

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Tony Guy: Advocate, athlete, academic



Growing up in the inner city of Baltimore, Tony Guy never dreamed he would find his way to Kansas. But since the summer of 1978, that's exactly where Tony has raised his family and built his career.

As a highly recruited, McDonald's High School All-American basketball player, Guy was invited by Bob Hill, former men's basketball assistant coach, to come to the University of Kansas for a visit.

"I was an urban kid; I grew up surrounded by the city," Guy said. "When I first walked around campus — seeing the wide-open spaces,

rolling hills, and beautiful buildings — I just fell in love with this place."

Not long after arriving at KU, Guy realized that being a student athlete came with its own set of challenges. Facing failing grades during his first semester, Guy realized he needed to make some adjustments — and in a hurry. In a chance meeting, Guy was introduced to Channette Alexander, a librarian at Watson Library. When Alexander told Guy to come by and visit her at Watson sometime, he kindly responded, "That's not on my radar." Life in the dorm only got louder, however, and Guy found himself in search of a quiet space.

"The library ended up becoming a refuge for me — a place to get away from all the noise and distraction. I went into the carrels, sat down, and I could almost hear myself think," Guy said.

“ *The library opened up an entirely new world for me.* ”
— Tony Guy

Realizing the benefits KU Libraries had to offer, Guy brought the entire basketball team over for a tour of Watson, where Alexander taught them how to operate the microfilm machines and offered a handful of research tips.

"Channette was the one who inspired me to come to the library, and even today I'm not sure she understands the major impact that she had on my life," said Guy. "I'm so thankful that she was there for me back then — and continues to be part of my life today."

Four decades later, Alexander continues to work for KU Libraries as the operations manager for the Spahr Engineering Library, and her passion for helping students is as strong as ever. She and Guy have maintained their close friendship throughout the years, talking often and sharing life updates.

(continued inside left)

Shinn Leaders and Innovators recognized at Kenneth Spencer Research Library

In late October, KU Libraries were pleased to host a special exhibition featuring items from the African American Experience Collections at Kenneth Spencer Research Library. An exhibition reception was held as part of the university's Homecoming week and the biennial reunion of KU's Black Alumni Network, honoring six Jayhawk alumni who received the Mike and Joyce Shinn Leaders and Innovators Award for their contributions to the community.

The 2019 award winners were Katherine Conway-Turner, Jyarland Daniels, Bonita Gooch, Eva McGhee, Ivory Nelson, and Norma Norman.

In 2017, Joyce Shinn — whose late husband, Mike Shinn, was a KU alumnus, athlete, and longtime supporter of the university — made a major gift commitment to KU Libraries in support of Spencer Research Library. ■

“Continuing to give back to KU — an institution that was influential to Mike, and that Mike similarly influenced — continues to be important to me.”

— Joyce Shinn



Chancellor Doug Girod (center) joins 2019 award winners Norma Norman, Ivory Nelson, Eva McGhee, and Jyarland Daniels (left to right).





A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

One of the best things about working at KU Libraries is seeing the impact that our faculty, staff, and spaces have made on every person who has spent time on the Hill. This connection is evident whenever I meet with alumni and friends, who talk often about how the libraries served as a focal point during their education and in their continuing relationship with the university.

Nowhere is this shared passion for libraries more evident than among those who serve on the KU Libraries Board of Advocates — a dedicated team of individuals who support, advise, and advocate for the work of our libraries and librarians. This essential group of alumni, friends, and faculty members represents a variety of perspectives on the work of libraries. And they all share a fervent commitment to the idea that libraries can change lives. Our Board of Advocates personifies and strengthens the sense that the libraries are one aspect of life at KU that stays with Jayhawks forever.

In this issue of *Bibliophile*, you will see a range of stories that highlight the remarkable advocacy and work happening at KU Libraries during the fall 2019 semester.

Sincerely,

Kevin L. Smith
Dean of Libraries

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Tony Guy (continued from cover)



Guy played four years under men's basketball coach Ted Owens and graduated from the university in 1982 with a bachelor's degree in personnel administration. Owens wanted every member of his team to be a champion on the court, but also off the court after their basketball careers ended.

In 2018, Guy became a member of the KU Libraries Board of Advocates. After the libraries had given so much to him, Guy thought it was only right to give back.

"I called Coach Owens to tell him I had joined the library Board of Advocates and he said 'Way to go!' He just thought it was great," said Guy. "Me being a library advocate might seem like a stretch for someone looking in from the outside, but it's not a stretch at all. The libraries helped me become the first person in my family to graduate."

Guy and his wife, Jerri, are active and engaged members of the Kansas City community, where Guy has worked as an insurance agent for 33 years. ■

Ringle Conservation Intern: Julia Davila Coppedge

Thanks to a 2013 estate gift left by David and Stata Norton Ringle, KU Libraries are fortunate to hire a Ringle Conservation Intern each year — offering a recent graduate student the opportunity to treat items from Kenneth Spencer Research Library.

The 2019 Ringle Conservation Intern was Julia Davila Coppedge, a second-year master's student in information studies at the University of Texas at Austin. The first Ringle intern to work in the audiovisual preservation unit at Spencer Research Library, Coppedge worked with videotapes from Lawrence-focused public access programming. During her time, she gathered descriptive data and digitized tapes of "As Time Goes By," a local program created by and for senior citizens in Douglas County that aired from 1992-2002.

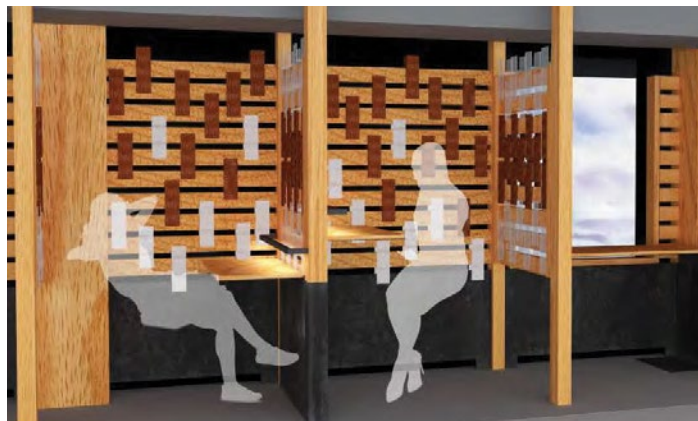
"I received invaluable experience working in the robust conservation department at KU Libraries," said Coppedge. "The knowledge I gained from working with the faculty and staff at Spencer Research Library will be something I refer back to in the future." ■

Updates in progress for beloved Watson study carrels

For decades, KU Libraries have created adaptable study spaces that support student success. Our beloved carrels, the cozy study nooks within Watson Library's stacks, remain an exceptionally popular location for studious Jayhawks who hope to minimize distractions.

After more than 50 years of service, the study carrels are receiving essential upgrades — thanks to our friends and some very dedicated students. In 2017, KU Libraries partnered with KU's School of Architecture & Design to complete a redesign and installation of new carrels in Watson's third floor west stacks. Now, that continued partnership is allowing students in an Arc/D design-build course the opportunity to work on another real-world project — a start-to-finish upgrade of Watson's fourth floor west stacks.

KU Libraries designated a limited number of Watson Library study carrels as naming opportunities, which will help fund the renovations. Naming a carrel allows you the unique opportunity to secure your place in history right here on the KU campus. A special plaque will be placed in each named space to recognize your gift and its intent — from carrying on the legacy of your family or honoring a beloved professor to recognizing a student approaching their graduation.



For more information on the carrels or to secure your named space, please contact Christy McWard, executive director of the Office of Communications & Advancement for KU Libraries, at cmcward@ku.edu or 785-864-0092. ■

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Continuing to grow the Kansas Collection



The Kansas Collection at Kenneth Spencer Research Library contains a vast array of manuscripts, photographs, blueprints, and newspapers that gives students and researchers a look into the true “Kansas experience.”

Recently taking on the role of Kansas Collection curator, Letha Johnson is familiar with the collection's holdings — covering the Kansas Territorial period to the present. Since 2008, Johnson worked as an associate archivist at Spencer Research Library. A native Kansan, Johnson has master's degrees in American history and library science from Emporia State University, as well as a bachelor's degree in American history from Washburn University.

Adding to a seamless transition for Johnson are her qualifications as a Certified Archivist from the Academy of Certified Archivists and a Digital Archives Specialist from the Society of American Archivists.

In her new role, Johnson succeeds Sheryl Williams, the former Kansas Collection curator, who retired in 2019 after 40 years of service to KU Libraries. Williams and Johnson taught class sessions together, and from this partnership, Johnson learned the value of engaging students with library materials.

“I am really excited about getting to know and continuing to build the Kansas Collection,” said Johnson. “In this role, I want to help people understand the very real value of looking back at the experiences of everyday Kansans and how those experiences still have an impact on and contribute to today's world.” ■



A NOTE FROM LAURA MEYER, KU ENDOWMENT

After seeing success the previous two years, the University of Kansas will hold its third annual day of giving, *One Day. One KU.*, on February 20, 2020. As a proud partner with KU Libraries, I am hopeful we will have your support!

One Day. One KU. is a 24-hour giving campaign that aims to bring together alumni and friends from across the world to support KU by making gifts that help advance the mission and strengthen programs at the university.

As is the case with many university departments, KU Libraries are in need of private donor funding to support strategic priorities that ensure student success and lift the research profile of the university. It is only with the help of friends and donors like you that we are able to advance research, teaching, and learning on the Hill and beyond.

I encourage you to learn more about supporting the libraries at lib.ku.edu/giving or by contacting me directly, using the information below.

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.

Bibliophile is published in print and online semi-annually by the University of Kansas Libraries for alumni, friends, and benefactors. Printing is paid for with private contributions.

Dean of Libraries – Kevin L. Smith
Executive Editor – Christy McWard
Editor – Courtney Foat
Content – Leah Hallstrom
Photography – LeAnn Meyer
Design and production – Nikki Pirch

"Unrivaled: Pay Heed to KU Traditions"



The new traveling exhibit from KU Libraries, "Unrivaled: Pay Heed to KU Traditions," offers an immersive look at unique Jayhawk traditions. From the university's founding in 1865 to the present day, rich traditions keep KU's legacy strong on the Hill and beyond.

In partnership with the KU Alumni Association, KU Libraries are proud to bring this delightful exhibit to Jayhawks around the country by featuring its display at hosted alumni events such as pre-game gatherings, watch parties, and networking functions. Join us to view rare, historic materials from decades past, including iconic memorabilia and legendary photographs — all from the University Archives.

KU Libraries play a key role in preserving the distinctive traditions of our celebrated university, and we aim to reconnect friends and alumni with campus by showcasing our "Unrivaled" exhibit at events nationwide. We look forward to sharing our timeless history and traditions in a city near you. For a list of events, please visit kualumni.org/unrivaled. ■



LIBRARIES THROWBACK



KU Libraries' Throwback: KU legends live on in our hearts forever. The legacy of Max Falkenstein, longtime "Voice of the Jayhawks" who passed away in July 2019 at the age of 85, will never be forgotten. Image courtesy of KU University Archives: February 4, 1996.

Follow us on social media to keep up with all throwbacks and highlights.

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