



May 2025

Email: endacottsociety@gmail.com

Web page: Endacottsociety.org

Nearly 60 retirees and guests attended the April 16 Paul Taylor Dance Company performance at the Lied Center, courtesy of Executive Director Derek Kwan. I hope you enjoyed this very entertaining evening!

On Thursday, May 8, at 1:30-3 p.m. in the Kansas Union Ballroom, KU will hold its 51st annual employee recognition ceremony. Recognition is based on five-year increments of service. Most Endacott members no doubt have several lapel pins, tie tacks or other jewelry at home, all emblazoned with a grinning Jayhawk. You can scroll through the names, with their department and years of service, online at: <https://humanresources.ku.edu/2025-employee-recognition-ceremony-and-service-awards>.

You'll see those "newcomers" in your department who suddenly have 10-20 years of service. You'll also be amazed at the number of persons – 25 – who've been at KU 40 years or longer. Leading the list are some familiar names:

- Jane Butenhoff, Medicinal Chemistry [60]
- Kent E. Miller, Libraries-General [60]
- Sandy Patchen, KU Police Department [60]
- John Poggio, Educational Psychology [55]
- Anita Abel, Office of Research [50]
- Kristin Bowman-James, Chemistry [50]
- Mary K. Roach, Libraries-General [50]

FYI: Stringing just those seven back-to-back – a total of 385 years of service – takes you almost to the landing of the Mayflower!

You can attend the May 8 event or watch it livestream. Consider sending a quick email to former colleagues and friends on the list. My own experience is they do remember

you and do welcome a congratulatory hello. It's also a reminder to them that there is life after retirement, and one part of that could be membership in the Endacott Society.

Speaking of John Poggio, he is a co-author – along with KU's David Ekerdt and Edward Meyen – of a study published recently and available online: "Schools and their Faculty Retirees: The Potential for Mutual Goodwill," https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=5113113. Their work combined two surveys: one of American higher education institutions with four-year degree programs and the other the KU University Senate Retiree Rights and Benefits Committee survey conducted in 2023.

Of 685 institutions contacted, 274 (40%) responded. The vast majority indicated they do not maintain contact with retirees in any form. The paper is part of the TIAA Institute Research Paper Series. The research was funded by TIAA and KU Endowment.

A March 26 KU News release – "Study finds universities rarely keep contact with retirees, but benefits exist for schools, former employees when they do" – quoted Poggio: "Institutions of higher education essentially said, 'We do nothing, and if you learn anything, can you please keep us informed?'. Only 9% said they have some sort of regular program in hand. We were shocked. Only 14% responded they reached out once."

Interesting research, and interesting to know that KU and the Endacott Society are leaders at keeping retirees engaged in the university.

-Kevin

Save the date:

Potluck & Lecture—June 17th

May Activities & Events

Armchair Travel

Ron Schorr rwwschorr@gmail.com

Thursday, May 1st at 1:30 pm-- Adams Alumni Center

Omofolabo Ajayi-Soyinka will be giving a presentation on her trip to China.
Live presentation only. Video version will be available later on YouTube.

Arts & Sciences Lecture Program

Kevin Boatright kboatright@ku.edu

No program scheduled for May.

Cinema Studies

Nora Clark nora.clark@washburn.edu

J. Tom Adams papawmik2004@yahoo.com

DOMESTIC MOVIE

NO Domestic movie for May.

FOREIGN MOVIE

Tuesday, May 13th, 1:30 to 4:00 pm

Lawrence Public Library, Room "C"

"Norway's Bergen Railway" (Kanopy, PBS Series) 2022, 0hr 44min

Running from Norway's second city of Bergen to its capital, Oslo, the Bergen line is filmed from the air as it passes along the fjords of Western Norway, rises to the snowy Hardanger Plateau and descends through deep forests. Along the way learn how a dedicated team of people keep the line open in a challenging environment: clearing snow and ice, deterring wildlife, and repairing damaged trains. This is the sixth episode from the television series "Epic Train Journeys From Above" which aired in 2024. The six-part series follows some of the world's most extraordinary railway journeys filmed from above and on the ground, taking the audience on an adventure of a lifetime. You will fly above spectacular scenery and explore exceptional engineering; meeting the people who maintain and run these incredible railroads as well as those who live alongside them. The series was produced by Zara Akester with Renegade Pictures (UK) Limited in association with National Geographic.

DOCUMENTARY MOVIE

Tuesday, May 27th, 1:30-4:00 pm

Lawrence Public Library, Room C

"Flood In the Desert" (PBS) 2023, 0 hr 53 min

Just before midnight on March 12, 1928, about 40 miles north of Los Angeles, one of the biggest dams in the country blew apart, releasing a wall of water 20 stories high. Ten thousand people lived downstream. *Flood in the Desert* tells the story of the St. Francis Dam disaster, which not only destroyed hundreds of lives and millions of dollars' worth of property; it also washed away the reputation of William Mulholland, the father of modern Los Angeles, and jeopardized larger plans to transform the West. A self-taught engineer, the 72-year-old Mulholland had launched the city's remarkable growth by building both an aqueduct to pipe water 233 miles from the Sierra Nevada Mountains, and the St. Francis Dam, to hold a full year's supply of water for Los Angeles. The collapse of the St. Francis Dam was a colossal

engineering and human disaster but within days a concerted effort was underway to erase the dam's failure from popular memory.

We are asking that you *RSVP* if you plan to attend either of these movies when we send out reminders.

Drama Studies

Michael Shaw michaelhearneshaw@gmail.com

Tuesdays, May 6th & 20th at 1:30 pm

ART ROOM in Pioneer Ridge Independent Living.

We will read George Bernard Shaw's "Major Barbara." Audrey will lead the discussion questioning whether the source of donated money influences the good it may do for the needy.

Games Theory

Steven Lee swlee@ku.edu

There will be **NO** game playing in May, but will return in June.

Garden Seminar (Hybrid)

Cal & Jo Cink ccinkbird76@gmail.com

Wednesday, May 14th at 9:00 am, Adams Alumni Center ---Summerfield Room

---Heat Loving Perennials for Kansas

Wednesday, May 28th at 9:00 am, Adams Alumni Center

--Housing for Birds who Summer in Kansas Backyards.

Great Books (Zoom)

Jim Woelfel woelfel@ku.edu

Wednesday, May 14th at 1:30 pm.

We will read Fyodor Dostoevsky's short novel *Notes from Underground* (1864). *Notes* has the form of a written confession by the unnamed narrator. Underground Man at age 40 suffers from "hyper-consciousness" about himself and others, examining in detail what a contradictory person he is: a man who longs for the "highest and best" but behaves badly, as illustrated by a story he tells about when he was in his twenties. In analyzing himself he also provocatively argues against the rationalistic beliefs about human nature from Western Europe that were gaining influence in 19th-century Russia.

Lunch Bunch

Ron Schorr rwwschorr@gmail.com

Wednesdays, 11:45 am.

Ron will announce a local restaurant each week, or weather permitting, he may announce a picnic-style brown bag at the Weinberg Pavilion at the Rotary Arboretum, 5100 W. 27th St. Please contact Ron by email to receive his announcements.

Movement Workshop

Haskell Springer springer@ku.edu

All Fridays in May at 9 am

Senior Resource Center

Movement Workshop, Tai Chi will take place every Friday in May as scheduled. The "Tai Chief" notes that the members of the workshop have learned a great deal--to their benefit, enjoyment, and satisfaction.

Old-Time Radio (Zoom)

John Nicholson wryterjccc@gmail.co

Monday, May 19th at 1:30 - 3:45 pm

This month, we'll begin with **Boston Blackie**, a private detective described as "a modern Robin Hood, a little on the gangster side, and wise to all the tricks but always doing a lot of good." Then we'll listen to an episode of the old quiz program, **Information, Please**. And we'll round out the afternoon by spending it in **Duffy's Tavern**. The waiting room opens at 1:15, with the program beginning at 1:30. If this is your first time attending, please consider joining us. No reservations are necessary.

Out-of-Town Travel **Thursday, May 22nd**

Judy Niebaum jniebaum@sunflower.com

Endacott Society members will leave Lawrence at 9 a.m. to visit Powell Gardens, a nonprofit public botanical garden of about 175 acres southeast of Kansas City. Admission: \$12 (\$11 for group of 15 or more) payable in advance to Judy Niebaum, co-chair of the Endacott Out-of-Town travel group. Powell Gardens is on U.S. Hwy 50 at Kingsville, Missouri (between Lee's Summit and Warrensburg, approximately 75 miles from Lawrence). Volunteer drivers will provide transportation. We will have a group lunch after the tour at a site to be determined. The tour should take 1.5-2 hours, with standing and some walking required. For information about our trip contact Judy Niebaum at (360) 953-2240.

Potluck Dinner & Lecture

Linda Mullens lmullens@ku.edu

The next potluck will be on Tuesday, June 17th.

Technology Studies

Dave Mannering dmannering@yahoo.com

Wednesday, May 7, 9:00 am, Adams Alumni Center

---*Decrypting Cryptocurrency*. What it is (and isn't), explained in everyday language - Jack Horner

Wednesday, May 21, 9:00 am, Adams Alumni Center

---*Flying Cars* - They're here (sort of) - does that excite you or terrify you?

Wednesday Coffee

Kevin Boatright kboatright@ku.edu

Wednesday, May 7, 10:00 am – Adams Alumni Center

Wednesday, May 14, 10:00 am – Adams Alumni Center—Summerfield Room

Wednesday, May 21, 10:00 am – Adams Alumni Center – Birthday Cake

Wednesday, May 28, 10:00 am – Adams Alumni Center

Continued----->

Our fun-loving Endacott members -- “Girls Just Wanna Have Fun” (Cyndi Lauper song lyrics)



TWA Museum: Judy Niebaum, the efficient stewardess. Linda Mannering, the daring airline pilot.



Deb Boatright, the tiger whisperer (at The Rabbit hOle children’s museum last fall).