

Logan woman named to KU hall of fame

Bales, husband helped establish organ recital hall

By PHYLLIS J. ZORN
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LOGAN — Polly Bales' lifelong love of music and her longtime support of the University of Kansas are combining to garner her high recognition.

Bales was inducted Thursday evening into the KU Women's Hall of Fame during a ceremony in Lawrence. She was among 14 women getting kudos during the annual Women's Recognition Program.

Bales is a founder of the Dane G. Hansen Museum in Logan and was president of the museum's board of directors until last January.

She was a student at KU when she met her future husband, Dane Bales.

Bales, who died in 2001, was the nephew of Dane Hansen and took over Hansen Enterprises. Through the Hansen Foundation, the family has given millions of dollars in chari-

table support and scholarships for Kansas high school students.

"I told Dane when we were getting serious, I'd graduate from college and teach three years before getting married. But something happened at the end of my junior year — I got my MRS. I never finished college," Bales said.

Her love of music began early in life. While growing up on her parents' farm near White-water, she liked to practice piano after dinner.

"My older sisters used to say I liked to practice when it was time to wash dishes," Bales recalled with a smile.

At 84, Bales still plays the organ regularly.

"I intend to stay as church organist as long as I can crawl on that bench and get that job done," Bales said.

She and Dane Bales gave money to KU to establish an organ recital hall. The Bales Organ Recital Hall is named in their honor.

"Music adds a dimension to life that not many other things do. I think that's why God created birds," Bales said.

KU's Hall of Fame award is

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Logan

students as career women and community leaders.

Bales was a founding member of the KU Fine Arts Advisory Board, where she helped establish the Lied Center, which replaced an aging Hoch Auditorium. She is also on the KU Endowment Association board of trustees and the Kansas Alumni Association board of directors.

given to exemplary alumnae, faculty and staff women who, by significant contributions and achievements, overall impact and outstanding character, serve as role models for

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