



KCU

*Office of Philanthropy  
& Alumni Relations*

*reviewed*

a quarterly supplement  
from *KCU Magazine*

WINTER  
2020/21





*Our world has faced a year  
of immeasurable challenges.*

*It has changed us – for good.*

As we have adjusted our lifestyles to become more solitary, the experiences of the past nine months have altered our perspectives, leading us to redefine the meaning of “together.” We have been forced to reflect on our own roles during these challenging times of a pandemic paired with civil unrest. We have focused on the fight for health, grief, rights and the defense of our future. We continue to battle with these issues and navigate through uncharted waters.

The change brought upon us by the events of 2020 is tremendous, as individuals and as a KCU campus community. As we look back on the moments that have led us to this point and consider the ways in which our outlook on the future will take shape, we are most reminded of the importance of community.

Our university has endured because we have remained together – not in physical spaces but in our shared goals and commitment to one another – and we will continue onward together into that new future.

As KCU responds to new challenges and opportunities at warp speed, we want to keep you more informed, more frequently. To that end, we have designed this, our first quarterly supplement to the annual *KCU Magazine*. Please consider *Reviewed* as your guide to the KCU stories we think you should know – today. With each issue of *Reviewed* you can access the full content online at: [kansascity.edu/reviewed](https://kansascity.edu/reviewed)

We hope you enjoy these stories, updates and photographs and we invite you to join KCU as we begin a new year with continued dedication to our students and science and a promise to always protect one another.



## STUDENT-FOCUSED

At times, the challenges for students in higher education can seem insurmountable. But with your help, KCU students have received support that not only relieves some of their financial burden but also provides an added sense that someone cares about them. Read how your support made all the difference at: [kansascity.edu/reviewed](https://kansascity.edu/reviewed)

### **SCHOLARSHIP MATCH CHALLENGE – CHECK!**

Thanks to your generous support, KCU successfully met the Scholarship Match challenge made by Brad Vince, DO (COM '98), and business executives Brad Bergman and Tom McDonnell through the Jack and Glenna Wylie Charitable Foundation – creating five new Impact Scholarship funds!

### **EMERGENCY HARDSHIP SUPPORT CONTINUES**

As part of the *COVID-19 Response Fund*, KCU established a dedicated Student Hardship Fund to support students in need of economic assistance for which no financial aid is eligible. Awards up to \$5,000 help cover needs such as: emergency travel; extra basic living expenses; replacement of stolen goods; and mental health medical bills not covered by insurance. In addition to the Student Hardship Fund, KCU continues to raise other forms of support through the *COVID-19 Response Fund*, including improving campus technology and providing additional technology access for KCU students, faculty and staff; and establishing a virology/microbiology professorship.



# NARROWING THE GAP

KCU's planned College of Dental Medicine will address the significant and growing oral health needs of the four-state region through a general practice, community-based model. KCU's dental curriculum will focus on early clinical training and issues related to community and population health. With only three dental schools in the entire area, there is currently a challenge in training an adequate number of dentists to help meet these needs.

**MABEE FOUNDATION CHALLENGE GRANT**  
With the help of generous donors, KCU has raised more than \$31 million toward a goal of \$40 million. We are pleased to announce a challenge grant of \$2 million from the JE and LE Mabee Foundation. This award is contingent on meeting the original goal of \$40 million by October 2021. Read more about the College of Dental Medicine and the Mabee Foundation Challenge at: [kansascity.edu/reviewed](https://kansascity.edu/reviewed)

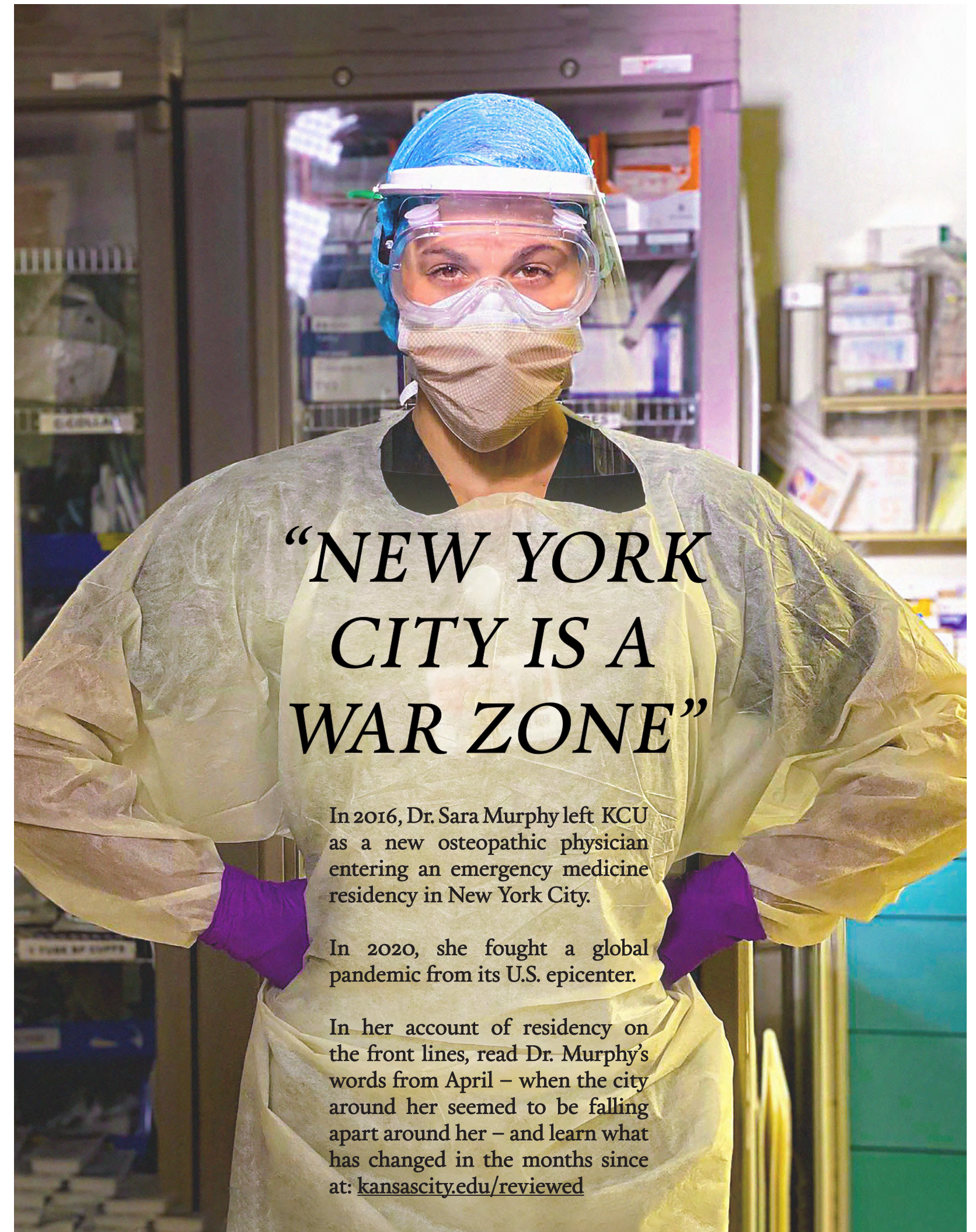


*“Dr. Niessen possesses a rare breadth and depth of oral health experience that bridges a number of critical disciplines, making her an outstanding choice for leading our new college of dental medicine.”*

-MARC B. HAHN, DO

KCU is honored to have Linda C. Niessen, DMD, MPH, MPP, an esteemed dental educator, consultant to industry and dedicated public health professional lead the College of Dental Medicine.

Read her bio and welcome announcement at: [kansascity.edu/reviewed](https://kansascity.edu/reviewed)



## “NEW YORK CITY IS A WAR ZONE”

In 2016, Dr. Sara Murphy left KCU as a new osteopathic physician entering an emergency medicine residency in New York City.

In 2020, she fought a global pandemic from its U.S. epicenter.

In her account of residency on the front lines, read Dr. Murphy's words from April – when the city around her seemed to be falling apart around her – and learn what has changed in the months since at: [kansascity.edu/reviewed](https://kansascity.edu/reviewed)





## PERSEVERING & PRESERVING

The year was 1973 and Kenneth Ganapini, DO (COM '77), found himself sitting across a desk from James DiRenna Sr., DO (COM '38), for his second attempt at interviewing for admission to KCU. A year prior, his first attempt had not gone well after Ganapini was unable to answer one simple question.

This time, however, Ganapini had taken a year to reflect, prepare and improve. He would be ready with an authentic and heartfelt answer that would change the course of his life.

DiRenna, chewing on his signature cigar, finally asked him one last, simple question, "Why do you want to be a DO?"

Read Dr. Ganapini's story of overcoming adversity and finding a purpose at: [kansascity.edu/reviewed](https://kansascity.edu/reviewed)

## FUTURE- PROOF

By early 2020, KCU's work to redefine health sciences education was gaining speed with the construction of the new Center for Medical Education Innovation (CMEI). Bringing together ground-breaking technology and unparalleled access to education, instruction and resources to create an academic environment that could exist anywhere at any time, the CMEI would change everything.

Then, there was a pandemic. And the CMEI *did* change everything.

How has the CMEI helped our students stay on track throughout a global pandemic?

In a world forever changed by COVID-19, what lies ahead for the center built to be future-proof?

Discover the CMEI at:  
[kansascity.edu/reviewed](https://kansascity.edu/reviewed)



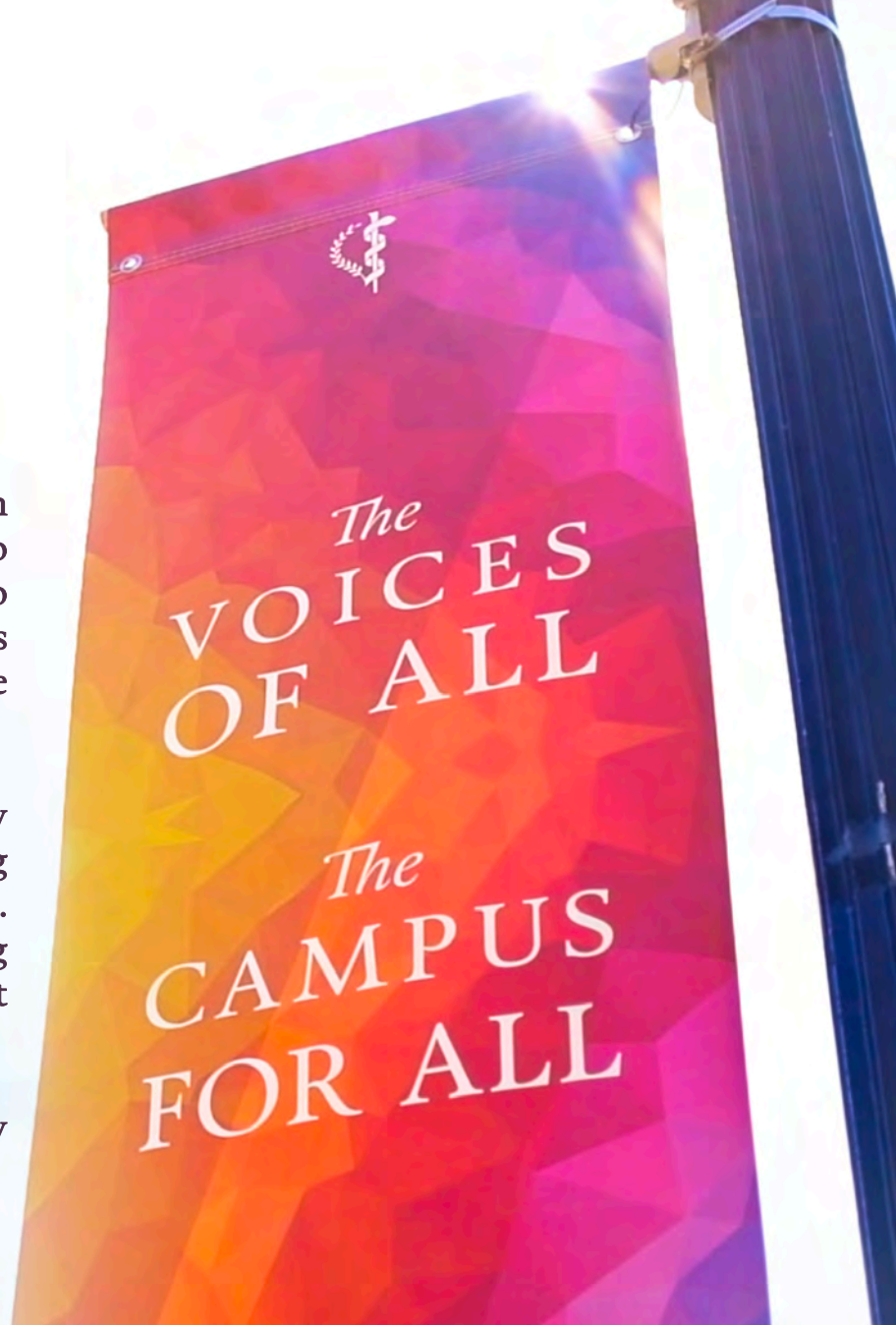


# WE ARE ONE UNIVERSITY

Since the launch of our campus climate study in 2018, KCU has committed to ongoing efforts to affirm that we are One University. We aspire to be a campus community in which all members feel accepted, all experiences and perspectives are respected, and all voices are equally valued.

As a university, KCU is committed to advancing every student, faculty and staff member's understanding of the complex issues facing marginalized groups. And as *One University*, KCU is dedicated to ensuring that our campuses are supportive, safe and vibrant communities for all.

Read more about the University's diversity, equity and inclusion efforts at: [kansascity.edu/diversity](https://kansascity.edu/diversity)



Kansas City  
University

*Office of Philanthropy  
& Alumni Relations*

**KANSASCITY.EDU**

## YOUR SUPPORT MAKES THE DIFFERENCE

To better reflect our work in ensuring a strong future for the University through dedicated support and engagement, the KCU Office of Advancement is proud to announce that we are now the KCU Office of Philanthropy and Alumni Relations.

Thank you for your continued generosity and commitment to KCU and our students. If you would like to become involved in new ways, make a gift or receive information, please email us at [alumni@kansascity.edu](mailto:alumni@kansascity.edu)