Awestruck and inspired while observing a cardiothoracic surgery, Qwynton (Qhai) Johnson (COM '24) set his sights not merely on being an observer, but rather on becoming the one who performs the surgery.

Johnson has forged an exemplary path in his academic pursuit, earning the honorable KCU Diversity Scholarship. Learn more about this former prosoccer-wannabe's journey to medical school, a few of the ways that COVID-19 has shaped his medical school experience, and his aspirations to be an agent of change in the African-American community.

"THIS WHITE COAT **EMBODIES** MYANCESTORS..."

#### GIVING WITH A **PURPOSE**

KCU celebrated its second Day of Giving on April 5 with donations totaling over \$100,000, dramatically exceeding our original goal of \$30,000 and stretch goal of \$75,000.

Day of Giving is a one-day campaign in which alumni, students and friends come together to celebrate the philanthropic spirit and generosity of the University. This year's funds will impact KCU's COVID-19 Response *Fund* as well as additional areas of need.



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#### Upcoming Events

2021 COMMENCEMENT

SCHEDULED KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

MAY 8 | KANSAS CITY

MAY 9 | JOPLIN

THOMAS ELY, DO President, American Osteopathic Association

#### LT. GEN. LAURA RICHARDSON

Commander, United States Army North

Awaiting Senate confirmation for March 8, 2022 nomination by President Biden to appointment of Commander, U.S. Army Southern Command

#### 2021 HOMECOMING

SEPT. 23 - 25 | KANSAS CITY

Includes free CME hours for KCU-COM alumni, Class Reunions, Campus Tours and the Alumni Awards Reception

View current Homecoming details at kansascity.edu/homecoming

To learn more about how to stay involved with KCU, please email us at alumni@kansascity.edu.

VIEWEd

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KCU Office of Philanthropy & Alumni Relations



## CELEBRATING A UNIQUE CALLING

For the Class of 2024, starting med school amidst lockdowns, social distancing, remote learning and heightened civil unrest has brought even greater challenges than normal. But it has also brought an opportunity that is truly unique to this class alone.

On March 2 and 4, 2021, Kansas City University's College of Osteopathic Medicine (COM) Class of 2024 participated in a special celebration to recognize their early and unprecedented hands-on clinical practice in COVID-19 vaccination clinics.

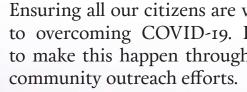
SPRING 2021



## MATCH DAY MANIA







More than 600 medical students from the Learn more about these efforts and how a Joplin and Kansas City campuses have become \$150,000 grant from the Henry and Marion certified, participating in the delivery of more Bloch Foundation will help keep this important than 30,000 vaccinations to date. But some community outreach going. community members are reluctant to get the

From showcasing a choreographed dance routine to discovering their residency placements with family members cheering by their sides, KCU's Class of 2021 shared their excitement, photos and videos in a virtual celebration of this year's Match Day on March 19.

Ensuring all our citizens are vaccinated is key shot. That's why KCU's clinical psychology to overcoming COVID-19. KCU is helping faculty have been conducting "listening tours" to make this happen through two important to better understand and address concerns among underrepresented populations.

#### GIVING THEIR **BEST SHOT**

# TRANSLATING & NAVIGATING

All of the projects U.S. Army Col. Matt Hoefer, DO, (COM '05) was working on pre-pandemic shifted to the backburner almost overnight.

An aerospace and occupational medicine physician currently assigned as the command surgeon for U.S. Army Materiel Command (AMC), Col. Hoefer and his team's primary focus against COVID-19 has been to protect the Army's workforce and families and prevent the spread of the coronavirus while continuing their mission-essential work around the globe.



FOR MORE ABOUT EACH STORY, GO TO KANSASCITY.EDU/REVIEWED

### SPRING REAWAKENING

With new cases of COVID-19 in the region continuing to decrease, nationwide access to the vaccines expanding, and our campus community maintaining an average positivity rate of just over 1 percent throughout the year, KCU recently proceeded to Stage 4 of our Reawakening Plan.

This new stage includes the reopening of key campus areas such as study rooms, libraries and fitness centers, as well as a loosening of restrictions regarding small group activities and travel.

