



SEHP director to answer
Medicare supplement
questions at Nov. 3
coffee hour. See Page 2.

Endacott Society

Retired Faculty and Staff endacottsociety.org November 2021



PRESIDENT'S NOTES

In-person coffee planned Nov. 24; members suggest making donations toward renovation

November is Thanksgiving month, and we are thankful that this year, with vaccinations and booster shots, we are ready to meet in-person for our traditional “Wednesday-Coffee-Before Thanksgiving Thursday.” As we have in recent years, we will meet Nov. 24 for coffee at the Dillons Sixth Street and Wakarusa Drive.

We had a good Zoom turn-out for our Wednesday Coffee on Oct. 20 when Alumni Association President Heath Peterson briefed us on the progress of the Jayhawk Welcome Center and the Adams Alumni Center projects. Overall, it was a productive visit. We thanked Heath for meeting with us and for his patience in answering our questions.

In recognition of the significance and positive impact of the intertwined projects — not only to student recruitment, but also to current students, faculty, staff, and of course retirees — members suggested that the Endacott Society make individual donations.

Any amount you can give toward the renovation of the Adams Alumni Center will be greatly appreciated. Donations are tax-deductible and will be collected through June 30, 2022. Donations received by Dec. 31 will be deductible for 2021. Please make your checks payable to KU Endowment and send them to treasurer **Pam Houston**, 1807 N. 1150 Road, Lawrence, 66046.

Very Happy Thanksgiving, retirees! Enjoy the family gatherings! — Folabo, president

Alumni Center renovation to begin early 2022

During the Oct. 20 coffee hour, Heath Peterson, KU Alumni Association president, said that renovation of the Adams Alumni Center will begin in early 2022. He expects the building to reopen next fall, when the adjoining Welcome Center plans to open.

The \$21-million Jayhawk Welcome Center is fully funded with private donations, and the \$8- to \$9-million renovation and technology upgrades for Adams Alumni Center, which opened originally in 1983, are well on their way to being fully funded. The renovation costs include \$5 million for technology upgrades and \$3 million for design upgrades.

The Welcome Center is on schedule to open in the Fall 2022 term. (See Page 8.)

The buildings are expected to provide a first-class experience for alumni and donors, prospective students and families, current students, faculty and staff, and retirees. The Welcome Center, which will house about 20 KU admissions staff, will be the starting point for campus visits by prospective students. The Alumni Center will manage the operation of both buildings. Alumni staff is training to use new management software for event operations as well as for safety and security.

Parking will be available in the Mississippi Street Parking Garage across from the Adams Alumni Center. Endacott members are being encouraged to purchase parking passes for that garage once the Alumni Center reopens.

Heath noted the combined projects will include such donor recognition opportunities as a website virtual donor wall, named spaces and signage in the alumni building, and a donor wall in the Welcome Center.

Endacott members may contact him about donor opportunities or with questions about the project by phone at 785-864-9777 or by email at heathpeterson@kualumni.org.

SEHP director to join Nov. 3 coffee hour to take questions about BCBSKS contract dispute with LMH

Janet Stanek, director of the State Employee Health Program, will join our Zoom coffee hour at 10 a.m. Nov. 3 to take our questions regarding the impact on KU retirees' health coverage if Lawrence Memorial Hospital is no longer a network provider with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas.

She would prefer to have questions in advance. Please send your questions to **Mary Jane Dunlap**, mjdunlap@ku.edu, to coordinate for Stanek.

In an Oct 21 memo emailed to state employees and retirees, Stanek said retirees who have a Medicare Supplemental plan through BCBSKS would not be affected. (See memo in right-hand column.)

The memo was primarily directed to current employees and announced an extension of their enrollment deadline from Oct 31 to Nov. 5 due to the stalled negotiation process.

The Oct. 25 Lawrence Journal-World reported the deadline extension, noting the impact on retirees in final paragraphs of the story:

"In general, state and university employees are at risk [of being out of network for LMH], along with people who work for a private employer who uses BCBS of Kansas. Also at risk are people who have purchased a BCBS of Kansas Medicare Advantage Plan, which is a type of insurance plan that is essentially an enhanced version of the federal Medicare insurance program.

"A different type of Medicare customer, however, is not currently at risk of getting knocked out of network. LMH has said customers with a BCBS of Kansas supplemental Medicare plan — often known as a Medigap Plan — are not impacted by these contract negotiations. The Medigap plan is under a different contract with LMH Health."

See the full article: "State gives KU employees more time to make insurance choice as LMH, Blue Cross Blue Shield remain deadlocked" <https://www2.ljworld.com/news/general-news/2021/oct/25/state-gives-ku-employees-more-time-to-make-insurance-choice-as-lmh-blue-cross-blue-shield-remain-deadlocked/>

Open enrollment details for retirees are online: <https://healthbenefitsprogram.ks.gov/sehp/members/retiree>

Kansas Department of Administration
Division of the State Employee Health Benefit Program

Oct. 21, 2021

Dear SEHP Members and Benefits Eligible Employees,
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas (BCBSKS) is currently engaged in ongoing contract negotiations with Lawrence Memorial Hospital (LMH) to be included as a Network provider for 2022. Provider networks are developed by the vendor, in this case, BCBSKS. If an agreement cannot be reached, LMH would be a Non Network provider for BCBSKS members in 2022. As a Non Network provider, BCBSKS members would receive the Non Network benefit level for services and have higher Out of Pocket costs for non-emergency services received at LMH.

State Employee Health Plan staff are in contact with BCBSKS about this situation. BCBSKS sent out a communication regarding the contract negotiation with LMH to current members. While we are hopeful this matter will be rectified, it is unlikely this will happen before the 2022 Open Enrollment period ends.

To ensure SEHP members have an adequate opportunity to select a health plan they are confident in, Open Enrollment for Active Employees and COBRA members will be extended through Friday, November 5th. Current Direct Bill members will have until November 15th to make their 2022 elections. Members with a Medicare Supplement plan through BCBSKS will not be impacted by the contract issue.

As a reminder, the SEHP is contracted with both Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas and Aetna to administer the health plans. Both plan networks are available for your review on the SEHP website <https://healthbenefitsprogram.ks.gov/sehp>

We will keep you updated as we learn more about the status of the contract between Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas and Lawrence Memorial Hospital.

Should you have any questions regarding the contract negotiation, you may reach Lawrence Memorial Hospital at 785-505-5000 and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas at 1-800-332-0307.

Thank you,

Janet Stanek, SEHP Director



Singing for FUN!

Temperatures were in mid-40s about 10:30 a.m. on Oct. 22, when about 20 Endacotters gathered in **Susan Rendall's** garden for the first in-person Singing for Fun event since February 2020. (At right) **Jim Woelfel**, song leader; **Bruce Douglas**, pianist; and Susan.



Photos by Paul S. Lim

New Public Affairs Forum chairs begin with homelessness panel

The Public Affairs Forum resumes at 1:30 p.m. Nov. 11 with a panel discussion on homelessness led by new chairs **Allan and Louise Hanson** (see Page 7 for details).

Lawrence has been the Hansons' home base since 1966 when Allan joined the anthropology department. He retired in 2016. His academic focus included Polynesian ethnography, anthropological theory, and

technology in contemporary society. Louise worked as a librarian at Baker University, Lawrence Public Library, and the KU School of Law.

The Hansons have enjoyed research trips in England, France, Denmark, Italy, and New Zealand. Locally, they have been active in many organizations including the Hall Center for the Humanities, KU Friends of the Theatre, Lawrence Community Orchestra, Theatre Lawrence, Justice Matters, and the Lawrence Coalition for Peace and Justice. They have three children and "a raucous crowd of 10 grandchildren."



More snapshots from Oct. 22

Singing for Fun gathering in **Susan Rendall's** garden. (Top) **Jim Woelfel's** song-list theme was autumn and the harvest moon. (Center row, from left): **Audrey Kamb-Studdard**, **Cal** and **Jo Cink**,

and **Jim**. Bottom row, from left: **Susan Enns**, **Omofolabo Ajayi-Soyinka**, and **Paul Stephen Lim**.

Photos by Mary Jane Dunlap and Paul Stephen Lim

NOVEMBER ACTIVITIES

NOTE: To receive **Zoom links and passwords**, email Omofolabo Ajayi-Soyinka omofola@ku.edu; for programs administered by Paul Lim, email plim@ku.edu.

10 O'CLOCK SCHOLARS

(Wednesday Coffee Hour) (Zoom)

Omofolabo Ajayi-Soyinka omofola@ku.edu

Nov. 3, 10 a.m. Guest **Janet Stanek**, director, SEHP

Nov. 10, 10 a.m.

Nov. 17, 10 a.m.

Nov. 24, 10 a.m. Dillons, Sixth Street and Wakarusa Drive

ARMCHAIR TRAVEL (Zoom)

Ron Schorr rwwschorr@gmail.com

Thursday, **Nov. 18, 1:30 p.m.**

Richard Kershenbaum on his January 2019 trip to Greece, Spain, and Portugal.

DOCUMENTARY Films (Zoom)

Paul Stephen Lim plim@ku.edu

Friday, **Nov. 5, 1:30 p.m.**

James Fox's *I Know What I Saw*

The most credible UFO witnesses from around the world tell stories that challenge reality in *I Know What I Saw*, a documentary guaranteed to change the way we see the universe. Director James Fox brings together the testimony of U.S. Air Force generals, astronauts, military and commercial pilots, and FAA and other government officials from seven countries. Their accounts reveal the reasons those involved at the highest levels have chosen government secrecy over public disclosure. (2009. 1 hour 30 minutes)

DOMESTIC Films (Zoom)

Fred Madaus fmadaus@ku.edu

Paul Stephen Lim. plim@ku.edu

Tuesday, **Nov. 9, 1:30 p.m.**

Herman Hoffman's *Forbidden Planet*

If Freud had written Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, the result would be *Forbidden Planet*, in which a starship crew in the 23rd century investigates a distant planet's colony, only to find just two survivors, a powerful robot, and the deadly secret of a lost civilization. It features Walter Pidgeon as the Prospero-like magician, and Anne Francis as his daughter, with interlopers Leslie Nielsen, Jack Kelly, and Earl Holliman. This is the granddaddy of all science-fiction movies. (1956. cc, 1 hour 38 minutes)

Endacott ReMembers (Zoom)

Paul Stephen Lim. plim@ku.edu

Monday Nov 1, 1:30 p.m.

On the first Monday in November, **Endacott ReMembers** honors the memory of members who are no longer with us. We light candles, eat challah, and call out the names of our friends and loved ones (with assistance from **Omofolabo Ajayi-Soyinka, Ray Souza, Jeannie Eblen, Gunda Hiebert, Susan Levine, Ron Schorr, Linda Mullens, Audrey Kamb-Studdard, and Dick and Sue Himes**). After a moment of silence, we watch a special film. This year, it's Hirokazu Kore-Eda's *After Life*, about a group of recently departed who are allowed to select one happy memory to take with them to eternity. (1998. In Japanese with English subtitles, 2 hours)

FOREIGN Films (Zoom)

Paul Stephen Lim. plim@ku.edu

Friday, **Nov. 12, 1:30 p.m.**

Andrei Tarkovsky's *Solaris*

When a cosmonaut-psychologist is dispatched to investigate why ground control has been receiving mysterious transmissions from the Solaris space station, he experiences the same strange phenomena that afflict the three remaining crew, members sending him on a voyage into the darkest recesses of his consciousness, challenging our conceptions about humanity itself. It was remade by George Clooney in 2002, but the original by Andrei Tarovsky is infinitely better. (1972. In Russian with English subtitles, 2 hours 47 minutes)

COMPUTING & TECHNOLOGY STUDIES (Zoom)

Dave Mannering dmannering@yahoo.com

Monday Nov. 8, 10 a.m.

What the Heck Is This?

Monday Nov. 22, 10 a.m.

Solar Power/Wind Power

DRAMA STUDY (Zoom)

Kevin Boatright, guest host kjboatr@aol.com

Tuesday, Nov. 2, 1:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 16, 1:30 p.m.

Play: Eugene O'Neill's *A Moon for the Misbegotten*

O'Neill (1888-1953) — recipient of four Pulitzer Prizes and the Nobel Prize in Literature — is often regarded as the greatest playwright in the history of American drama. *A Moon for the Misbegotten* (1947) is the sequel to his posthumously published *Long Day's Journey Into Night* and was the last of his more than 50 plays to be produced in his lifetime. Both plays reflect O'Neill's tormented past, written with a "faithful realism" reminiscent of Ibsen, Chekhov, and Strindberg.

Saturday, Nov. 20, 1:30 p.m.

Kevin Boatright, guest host kjboatr@aol.com

Paul Stephen Lim plim@ku.edu

Film: *A Moon for the Misbegotten*

Jose Quintero's masterful film adaptation of Eugene O'Neill's *A Moon for the Misbegotten*, set in Connecticut in September 1923, shows the lives of three people in collision: Josie, a domineering Irish woman with a quick tongue and a ruined reputation (Colleen Dewhurst); Hogan, her conniving tenant-farmer father (Ed Flanders); and James Tyrone Jr., the father's landlord and drinking companion (Jason Robards Jr.), a cynical alcoholic haunted by the death of his mother. (1975. 2 hours 14 minutes)



GAMES THEORY (Zoom)

Dave Mannering dmannering@yahoo.com

Monday, Nov. 1, 10 a.m.

Scribbler games

Monday, Nov. 15, 10 a.m.

Scribbler games

Monday, Nov. 29, 10 a.m.

Scribbler games

GARDEN SEMINAR (Zoom)

Cal & Jo Cink ccinkbird76@gmail.com

Wednesday, Nov. 3, 8:30 a.m.

A virtual visit through PBS's *In the Garden* series to Coastal Maine Botanical Garden in Boothbay, rated one of 10 best U.S. public gardens.

Wednesday, Nov. 10, 8:30 a.m.

Powerpoint presentation of Jo and Cal's visit to the Coastal Maine Botanical Garden in Boothbay during spring growing season.

Wednesday, Nov. 17, 8:30 a.m.

Powerpoint views of the autumn growing season from Jo and Cal's visit to the Coastal Maine Botanical Garden.

GREAT BOOKS DISCUSSION

(Zoom)

Jim Woelfel james.woelfel@yahoo.com

Wednesday, Nov. 10, 1:30 p.m.

The Little Prince

We will discuss Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's modern classic *The Little Prince*. Written in French and translated into 300 languages since its 1943 publication, this short novel has charmed generations of adults and children around the world. It's the story of a boy who lives alone on a tiny planet and comes to Earth asking an aviator whose plane has crashed in the North African desert to draw him a sheep. It's also a story with a moral about what's important in life and what isn't. The illustrations by Saint-Exupéry are an essential part of the story. The American English-language paperback edition of this novel, translated by Katherine Woods, has been published by Harcourt Brace & Co. for 50 years and is readily and cheaply available.

Paul Stephen Lim plim@ku.edu

Saturday, Nov. 13, 1:30 p.m.

Film adaptation: *The Little Prince*

Mark Osborne's animated film adaptation of *The Little Prince* updates the material to feature a little girl who lives in a grown-up world with her mother, who tries to prepare her for it, but their neighbor, the Aviator, introduces the girl to an extraordinary world where anything is possible — the enchanting world of the Little Prince. Featuring the voices of Jeff Bridges, James Franco, Ricky Gervais, Paul Rudd, Paul Giamatti, Mackenzie Foy, and Rachel McAdams. (2015. cc, 108 minutes)

LUNCH BUNCH

Location or Zoom plan announced weekly

Ron Schorr rwwschorr@gmail.com

Thursday, Nov. 4, noon

Thursday, Nov. 11, noon

Thursday, Nov. 18, noon

In consideration of everyone, participants are expected to be fully vaccinated and using masks.

MUSIC APPRECIATION (Zoom)

Paul Stephen Lim plim@ku.edu

Friday, Nov. 26, 1:30 p.m.

Gustav Holst's *The Planets* (2 versions)

Because Holst's *The Planets* is only an hour long, we are showing two different concert versions of it. A lavish visualization by the BBC Symphony Orchestra under Andrew Davis is first, with stunning photography of the planets and eloquent images of Holst's own interpretation of the astrological significance of each planet, followed by a more straightforward performance by the Philharmonia Orchestra, conducted by Esa-Pekka Salonen. (1994 and 2013 respectively. 2 hours)

OLD TIME RADIO (Zoom)

John Nicholson wryterjccc@gmail.com

Monday, Nov. 29, 1:30 p.m.

Again this November, we'll share our Thanksgiving and Christmas shows, since we don't meet in December. We'll listen to *The Jack Benny Show* from Nov. 26, 1944, when Jack goes to Mary's house to celebrate Thanksgiving. Next is the *Have Gun Will Travel* 1958 Christmas show. Because last year we listened to *The Six Shooter* version of *A Christmas Carol*, this year we'll listen to the *Richard Diamond, Private Detective* 1949 version. If you have a childhood holiday story that you would like to share with us, please do so.

OPERA STUDY (Zoom)

Paul Stephen Lim plim@ku.edu

Friday, Nov. 19, 1:30 p.m.

Philip Glass's *Kepler*

Johannes Kepler was a German astronomer, mathematician, astrologer, musician, and natural philosopher; a key figure in the 17th-century Scientific Revolution, he is best known for his laws of planetary motion. Philip Glass's opera explores Kepler's life through a series of dramatic scenes, a refreshing return to large-scale symphonic writing

for the opera house, staged by Peter Missotten, with Dennis Russell Davies conducting the Bruckner Orchester Linz. (2009. Sung in German and Latin with English subtitles. 2 hours)

PUBLIC AFFAIRS FORUM (Zoom)

Allan & Louise Hanson hanson@ku.edu and

louisehanson@gmail.com

Thursday, Nov. 11, 1:30-3 p.m.

Homelessness: Finding a Path Forward

A discussion with four panelists: **Loring Henderson**, founder and longtime director of the Lawrence Community Shelter; **Mathew Faulk**, housing director for the Bert Nash center; **John Krehbiel**, Justice Matters homeless activist; and **Araceli Masterson-Algar**, KU associate professor of Spanish and Portuguese, who researches migration and the homeless. There will be opportunity for audience questions and comments.

Endacott members encouraged to volunteer as KU Mentors

Retirees continue to be of service to our university community in various ways. KU's Mentoring program, which began in 2018, is a newer opportunity. Several Endacott members have signed up, but more mentors are needed. You can access more information on KU Mentoring at <https://kualumni.org/programs/jayhawk-career-network/mentoring/>.

Holiday light show to benefit local service projects

Starting Nov. 26 through Dec. 31, the Lawrence Sertoma Club and the Lawrence Board of Realtors Community Foundation are sponsoring a holiday drive-through light show, "Lawrence Lights: Making Spirits Bright." The tour begins nightly from sunset to 9:30 p.m. at the Youth Sports Complex, 4911 W. 27th St., featuring animated displays synchronized to holiday music. Tickets are \$20 for car or van and can be purchased online: <https://lawrence-lights.com>. All proceeds will remain in the community to support the beneficiaries of the Sertoma Club, the LBOR Community Foundation, as well as the Lawrence Parks & Recreation Wee Folks Scholarship Fund. **Betty Bunce** is president of Lawrence Sertoma, named for its mission of "service to mankind."



Pilings up

(Above) Twin elevator shafts and pilings took shape in October at the new Welcome Center. (At right) A webcam view from Louisiana Street shows horizontal steel-girder forms surrounding elevator shafts. Watch at JayhawkWelcomeCenter.org, select 'Updates' and scroll down to Live Cam.



December 2021

Newsletter

Send news for **December**
by or before **Saturday,**
Nov. 20, to
mjdunlap@ku.edu

Endacott Society
endacottsociety.org

E-mail contact

endacottsociety@gmail.com

DUES & GIFTS

To be a member of the Endacott Society, one must have retired from KU or any accredited institution of higher learning. Sign up and remit dues as a member of the KU Alumni Association, designating a desire for Endacott Society membership. (Call 785-864-4760, ask for Records, or go online at www.kualumni.org/join; scroll down to Membership Options for Every Jayhawk, click on Endacott Society, and select an option.) Dues for retirees are \$30 a year. Spouses or partners can be added at no additional cost.

Contributions or memorial gifts in honor of current or deceased persons should be paid directly to the Endacott Society in care of the Adams Alumni Center, 1266 Oread Ave., Lawrence KS 66045-3169. These contributions will be deposited in the **Expressions of Appreciation Fund** and can, if designated, be used to support the Endacott Society's activities.