up and learning to perform on a certain academic level, being exposed to ideas," he said. "It's kind of like a painting — if you want a deeply textured painting, you have to have a lot of layers of paint."

Chapman's trust in his instincts and passions has led to a successful and layered career, including work in real estate, stocks, oil and art. And with that success, he is helping today's Arts and Sciences students deepen their own experiences.

In 2007, Chapman made a commitment of more than \$5 million to K-State to support students in art, history, football, track and field, and military history, just to name a few.

In addition to traditional scholarships, he also made sure to fund real-world opportunities. Just as the Chapman Center for Rural Studies gets students out into the history field, the five outstanding Arts and Sciences students chosen annually as Chapman Scholars are awarded \$5,000 — including \$3,000 to fund a summer activity in their area of study. The first five scholars were chosen in spring 2008.

"One of them is going to Morocco, one's going to Malta, one's going to Mexico. One is conducting research in an immunology lab at K-State. Another is going to Texas to work with one of the leading orthopedic surgeons in knee replacement," Chapman said.

"This gives them opportunities that they wouldn't otherwise have. It will prepare them to do great things in their future careers. It may even help them to be competitive for national scholarships like the Rhodes and Truman in future semesters."



*Benefactors Mark Chapman and his wife, Cheryl Mellenthin, with assistant dean for Nationally Competitive Scholarships, Jim Hobenbary (top right), and 2008 Chapman Scholars (from left): Kayla Moorse, Greta Kliever, Kelsey Moran, Diana Hylton and Amanda Stueve*

*Photos courtesy of Thomas Park (Broughton Project researcher), the Clay County Museum, and the Clay County Courthouse*





*Shante Moore at the U.S. embassy in Qatar (top), where he was previously assigned, and in the 1996 Royal Purple (bottom)*

## Shante Moore

'96 Truman Scholar

Shante Moore, '96 B.S. political science and Latin American studies, originally chose K-State out of economic necessity. With a job in his native Junction City, Moore knew he'd need to attend a university that was near enough to allow him to commute from home. But K-State soon became more than a convenience.

"I had a chance to do a lot of different things in addition to competing for national scholarships. I really grew as a human being at K-State. I consider K-State my family," Moore said.

The support Moore experienced during the application process for the Truman Scholarship was widespread, from his closest mentor, political science professor Dale Herspring, to Judy Lynch in the Academic Assistance Center. Even his friends and classmates looked out for him.

"Sometimes I'd get the urge to go out on Saturday nights, and they would tell me I needed to go to the library and study," Moore laughed.

Moore, who had always dreamed of becoming a lawyer, found himself drawn to politics and foreign affairs. He went on to earn an M.S. in foreign services at Georgetown University. Moore is now a U.S. diplomat, specializing in economics. He is currently assigned to the U.S. Embassy in Managua, Nicaragua, where he helps U.S. citizens with property disputes that remain from the Sandinista Revolution of 1979 to 1990.

"I will always be thankful for the network I had at K-State. Professors, deans, administrators, advisors...the list goes on and on. When I felt like I was doing too much, they kept me going," Moore said.

# POTENTIAL AT WORK



*Patrice Holderbach on a hike at Firthush in Perthshire, Scotland (top), and during her time at K-State (bottom)*

## Patrice Holderbach

'06 Marshall Scholar

For Patrice Holderbach, '06 B.A. print journalism and international studies, the decision to go to K-State wasn't really a decision at all; it was an organic process, growing out of the campus workshops and events she attended as a high school student from Topeka.

"I didn't even think twice about it. There are so many great opportunities at K-State," Holderbach said.

Holderbach took advantage of many of those opportunities — she became editor in chief of the Kansas State Collegian, completed an internship in Washington, D.C., and participated in several community service projects.

In 2006, she was awarded a Marshall scholarship and traveled to the United Kingdom to continue her studies. After earning her master's in forced migration studies at Oxford University, Holderbach moved on to the University

of Edinburgh in Scotland, where she'll earn her second master's in creative writing. She is currently writing a novel, set in western Kansas.

"Kanorado Falls and the Sunflower Child" tells the story of how a rural community creatively moves forward after learning that their local school will close. Though the work is fictional, it is inspired by an experience gained from a K-State Community Service Program summer project.

It has become increasingly apparent just how much the scholarship experience has changed her life.

"Without the scholarship, I probably would have just taken a job in journalism after graduation. But this experience has introduced me to such a wide variety of directions to take and right now, I'm rolling with it," Holderbach said.



# Mary Hale Tolar

'90 Rhodes Scholar, '88 Truman Scholar

For Mary Hale Tolar, '90 B.A. history and speech, winning the Truman scholarship, and later the Rhodes, was just as much about the process as it was the actual award. The application process forced her to think about who she was, and made her realize how invested K-State faculty were in their students.

"Even faculty who didn't know me were writing notes or criticism on my essay drafts and passing them back to me," Tolar said.

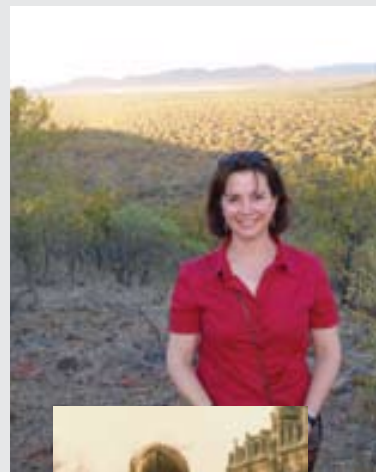
Following graduation, Tolar studied at Oxford University, where she read for a master of letters in modern history. When she returned to the U.S., Tolar worked as a scholarship advisor, then moved on to a position at the Truman Foundation. She returned to K-State in 2003, and is now the associate director for civic leadership

in Leadership Studies and Programs. She coordinates community service, service-learning and student civic engagement efforts at K-State.

"I spent most of my career working on how to develop scholars and citizens on a national level. I really wanted an opportunity to be more directly related to that process," Tolar said.

While K-State has bragging rights when it comes to the number of prestigious scholarships its students have earned, Tolar feels just as proud of the university's commitment to preparing students to apply.

"K-State has a real investment in the scholarship process as an educational process. Some institutions just see it as an award, but every student who goes through the application process is benefited by it, and the faculty here is vital to that," Tolar said.



*Mary Hale Tolar on a recent trip to Africa (top) and as a student at Oxford (bottom)*

**K-State is well-known for its number of national scholarship winners. What isn't so well-known is what those scholarship winners accomplish after they leave campus. The four following Arts and Sciences alumni brought recognition to their alma mater as students — now they're getting recognized in the working world.**

# Francis Fung

'91 Goldwater Scholar

By the time he was in his teens, Francis Fung, '92 B.S. mathematics, knew K-State as though it were his own backyard. He began taking college-level math courses at the age of 10, so when he became a full-time college student at the age of 15, the idea of heading off to a university wasn't really all that daunting.

"The entire mathematics department was very welcoming. Tom Muenzenberger was a very supportive advisor, and was willing to help with just about anything," Fung said. "And David Surowski was a great mentor."

When it came time for him to apply for the Goldwater Scholarship, Fung knew he had a wealth of knowledge to call upon outside of his own.

"Dr. Surowski had expertise in the subject I was researching for my application, and he was a great help," Fung said. "Looking back, that research laid the groundwork for the work I would later do for my dissertation."

Fung went on to earn a Ph.D. in mathematics from Princeton University. He is currently employed by Eduworks, where he serves as the technical lead for development of software to automatically summarize and index educational and training content in digital libraries, websites and documents, making that content easier to find and use.

"It's a very exciting, cutting-edge line of work. I certainly owe a lot of it to the solid foundation I got in my undergraduate education," Fung said.



*Francis Fung with his wife, Maria, and their children, Kaya, Dessislava, Zlatomir and Plamen (top), and at his 1992 commencement ceremony (bottom)*

# MIRROR IMAGE

*Assistant dean for Nationally Competitive Scholarships helps students see themselves in a whole new light*

**J**im Hohenbary is nothing if not curious. And this inquisitive nature is indispensable in his role as assistant dean for Nationally Competitive Scholarships.

Hohenbary's official task is to prep students as they compete for prestigious scholarships as representatives of the university. He assists them in finding appropriate scholarships, refining their resumes, preparing their applications, and prepping for interviews.

But sometimes more than that, his job is to help students figure out what they want to do if they win the scholarship... or if they don't. To figure out what they want to do *in life*.

"I just ask questions that I really want to know the answer to...and don't necessarily expect that anybody knows the answer to," said Hohenbary, '95 M.A. English literature with an emphasis in creative writing.

"If a student is interested in fighting poverty, I might ask, 'So what causes poverty?' I think that if you want to end poverty, it's a question that you ought to know *an* answer to, even if it's not *the* answer."

As a 2006 Marshall Scholar, Patrice Holderbach — '06 B.A. print journalism and international studies — knows how puzzling and important those kinds of questions can be.

"He asks you some tough questions, and a lot of them are tougher than those you get asked at the interview rounds at the scholarship competitions," Holderbach said. "But it's very natural. He definitely makes you think about whether you're doing what you want to be doing."

For Hohenbary, prompting that introspection is as important as anything else he can offer students. And as a former social science and open option advisor in the College, he likes helping students explore who they want to be after they leave the school.



*Jim Hohenbary*

"If students only benefited if they won, I don't think my job would be very fun," he said. "But if you see that students who compete — win or lose — come out with a better sense of what their goals are, with a better sense of how to articulate where they're trying to go, then that's a win-win situation."

A win-win indeed. Since Hohenbary's work began in 2000, he has readied countless students for life after K-State, while helping the University produce 41 winners of the "big five" national scholarships — the Rhodes, Marshall, Truman, Goldwater and Udall. Since 1986, K-State leads the nation's public universities in the total number of winners of these impressive scholarships — 124, to be exact.

"Jim Hohenbary's contributions to K-State are immeasurable," said K-State president Jon Wefald.

"He fosters a level of academic excellence that serves the university very well, while empowering students to understand and sharpen their abilities. He enables our students and our university to shine on the national stage. The truth is that Jim Hohenbary is the best head coach and advisor of student scholarship candidates of any university in America today."

According to Hohenbary, several factors play into this scholarship success.

"You have to have good students to start with, and a university that provides good educational and extracurricular opportunities to those students. We clearly have that," he said.

"Beyond that, you need a broad faculty commitment to supporting students. Students don't win unless there are faculty willing to serve on selection panels and mock interview



panels, to provide strong letters of reference, and to provide good advice along the way.”

Then there’s Hohenbary’s part. Ask the students he’s worked with, and they credit him with a lot of their success, scholarship-related and otherwise.

While working with Michelle Higgins — 2008 Goldwater Scholar, and biochemistry and nutritional sciences major — Hohenbary offered a fresh perspective on her achievements in academics and research.

“I already knew what I had done, but he helped me look at it differently,” Higgins said. “It helped me win the Goldwater, but it also helped me evaluate my own experience in a way I hadn’t done before.”

Holderbach agrees that Hohenbary recognizes traits in students that they might otherwise overlook — inspiring them to succeed along the way.

“He has this ability to see things in students that they don’t even realize about themselves. He sees so much potential and he works so hard to make that become reality,” Holderbach said.

“I think the university owes him a lot — he’s done so much good for many, many students.”

“The truth is that Jim Hohenbary is the best head coach and advisor of student scholarship candidates of any university in America today.”

— K-State President Jon Wefald



*Hohenbary talks with a student about her future plans*



## Setting the Standard

Nancy Twiss, former special assistant to the provost for scholarships and Jim Hohenbary’s predecessor, knows exactly why she loved working with K-State scholarship students.

“They were just very stimulating and inspiring people,” said Twiss, ’74 M.S.

Twiss was at K-State from 1967 to the mid 1990s, and, like Hohenbary, moved naturally from academic advisor to scholarship advisor. As she took on more and more scholarship duties, she developed a profound respect for the scholarship process itself — and for what it could offer her students.

“The scholarship programs outline an invaluable kind of direction for students. They have to think about what they want to achieve after college. They have to look in the past to see what they have learned and contributed,” she said. “So they have to put the past, what they’re currently studying, and their future plans all together.”

Hohenbary, who inherited many of Twiss’ practices and ideas, credits her with drumming up university-wide support for scholarship students.

“What I have done in the job is really greatly indebted to the innovative efforts that Nancy Twiss put into place,” Hohenbary said. “She introduced to the campus that the scholarship process could be inherently valuable to students. She is the one who deserves a lot of credit for helping faculty get interested in the scholarship process.”

With an unwavering focus on her students’ personal success — both inside and outside the scholarship world — and the support of the university, Twiss helped build a tradition of national scholarship winners at K-State.

“None of that could have ever happened without the faculty,” she said. “And the administration was invariably supportive, even when students didn’t win. The emphasis was always on the kinds of professional contributions the students were going to make.”

For years following her time at K-State, Twiss traveled around the country, consulting with other universities and on behalf of scholarship programs directly. Now retired, she is still implicitly connected to the university — and to her former students.

Mary Hale Tolar worked with Twiss as a K-State student, winning a Truman in 1988 and a Rhodes in 1990.

“The one thing she did better than anybody I’ve ever met is that she asked really good questions,” Tolar said. “She had this ability to get beyond the surface, to get students to think critically and sift through why they enjoyed certain things they did. I consider her to be one of my early and great mentors.”



Wish  
you  
were  
here...

## Students use the summer to experience life abroad

The opportunity to see the world doesn't come along often. Not everyone gets a chance to walk among ancient ruins, or stand so close to original works of art that you can see the brush strokes. Traveling in a place that's halfway around the world from home is a rare event — an experience that changes you. To earn college credit for it is just icing on the cake.

During summer 2008, Arts and Sciences students had opportunities such as these. Four of them — James Barrick, Laura Koger, John Nordstrom and Kathryn Orłowski — made the long trip back across the Atlantic Ocean with pictures, keepsakes and lots of experiences to look back on. Now safely back at K-State and in the midst of yet another semester, the four wanderers share their experiences.





*Kathryn Orlowski (above), junior in advertising, in front of the school she attended in Aix-en-Provence, France (Institute for American Universities)*



*James Barrick (above) in front of the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, France, which he visited following six weeks of study in Prague, Czech Republic*



*John Nordstrom (above), senior in history and German, in front of Neuschwanstein Castle in Bavaria, Germany*



*Orlowski (left), a student of the French language, at the hill town of Bonnieux*

*Barrick (below, far left), senior in biology, met up with other K-State students halfway through his trip*



*Koger (opposite page) uses a clever vantage point at the Tower of Pisa in Pisa, Italy*



*Junior in theater Laura Koger (above, right) with classmates on a balcony overlooking Cinque Terre on the Italian Riviera*

*Nordstrom (below) stands amongst the carefully preserved ruins of the Coliseum in Rome, Italy*









# FIREPROOF

*Despite the devastation of the Nichols Hall fire 40 years ago, students eventually rallied to save The Castle, which stands tall today*

On December 13, 1968, the building that served as the collective voice of Kansas State University was left smoldering in the sharp winter air. Part of a series of acts of anti-war violence, an arson fire ripped through Nichols Hall, feeding on the creosote that had built up over decades of floor polishing.

Within half an hour of being ignited, it became clear that nothing in the building would be saved. Not the old grand piano that students heard crashing through the burning timbers to the basement. Not the sheets of music that evaporated as sparks and smoke into the freezing night sky. Not even the new transmitter and consoles recently purchased for the student radio station.

A life's work, recordings of past Landon Lectures, priceless stringed instruments, a student's livelihood — all irrevocably lost. But even though all that remained of the building for years to come was a charred shell, it was championed by students, rebuilt and made a lasting part of K-State history.

Originally built as a gymnasium to serve the university's growing need for a sports venue, Nichols Hall was completed in 1911 and included a basketball court, two swimming pools, and office space for the physical education and military science departments. But as the success of the university grew, so did the student population. The gymnasium was soon filled over capacity during basketball games. Students could be found cheering on the Wildcats from the gymnasium rafters.





*As reality set in, students gathered on the lawn in front of Nichols*



*A student fundraising effort to save Nichols drew a large crowd*

When Ahearn Fieldhouse was completed in 1950, Nichols Hall was taken over by the Department of Music, and was also used as storage for sheet music and instruments. The third floor had previously been remodeled to accommodate both university radio stations — KSAC and student-run KSDB.

The year 1968 saw a string of arson attempts on campus and around the city of Manhattan, as opposition against the Vietnam War increased among the student population. Radio and television professor emeritus and former KSAC announcer Ralph Titus remembers the atmosphere at K-State as being particularly volatile.

“They always thought KU had the radicals, but KU was a little slow in comparison as far as anti-war and civil rights protests went,” Titus said.

Most of the fires on campus had been set in places that would cause little damage — in trash cans, against buildings with stone walls — but on the night of

December 13, someone decided to make a bigger statement. An unknown arsonist pushed two heavy wooden tables against the large wooden doors of Nichols Hall, poured what was most likely gasoline over them, and lit them on fire. At first, onlookers didn’t seem to think it was much cause for worry.

“I got a call from one of our student employees who said, ‘Nichols is on fire, but it’s not very big; don’t worry about it,’” Titus said. “Thirty minutes later he called and said, ‘You can kiss Nichols good-bye.’”

People crowded together in the cold to watch the building go up in flames. Efforts to put out the fire were stymied by an inadequate supply of water on campus and unavailability of additional fire trucks.

“I was a sophomore that year, and I was at a party across the street at what had been the Ramada Inn, when someone came in and yelled that Nichols was on fire,” said David Littrell, distinguished professor of music.

The fire raged until everything inside Nichols Hall was gone, including a very valuable cello that had belonged to professor Warren Walker. The cello was made in 1720 by David Techler, and was not given up without a fight.

“(Warren) had a gas mask on and Case Bonebrake, the head of Facilities at that time, went up with him on the east

side of Nichols, and tried to get into his studio,” Littrell said. “They had the key in the door, but Bonebrake was overcome by smoke, so they had to go back down. After that, they wouldn’t let (Warren) go back up.”

For years after the fire, “The Castle” — as students fondly referred to it — remained nothing but a shell of stout masonry. The 1920s Steinway grand piano that had crashed through the burning floors lay in a heap of twisted wire and ivory in the basement for several years. And though the swimming pools were renovated not long after the fire, university administrators began to feel that the building had outlived its usefulness. The possibility of tearing it down raised the ire of students immediately.

The Castle Crusade, a fundraising and awareness campaign to save Nichols, began in the mid-1970s. Many local businesses supported the cause, including Kite’s, Auntie Mae’s Parlor and Varney’s, all of which are still prominent fixtures in Aggieville today.

In 1979, the Kansas Legislature tentatively recommended that the ruins of Nichols Hall be razed, with K-State President Duane Acker calling them “a monument to indecision,” and suggesting that part of the façade be left as a memorial. The student body’s reaction was swift, coalescing into a



*Every piece of sheet music within Nichols was lost; the “Wabash Cannonball,” which band director Phil Hewitt had taken home, was the only piece to survive*



massive protest in front of Anderson Hall. The chant, “Save Nichols,” was shouted as students brandished hastily made picket signs. It quickly became apparent to student leaders that the only way to “Save Nichols” was to get political.

Greg Musil was student body president during the time the building’s fate hung in the balance. He and fellow Student Governing Association members caravanned with a large group of concerned K-State students to the state capitol and pled their case to then Gov. John Carlin, himself a K-State alum.

“I think I shared the same feelings as other students — tearing that building down would be a mistake that K-State would come to regret for many years,” Musil said. “I took a lot of pride in the fact that every one of those students acted in a professional manner, allowing us to demonstrate our concerns in an intelligent and thoughtful way.”

The tenacity of the students, coupled with the results of a \$10,000 feasibility study, convinced both the university and the state legislature to allocate nearly

\$6 million to the reconstruction of Nichols Hall.

The reconstruction project began in 1983, with the intention of using the original stone walls that had become a local landmark. But engineers soon found that the walls were too weak to support a new structure. Since the preservation of the original masonry was a condition of the project, new walls were built within the existing shell, then attached to the inside. For this reason, the outer walls of Nichols Hall are nearly three feet thick.

Now home to K-State’s Department of Communication Studies, Theatre and Dance, the interior of Nichols Hall is bright and airy. Sunlight streams through the top of the atrium, highlighting the shades of blue in the mural on the east wall entitled “Student Achievement.” A trophy case on the south end holds an array of silver-plated speech and debate awards — a testament to the skill and eloquence of the students who won them. And situated near the front entrance is Nichols Theatre, where nearly 40 years ago, angry flames once climbed up the heavy wooden doors, and where



*Nichols Theatre audiences are captivated by annual dance programs and award-winning playwrights, such as K-State grad Nathan Jackson (above)*

audiences now gather to be entertained by the wit of a student actor or the grace of a young dancer. Not everyone who walks through the large front doors will realize the building’s past, but its history will live on within the castle-like walls.

*Special thanks to University Archives, Kansas State University*



## Crumbling Castle

Forty years ago, the stone walls of Nichols Hall survived a raging fire, but these days it’s becoming apparent that they didn’t escape the damage altogether. Though the building itself is structurally sound, the exterior stone walls are beginning to crumble.

It’s an issue that’s becoming more and more prevalent around campus. As state funding declines, so does the university’s ability to keep up with repairs. K-State is currently part of a state-funded deferred maintenance program that will help foot the bill for some of these issues.

Improvements to several campus buildings are slated to take place in the next five years. But, according to Abe Fattaey, university architect and director of Facilities Planning, much more needs to be done when it comes to preserving campus buildings with such historical significance.

“Buildings like Nichols and Anderson Hall are important to the heritage of the university,” Fattaey said. “It’s because of what happened with Nichols Hall that makes saving its appearance so vital.”

# FRIENDS AND ALUMNI

## 1930s

**Donald Parrish**, Manhattan, Kansas, '35 B.S. industrial chemistry, '38 M.S. chemistry, '49 Ph.D. chemistry, is retired after 25 years at K-State. He is involved with various volunteer projects and historical publications.

**Charlotte (Buchmann) Stagner**, Clay Center, Kansas, '35 B.S. journalism, '63 M.S. secondary education, is retired. She writes items for the local newspaper.

**Vernon Stevens**, Salina, Kansas, '37 B.S. general science, is a retired lieutenant colonel of the United States Army. His wife, Jean, passed away in February 2007.

**Jean G. Adams**, Tucson, Arizona, '39 B.S. general science, is retired.

## 1940s

**Duane Sawhill**, Yarmouth Port, Massachusetts, '44 B.S. chemistry and '48 M.S. chemistry, is retired after more than 33 years with the Olin Corporation. He holds nine U.S. patents and served as a job-consulting scientist.

**JoAnn (Harjung) Edwards**, Manhattan, Kansas, '45 B.S. general arts and sciences, is retired, but still holds an assistant funeral director's license. She moved to Meadowlark Hills Retirement Community in 2007.

**William Cook**, Shawnee, Kansas, '47 B.S. physical education, is retired after 35 years in the U.S. armed forces. He is a therapist in physical medicine and rehabilitation with the Veteran's Administration. He is a widower and has three daughters, one of whom graduated from K-State with a degree in education.

**Joan Aldous**, South Bend, Indiana, '48 B.S. sociology, is the William R. Kenan professor of sociology at the University of Notre Dame, where she was the first woman to become a full professor. She also founded the gender studies program at the University of Notre Dame.

**Roger Swanson**, Orlando, Florida, '49 B.S. journalism and mass communications, is a retired travel writer. He has visited all 50 states and 103 foreign countries.

## 1950s

**Jean (Tyson) Saum**, Lakewood, Colorado, '52 B.S. journalism (technology), is retired from a varied career as a newspaper reporter, press secretary for a Washington, D.C., congressman, and public information specialist. She has received writing awards from the National Federation of Press Women and the Colorado Press Association. Jean served eight years on the Lakewood, Colorado, city council.

**Allen S. Mason**, Santa Fe, New Mexico, '54 B.S. chemistry, is the vice president for Sumner Associates. He is a retired brigadier general of the United States Air Force, and is also retired from the Los Alamos National Laboratory. He and his wife, Joan, have a son, Kenneth.

**Hal Brown**, Wichita, Kansas, '56 B.S. geology, is retired after 50 years in the oil business. He is involved with

the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, SGE and the Oklahoma City Geological Society. Hal is also an avid follower of K-State football. He volunteers with the Sedgwick County Zoo and the American Red Cross.

**Meredith (Brink) Main**, Saginaw, Michigan, '58 B.S. music education, earned her M.A. in elementary mathematics from Central Michigan University in 1979. She is retired after five years as a vocal music instructor and 29 years as a kindergarten teacher. She is a music instructor and substitute with at-risk pre-school kids.

**Richard Cooper**, Lamar, Missouri, '59 B.S. speech, is married to Mae and recently published his second book, "Hickory Bob: The Bob Harmon Story." His first book, "Hunting? Don't Forget the Toilet Paper!," a memoir of nearly 40 years of game hunting with a long-time friend, was published in 2000. Both books are available in the K-State Alumni Association Library.

## 1960s

**Carolee (Weisser) Dahl**, Topeka, Kansas, '60 B.A. radio and television, retired from WIBW-TV AM-FM in 1997 after 37 years. Her husband, Ellis, is a 1960 KSU alumnus. They have three sons, two of whom are K-State graduates, and eight grandchildren. They have regularly attended KSU sporting events for nearly 50 years.

**Linnea (Biles) White**, Treynor, Iowa, '64 B.S. sociology and '74 Ph.D. education, retired in 2003 following a 13-year career teaching counseling at Creighton University, in Omaha. She manages an orchard of 300 fruit trees. Her son, David, is a chef in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

**Len Marcus**, LaGrangeville, New York, '65 B.S. zoology, is retired after a 40-year career as a teacher and computer director. He is involved in local politics and consultant work, and has been married for 30 years.

**Caroline (Miller) Thorington**, Bethesda, Maryland, '65 B.A. art and humanities, earned her M.F.A. from George Washington University in 1975. She received the 2007 Ture Bengtz Memorial Prize and held her September 2007 art show, "Drawn from the Crowd," at the Montpelier Cultural Arts Center in Laurel, Maryland.

**Dennis Hughes**, Hendersonville, Tennessee, '67 B.A. religion, is retired.

**Patrick Paske**, Augusta, Kansas, '67 B.S. physical education, is a retired colonel of the United States Army who has taught at Derby High School for 36 years. His sons, Scott and Drew, both graduated from K-State.

**Dale E. Peterson**, Keller, Texas, '68 B.A. geography, is a retired lieutenant colonel of the Kansas Air National Guard, and a retired American Airlines captain. He and his wife, Gloria, who graduated from K-State in '72, have one daughter, Alexandra.

**Janice (Thoms) Bruchdorfer**, Washington, Missouri, '69 M.A. speech, earned her Ph.D. from KU. She is retired after an award-winning career in special education for the speech- and language-impaired. She is an education consultant for the autistic or impaired. She volunteers with St. John's Mercy Auxiliary and Loving Hearts.



Please return the card inserted in this issue so we can update people on your life since graduation!

**Sheila (Britt) D'Agostino**, Pionciana, Florida, '69 B.A. history, is retired from a federal government position. She works part-time at Disney World, and just celebrated 30 years of marriage to her husband, John.

**Janie (Rhyne) Ganstine**, Colorado Springs, Colorado, '69 B.A. humanities and '73 M.S. education, is retired from her career as a teacher.

**Beth (Andersen) Smith**, Richardson, Texas, '69 B.A. modern languages, teaches German at Plano Senior High. She received the Outstanding German Educator Award from the American Association of Teachers of German (AATG) in 2006, and has served as president for the AATG and the Texas Foreign Language Association. She and her husband, Terry, have a daughter named Kim, and two grandchildren: Max and Eva.

### 1970s

**Peggy A. (Thompson) Mullen**, Kirwin, Kansas, '70 B.S. biology, is a physical therapist for Hegis Therapy in Kansas and Nebraska. Peggy is married to Kirby Mullen and has three sons and six grandchildren. Both she and her husband volunteer with the local church.

**Arthur Pelletier**, Dover, New Hampshire, '70 B.A. psychology and '72 M.S. education, is an archival assistant. He is married to fellow K-State alumna, Marsha (Mingle) Pelletier, '71 B.S. home economics and '72 M.S. education, who is a family/consumer science teacher. Their son, John, is a sophomore at The State University of New York.

**Ronald Dugger**, Topeka, Kansas, '72 B.A. modern languages and '75 B.S. business, worked for the Kansas Department of Labor for 32 years.

**Bonnie L. (Brettell) Manuel**, Manhattan, Kansas, '72 B.A. modern languages (Spanish and French) and '02 B.S. education (ESL), teaches Spanish at Manhattan High School and has been named secondary teacher of the year for USD 383. She is married to Col. Kent Manuel ('74), and has three children and one grandson.

**James McCallum**, Houston, Texas, '72 B.A. history, is a computer consultant.

**Gynile E. Grigg**, Tribune, Kansas, '73 B.S. physical education, is retired. She is a Southwest Kansas Area Agency on Aging board member, plays in the community band, and is a hospice and domestic violation volunteer.

**Cindy L. (Thies) Slagle**, San Antonio, Texas, '73 B.S. physical education and health, is the lead adapted physical education specialist for the North East Independent School District. She was named the Texas Adapted Educator of the Year in 2006 and the Southern District AAPERD Adapted Educator of the Year in 2007. She is married to Tim Slagle ('74), and has two sons, Justin and Travis.

**Randal R. Collett**, Jefferson City, Missouri, '74 B.S. sociology, is Embark's director of business sales in the Kansas-Missouri region. He earned his M.P.A. from the University of Missouri in 1988. His daughter, Carrie, graduated from K-State in 1998.

**Virginia "Ginny" (Reling) Young**, Fort Collins, Colorado, '74 B.S. recreation and '78 M.S. recreation, is an area manager and independent consultant for Arbonne International. She has two daughters; Inga is an air traffic controller in Sacramento, California, and Nicole is press secretary to U.S. Representative Jerry Moran.

**Mark Schlicht**, Lenexa, Kansas, '76 B.S. economics, is the manager of contract administration for ESI Contracting Group in Kansas City, Missouri. He and his wife, Carol, have two children.

**Douglas Rupe**, Wichita, Kansas, '77 B.S. radio and television, is the senior vice president of development services for Value Place Hotels. He has two sons; one is a freshman at K-State, and one is a junior at KU.

**Kathryn (Weiss) Naples**, Granby, Colorado, '78 B.A. modern languages, is the district media specialist and a Reality Spanish instructor for East Grand Schools. She plays flute in an Irish band and spent summer 2007 doing mission work in northern Nicaragua.

### 1980s

**Robbin (Waldner) Cole**, Manhattan, Kansas, '83 B.A. social work, earned her master's in social work from the University of Kansas in 1987. She is the executive director of Pawnee Mental Health Services.

**Sam S. Kepfield**, Hutchinson, Kansas, '86 B.A. history and political science, is an attorney.

**Charles H. Lagerbom**, Belfast, Maine, '86 B.A. history, earned his M.A. in history and archaeology from the University of Maine in 1991. He is an educator and has worked in Antarctica. Charles was featured in an earlier issue of Connections.

**Michael W. Riley**, Hiawatha, Kansas, '87 B.S. political science, is the president of the M&J Bank trust services division, and serves as a municipal judge. He is also the regional president for Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity.

**Barb (Ferrer) Gardetto**, North Richland Hills, Texas, '88 B.S. social work, earned her M.S. in social work from University of Texas at Arlington in 1996.

**Rodney Wilson**, Wichita, Kansas, '88 B.S. economics, earned his M.B.A. from Wichita State in 1995. He is the director of program management for Precision Pattern, Inc. His wife, Denise (Rohloff) Wilson ('88 B.S. finance), earned her M.B.A. from Wichita State in 1995. They have a son, Corey.

### 1990s

**Teresa (Rudolph) Dunagan**, Olathe, Kansas, '91 B.A. speech communication, is an occupational therapist at Lakeview Village in Lenexa. She is married and has three children.

**Elyse (Schnyder) Hutchinson**, New Castle, Colorado, '91 B.F.A. fine arts, started her own design firm, Elyse Hutchinson Design. She is married with two children.

continued on back page

# FRIENDS AND ALUMNI continued

**Catherine (Barnes) Porterfield**, Chesapeake Beach, Maryland, '91 B.A. political science, is a former Air Force Office of Special Investigations special agent. She serves as a special agent for the U.S. government.

**Dolly Wittman**, Quenemo, Kansas, '91 B.S. journalism and mass communications, is the sales and marketing director for the Better Business Bureau of the greater Kansas City area.

**Deena (Hyson) Bailey**, Wichita, Kansas, '94 B.S. political science, works as employment and labor counsel with Cargill's law department.

**Wes Ray**, Madison, Wisconsin, '94 B.A. social work, serves as the director for the office of management and budget division of juvenile corrections.

**Patrick Clevenger**, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, '96 B.S. physics, is an engineer-in-training at GAI Consultants, Inc. He is a member of Chi Epsilon, and married Alia Pusturino in May 2008.

**Rhonda (Lee) Davis**, Memphis, Tennessee, '97 B.A. journalism (electronic media), is a senior assignment editor and weather producer at WHBQ in Memphis.

**Barbara Oplinger**, Jewell, Kansas, '97 B.S. social work, serves as house mother at Farm House fraternity and was formerly the executive director of Kansas Foundation of Ag in the Classroom. Three of her five children, as well as her husband, are K-State graduates.

## 2000s

**Elaine (Egan) Carson**, Wichita, Kansas, '00 B.S. life science, earned her M.B.A. from Newman University.

**Rachel Crane**, Chicago, Illinois, '02 journalism (advertising), is a senior research analyst at AC Nielsen BASES. She is also an actress and performs improv in the Chicago area. Rachel married Ted Howard in 2004.

**Steven "Matt" Killingsworth**, Lawrence, Kansas, '02 B.S. journalism, works as a fundraising consultant for Pennington & Co. in Lawrence, Kansas.

**Nathaniel Williams**, Sacramento, California, '03 B.A. mathematics and '05 M.A. speech communication, is employed by Sherwin-Williams Paint Co., and is married to Lindsey.

**Desiree Gerstenkorn**, Shawnee, Kansas, '05 B.A. journalism and '06 mass communications, is a marketing coordinator for Kiewit Power Engineers, Co. in Lenexa, Kansas. She volunteers with Junior Achievement and married Jonathan Gaul in April 2008.

**Mariah Kruse**, Kansas City, Missouri, '05 B.S. life science and B.A. modern languages (Spanish) with a secondary major in international studies, is a solution delivery consultant for Cerner Corporation.

**Paige Leitnaker**, Lenexa, Kansas, '05 B.A. psychology, is the managing director of Operation Iraqi Children.

**Jeremy Parker**, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, '05 B.A. music composition, is a high school English teacher in Baton Rouge.

**James Rivers, Jr.**, Alma, Kansas, '05 B.A. history, earned his M.A. in heritage resources from Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana. He received the Byrd Heritage Award from NSU in 2007 and was also given the Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Award.

**Laura Wagner**, Lawrence, Kansas, '05 B.A. modern languages (French) and B.A. psychology, is the master of urban planning for the University of Kansas. She is also a historic preservation specialist with the Kansas Historical Society. She married fellow alumnus, Justin Waggoner ('05 B.S. business), in May 2007.

**Rebecca Teel**, Lenexa, Kansas, '06 B.S. journalism (journalism and mass communications), is a research and development analyst for Penton Media. She married Jared Harpole in November 2007.



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