Contents

List of Abbreviations vii
List of Illustrations ix
Foreword, Bernadette Gray-Little xv
Preface and Acknowledgments, Kim Cary Warren and John L. Rury xvii

Introduction: Decades of Transformation: Fifty Years of KU History, John L. Rury 1

PART 1: LEADERSHIP AND POLITICS

1 “Lift the Chorus Ever Onward”: Leading the University, Susan B. Twombly 43
2 The University and Government: Managing Politics, Burdett Loomis 81

PART 2: TEACHING AND RESEARCH

3 The Idea of a Liberal Education: Continuity and Change, James Woelfel 117
4 The Global Dimension, J. Megan Greene 155
5 Forging a University Research Mission, Joshua L. Rosenbloom 181

PART 3: STUDENTS, PROTEST, AND SPORTS

6 KU’s Tumultuous Years: Thirty Years of Student Activism, 1965–1995, William M. Tuttle, Jr. 227
CONTENTS

7 A Seat at the Table: Student Leadership, Student Services, and the New Empowerment, Kathryn Nemeth Tuttle 263

8 “Crimson and the Blue”: An Era of Athletic Achievement, Francis B. “Bernie” Kish 309

Notes 357

Contributors 411

Index 415
# Abbreviations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KUEA</td>
<td>University of Kansas Endowment Association</td>
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<td>KUMC</td>
<td>University of Kansas Medical Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>LHS</td>
<td>Lawrence High School</td>
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<td>LJW</td>
<td><em>Lawrence Journal-World</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>OIRP</td>
<td>Office of Institutional Research and Planning</td>
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<tr>
<td>ROTC</td>
<td>Reserve Officer Training Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>UDK</td>
<td><em>University Daily Kansan</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Illustrations

Front Matter
Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little xvi
Clifford Griffin xix

Introduction
Jayhawk Boulevard facing Bailey Hall, 1960s 2
Kansas Union fire, spring 1970 5
New Fraser Hall under construction, 1966 7
A medical lecture in 1972 8
Two students at a 1972 football game 9
Marvin Hall in 1970 11
Greeting prospective students at the Regents Center, 1970s 12
George H. W. Bush visiting campus in 1972 14
Computer science lab, Snow Hall, 1980s 16
Anschutz Science Library under construction, 1989 17
Pedestrian plaza in front of Wescoe Hall, popularly known as “Wescoe Beach” 19
Hoch Auditorium burning, June 15, 1991 20
Quilting exhibition at Spencer Museum, 1981 21
Festive moment during 2003 commencement 22
Hillary Clinton speaking with reporters on Campanile Hill, October 1992 23
Coach Roy Williams speaks with players, 1995 24
Chancellor Hemenway with Max Falkenstien 25
School of Medicine, Wichita campus, entrance 27
Students at 2002 commencement 29
View from inside Joe’s Bakery, 1970s 32
Spring blooms in front of Stauffer-Flint 35
North campus maintains a park-like character 37
Chapter 1
The KU campus, walking down from Daisy Hill in 1963
Chancellor Wescoe at athletic event
Four chancellors, 1974
Cleanup at the Kansas Union, 1970
Chancellor Chalmers at home with his family, 1969
Chancellor Chalmers with Jayhawks, 1971
Raymond Nichols
Governor Robert Docking and Chancellor Nichols
Chancellor Archie Dykes
Chancellor Dykes speaking at a community event
Delbert Shankel
Chancellor Budig with Lt. Governor Shelby Smith, 1983
Chancellor Budig at the Regents Center, 1983
Lied Center under construction, 1991
Chancellor Hemenway helps with move-in day, 1999
Chancellor Hemenway at 2002 commencement
KU leaders in Johnson County, 1998
Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little at her inauguration
Four chancellors, 2009

Chapter 2
Governor Docking and Mary Docking with Chancellor Murphy
Pierre Salinger, press secretary to Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, 1972
Charles Oldfather, professor of law, playing guitar
Chancellor Wescoe with Governor Docking and Provost George Wolf, 1969
Robert Kennedy campaigning at KU, March 18, 1968
Exterior damage to Kansas Union, 1970
Governor Robert Bennett visiting a KU class, 1973
Chancellor Dykes with Mayor Richard Walsh of Kansas City, Kansas
Chancellor Budig with legislators at KU luncheon, 1988
Governor John Carlin meeting with students in 1984
Illustrations

Chancellor Budig and Governor Joan Finney, 1992  101
Chancellor Budig with Governor Mike Hayden, 1990  103
Big Jay visits the legislature, 1975  105
Former president Bill Clinton, Senator Bob Dole, and
  Chancellor Hemenway, 2004  107
Former president Jimmy Carter at the Dole Institute dedication  109
Chancellor Gray-Little with Governor Sam Brownback  111

Chapter 3

Wescoke Hall under construction, 1973  118
Washington Post columnist Bob Woodward, 21  119
Professor Francis Heller, 1962  125
Nunemaker Center  128
Spencer Research Library, 1967  129
Professor Michael Young  129
Dean Waggoner in repose by Potter Lake, 1957  131
Jerry and Janice Lewis with Bob and Bev Billings  132
Allan Ginsberg reads selections from his book Howl  134
Itzhak Perlman, 1990  134
Gwendolyn Brooks, 1991  135
Kurt Vonnegut, Jr., 1995  135
Angela Davis, 2012  135
Marilyn Brady and Deborah Dandridge, history students, 1985  139
Deanell Tacha, swearing-in ceremony, 1985  142
Newly reconstructed Budig Hall, Hoch Auditoria, in 1997  143
Students studying at Anschutz Library, 1990  146
Professor Phillip Paludan and seminar visit Oak Hill Cemetery  148
Undergraduates in class, 1999  149

Chapter 4

KU student at Goree Island, Senegal, Africa, 2013  158
The Chinese Student Association celebrates Lunar New Year,
  February 2010  159
Professor Charlie Stansifer and Óscar Arias Sánchez, former
  Costa Rican president, 1994  162
George Waggoner in Cumaná, Venezuela  162
Students, villagers, and a KU professor in Guatemala, 2013  164
Elie Wiesel, 1988 165
Jehan Sadat, 1986 166
Archbishop Desmond Tutu, 1999 167
Study abroad in Costa Rica, 1970s 169
Tibetan students in the 2010-2011 school year 176
Students making dumplings, Lunar New Year, 2014 179

Chapter 5
Burt Hall nuclear reactor, 1965 182
Haworth Hall under construction, 1968 184
Youngberg Hall, 1962 186
Professor Richard Schiefelbusch with a group of children, 1987 189
Research project at KU Bureau of Child Research 191
Children at the Juniper Gardens Project in Kansas City 192
Senator Bob Dole, Chancellor Budig, and Dean Frances Horowitz at Dole Center for Human Development construction site 192
Takeru Higuchi, 1977 195
Professor Higuchi inspects new lab equipment 196
Howard Mossberg, 1983 198
Richard Moore 199
Prasad Gogineni 200
Medical technologist reads a culture plate to identify bacterial growth, 1989 202
William J. Argersinger, 1979 204
Frances Horowitz, 1989 205
Andrew P. Debicki, 1990 208
Watkins Home, 1986 210
The Hall Center, 2015 211
Robert Barnhill, 1988 215
James A. Roberts, 1996 219
Steven F. Warren, 2010 220

Chapter 6
Fair housing march, 1964 229
Sit-in at Strong Hall, 1965 230
BSU homecoming queen and attendants, 1969 233
ILLUSTRATIONS

Copies of *UDK* in Potter Lake, 1970 234
Students holding fire hose at Kansas Union fire, April 1970 236
Vietnam protest march, 1966 237
National Vietnam Moratorium Day, 1969 239
Protesters with crosses in front of Strong Hall, 1969 241
Protest on Campanile Hill, 1972 243
Line of Lawrence police officers, 1970 245
Protesters disrupt ROTC parade, 1969 247
Poster for gay liberation dance in the Kansas Union in 1973 249
Freedom Coalition members, 1990s 252
El Salvador protest table, 1980s 255
Divestment from South Africa protest, 1979 258
Anti–Ku Klux Klan demonstrators, 1988 260

Chapter 7

Dr. Emily Taylor and AWS president 265
Spring 1969 AWS officer candidates 266
Daisy Hill dorms 269
Children at Hilltop Child Care Center, 1973 272
Women’s rights demonstration with anti-abortion protester 275
Student speaking to crowd on student rights, 1968 279
Ballot boxes for Student Senate elections, 1987 281
Chancellor Chalmers with David Awbrey and Marilyn Bowman, 1969 282
Student Senate meeting, 1981 283
Rock Chalk Revue, 1977 286
KU Info, 1989 288
KU on Wheels, 1975 289
David Ambler and students, 1993 290
Tom Davis-Bissing looks at a bulletin board in Wescoe Hall 292
Nivene Young listens to lectures at Rainbow House, 1989 293
Advising Center, 1999 295
A student feeds the “Whomper,” 1971 297
A student stands in front of the Vietnam Memorial 299
An adult student in the library at Edwards Campus 301
Center for Community Outreach activity 305
Inside the Ambler Student Recreation Fitness Center 306
Chapter 8

Fans and “Beware of the Phog” banner, 1995 310
Bud Stallworth at play, 1971 313
Danny Manning pumps in 42 points against SMSU, 1987 315
Introducing Roy Williams, October 1989 317
Coach Bill Self, 2007 319
Gale Sayers, the “Kansas Comet” 321
Bobby Douglas runs against Penn State in 1969 Orange Bowl 321
Nolan Cromwell sets to throw against Kansas State, 1975 323
Coach Mark Mangino and 2008 Orange Bowl team 325
Softball, 1987 327
Coach Washington and her team, 1999 328
Lynette Woodard, 1979 330
Angela Goodrich pull-up jumper 331
Billy Mills 333
Jim Ryun 335
Coach Bob Timmons 337
Andrea Geubelle 338
Diamond Dixon 339
2013 KU women’s national championship track team 340
Tammy Thomas, swimming 342
Chancellor Budig with 1982 baseball team 344
Fans line up for tickets at Allen Fieldhouse 347
Coach Ray Bechard, volleyball, 2013 351
Band Day, 1986 355
Foreword
BERNADETTE GRAY-LITTLE

The red roofs of the University of Kansas appear on the horizon long before you reach Lawrence.

Sitting atop Mount Oread, the campus stands as a monument to the determination of the state’s earliest settlers to build for the future. Even as the land was riven by civil war, they knew Kansas could not truly prosper without a university. And as a “city on a hill,” our university has also reflected both society’s hopes and its fears. The changes experienced by our nation and world over the past five decades have been experienced, and even amplified, at KU. As a result, much like the history of the United States, the last 50 years at the University of Kansas have been marked by tremendous accomplishments and by tremendous challenges.

The national debate over the Vietnam War created deep divisions in the community. Meanwhile, the civil rights movement rightfully brought change to a university that, though founded by those dedicated to equality, had not always lived up to its ideals. Shifting political climates altered who pays for college, increasing the burden on students and families. And political interests have at times threatened the academic freedoms vital to the success of all universities.

Throughout these and other challenges, this academic community has remained committed to KU’s noble mission of lifting students and society by educating leaders, building healthy communities, and making discoveries that change the world. Tens of thousands of Jayhawks have walked down the Hill and into the world, taking up leadership positions around the world and in their communities, from Fortune 500 companies to the corner pharmacy.

The legacy of the past 50 years at the University of Kansas is reflected in all those whose lives were changed by what they learned here. It’s also present in the lives of the countless people who may never even have set foot on a KU campus, yet have still benefited from
the knowledge and talent of our faculty, staff, and alumni. In every field of human endeavor, and in virtually every nation on Earth, you can find a KU graduate. And, in many instances, these Jayhawks are sharing research and creative works created at the university, from new treatments and cures, to new works of art and culture.

The legacy of the University of Kansas is of an academic community constantly seeking to raise the expectations we have for ourselves, the aspirations we have for our state, and the hopes we have for our world. Succeeding generations have built on the accomplishments of those who came before, all in service of KU’s mission as a flagship university.

It is also a legacy of achievement in the face of adversity, befitting the Kansas motto, *Ad astra per aspera*, and reflecting the lofty dreams and boundless ambitions that come to each of us when we stand atop Mount Oread.
Preface and Acknowledgments

Kim Cary Warren and John L. Rury

In commemorating the sesquicentennial anniversary of the University of Kansas’s founding, this book reflects upon the last 50 years of people, politics, and institutional developments that have made KU into the distinctive institution that it is today. Its authors consider KU’s history since 1965, a pivotal year in many respects. Picking up where Clifford S. Griffin left off in his momentous study, The University of Kansas: A History, we have examined critical moments in the university’s history over the past half century, a time of conflict over the means and purposes of education, dramatic expansion, and transformation in institutional identity. Many American universities experienced similar developments, but KU’s story is unique in many respects and is told in the chapters to follow.

No longer just a teaching-oriented institution in a small town located between Kansas City and Topeka, the University of Kansas has undergone remarkable changes during this time. As the book’s title, Transforming the University of Kansas: A History, 1965–2015, suggests, this era was one of transformation, a process wrought by many contributors. It saw the growth of undergraduate majors and the rapid expansion of graduate programs. Students rebelled and articulated new demands to address their diverse interests as well as their social causes. Faculty members repositioned themselves and their departments on the national and international stage, especially with respect to research and scholarship. The roles of university staff and administration evolved rapidly in response to changing curricular and extracurricular expectations, along with the development of digital technology. And the university’s leaders provided vision and direction to mark a course of continued advancement.

By the time the twentieth century closed and the twenty-first century began, KU had established itself not only as the state’s flagship university, but also as a leader in research and technological innovations. In
the new millennium, in 2001, the Robert J. Dole Institute for Public Service and Public Policy broke ground in order to bring a host of national and international speakers to campus. At the medical school, a new $52 million building attracted millions of dollars in grant funding and some of the nation’s top researchers at the Robert E. Hemenway Life Sciences Innovation Center. The Edwards Campus, originally founded in 1990 with the donation of 36 acres of land by Clay Blair III, a KU alumnus, contributed $500 million to the Johnson County economy within its first 21 years. KU has welcomed growing numbers of international students, in addition to enabling thousands of undergraduates to study abroad and gain a wider appreciation of the world.

Although the university continues to take pride in its service to the state of Kansas, satellite campuses have allowed for extensive outreach unforeseen in earlier years. The Lawrence campus maintains its traditional role as the heart of KU, while programs in Kansas City, Wichita, and Salina offer professional degrees and services to the broader community, especially in medical fields. The campus in Overland Park has helped make KU a metropolitan university that serves both sides of the Kansas-Missouri state line. Boasting 28,000 students and more than 2,000 faculty on five campuses, KU’s presence is felt far beyond its immediate environs.

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF CLIFFORD GRIFFIN

In the essays that follow, KU scholars have drawn upon a wealth of information, taken from university archival collections, oral history interviews, student yearbooks and other publications, and alumni sources, to paint a picture of KU over the past five decades. Each author has focused on a particular thematic aspect of KU’s history in order to capture the essential changes that have taken place in this period.

Although there have been several books written about KU, its alumni, athletics, and history, one stands out as the authoritative book of record for the university’s first century: Clifford S. Griffin’s *The University of Kansas*, published in 1974 (a mere nine years after KU’s centennial celebration). A professor of history at KU from 1959 to 1996, Griffin mined university archival material to trace KU’s history from its embryonic days as a preparatory school and as it grew into a major institution of higher learning. Griffin starts with KU’s humble origins and traces the gradual expansion of the university, detailing the many struggles that paved the way. He also described the inevitable
tension between the university's mission to serve the public while also cultivating the most elite talent from across the state and the nation. Just as Griffin’s volume chronicled KU’s first century (1865–1965), Transforming the University of Kansas proposes to stand as a scholarly and institutional book of record for the past 50 years (1965–2015).

ORGANIZATION OF THE BOOK

This collection of essays is organized thematically, so that each chapter provides a 50-year perspective on key events and leaders concerned with at least one important theme in the university's development. Each author is a KU faculty or staff member, whose field of study is reflected in the chapter that s/he has written. The topics reflect important dimensions of change in higher education since the 1960s, and events at the University of Kansas in particular. The chapters have been organized into three broad topical categories: Leadership and Politics; Teaching and Research; and Students, Protest, and Sports. In
this way, we hope to lend a bit more coherence to the wide diversity of people, events, and circumstances that a volume such as this necessarily considers. While this book is not an omnibus history such as Griffin’s, it does offer a good deal of insight about changes that have occurred in this large and complex institution and the historical circumstances that contributed to them.

To begin, John Rury, a historian of education, provides a chronological overview of KU’s growth and development during this period and how it fit into the larger context of higher education nationally. While KU was known for both athletic and academic accomplishment well before this time, it was transformed from a somewhat bucolic college into a major research university in relatively short order. Historically drawing students into the arts and sciences along with pre-professional programs, the university grew rapidly into a center of graduate training and research. These changes occurred at other institutions, of course, but took a particular path at KU. In describing these developments, Rury sets the stage for the chapters that follow.

Chapter 1, written by Susan Twombly, professor of higher education, lays out the major agendas of eight chancellors beginning with Clarke Wescoe and ending with Bernadette Gray-Little. By incorporating their own memos and other correspondence into her chapter, Twombly captures the distinctive spirit of each chancellor as s/he faced crises, budget shortfalls, student unrest, and pressure from the legislature, in addition to moments of pride and joy with each start of the school year.

As Twombly argues, chancellors could not lead the university without the support of the state, so Burdett Loomis, political scientist, examines, in Chapter 2, the continuous tussles and negotiations that have characterized KU’s relationship with Kansas politicians. Employing personal interviews as well as institutional records, Loomis provides insight into the personalities and key decision makers that have not been emphasized in previous studies about KU. Loomis shows how annual debates about funding for KU kept the university at the forefront of arguments about educational priorities in the statehouse and on campus.

In Chapter 3, James Woelfel, professor of philosophy and humanities and Western Civilization, explains that KU has always kept undergraduate education as a core priority, even as the university has expanded its research agenda. While KU introduced several innovations in learning, including an Honors Program and the Colleges within-the-College, it also paid attention to the needs of the majority
of students focused on earning their general education requirements and marching toward their degrees in a timely fashion. Woelfel explains how programs aimed at the top tier of students joined large-scale curricular reforms meant to affect all students in order to make KU’s undergraduate experience inventive yet still obtainable within four to five years.

Chapter 4, written by Megan Greene, a historian of modern China and director of KU’s East Asian Studies Center, focuses on the international community of learners in Lawrence and around the world. Greene explains how the development of federally funded Title VI area studies programs and the expansion of study abroad opportunities made KU students and faculty think of themselves as contributing to a larger, more global body of scholarship. The rapid growth of international students, especially in the 1960s, diversified the student body and brought more attention to KU’s international interests in the humanities and the sciences.

Joshua Rosenbloom, an economic historian, returns readers to the themes of a transformed university outlined at the beginning the volume. In Chapter 5, Rosenbloom explains exactly how the university used the pursuit of external funding to sponsor research projects that gained national attention and sponsorship for the university. With an enthusiastic and aggressive approach, individual faculty and students, as well as programs and departments, brought new research funding to KU and thus pushed the university to realize its current status as a research institution.

Students’ experiences are at the heart of KU’s history, and William Tuttle, professor emeritus of American Studies, focuses on the years of student activism during the civil rights, women’s rights, and antiwar protest eras. Tuttle’s Chapter 6 especially draws on student publications and city newspapers to detail the complex and confrontational campus atmosphere as KU students accelerated social activism, making a name for Lawrence as a political “hot bed,” especially in the 1960s and 1970s but also beyond.

In Chapter 7, Kathryn Nemeth Tuttle, associate vice provost emerita, also examines student life, showing that activism manifested in various ways, including student demands for more diverse academic programs and representation on university committees that made decisions directly affecting them. Tuttle shows that student protest turned into new leadership roles at KU and then created different pathways for students to become empowered in university-wide decision making and in the creation of innovative curricular and extracurricular programs.
Student athletes, as well as their coaches and fans, are the focus of Chapter 8, written by Bernie Kish, lecturer in sport management. Kish examines KU’s long history of athletic achievement in basketball and football, as well as its tradition of building excellence in programs in track and field, baseball, and other sports. The 1972 Title IX decision barring sex discrimination in educational programs receiving federal assistance created a turning point in KU athletics, opening new avenues for female, as well as male, athletes and coaches.

Through essays and photographs, readers of Transforming the University of Kansas will explore KU’s past through a variety of perspectives—administrators, politicians, faculty, staff, students, and community members. Although none of these groups was ever in complete agreement with all of the others about the direction of the university, readers will find that each of these constituencies felt that KU’s success reflected their own, invested astutely in the growth of the university, and saw rapid changes during the past five decades.

Scholarship is an integrally collective enterprise, and this book is the result of a great deal of collaboration. It began four years ago with a discussion between the editors about university history, a conversation that has grown expansively over time. It has been generously supported by the university, starting with Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little and the KU-150 Sesquicentennial Committee, particularly Charlie Persinger, Liz Kowalchuk, Jonathan Earle, and Bill Crowe. The research for the book has received enormous assistance from the staff of the University Archives at the Spencer Research Library, especially Becky Schulte, Letha Johnson, and Kathy Lafferty, who guided researchers through archives and hundreds of documents and photographs. Deb Teeter, Virginia Nichols, and the staff at KU’s Office of Institutional Research and Planning also were very accommodating, specifically with regard to the institution’s changing statistical profile. Fred Woodward, Chuck Myers, and Kelly Chrisman Jacques of the University Press of Kansas have been helpful guides to the publication process.

Our keen and highly adept research assistants, Angela Murphy, JoJo Palko, and Battsetseg Serj, provided invaluable support to the book’s authors and editors, tracking down sources, helping identify photos, and drafting captions. Most of the material used and cited in the book was found in KU’s unusually rich and far-reaching archival collection, but additional sources were utilized from the Department of Athletics, the Medical Center Library, the Booth Hall of Fame, the Hall Center
for the Humanities, the School of Law, the School of Architecture, Design and Planning, the School of Education, and the Department of History. We would like to thank Darin Grauberger of the Geography Department’s cartography lab for preparation of maps for the endpapers. Thanks also to Pam LeRow for creating the index.

It is also important to acknowledge our gratitude to the dozens of individuals who took time to share memories of their KU experiences in the form of oral history interviews. All of these conversations were arranged by the chapter authors in connection with topics in their respective essays, and some individuals were interviewed for more than one chapter. These interviews were a critical dimension of the research, representing sources of information and insight that would not otherwise be available to future generations. They have added significantly to our comprehension of KU and the meaning it held for Jayhawks everywhere. Without the assistance of the people who shared their memories with us, this facet of the study would not have been possible.

The greatest debt of gratitude goes to our chapter authors, who have worked tirelessly to complete the research and writing for this volume, staying on track to meet a deadline imposed by the 2015 start of the sesquicentennial celebration. We met periodically in lively, productive writing seminars to discuss work in progress, attended by Angela, JoJo, and Letha as well. Each of the authors embraced the task of writing the history of the past 50 years at KU with devotion and resolve, revealing historical details and insights that none of us anticipated. Without their dedication, knowledge, and skill, this book would not have been possible.

Finally, we would like to thank our other colleagues, friends, and family members who have also supported this project, whether happily or not, for the past several years. We hope this acknowledgment of our appreciation and affection will be a small recompense for the sustenance and care that they have provided through thick and thin.