



# Endacott Society

Retired Faculty and Staff [endacottsociety.org](http://endacottsociety.org) December 2020



Who knew in March of this year that we would actually be battling surging rates of infection from the Covid19 virus at the end of the year? We surely didn't expect cancelations of family gatherings at Thanksgiving and possibly even during the December holidays. It's no wonder that depression, fatigue and a sense of unpredictability is so widespread. Fortunately, we still have the Endacott Society to provide us with a feeling of connectedness to others, even if in a more limited setting of phone calls, emails and Zoom meetings with our members.

We have been busy helping inventory and boxing up the books in the Endacott Library for storage. We filled 29 boxes by the time we were done. The oral histories and scrapbooks are already securely stored. Our executive committee is expecting an update on construction plans for the renovation from the president of the Alumni Association in mid-December via Zoom. He is also scheduled to visit with interested members at our Wednesday coffee on January 6th of the new year. We hope to soon have confirmation on use of alternative facilities in which to meet in person when it is safe to do so during actual renovations of the Alumni Center.

At the request of Melissa Rhodes of the Chancellor's office, Jeffrey Corwin, CEO of Douglas County United Way. visited with us at a Wednesday coffee zoom in November. He gave a powerpoint presentation detailing the important work his agency provided this year

and asked us for our continued support of the KU campaign ([unitedway.ku.edu](http://unitedway.ku.edu)).

Paul Laird, Chair of the University Senate Retirees Rights and Benefits Committee will visit with the Wednesday coffee zoom meeting on Dec 9<sup>th</sup> to talk about his Senate assignment for the year and answer our questions and ask for suggestions for improvements in benefits for retirees. He visited with the Endacott Society last year.

Happy Birthday to members of the Endacott Society who celebrate birthdays during December and congratulations to those celebrating anniversaries during the month!. -- Jo Cink- President

There is a full slate of interesting topics, discussions and films on tap for December and we hope you can take advantage of many of them. Some details and links are found in your Zoom Guide

The **Arts and Sciences Lecture** for Dec 3rd concludes 2020 with Leonard "Kris" Krishtalka talking about *The Camel Driver*, the third book in his Harry Przewalski series, published Nov. 28. Kris is retiring at end of 2020 as director of KU's Biodiversity Institute and Natural History Museum.

Join us to hear about the intrigues Przewalski, former paleontologist-turned-detective, uncovers as he investigates the vandalism of a world-famous 19th-century diorama at

Pittsburgh's Carnegie Museum of Natural History. The diorama depicts two Barbary lions attacking a North African courier crossing the desert astride a dromedary camel. The vandal has smashed the glass case, slit open the belly of the taxidermied camel, and removed a bundle that sheds bits of fiber and flesh from a mummified infant. The macabre history of the diorama takes Przewalski from Pittsburgh to Cape Town to North Africa to Paris, tracing clues revealing sexual betrayal, an unwanted child, a lurid trial, gravesites plundered for museum exhibits of racial superiority once endorsed by anthropology – and a bundle that spurred a murderous race for scientific fame. NOTE: This past September, the Carnegie Museum draped the diorama from public view out of cultural respect.

<https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/leonard-krishtalka/the-camel-driver>



Camel Diorama in the Carnegie Museum

**Cinema Studies** theme for the month is man's relationship with nature and the animal kingdom. Email [plim@ku.edu](mailto:plim@ku.edu) for the Zoom links.

The **Documentary Film** on Dec 4 is Werner Herzog's *Grizzly Man*, an astonishing film which incorporates footage shot by American environmentalist Timothy Treadwell during the 14 summers he spent in the Alaskan Peninsula with his "friendly" bears, sometimes

accompanied by his girlfriend, until the final deadly encounter.

The **Domestic Film** on Dec 8 is Walt Disney's *Old Yeller*, the heartfelt story of how a yellow mongrel is adopted by a family in their Texas homestead while the father is away on a cattle drive, and how the dog ultimately teaches them some valuable lessons about living in the wilderness.

The **Foreign Film** on Dec 11 is Bong Joon-Ho's *Okja*, about a young girl who defies a multinational company from kidnapping her best friend, a gigantic pig which had been genetically engineered to increase corporate profits. This director subsequently won international acclaim for the film *Parasite*.

A **Holiday Special for Christmas Eve** on Dec 24 suggests there is no shortage of other critters besides Rudolf the Red-nosed Reindeer to amuse us the day before Christmas. First, *Christmas in Yellowstone: Winter in America's National Park* (60 minutes), followed by Sir Frederick Ashton's charming ballet adaptation of *Tales of Beatrix Potter*, incorporating mostly forgotten Victorian melodies, featuring Peter Rabbit and all the other beloved creatures from the book (76 minutes). Email [plim@ku.edu](mailto:plim@ku.edu) for the Zoom link.

For **Music Appreciation** on Dec 25, it's Christmas Day, so it's Bach to Bethlehem and beyond. After opening all your presents and downing a hearty meal, what better way to spend Christmas Day than a video concert featuring Bach's Christmas Oratorio? Philippe Herreweghe conducts from the Palais des Beaux-Arts in Brussels, with a wonderful cast of singers. Email [plim@ku.edu](mailto:plim@ku.edu) for the Zoom link.

We all love our pets, but what if they don't always love us back unconditionally? In **Opera Study** on Dec 18, Janacek's *The Cunning Little Vixen* follows the bittersweet relationship which

develops between a kind forester and the beautiful fox he trapped years ago, when they were both young. The Paris Opera production featuring an ensemble cast of frolicking young "animals" is absolutely enchanting. Email [plim@ku.edu](mailto:plim@ku.edu) for the Zoom link.

**Great Books** meets on Wednesday, Dec. 9, at 1:30 pm. The readings for December are three short stories from Candace Ward, ed., *Great Short Stories by American Women* (Dover Thrift Books): Edith Wharton, "The Angel at the Grave"; Susan Glaspell, "A Jury of Her Peers"; and Willa Cather, "Paul's Case." Each story is also available in pdf online. Check with Jim Woelfel if you need further information.

The follow up on our discussion of the stories are film adaptations of two of the stories on Thursday, Dec 10, at 1:30: "Trifles," a re-titled adaptation of Glaspell's "A Jury of Her Peers"; and an adaptation of Willa Cather's "Paul's Case." ). Email [plim@ku.edu](mailto:plim@ku.edu) for the Zoom link.

**Drama Studies** on Dec 1 continues its reading of *Tartuffe* by Moliere. At the end of act 3, Tartuffe has been unmasked as a hypocrite. In acts four and five, however, Tartuffe comes within an inch of taking over Orgon's family's house and home.

On Dec 15 the group reads the play *Galileo* by Bertold Brecht. It tells the story of Galileo's proof of the Copernican sun-centered model of the universe and its consequences: in fourteen scenes, the focus constantly shifts. We see the price his daughter paid for his unorthodox views, the threat of his views to social order, the economic progress that will result from science, his defense of freedom of inquiry against the church, his rejection of his works under threat from the church, his sense that he has failed and that science will be the tool of politics and religion (which in this 1947 version clearly portends the atomic bomb.)

**Games Theory** participants continue to be excited about their fast-paced *Scribbler* games and urge us to join in the fun on Monday mornings at 10:00am Dec 7 and 21.

**Old-Time Radio** will not meet in December.

### A Short KU and Lawrence Trivia Quiz

1. What were other names by which Lawrence was known in the early days?
2. What and where was Bismarck Grove?
3. Where did the KU colors, crimson and blue come from and how long have we had them?
4. What was KU basketball star Bud Stallworth's given first name?
5. What KU football star was dubbed the "Ransom Rambler"?
6. When did the first whistle blow to call classes on the KU campus?
7. When did KU have street cars on campus and where did they run?
8. What year did KU open and how many students were there?
9. Why was Potter Lake created?
10. KU's Observatory was named for what KU astronomer and what did he discover?
11. What KU figure became the voice of the Kansas City Chiefs?
12. Name seven streets in North Lawrence named for trees?
13. How many times was Lynette Woodard named Kodak All American?
14. Where were KU basketball games played before Allen Fieldhouse opened?
15. What head coach did David Jaynes play for when KU went to the Liberty Bowl?