

THE MAGAZINE OF THE



Kansas City University

OF MEDICINE AND BIOSCIENCES

SPRING 2015



ALL HIS EYES HAVE SEEN

KCU Alum Andrew Dennis, DO
(COM '97), Bears Witness to the Best,
Worst of Chicago Through His Work
as a Trauma and Burn Surgeon

KCU UNVEILS A FRESH, NEW LOOK

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CHASING THE WORLD'S FASTEST PHYSICIAN

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*Improving the Well-Being
of the Communities We Serve.*

That is our mission, but to us it means so much more. It is why all of us at the Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences (KCU) are proud to be the second-leading provider of physicians for both Missouri and Kansas, and it is why we are proud to call Kansas City's Northeast Neighborhood home for the past 100 years.

More than 1,100 students in osteopathic medicine, bioethics and biomedical sciences attend our two colleges – the College of Osteopathic Medicine and the College of Biosciences – and make an impact in our community by providing thousands of hours of service each year. With more than 7,500 physician and scientist alumni practicing throughout all 50 states, we are also making a significant difference around the country.



College of Osteopathic Medicine & College of Biosciences

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Alum Andrew Dennis, DO (COM '97), does his part to heal those injured by violence in Chicago.

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Officials unveil a new brand identity designed to better represent the institution and build excitement for the University's next century.

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Known nationally for his exploits as a former NASCAR driver, Don Tarr, DO (COM '97), is building a different sort of legacy in Mountain City, Tenn.

28 LAND OF OPPORTUNITY

First-year student Svetlana Kovaleva finds the path from Siberia to America has great challenges and great rewards.



DEPARTMENTS

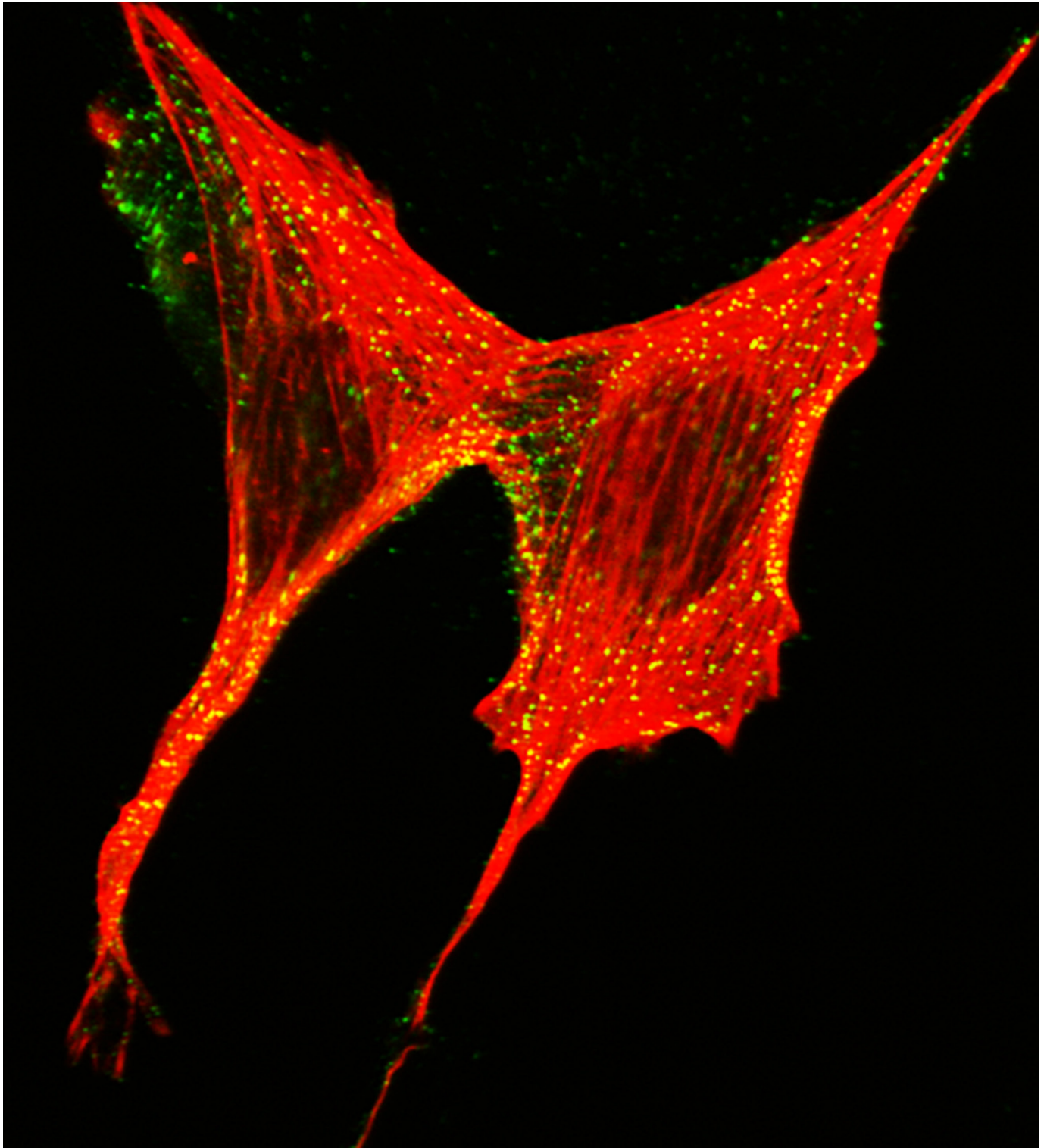
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FRONT COVER

Alum Andrew Dennis, DO (COM '97), stands inside the emergency room at John H. Stroger, Jr., Hospital in Chicago, where he serves as senior attending trauma and burn surgeon.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Science can be beautiful. Asma Zaidi, PhD, professor of biochemistry at KCU, was one of many researchers who shared stunning images from their work during Science to Art, a silent auction hosted Sept. 9 by the Kansas City Area Life Sciences Institute. Proceeds from the auction support STEAM education – a combination of science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics. Dr. Zaidi's photograph, which shows neuroblastoma (SH-SY5Y) cells, was purchased by the Higuchi Biosciences Center at the University of Kansas. It is on display in the gallery of the Multidisciplinary Building on the KU campus in Lawrence.





KCU Magazine is published three times a year by the University Relations Department for alumni, faculty, staff and friends of the Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences.

Viewpoints expressed are those of the writers and individuals interviewed, and do not necessarily reflect the position of the University, its administration, faculty, staff or students.

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Marc B. Hahn, DO

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to this publication.**

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences has been working diligently for the past year with our partners at Morningstar Communications and Willoughby Design to evaluate our branding, community perception and name recognition among our various constituencies. (*Read more about this process on Page 18.*) We found that our brand recognition is not strong among some of our constituent groups.

As we near our centennial celebration in 2016, we decided this was an ideal opportunity for the University to make a change. Our primary objective in this process has been to create a new brand identity that reflects the importance of a globally recognized medical university and also ties back to our heritage.

With our new branding, which we revealed internally on Jan. 14, we believe we have accomplished our goals. Here is what you need to know:



- From today forward, we are and will remain the Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences. Our name will not change; however, we will focus on the Kansas City University part of our name and will no longer use the KCUMB acronym. If an acronym is used, it will be KCU. The full name is the same, but the focus is different – Kansas City University.
- More importantly, we introduced a new logo, seal and crest that better identifies our institution. For example, we incorporated laurel leaves, which are symbolic of higher education, and the Staff of Asclepius, which represents medicine. It is a fresh, new look for our University, but a look that ties back to our osteopathic heritage.

As we continue to rollout our new brand during the coming year and prepare for our centennial celebration in 2016, I encourage you to share the excitement of this new beginning as our proud institution enters our second hundred years. I hope you share our belief that this new look truly captures our vision for the future.

Yours truly,

Marc B. Hahn, DO
President and Chief Executive Officer

Get the Latest KCU News
Read my blog at: president.kcumb.edu
Follow me on Twitter: @KCUMBpresident

BY THE NUMBERS

12,726

KCU's Score I for Health program screened 12,726 children at 43 elementary schools during the 2013-2014 academic year. Score I for Health is one of the best examples of how KCU is achieving its mission of "improving the well-being of the communities we serve."



Marc B. Hahn, DO, is KCU's 14th president and chief executive officer. His investiture ceremony will take place March 26 at The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City, Mo. For more information or to register to attend, visit www.kcumb.edu/Investiture.

14

1,000,000+

William Geb, DO (COM '50), passed away June 19 in Oklahoma City at the age of 89, generously leaving more than \$1 million to KCU, one of the largest gifts in the University's history. Read more about Dr. Geb on Page 27.



1,039,845

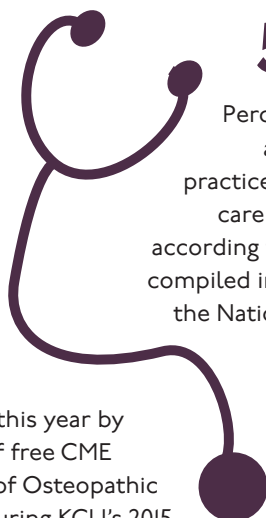
In case you didn't notice, the internet is booming. KCU's Facebook content was viewed more than 1 million times in 2014 – 1,039,845 times, to be exact. Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/KCUMB so that you can see what the fuss is all about.



Save some money this year by taking advantage of free CME credit for College of Osteopathic Medicine alumni during KCU's 2015 Homecoming celebration, scheduled for Sept. 17-19. It's our commitment to your lifelong learning. Watch for details coming soon.

57

Percent of KCU alumni who practice in primary care specialties, according to statistics compiled in August by the National Center for the Analysis of Healthcare Data.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Re: 'After Four Decades at KCU, Rushing Prepares for a New Chapter'

What a fine article on such a great teacher (Douglas Rushing, PhD) and gentleman.

Robert Schwarze, DO (COM '80)

Re: 'A Perplexing Predicament: No Simple Solution for Looming Shortage of Primary Care Physicians'

I think many experienced physicians are leaving practice because of the frustration from:

- Irrelevant meaningful use
- Electronic medical records that have not shown to improve quality/time/income
- Lack of mental health support and resources
- Prior authorization
- Peer-to-peer review

Good article.

Dwayne Thomason, DO (COM '77)

FEEDBACK: We welcome your responses to this publication. Please send comments to editor@kcumb.edu.

KCU had received 6,004 applications for admission as of March 4, an increase of approximately 40 percent compared with one year earlier, according to data provided by the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine Application Service (AACOMAS).

40



ALONG THE AVENUE

APPLICATIONS TO ALL KCU PROGRAMS SHOW TREMENDOUS GROWTH

More students than ever before are applying for admission to KCU's two colleges.

KCU's College of Osteopathic Medicine leads all osteopathic medical schools for percentage increase in applications as compared with one year earlier. According to data provided by the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine Application Service (AACOMAS), KCU had received 6,004 applications as of March 4, an increase of approximately 40 percent. In fact, KCU's growth in applications is more than twice the average of other osteopathic medical schools.

Numbers for the University's other degree programs are just as impressive. The one-year bioethics program, which recently became part of the College of Osteopathic Medicine, has received 98 applications, compared with only 19 at the same time last year.

Combined applications to both the one- and two-year biomedical sciences tracks currently stand at 961, compared with only 158 at the same time last year.



UNIVERSITY HOSTS CYCLING EVENT TO BENEFIT MENTAL HEALTH

KCU served as the title sponsor and we were proud to host a rest stop Sept. 1 for cyclists riding in the annual Bike for the Brain event, which raises money for Kansas City agencies that enhance the lives of people with mental health challenges.

Several KCU students took part in the event, which began in 2006 and continues to grow each year. Approximately 350 cyclists participated, along with nearly 100 volunteers. The ride raised more than \$26,000.



UNIVERSITY HOSTS 23RD RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

Students and faculty mentors gathered to showcase their research Nov. 19 during the 23rd annual KCU Research Symposium. The theme for the event, which included more than 30 research presentations, was "Seeing Osteopathic Medicine Differently: Structure and Function are Reciprocally Interrelated."

Flavia Costa, PhD, research instructor in the College of Biosciences, served as chair for the event, and Steven Gustafson, DO, assistant professor of pathology, was the co-chair. Keynote speakers were Pedro Lowenstein, MD, PhD, of the University of Michigan School of Medicine, and Lynda Bonewald, PhD, of the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Dentistry and Center of Excellence in the Study of Dental and Musculoskeletal Tissues (CEMT).

Award recipients were:

- The Betty Jo White, DO, FACOS, Prize for Research: Flavia Costa, PhD, "Induction of Fetal Hemoglobin by Transcriptional Co-Activator TSPYL1"
- The Norbert W. Seidler, PhD, Award for Research (First Place): Richard Thompson, "The Effects of Obesity on the Pharmacokinetics of Pantoprazole and CYP2C19 Activity in Children and Adolescents with GERD"
- Second Place: Megan Ottomeyer, "Evaluation of Ciclopirox and Auranofen as Potential Chemotherapeutic Agents for Use Against Osteosarcoma"
- Third Place: Kanwar Singh, "Respiratory Health Among Low-Income Residents of Subsidized Housing Complexes"



KCU APPOINTS NEW ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR THE COLLEGE OF BIOSCIENCES

A familiar face was recently appointed as the new associate dean for KCU's College of Biosciences. Larry Segars, PharmD, DrPH, officially took on the new role Jan. 1.

Dr. Segars, who joined KCU in 2006 as associate professor and chair of pharmacology and microbiology in the university's College of Osteopathic Medicine, holds a bachelor's degree in pharmacy at Southwestern Oklahoma State University and a doctor of pharmacy from the University of Texas Health Science Center - San Antonio. He also holds a doctor of public health from the University of North Texas Health Science Center.



"Dr. Segars is an excellent teacher and leader who has proven himself to be a person willing to do whatever is necessary to help our students be successful," said Robert White, PhD, dean of the College of Biosciences. "He will be a great asset as we continue our work to grow and improve the offerings in the College of Biosciences."

Dr. Segars is a fellow of the American College of Epidemiology (FACE), an organization for which he also serves as treasurer. He has received numerous awards and professional recognition throughout his career.

WELCOME TO THE CLUB



The American Osteopathic College of Anesthesiologists honored Marc B. Hahn, DO, KCU's president and chief executive officer, during its annual convention Sept. 28-Oct. 1 in Scottsdale, Ariz. Dr. Hahn, an anesthesiologist, was one of six physicians awarded fellowship in the AOCA on Sept. 30.

STUDENTS' TRAINING EFFORTS CULMINATE WITH LEADING CHILDREN IN 5K RUN

A group of first- and second-year osteopathic medical students at the Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences volunteered their time to train children for a 5K run. On Nov. 2, the KCU students experienced the joy



of running alongside those children as they accomplished their goal of completing the 29th annual Cliff Hanger Run in Kansas City, Mo.

Approximately 15 members of the Fit Doctors Association, a student organization at KCU, partnered with three elementary schools near the campus to train third-through eighth-graders in preparation for the Cliff Hanger Run. KCU purchased new running shoes for each of the 70 children who participated in the training program, approximately 30 of whom ran in the race.

The KCU Cliff Hanger Kids Training Team, as the group calls itself, gathered weekly at Scuola Vita Nuova, Garfield Elementary and Gladstone Elementary to lead training sessions, serve as mentors for the children and teach them about healthy lifestyles. Their efforts highlight another way KCU is fulfilling its mission of "improving the well-being of the communities we serve."



AACOM HONORS PROVOST AND DEAN AS RECIPIENT OF 2014 DALE DODSON AWARD

The American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine's Assembly of Presidents recently named Bruce Dubin, DO, JD, as the 2014 recipient of the Dale Dodson Award. The award recognizes Dr. Dubin for his significant



contributions to the advancement of osteopathic medical education.

Dr. Dubin serves as executive vice president for academic affairs, provost and dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine at the Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences.

"We are honored to present this award to Dr. Dubin as we congratulate him on his many outstanding contributions to the osteopathic medical education community," said Stephen Shannon, DO, AACOM president and chief executive officer. "Dr. Dubin's achievements as a thought leader in osteopathic medical education, combined with his dedication to teaching, truly exceed expectations."

Dr. Dubin earned a bachelor of arts in chemistry and biology from Eastern Michigan University and a juris doctor from the University of Detroit Mercy. Board certified in internal medicine, he earned a doctor of osteopathic medicine in 1973 from A.T. Still University's Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine.

"Being able to contribute to the continued advancement of osteopathic medical education is something I take great pride in," Dr. Dubin said. "It's important that we provide the next generation of physicians with the best educational experiences possible, so that they, in turn, can provide outstanding care to thousands of patients during their careers."

UNIVERSITY APPOINTS ASSOCIATE PROVOST TO LEAD INSTITUTIONAL DIVERSITY, INCLUSIVITY EFFORTS

There are many reasons that having a more diverse University community improves both students' educational experiences and fosters a better working environment for faculty and staff. KCU hopes to take advantage of the opportunities created by enhancing the diversity of its student, faculty and staff populations.



Adrian Clark, who came to KCU in April 2014 as the executive director of the University's Office of Institutional Assessment and Accreditation, will maintain those responsibilities and now serve as associate provost of the new Office for Institutional Effectiveness, Accreditation and Inclusion. His expanded responsibilities will include the development of policies and procedures aimed at assuring the student body, as well as faculty and staff, are representative of diverse backgrounds and cultures, and to foster a sense of inclusivity on the University campus.

"One of our University's strategic goals is to enhance institutional diversity, and the appointment of Adrian Clark to lead our inclusivity efforts reinforces that commitment," said Marc B. Hahn, DO, president and chief executive officer. "Appreciating the value of a diverse campus will help us build a stronger institution that is more reflective of the communities we serve and more effective at preparing our students to care for patients from every background. Diversity and inclusion are central to achieving our principal vision to become 'the most student-focused medical university in the nation.'"

"Osteopathic medical schools have a long history of being inclusive institutions from the days of the profession's founding in the mid-1800s," Dr. Hahn said. "At a time when few female students or under-represented minorities were being admitted to medical schools, our own institution was a trailblazer with our first graduate being a woman – nearly 100 years ago."

4:30 p.m. Thursday, March 26, 2015
The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Atkins Auditorium
4525 Oak Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64111

THE INVESTITURE OF MARC B. HAHN DO, FAOCA

as the Fourteenth President of the Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences
RSVP at www.kcumb.edu/Investiture



MEET THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Members Help Establish Direction, Provide Oversight for University

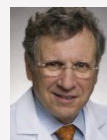
The Board of Trustees at the Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences (KCU) is comprised of alumni, business leaders and experts in higher education. Board members also serve on subcommittees that provide business advice and investigate specific initiatives that might benefit the University.



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Wichita, Kan.



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(COM '54)
Retired Physician
Henderson, Nevada



Howard Kesselheim, D.O.
(COM '74)
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(COM '10), MS (COB '06)
Pediatric Hematology and
Oncology Fellow,
Children's Mercy Hospital & Clinics
Kansas City, Mo.



Bruce Williams, D.O.
(COM '87) Facility Physician
Director, Centerpoint/Lafayette
Program, Midwest Physicians
Blue Springs, Mo.



Sheilahn Davis-Wyatt
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Clinics/Services, Children's
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Kevin Kaufman
Partner, KPMG, LLP
Kansas City, Mo.



Marc Hahn, D.O., ex officio
President and Chief Executive
Officer, KCU
Kansas City, Mo.

NEW BOARD MEMBER BECOMES FIRST TO REPRESENT BOTH OF THE UNIVERSITY'S TWO COLLEGES

It would be difficult to find a student who experienced more of what KCU had to offer than Nathan Hall, DO (COM '10), MBA, MS (COB '06). Dr. Hall, will now be able to share his personal insights in his new role as a member of the University's Board of Trustees.

"My main interest was to be that younger voice on the Board of Trustees to help push the school to excel," said Dr. Hall, who is currently in his second year of a pediatric hematology and oncology fellowship at Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, Mo.

"You get to know your patients on such a deeper level when you have a kid with a diagnosis of cancer or a blood disorder than you do a typical pediatric patient," he said. "You get to join the family on their journey through cancer. You can tell it changes their life and, at the same time, it

changes my life as well. I like getting to know the families through the years of treatment."

He earned a master of science in biomedical sciences from KCU's College of Biosciences in 2006 before completing his doctor of osteopathic medicine in 2010. As a participant in the University's unique dual-degree program with Rockhurst University, he also earned a master of business administration in healthcare leadership in 2010.

While the University has established itself as a strong medical school, Dr. Hall hopes to use his time on the Board to encourage growth in the College of Biosciences, a realm where he believes KCU is poised to become a leader. In addition, he hopes to focus on getting young alumni more involved with the University and keep tuition costs under control without sacrificing educational quality.

Campus Master Plan Progress Update

Administration Building Renovations, Dybedal Center for Research Improvements Underway as Campus Master Plan Progresses

KCU continues to move forward with projects included in the Campus Master Plan, with work now shifting to the Administration Building and the Dybedal Center for Research.

With all employees moved out of the building and the successful auction of furnishings, workers recently completed interior demolition of the Administration Building. The building interior was removed down to structural features and will be replaced with a state-of-the-art, modern work environment, with plenty of open space for collaboration, meeting rooms and a welcome center for campus

visitors. Construction crews have removed truckloads of material that will be re-used or donated to local charities.

Construction of new research laboratory space in the Dybedal Center for Research is also progressing. The work includes a large laboratory, a confocal microscope room, a cell culture room, and adjacent animal holding and procedure rooms. Select upgrades to the building lobby and utility improvements for other laboratory spaces are being performed in conjunction with this work.

For more information on other aspects of the Campus Master Plan, visit www.kcumb.edu/Future.

BOARD MEMBER TREATS PATIENTS ABROAD DURING MEDICAL MISSIONS

A strong desire to serve those in need is what originally led John “J.P.” Smith, DO (COM ’75), to pursue a career in medicine. After 40 years as a physician, it’s still what drives him.

Dr. Smith, vice chair of KCU’s Board of Trustees and a general surgeon at Surgical Specialties, P.A., in Wichita, Kan., recently returned from a medical mission to the Dominican Republic. It is the 19th time he has made the two-week international trek since 1997 as part of Medical Ministry International.

On the most recent trip, which concluded in early February, 25 medical personnel and support staff saw approximately 800 patients and performed more than 100 surgeries. It’s one way Dr. Smith is fulfilling KCU’s mission of “improving the well-being of the communities we serve.”

“I enjoy going down there,” Dr. Smith said. “It’s very fulfilling and rewarding. There is a level of appreciation and

gratitude that is almost unparalleled. They have no expectations. If you’re not there, it’s not going to happen, so whatever you can do is helpful to them.”

Now in his third year on the Board, Dr. Smith said he would have never imagined while in medical school that his career could one day lead him back to where it started.

“I think it’s kind of a dream of everybody to be able to go to their alma mater and have an impact,” he said. “While our individual backgrounds are different, all of our goals are the same – that is, to make KCU the best institution in the Midwest, if not the entire United States.”

So far, he believes it’s working.

“In the short period of time that I’ve been on the Board, we’ve made such tremendous strides and progress,” he said. “I only see great things for the University in the future.”

All His Eyes Have Seen

By Joshua Roberts
Photography by Tori Soper



Alum Andrew Dennis, DO (COM '97), Has Witnessed Chicago's Best, Worst Through His Trauma Work

The roughly 20-page resume of Andrew Dennis, DO (COM '97), boasts an extensive myriad of academic, professional and public service achievements. It's a candid moment with a CNN camera crew, though, that best captures the quintessence of the senior attending trauma and burn surgeon at the Cook County Trauma and Burn Unit at John H. Stroger, Jr., Hospital.

The brief moment, filmed in July 2013 for the documentary series, "Chicagoland," following the tragic drive-by shooting death of a 24-year-old man – a husband, father and Navy veteran, Dr. Dennis later learned – shows a glimpse of the emotional toll his line of work sometimes takes.

"I've lost many, many nights of sleep," Dr. Dennis said on camera. "Even if you're not here, you take it home with you."

"You learn to compartmentalize very quickly because that's the only way you can survive in this environment. My world is all about living in people's worst nightmares."

The last line, in particular, grabbed attention – a headline on CNN's website, and a mention in a review of "Chicagoland" in the Chicago Tribune's arts and entertainment section.

As a narrator for the TV documentary says in a gravelly voice, it's "not just summer, it's shooting season" in Chicago. Many times, it's left to Dr. Dennis and his team to treat the wounded.

"I think, for me, I have my ghosts," Dr. Dennis. "There are (times) I can flash back to the moments of seeing someone's life snap away. And, I guess every surgeon does have his own cemetery, and he or she, I'm sure, visits them regularly. I do."

Cook County is one of the busiest urban trauma centers in the country, with about 7,000 admissions per year in trauma and burn, outpacing most other institutions, Dr. Dennis said.

The hospital is the flagship of the Cook County Health & Hospitals System, and includes 464 beds and a Level I Trauma Center that's one of the most respected in the United States. Cook County Hospital remains at the forefront of new therapies and innovations in health care.

"Chicago has a violence issue right now, but it's not the only thing we do," Dr. Dennis said. "We take care of a lot of people that are hurt in car crashes and fights and falls and things like that, but we do have a significant base of population that are victims of violence. A good portion of them are victims of penetrating violence."

"Our existence is, if I see you, I'm not seeing you for anything good. At the end of the day, if you're a patient in the trauma unit, something very, very bad has befallen you."

Dr. Dennis completed his undergraduate studies at Clark University in Worcester, Mass., and postgraduate studies in neurophysiology at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, before finding his way to medical school.

He came to Kansas City from the East Coast on the urging of an alum, Albert Talone, DO (COM '75), who persuaded him that an education at KCU could open many doors.

Dr. Dennis also worked as a medic during medical school and met his wife, Dr. Melissa Dennis, while in Kansas City. They have been married since 1998 and have two children, an 8-year-old boy and a 10-year-old girl.

They have been in Chicago for more than 15 years, but they still share an affinity for the city where they met.

"I love Kansas City," Dr. Dennis said. "It's one of my favorite cities in the world. All of those things (I learned there) very much contributed to who I am today."

Following a surgical internship at Park Lane Medical Center in Kansas City, Mo., Dr. Dennis began a four-year general surgery residency at hospitals affiliated with Midwestern University's Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine. It was then that he first began to see Chicago for both its beauty and its wars. It's an outlook refined through years of observation and first-hand experiences.

"Chicago has always had a violence problem," Dr. Dennis said. "It flares up from time to time."

"Around the world, violence is a repercussion of poverty. It's not typically because people are evil and

continued on page 12

they're committing these crimes and they're involved in violence. This is just part of people's existence on the street when you are living in poverty, and that's a problem.

"Chicago is a very good city, like many other cities, at compartmentalizing itself. It's a city of neighborhoods, where you consolidate areas of poverty. And, when you have those areas of consolidation, you have flare ups."

Poverty, parenting, single-parent families, drug use and the allure of quick money from dealing each contribute to the violence he regularly sees at Cook County.

"When you put all of that in one pot," he said, "when you stick it in one part of the city, violence is a byproduct."

Melissa, a University of Missouri-Kansas City graduate, is an obstetrician/gynecologist at Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center. She sometimes worries about the toll her husband's work takes on him.

"It's hard to do what Andrew does without having it affect him and the family, although he does a very good job in trying to compartmentalize it," she said. "I think we can all tell when he's had a really bad night, either with losing a patient or with some extreme violence, because he can sometimes be very quiet post-call, and you can tell he's just trying to process what happened the day before."

But, there's a big benefit to husband and wife both

being physicians, Melissa said. They can be a sounding board for each other, a knowledgeable resource when it comes to talking about working in health care.

"Because I'm also in medicine, I feel like I'm a good resource for him to be able to vent to, because not only do I know him so well, but I also know aspects of medicine that other people don't know," she said.

"He knows I'm available if he wants to talk about something, and I'll ask him if he wants to. But, often times it's just letting him have some alone time to sort of decompress after he gets back."

Dr. Dennis's unique view of one of America's largest cities, and its crime and socioeconomic problems, are one reason behind another section of his curriculum vitae: media exposure.

His exposure in major, national media dates to 2007, ranging from the Chicago Sun Times and Chicago Tribune to the Associate Press and the Los Angeles Times in print, to NBC News, Fox News, TLC Network and A&E via broadcast.

More recently, he participated in "Chicagoland," an eight-part series featuring various city leaders, and "Chicago Trauma," a short-lived documentary for Nat Geo.

Dr. Dennis said he doesn't mind working with the media, so long as the attention is centered on the hospital's mission and not singularly focused on him.



Dr. Dennis and his wife, Melissa, also a physician, share laughs with their children while playing a board game.

"I've been coached well by the people here," he said. "As long as they keep telling me I'm doing a good job, and I'm representing the face of the institution and the unit, and in a way that's not for sensationalism but that speaks to the truth of what we do and what our role in the city and world is, then I'm fine with it. If it ever becomes sensationalistic, then I'm done with it."

"It's not about me, and I don't ever want it to be about me. It's about the unit ... This is purely for the good of the unit. In my mind, it's important to open the people of the city's eyes. We give them a window into that world, and they learn something about the city they live in."

Melissa said she hasn't been surprised by the media attention paid to her husband. His work is interesting and his views are genuine, she said.

"I think the media is drawn to Andrew because he's very honest on camera, and he tells a very important story for the city of Chicago," Melissa said. "But, it's never anything he is recruiting. He is never going after media attention, it just sort of seems to find him. I think it's great what he does and it's great for the people of Chicago to see that."

As for those candid moments on camera? Those, too, are authentic, Melissa said.

"Andrew doesn't know how to (pretend)," she said. "He is real, he is a real person. Those are real emotions you're seeing on screen. He has a way of sort of forgetting the camera is even there."

Dr. Dennis' role in Chicago also extends far beyond the hospital in formal duties and responsibilities. He's a police officer, director of medial operations for the Cook County Sheriff's Office and medical director for the Northern Illinois Police Alarm System.

He's also certified as an advanced SWAT instructor, a tactical emergency medical technician, hazardous materials operator and state police officer, among many other affiliations, roles that have sometimes put him in potentially dangerous environments.

"It makes me nervous and safe at the same time," Melissa said. "That maybe sounds a little strange to say. I feel like he has a pulse on what's going on in the city, which as a family is very good for us. It makes me nervous, obviously, when he's putting himself in harm's way."

Daily, Dr. Dennis teaches residents, students and EMS professional students while on duty at Cook County. In addition to medical skills, he tries to teach them the importance of learning as much as they can about the community.

He wants residents and students to get in the world as much as possible, he said, to acquire more insight about patients they see and circumstances they face each day in their lives.



Dr. Dennis discusses a recent case with a colleague. As a physician and police officer, he often finds himself dealing with victims of Chicago's violence.

"The world doesn't exist only in the ivory tower of the hospital, the world exists before that," he said. "And, when you discharge your patients, they have to go back to this world."

"If you don't understand where you're sending them, your recidivism rate is going to be very high. You have to understand what it means, whether they have someplace safe to go home to. That's a backend of trauma care that gets very little play, or very little publicity."

Cook County Hospital, Dr. Dennis told CNN, is a place that can jump from "zero to 60 very quickly."

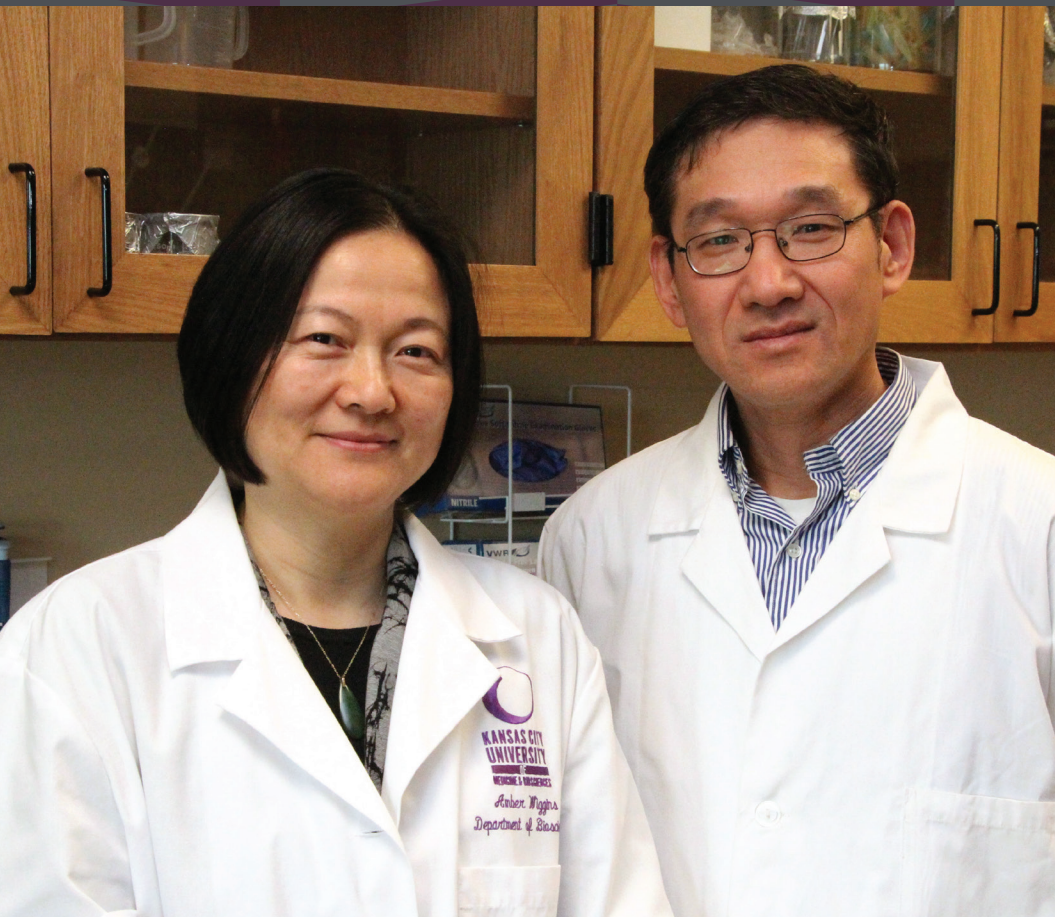
There are multiple crash, shooting and burn victims nightly. The city's homicide rate rises into the hundreds annually.

But, it's not all tragedy. Dr. Dennis said there are numerous victories each day, and it's easy to appreciate the compassion and humanity that often accompanies tragedy.

"I love my job," he said. "I have the greatest trauma surgery job in the world. I'm at the most prestigious trauma center in the nation. I'm a division chair within the institution."

"It's a very cool place to work. I have great colleagues. We run a shop that is above and beyond in regard to quality and patient care. This is a big machine, and it's an honor to be a part of it."

FEEDBACK: Send comments on this article to editor@kcumb.edu.



SCIENTIFICALLY SPEAKING

**In Her Own Words:
KCU Researcher Dedicates Her Work
to Exploring Cause of ALS**

Jingsong Zhou, PhD
Research Investigator and Professor of Physiology

Who inspires you?

I am a very lucky person. There are so many people that supported me: my family, friends, colleagues and mentors – too many people to be mentioned. My father often told me, “The world is so big. You go as far as you can to explore it.”

What is the basis for your research?

The neuromuscular system enables our bodies to move and is made up of the brain, many nerves and muscles. Things that we do every day – like breathing, walking, running, lifting stuff and even reaching for a glass of water – are all controlled by the neuromuscular system.

ALS is a devastating disease that shuts off the function of the neuromuscular system. For many years, scientists believed that the cause was the dying of nerve cells, called motor neurons, in the brain and the spinal cord. As the motor neurons in the spinal cord died off, there was no longer stimulation to the muscle. Thus, it was thought, the muscle passively became paralyzed and wasted in ALS.

What my team has been exploring is the possibility that the disease also occurs in the muscle and the bad signal from muscle feedbacks to motor neurons (at the site where the motor nerves and muscle meet, called the neuromuscular junction). Using ALS animal models that have genetic mutations that cause ALS in humans, we have determined that mitochondria (the “power house” inside the cell) in the vicinity of the neuromuscular junction

stop working right. The consequence is that the muscle stops working. This defect in muscle possibly occurs even before the motor nerve fibers start to die.

What makes your research unique?

During ALS progression, the degeneration of motor neurons limits neuron-to-muscle signaling and leads to severe muscle wasting, while the retrograde signaling from muscle to neuron – which is important for nerve fiber growth – is also lost in ALS progression. There are research groups that focus on muscle physiology, while others focus on understanding the degeneration of nerve cells in ALS. My team brings a unique perspective to ALS research by conducting research that bridges studies of muscle and nerve cells in ALS.

To be more specific, the motor neurons and muscles of ALS patients show similar structural defects in mitochondria. A key question in the field is how mitochondrial defects translate into the disease progression of ALS. In any diseased condition, the structural defects usually show up at the later stages of the disease, while various functional changes can occur much earlier. In order to understand the functional interplay between neurons and muscles during ALS progression, we have been developing various genetic animal models and fluorescent biosensors for examining mitochondrial and other cellular function in live cells.

For example, we have developed methods to measure dynamic activities of mitochondria in live muscle cells and also the dynamic changes of calcium, a molecule essential for the electrical activity of the muscle. When those novel techniques were applied to animal models of ALS, we could determine that mitochondria in the muscle fiber were not working properly, and those mitochondrial defects could be caused directly by ALS-associated mutations independent of the nerve fiber withdrawal.

Taken together, our genetic model systems not only allow us to examine the molecular mechanisms underlying the degeneration of the neuromuscular system in ALS, but also allow us to evaluate whether potential interventions have a beneficial effect on alleviating this disease.

Why are you so passionate about your work?

The first time I heard of ALS was during my second year at Xiangya Medical School (in China). My mom, who was a college professor at the time, approached me about helping her colleague, another professor at the same college, who had been diagnosed with ALS. Both my mom and I knew nothing about ALS. I asked around in my medical school and obtained hopeless answers.

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JINGSONG ZHOU, PHD UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL

Scientists often have a unique perspective on their work and on life itself. Jingsong Zhou, PhD, is no different, in many respects.

Below, you will find just a few of the interesting things she said during a recent interview.

Regarding the similarities between her love of cooking and her love of science:

“I think of cooking just like doing experiments. Let’s try different things.”

Regarding her naturally inquisitive personality:

“We face many unanswered questions in our lives. We should try our best to answer as many as we can.”

Regarding the first time she made a breakthrough in her ALS research:

“I’ll never forget that moment because nobody had ever looked at it like that.”

Regarding why it’s important to collaborate with other researchers in her field:

“Together, we can really make a big difference.”

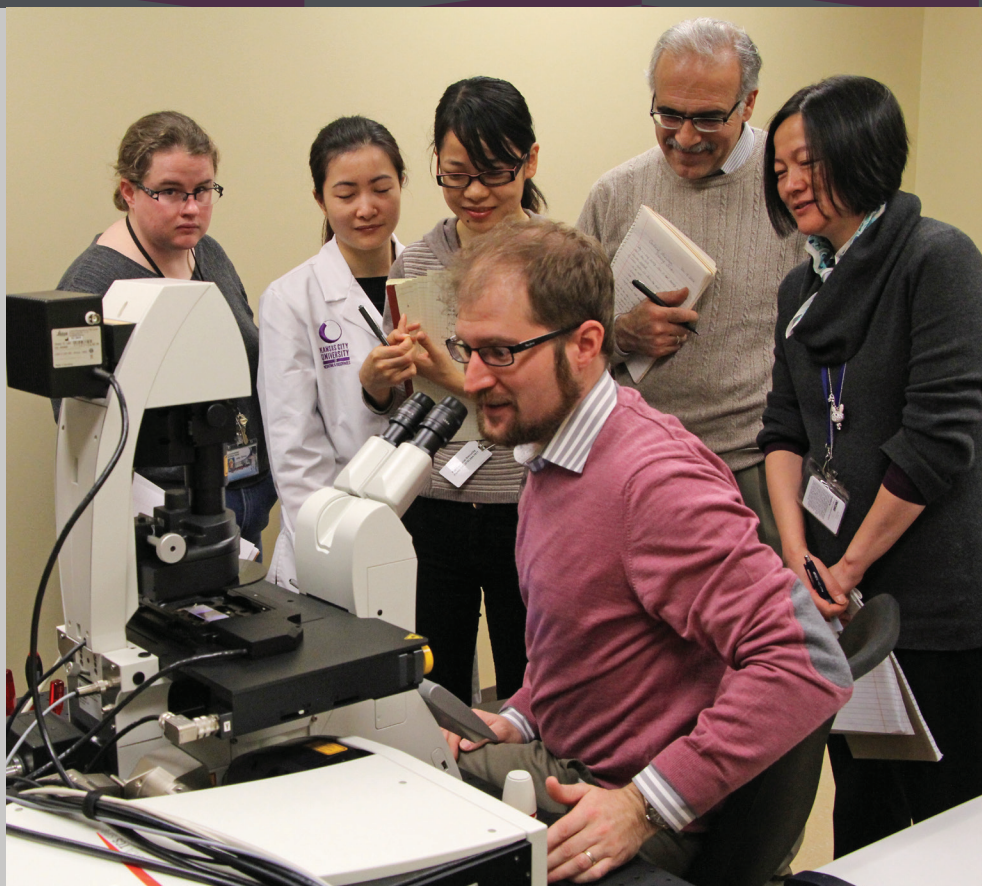
Regarding the perceived difference between those in the scientific community and the population as a whole:

“I think scientists are regular people, but more passionate about chasing the answers for the unknown.”

KCU recently purchased a top-of-the-line confocal laser scan microscopy system for use by Jingsong Zhou, PhD, and her team, as well as other researchers at the University.

The primary feature of the confocal microscope, which was delivered in December, is its ability to deliver high-resolution, in-focus images from various depths of a cell through a process known as optical sectioning. The images provide important information about the subcellular structures inside individual cells. In addition, when used with live cells, the images also show the dynamic interaction between intracellular organelles.

The confocal microscope represents the most recent example of KCU's commitment to its strategic goal of enhancing research advancement.



During the summer break, my mom and I visited him. He barely could stand up. Sadly, that was the last time I saw him. The image of him is still like an imprint in my mind because I never saw such severe muscle wasting happening in a human being in such a short period of time.

Why did you bring your research team to Kansas City and KCU?

First, I have to thank the commitment of KCU President Marc B. Hahn, DO, and Vice President for Research Jeffrey Joyce, PhD, to build a state-of-the-art facility for my team. For example, (the University purchased) the most advanced confocal microscope system for live-cell imaging and electrophysiology studies. That ensures that we can continue to develop the cutting-edge technology needed to understand this disease. I also moved here (from Rush University in Chicago) because of the unique groups of researchers in the greater Kansas City area that span basic science to clinic research in neuromuscular diseases, including ALS. The researchers at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, Kansas University Medical Center and the University of Missouri (have been) so welcoming and are motivated to work together. I see great opportunity to develop collaborative research and move ALS research forward.

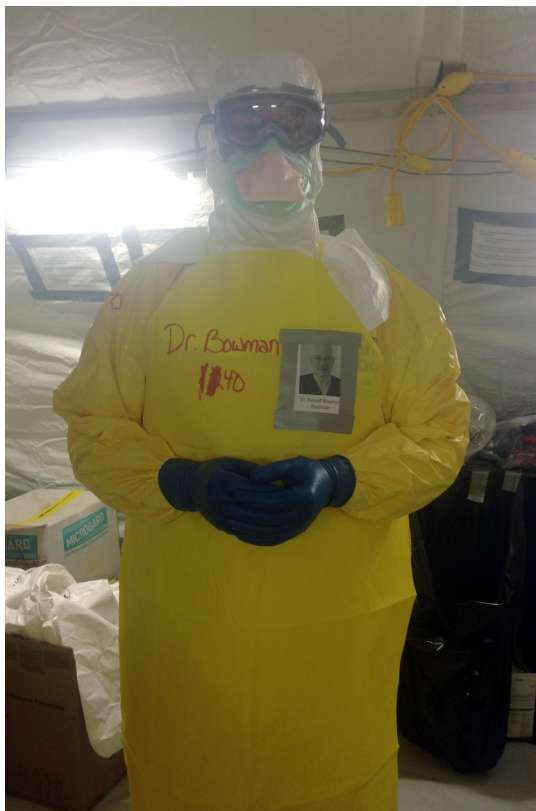
ALUM TREATS PATIENTS ON THE FRONT LINES OF FIGHT AGAINST EBOLA

When President Obama announced in September that he was sending U.S. troops to Liberia to help stop the spread of Ebola, a KCU alum was among the first to answer the call.

Capt. J. Russell Bowman, DO (COM '89), was deployed to Liberia in late 2014 as part of a team of 70 U.S. Public Health Service officers to staff an Ebola treatment unit for physicians, nurses and other health care workers sickened by the virus. As of Jan. 6, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported 8,166 total cases of Ebola in Liberia, including 3,496 deaths.

"The Liberian health care community has been greatly affected by the Ebola outbreak," Dr. Bowman said in an email from Liberia. "(Our) facility provides advanced care and hope to those providers who become ill with Ebola."

The USPHS Commissioned Corps is part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and includes more than 6,800 full-time public health professionals, who serve vulnerable populations both domestically and abroad.



Dr. Bowman works at the USPHS Monrovia Medical Unit, which is a 25-bed Ebola treatment facility specifically designed to treat health care workers, who are at higher risk for infection because of their close, sustained contact with symptomatic Ebola patients. It is located near Liberia's international airport and resembles a military field hospital. Since completion of the specialized facility in early November, the team has cared for 26 patients, with 14 confirmed cases of Ebola. Eight of the Ebola patients have recovered and been discharged.

"It's kind of like a rattlesnake," Dr. Bowman told USA Today during an interview in November. "You don't poke it. You know what it can do. You prepare for it. You avoid things that can put you in harm's way."

Prior to his deployment to the Liberia, Dr. Bowman completed intensive training conducted by the CDC at the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Center for Domestic Preparedness in Anniston, Ala.

"It is evident through his calm, yet confident, demeanor and professionalism that (Dr. Bowman) was the right choice to handle this mission," said Lt. Mike Muni, public information officer for unit.



A FRESH, NEW LOOK

DESIGNED TO CAPTURE
UNIVERSITY'S

VISION FOR THE FUTURE

“What’s in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet.”

That famous line, an excerpt from William Shakespeare’s “Romeo and Juliet,” is often used to imply that the name of something does not affect what it really is.

While true, by many accounts, Shakespeare’s thinking doesn’t necessarily apply when it comes to developing an institution’s brand identity.

Names matter. And, so do appearances.

With that in mind, officials at the Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences have worked diligently for the past several months with our partners at Morningstar Communications and Willoughby, a design firm, to evaluate the University’s branding and to assess both perception and name recognition among various constituencies.

The process started with three overarching goals:

- Understand the current brand perception
- Understand the University’s position in the community and in the competitive marketplace
- Create a brand communications plan to evolve brand perceptions moving forward

To achieve these goals, Morningstar Communications contacted representatives of the University’s primary audiences – prospective students, current students, alumni, faculty, staff and donors – to gather their input and perceptions. What the communications and branding audit found was that the University’s brand recognition is not strong among some constituent groups.



Kansas City University
OF MEDICINE AND BIOSCIENCES™



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*What do you think
of our new brand
identity? We'd love to
hear from you.
Email your thoughts
to editor@kcumb.edu.*

Kansas City ^{Midwest} ^{Student Focused} ^{Collaboration} ^{Intellectual Curiosity} ^{Biosciences} ^{Innovation} ^{Integrity} ^{Leader} ^{Research} ^{Heritage} ^{Compassion} ^{University} ^{Osteopathic} ^{Excellence} ^{Education}

“The purpose of the brand rejuvenation was to position our brand for another century,” said Marc B. Hahn, DO, president and chief executive officer. “This was a thoughtful and insightful process. We had expertise from both inside and outside the University.”

The primary objective for the process has been to create a new brand identity that reflects the importance of a globally recognized medical university and also ties back to the University’s heritage.

“They’ve really captured the essence of our desire to better represent ourselves as an institution,” said Dr. Hahn, who unveiled the new brand identity to faculty and staff on Jan. 14.

While the institution’s name will remain the Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences, the focus will shift to the Kansas City University portion. As a result, the KCUMB acronym will no longer be used; it’s now KCU. In addition to establishing a clearer, more easily remembered acronym for the University, the new emphasis on KCU also showcases the University’s position as a vital part of the Kansas City community.

The most noticeable differences in the new brand identity are the new logo and seal, which better identify the University as being affiliated with medicine and with higher education. The colors were also refreshed to include a more sophisticated palette of deep

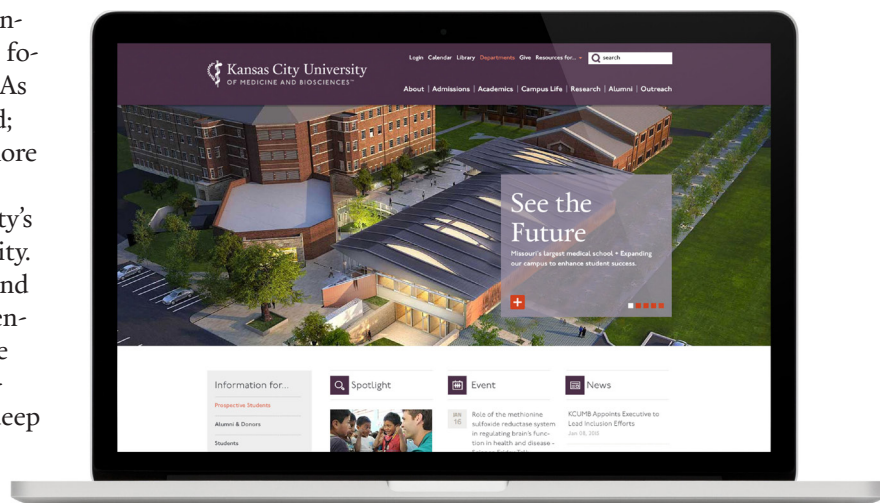


purple and charcoal gray, along with several secondary color options.

The transition to the new brand identity will occur gradually over the next year. Business cards, letterhead, envelopes, email banners – even the magazine you’re reading right now – have already been updated. Other materials, such as the website, recruiting materials, mugs, T-shirts, diplomas, campus signage and much more are works in progress.

Still, for many at the University, the excitement of a new brand is palpable.

“The name is the same, but if you look at it, the focus is different. This is Kansas City University,” Dr. Hahn said.



The Quiet (and Dazzling) Life of Don Tarr, DO (COM '59)

By Michael Johnson
Photography by Don Tarr, DO,
and Lacy Hilliard



He's known nationally for his exploits as a NASCAR driver, which earned him the moniker of "the world's fastest physician." But to those in Mountain City, Tenn., his true legacy is 86 years in the making: devoted physician, beloved mentor and community benefactor.

Hollywood film executives would likely find the story of Don Tarr, DO (COM '59), as too incredible to be believed by the movie-going public. Yet, the intricately linked events of Dr. Tarr's life are absolutely true. His pursuit of a medical career has improved life in his small-town community, and his influence extends to a new generation of KCU physicians.

Mark Hash, DO (COM '92), is one of those doctors. Dr. Hash was one of several people who nominated Dr. Tarr for KCU's 2014 Alumni Achievement Award, which he won. In a letter nominating Dr. Tarr for the honor, Dr. Hash noted that "he was a source of strength, hope and encouragement for me, and also his patients and community ... he brought hope and a brighter future to all those around him."

Dr. Tarr was born in Napa Valley, Calif., in 1929. His father was a South African-born college teacher, who led his family back to South Africa for a teaching position. In 1941, because of Germany's war involvement, the Tarrs found a way to leave South Africa for the United States.

At age 12, young Don Tarr found himself in the port of New York, then going cross country by train to Loma Linda, Calif. Jobs were tough. The family moved to Lincoln, Neb., and then to Washington, D.C., where his dad had secured teaching appointments.

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After high school, Don Tarr spent a couple of years back in California at Pacific Union College, yet returned to the D.C. area, graduating from Columbia Union College in D.C. in 1952.

Always at the back of Don's mind was the dream of becoming a doctor. While majoring in radio/TV/speech, he had cemented that hope by intentionally adding the five required courses for medical school as his electives – organic and inorganic chemistry, anatomy, physics and zoology.

"I never forgot about being a doctor. I'd had that dream since I was 3," Dr. Tarr said. During his California childhood, the family had often visited his mother's brother, Dr. Leslie Ward, in Arizona. "He would have me come into his office, show me things. He was my hero."

There were a few obstacles to Dr. Tarr's dream, however. The first one was money to attend; the second was academics. At that time, he said, medical schools mostly were taking graduates who had straight A's.

"I was a B student, with maybe a few C's," he said. "I always had to work, you see."

That was true enough. At age 12, Don got his first job – picking apricots and oranges in the orchards of California for 12 cents a bushel. Later, he found work in a hospital in Loma Linda, Calif., carrying trays in the cafeteria for 18 cents per hour.

The plot change in Dr. Tarr's story came during his medical school interview at what was then a small osteopathic college in the Midwest – the Kansas City College of Osteopathy and Surgery, now KCU.

At that time, the school's administration was actively interested in increasing the number of family



practice physicians. In Don Tarr, the school's admissions staff found the right fit. They were impressed with his work ethic, as well as his academic potential.

"They said, 'Here's a guy with lots of personal relationships, good with people,'" Dr. Tarr said. "That's the kind of doctor we want. Let's give him a chance."

Don Tarr, though, didn't have the \$600 a year he needed to start his medical education.

The school wanted Don Tarr, so it came up with an unusual offer. The school would give him a three-year window to come back and take a spot in the next available incoming class.

With a three-year promise in the waiting, Don Tarr set about making it happen, and none of his stops during this time was linear. He found work in Pennsylvania for a year as Personnel Manager at Essex Wire Corp., and then received a teaching assistantship at Michigan State University, teaching English by day and working at an Oldsmobile auto parts plant at

night. And, with free tuition, he began working on a master's degree in speech pathology. There, he became fascinated with solving the problems of cleft palates, which led him to the School of Dentistry at the University of Maryland for one year.

He considered continuing his dream as an oral surgeon in Maryland, but as he found himself one month away from the three-year window promised by KCCOS, he realized Kansas City was the school for him.

"The idea of becoming a family practice doctor," he said, "was still strong."

From that point in 1954, the story gets faster. Highlights included being elected president of his first- and fourth-year classes, and graduating with his DO degree in 1959. And during those years, he was working as hard as ever to keep the physician dream alive.

"I worked at the Skelgas division of Skelly Oil, filling propane tanks for two to six hours a night," Don said. "I did this all through my years at the school."

After graduation from KCCOS in 1959, Dr. Tarr's career path was a normal one – for 10 years or so, at least. He completed a medical internship at Northwest Hospital in Miami in 1960, and then started a solo family practice in North Miami Beach, Fla.

The racing connection began innocently enough. While at Essex Wire in Pennsylvania, he had often attended area auto races. He was captivated by the audacity of drivers hitting break-neck speeds around those local tracks. It turned out that of the people he hired at Essex was the wife of well-known dirt-track driver Kenny Wismer.

Kenny Wismer was winning everywhere, Dr. Tarr said, and the Strasburg race track was offering \$50 if you could beat him in a race.

"I was intrigued by this," Dr. Tarr said. "I asked her if I could meet him, and we really hit it off. He became my very best friend."

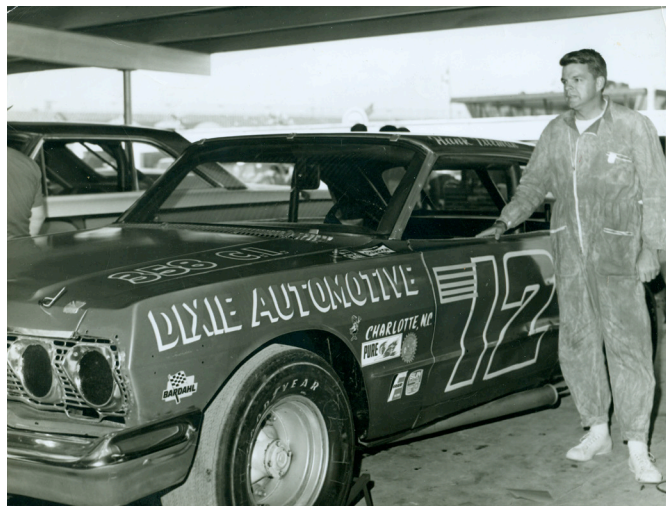
Years later, while maintaining his family practice, Dr. Tarr's success allowed him to invest time and money helping Wismer build a new race car. The team's first race was July 1, 1964, at Nazareth Raceway in

Pennsylvania. True to the Dr. Tarr story line, Wismer drove the Ford to the checked flag.

By this time in America's racing history, the public was responding to the thrill of high-speed stock-car racing, which had been launched during the Prohibition era by the southern-born drivers with carloads of moonshine out-running local sheriffs and federal authorities.

Soon, dirt tracks and were giving way to asphalt tracks with banked turns, grandstands accommodating thousands of fans and speeds topping 180 miles per hour. It was exciting, sure, but it was dangerous. At the World 600 race on July 2, 1964, popular driver "Fireball" Roberts died in a crash and fire.

The Tarr team raced on, now with a modified 1957 Dodge, but in 1966, driver Kenny Wismer became

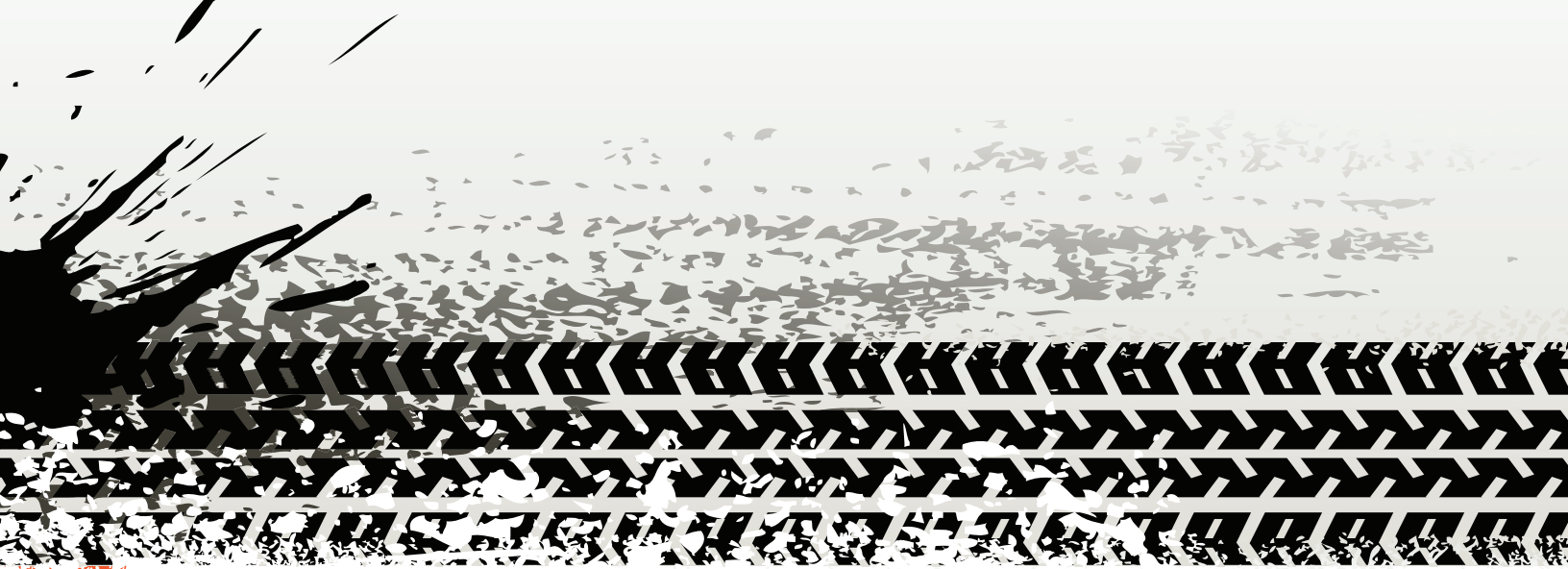


worried about the speeds now being set, as he was the father of two young children.

"Kenny came to me and asked me if I wanted to be a driver," Dr. Tarr said.

Reluctantly, Dr. Tarr took on the role of driver. In 1966, on a track in Hialeah, Fla., Dr. Tarr became

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a NASCAR driver, but the storybook finish didn't happen. During the race, he flipped the Dodge after crashing the car into turn two.

More races followed, and Dr. Tarr learned from drivers like Bobby Allison and Richard Petty. At a heat race in Hialeah, Dr. Tarr placed fourth. After that, Dr. Tarr ran in a preliminary time trial at Daytona Speedway. He finished in the top six at a preliminary race at Daytona, which got him into the consolation race – a 300-miler. In that one, he finished 22nd out of 50.

That got the attention of Bill France, Sr., the boisterous founder and proponent of NASCAR racing. He invited Dr. Tarr to NASCAR headquarters, telling him, “Doc, I saw what you did. How would you like to race NASCAR?”

“I told him I knew how to ‘mash the button,’” Dr. Tarr said, referring to a driver’s willingness to keep the gas pedal to the floor.

Flash forward to 1968 and NASCAR rookie driver Dr. Don Tarr found himself driving a Chevy Chevelle with the big boys.

“I was interviewed after every race,” Dr. Tarr said. “Being a physician, I was a gimmick.”

After joining the Ray Fox NASCAR team in 1969, Dr. Tarr set the speed record for a 1967 Dodge at Alabama International Speedway (now known as Talladega) during a race in 1969, topping 187.9 miles per hour. The media loved it, promoting Dr. Tarr as “the world’s fastest physician.”

Through 1971, “the world’s fastest physician” notched 12 top-10 finishes and qualified for 56 races. In 1968, he was named runner-up to NASCAR’s rookie of the year. He also became part of another NASCAR first.

“I had a thought that with new radio technology, you could have in-car radios,” Dr. Tarr said. “It was my suggestion to ABC’s Wide World of Sports to do that.”

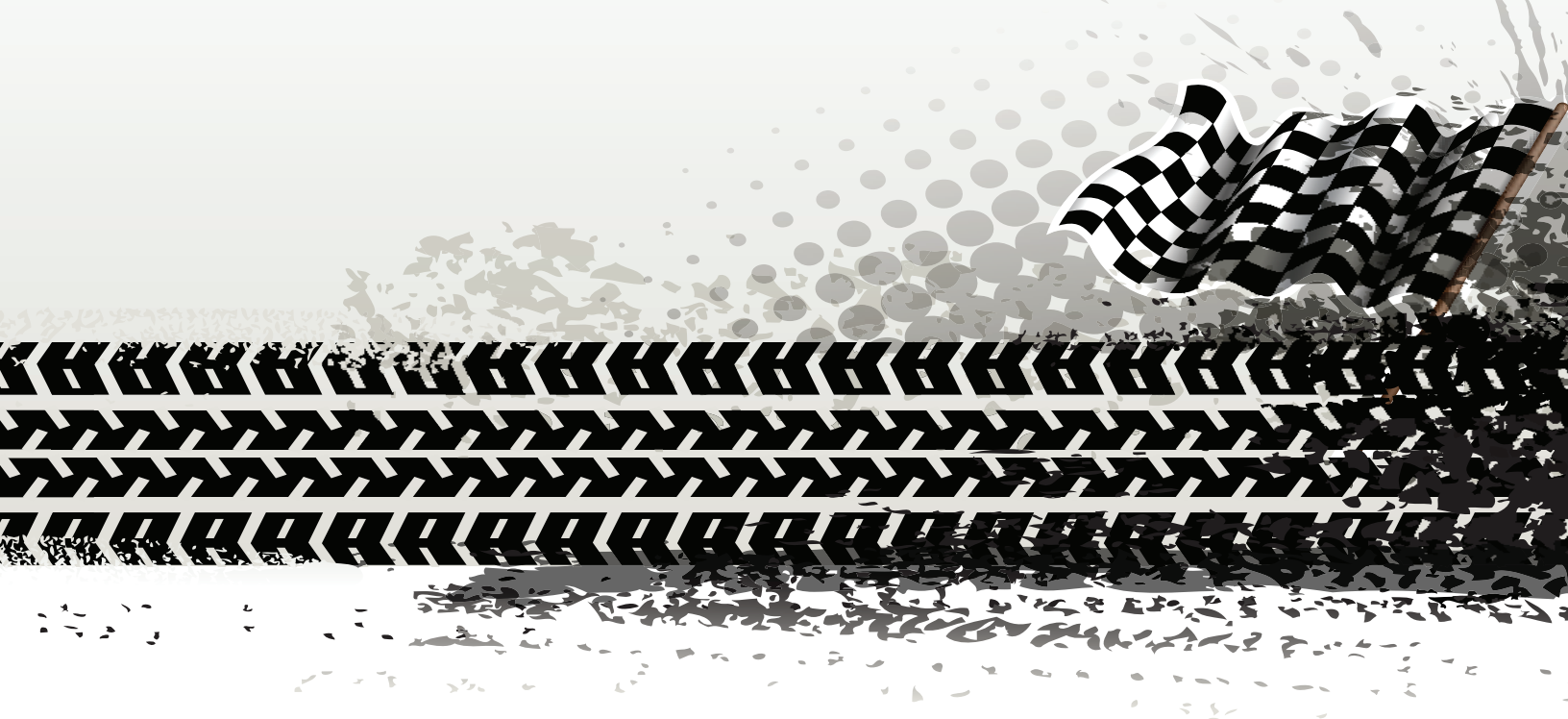
At the Firecracker 400 in 1970, ABC’s Wide World of Sports set up Dr. Tarr with an in-car radio, allowing him to talk mid-race with ABC-TV commentators Jim McKay and Chris Economaki.

A complicated, colorful, yet successful, road to medical school and a celebrated status as a NASCAR driver would make a good bookend for a life well lived. But the legacy of Dr. Tarr had yet another chapter. Strangely enough, it led back to the part of the mountainous part of the country that gave birth to NASCAR: Eastern Tennessee.

In August, 1970, Dr. Tarr sold his Florida practice and moved to Tennessee, so he could be closer to the heart of racing country. While working as a practicing physician at the VA hospital in Johnson City, Dr. Tarr became friends with Dr. Archer Tullidge, who had a long-standing medical practice in Mountain City. Dr. Tullidge was interested in selling, the staff was willing to work for Dr. Tarr, and Mountain City became his new home and passion.



(At left) Dr. Tarr and his wife, Carole, pose for a picture outside Bristol Motor Speedway in Bristol, Tenn. (At far right) Dr. Tarr, 86, still enjoys treating patients at his office.



From there, the legacy of Dr. Tarr became deeply linked with the area, extending into the lifeblood of the community he now called home.

Don Tarr raised four children: Cara, an RN; William, an attorney in Florida; fellow attorney Gene, now deceased; and Jimmy, who became a teacher like his grandfather. He is proud of his six grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

In 1986, Dr. Tarr married Carole, a Tennessee native. “She’s been a part of me in everything since,” Dr. Tarr said. “We do everything together.”

No one knows the impact of Dr. Tarr better than Dr. Hash, who grew up in nearby Jonesborough, Tenn.

In 1988, prior to becoming a physician, Dr. Hash was a U.S. Army lieutenant who had an interest in medicine. His commander, Col. Alfred Bennett, DO, had graduated from KCCOS in 1957. He knew Dr. Tarr and Mark Hash were from the same area of Tennessee. “Dr. Bennett sent me to Dr. Tarr,” Hash recalled. “I spent a day with Dr. Tarr, observing him with patients and their families. He insisted I would receive the best training at KCU.”

A few more visits followed, with Dr. Tarr repeatedly telling Hash how KCU professors were dedicated to going ‘the extra mile’ to ensure their students’ success.

The visits sealed the decision for Mark Hash.

“I chose to go to medical school in Kansas City,” Dr. Hash says. “Those two physicians reinforced the ideals of selfless service to mankind and your community. I believe the training was superior to any in the nation, rigorous and demanding. I spend every day being the best physician possible, just like Dr. Tarr.”

At 85, Dr. Tarr is well past the age most physicians have retired. Yet, because of the ongoing need of his small community, he continues to practice medicine and continues to impress colleagues and his own

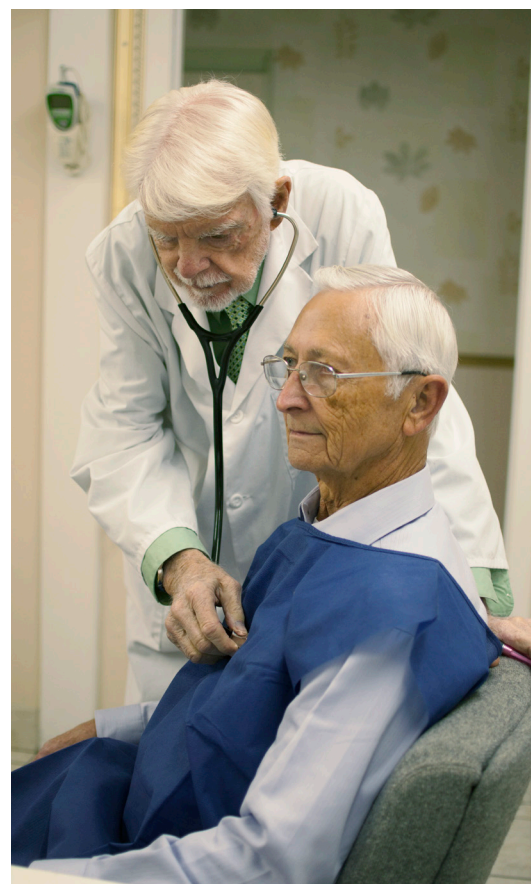
medical staff with his diligence and caring demeanor.

Not one to boast about his personal achievements, Dr. Tarr still expresses surprises at being named recipient of KCU’s Alumni Achievement Award.

“It’s unbelievable, a distinct honor. It never occurred to me to be nominated,” Dr. Tarr said. “At first, I said they got the wrong person.”

Larry Potter, mayor of Johnson County, Tenn., and a long-time friend of Dr. Tarr, would disagree. He is quick to attest to the wide and significant impact of Dr. Tarr’s involvement with the community.

“I am honored to call him a father-figure and friend,” Potter said. “I can only hope and pray that my own medical student son turns out to be half the physician, community helper and philanthropic superhero as Dr. Don Tarr has been.”



FEEDBACK: Send comments on this article to editor@kcumb.edu.

DEVOTED COM ALUM MICHAEL NAMEY, JR., DO, MAKES REGULAR GIFT ONE OF HIS FINAL ACTS



To say that Michael Namey, Jr., DO (COM '81), thoroughly enjoyed his career as an osteopathic physician would be an understatement. Dr. Namey loved osteopathic medicine. He also loved KCU.

Dr. Namey, of Hermitage, Pa., passed away Oct. 4 at the age of 61. On the day of his death, he made a significant gift to KCU. The fact that he chose to give so generously, though, wasn't out of the ordinary for Dr. Namey.

In 2008, Dr. Namey had established a Physicians' Hall of Sponsors scholarship to benefit future osteopathic medical students at KCU. He

gave regularly – at least monthly, sometimes even bi-weekly.

"It was so important to him," said Beth Namey, his wife of 32 years. "He so appreciated his education because it helped give him the career that he loved and the life that we had."

Dr. Namey had an illustrious career and

was most happy surrounded by others, whether through interacting with students, taking care of his patients or enjoying the company of family and friends.

"He loved being a physician," Beth said. "He absolutely loved it. It wasn't work for him. About a month before he passed away, he told me he never wanted to retire. He wanted to keep caring for people."

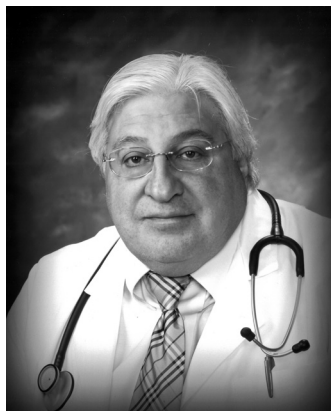
After graduating from KCU in 1981, Dr. Namey completed an internship and family medicine residency

at Millcreek Community Hospital in Erie, Pa. He began his medical career as an emergency room physician at St. Joseph's Hospital in Warren, Ohio, and continued at St. Joseph's in Andover, Ohio, eventually serving as medical director. Dr. Namey later opened his own private practice in Andover, where he practiced until 2011, when he joined Primary Health Network's Andover Primary Care.

Dr. Namey demonstrated a commitment to not only osteopathic medicine, but also to the next generation of physicians by mentoring students as an adjunct professor of family medicine at LECOM.

In addition to his wife, Beth, Dr. Namey is survived by his three children, Michael III, Paul and Rachel.

For more information on how you can help KCU students by establishing a Physicians' Hall of Sponsors scholarship, contact the Advancement Office at 816-654-7280 or alumni@kcumb.edu.



THANK YOU

The Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences (KCU) gratefully acknowledges the following recent gifts of \$50,000 or more:

- J.E. Dunn Construction, \$250,000 for the Center for Medical Simulation
- Terrence P. and Peggy Dunn, \$100,000 for the Center for Medical Simulation
- Marc B. Hahn, DO, and Robin K. Hahn, \$100,000 for capital needs



UNIVERSITY RECEIVES \$1 MILLION GIFT FROM ESTATE OF THE LATE WILLIAM GEB, DO

For 43 years, William Geb, DO (COM '50), enjoyed his role treating patients as an osteopathic physician. He was grateful for the education he received at KCU, which made possible his career in medicine. That's why Dr. Geb chose to include the University in his estate plan.

Dr. Geb passed away June 19 in Oklahoma City at the age of 89. Through a trust he established, 25 percent of his estate was allocated to KCU, resulting in a gift to the University of \$1 million so far. There will be another distribution later.

"This is a very significant gift – one of the largest in KCU's history," said Jane Lampo, vice president for advancement. "We appreciate the generosity shown by Dr. Geb and his family, and we hope this will inspire others to consider supporting the University through a planned gift."

After graduating from KCU, Dr. Geb began his career as a family physician in Spiro, Okla. Ten years later, he moved to Oklahoma City and established a practice in Del

City. While there, he served as chief administrator at Hillcrest Medical Center and as a part-time medical examiner for the state of Oklahoma. Near the end of his career, he practiced industrial occupational medicine at Tinker Air Force Base. Dr. Geb retired in 1993.

Joel Corn, DO (COM '45), one of Dr. Geb's best friends, said that he and Dr. Geb often talked about their time in medical school.

"He thought a lot of the school," Dr. Corn said. "He made a substantial gift. His motives were always good."

Dr. Corn and Dr. Geb, friends for approximately 60 years, often shared stories about their time practicing in rural Oklahoma. One of the most memorable of those stories was when Dr. Geb, who made house calls early in his career, recalled trying to treat a patient while chickens – which were roaming freely inside the man's house – were pecking at his feet.



Thomas Carlile, DO (COM '68), a close friend and business partner of Dr. Geb's, witnessed his generosity on many occasions. The friends started a medical practice together in 1973 in Del City, Okla., and they practiced together for approximately 11 years.

"I may have been a little surprised by the amount (of his gift to KCU), but not by the gift itself," Dr. Carlile said. "He was a very kind and considerate person. He was a mentor to more doctors than anybody I know of. What can you say about a guy like that?"

For more information on how you can include KCU in your estate plan, contact the Advancement Office at 816-654-7280 or alumni@kcumb.edu.

- Claire Giannini Fund, \$63,000 for Score 1 for Health
- William T. Kemper Foundation, \$250,000 for the Center for Medical Simulation
- Larry L. Odekirk, DO (COM '63), and Gerry Odekirk, \$100,000 IRA estate gift intention forming an endowment for scholarships and other needs
- Reach Healthcare Foundation, \$66,300 for Score 1 for Health
- Victor E. Speas Foundation, U.S. Trust, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee, \$82,000 for research equipment



Land of Opportunity

First-Year College of Osteopathic Medicine Student Svetlana Kovaleva Finds the Path from Siberia to America has Great Challenges, Rewards

By Joshua Roberts
Photography by Cortney Christensen

Imagine that you're 21 years old, barely an adult, and you're suddenly half a world away from all you've ever known. You don't know the land, anyone in it, and you don't speak the language.

Money? You have more than usual, which isn't to say a lot, and certainly not enough to get very far.

Now, go make something of yourself.

For Svetlana Kovaleva, there were indeed nerves at work seven years ago when she arrived in the United States, 13 time zones and almost 35 hours away from her native Novosibirsk, Siberia.

Still, she had two big factors in her favor: She was motivated in her pursuit of becoming a physician, and she didn't yet know what she didn't know.

"I had \$200 in my pocket, and I actually borrowed those \$200, so I had to return them," said Kovaleva, now a first-year osteopathic medical student at KCU. "It was a very different culture (in the United States). At the time, I felt like \$200 was a lot of money, at least where I grew up. I did not yet know that it was not the case here in America."

Acclimating to America came slowly, steps at a time, with her trek toward an ambitious goal of becoming a physician beginning in the sun and sweat of Florida.

"It's interesting to think about when you reflect back," she said. "It was like ... a little bit of adrenaline.

Like, 'I can't believe this is happening, this is so different.' It was intimidating because I didn't know anyone, and I wasn't fluent in English. I felt like I was in a cloud as I didn't understand the language nor the culture.

"At the beginning, I could see the difference between how everything is done here and everything is done in Russia. I saw how easy and organized everything is here compared to my hometown. I was fascinated by it. I loved it so much."

And she was driven. She had to be.

Describing Kovaleva as a non-traditional student is an understatement. The daughter of a physician and an engineer, she graduated high school in Russia and by the age of 21 had finished four years of medical school programs in her home country.

The medical profession, she said, is almost a family business. Her father is a fertility doctor, one of the first in Southern Siberia, and her older brother is also a physician.

Their conversations about medicine captured her, she said, particularly her father's words about patient-centered approaches.

"I was so interested – fascinated – when my brother and father would talk about medicine," she said. "I was like, yes, this is how it should be done."

There were also her own experiences as a patient

to lean on. In middle school, Kovaleva had a serious spinal fracture and needed two years in a plaster torso cast for chronic osteochondrosis pain. Years of spinal manipulation by a team of osteopathic physicians led to her recovery and interest in osteopathic medicine.

After high school, she went directly to medical school. The Russian system doesn't require an undergraduate degree beforehand.

It was during medical school she learned the "harsh realities" of Siberian medicine.

There, she said, some ethnic groups and poor patients are treated differently than more affluent groups, often receiving limited treatment or no treatment at all. And, her thirst for knowledge often went unquenched because of limited resources and shortcomings in the latest technology, practices and research.

After four years of medical school back home, she had an opportunity to study abroad in the United States. Pushing her decision to leave was her own family's financial situation, as well as the additional opportunities America offered.

Despite her parents being educated, accomplished professionals, they didn't make much money.

"I still remember them trying to visit me here, and me working as a server, I was buying their flights," Kovaleva said. "Even though they have great educations and are very well respected, they're still not able to afford that. I felt proud of myself that I could do something nice for my parents, who raised me to become the person I am right now. I would not have succeeded in the U.S. by myself without their moral support."

After starting her American journey in Florida, she made her way to Chicago. It was there that she started English as a Second Language classes at Lakeview Learning Center, a satellite of Truman College.

Paul Thomas, one of her ESL instructors, quickly saw her potential.

"She was somebody who was very bright, you could tell right away," Thomas said. "And, also ambitious in a good way. A lot of times, with ESL stuff, you have people who think they can just be in class and learn through osmosis. She was one of those people who was very curious and wanted to increase her vocabulary and was always asking questions about the details of the language. Somebody who would really pay attention on the street, and if she heard an expression, she would want to know what that means and how and when to use it."

Kovaleva spent two years taking ESL classes and then three years finishing her bachelor's degree in biology with a minor in chemistry at Northeastern Illinois University.

The ESL classes and her undergraduate work was all a balancing act, she said, a crash course in time and

resource management. She was attending school full time, working a lot to pay her bills, volunteering and trying to get her research published.

"Time management, I never imagined that would be so hard," she said. "I felt like I never had time to sleep at night, but I knew I did not have any other choice but to continue."

Still, though there were challenges, Kovaleva could see the advantages of working, studying and living in the United States. She said she's grown academically and personally.

"The fact that I had come here and lived my own life without any family or friends, I do think my personality changed a lot," said Kovaleva, now 28. "It was noticeable to people (back home)."

"Since I did not know a single person when I started, nor the way the educational system works here, I felt like a blind kitten at times. I also knew that if I stop, nobody will do it for me or push me in the right direction, so I had to be active, get involved, find information, make contacts and repeat these steps many times."

continued on page 30



Svetlana Kovaleva, a first-year osteopathic medical student, hones her skills inside KCU's Osteopathic Clinical Skills Laboratory. Despite many hardships, Kovaleva made the decision to leave her native Siberia in pursuit of better educational opportunities in the United States.

Now, she said, “I’m always talking to people, always communicating. For me to talk to a stranger, I can do that. I’m easy to talk to when it comes to making friends, making contacts or talking to professors, talking to patients.”

Polina Popova, originally from Moscow, is a friend Kovaleva met during ESL classes in Chicago. The two grew close enough that Popova made Kovaleva godmother to her 4-year-old daughter.

“She’s a good learner, but that’s not what caught me,” said Popova, a graduate student working on her master’s degree in history at DePaul in Chicago. “I think the thing that amazes me with her and her personality is her confidence, her ability to stand up and go.

“From the very first day I saw her up to today, she was always self confident and always very sure that one day she would become a doctor. I don’t think a lot of people can do this, especially when they don’t have the money.”

Popova said she thought about many of her friends when trying to choose a godmother to her child, but Kovaleva stood out.

“I started thinking about her and realized she’s the only person in Chicago, in the U.S., with whom I can be honest, with whom I can cry or laugh,” she said. “It’s her honesty, her ability to listen, her ability to speak.”

Kovaleva said KCU became the obvious choice when trying to decide on a medical school. She paid particular attention to the school’s history of global outreach.

“I heard about its great reputation, and a lot of the little things,” she said. “I knew people who attended here. The interview was great as well, and I really liked the faculty. It was the most personal interview I had of all schools.”

Kovaleva, who is now a U.S. citizen, is at the beginning of her medical school experience and won’t graduate until 2018. She said she made the right decision in coming to the United States and on enrolling at KCU.

“I really like it,” she said. “It’s different – a different curriculum, different information – but I always feel like I can contact someone, always reach out and someone will always help you.

“Everything is top notch here. Everything is brand new and they really care about technology and the best, (most) efficient way to teach students. I really like that. So far, it’s been a really nice experience.”

Thomas and Popova, her two Chicago friends, don’t doubt Kovaleva will achieve the goal she set so many years ago. She’s come so far already, they said.



“She always applied herself and always had a great attitude,” Thomas said. “It’s really cool to see (what she’s doing now). It’s like, wow, that’s what you can do in five years if you apply yourself.”

“She will finish, knowing her,” Popova said. “A lot of times before, I thought she might quit. With a bachelor’s degree in biology and chemistry, you can work in a laboratory or you can teach, so I thought she might do that.

“But now, knowing her for seven years, I know any single thing that Svetlana, if she starts to do it, and if she really wants to finish it, she’ll do it. And, she’ll succeed in it. She won’t just do it average. I’m not surprised at all.”

Though she’s used to a schedule far more hectic, Kovaleva’s days now are focused solely on academics. It’s a welcome change.

“I do truly enjoy my days now compared to what I used to have,” she said. “Now, I just know I need to study, I need to do well and I need to get involved in research. It’s all academic and I really like it.”

She envisions her career after medical school being in the United States, with stints each year treating patients in need overseas. Learning, she said, will be a lifelong commitment.

“I will never stop learning new things,” Kovaleva said. “I will always continue. Even now, I’m thinking about a dual degree. I don’t think there is a finish line. It’s almost like a never-ending process: Always try to become better, improve your knowledge.

“It will feel great for a moment, but then I will be looking for the next challenge.”

FEEDBACK: Send comments on this article to editor@kcumb.edu.



UNIVERSITY HOSTS ALUMNI DURING ANNUAL AOA OMED CONFERENCE

More than 280 KCU alumni joined their colleagues from across the country Oct. 25-29 during the American Osteopathic Association's 119th Osteopathic Medical Conference and Exposition in Seattle.



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION HONORS SIX

The KCU Alumni Association honored six deserving individuals Oct. 27. Those recognized during KCU's alumni reception in Seattle were:

Alumnus of the Year Award (Two Recipients)

Leonard Calabrese, DO (COM '75)

Robert Juhasz, DO (COM '81)

Alumni Achievement Award

Donald Tarr, DO (COM '59)

Young Alumni Achievement Award

Nathan Hall, DO (COM '10), MS (COB '06)

Alumni Service Award

Ronald Holt, DO (COM '93)

Star-Spangled Banner Medallion

Marshall Walker, DO (COM '72)



Nearly 200 alumni and their guests gathered “Beneath the Cottonwood” Sept. 18-20 for this year’s Homecoming celebration on the KCU campus.

Those in attendance had the opportunity to reminisce with former classmates and friends, participate in continuing medical education (CME) courses, enjoy some Kansas City-style barbecue, tour the beautiful campus and soak in all the changes that have taken place over the years.

The majority of CME courses took place inside the University’s new Academic Center, offering alumni a first-hand look at the state-of-the-art learning environment used by the next generation of osteopathic physicians.



ALUMNI CLASSES EARN RECOGNITION

Three of the most prestigious awards for alumni participation and dedication to KCU were announced following Homecoming. Awards bestowed on winning classes are listed below.

Class of 1974 Wins 2014 Butterworth Award

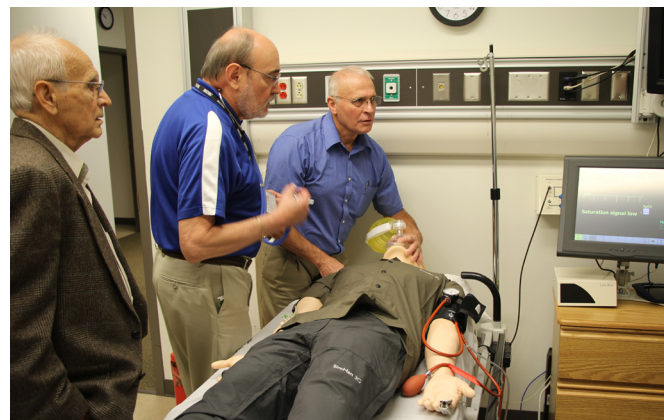
The Butterworth Award, named in memory of Mary Lou Butterworth, DO (COM '54), is presented to the class with the highest attendance during Homecoming weekend.

Class of 1979 Wins Strickland Reunion Challenge

The Strickland Reunion Challenge Award, named in honor of Darwin J. Strickland, DO (COM '65), for his outstanding commitment to building alumni participation, is presented to the reunion class with the highest total donations between June 1, 2013, and Sept. 18, 2014.

Class of 1965 Wins Conley Award

The Conley Award, named for Dr. George Conley, the first president of the Kansas City College of Osteopathy and Surgery (now KCU), is presented to the class with the highest donor participation percentage during the fiscal year.



FOUR KCU ALUMNI WILL PLAY PROMINENT ROLES IN TRANSFORMATION TO A SINGLE SYSTEM FOR GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

Four KCU alumni will play important roles in the transition to a single graduate medical education (GME) system, a move intended to strengthen the GME system and improve patient care in the United States.

Karen Nichols, DO (COM '81), and Gary Slick, DO (COM '69), were among four osteopathic physicians appointed to the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education's (ACGME) Board of Directors, effective Jan. 1.

Dr. Nichols is the dean of the Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine at Midwestern University, as well as the current vice chair of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine's (AACOM) Board of Directors.

Dr. Slick is currently medical director at the Osteopathic Medical Education Consortium of Oklahoma (OMECO), director of medical education for OMECO Teaching Health Centers and professor of internal medicine at the Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences.

"These governance appointments demonstrate that the transition to single GME is working as planned, and serve as a testament to the progress made by the three organizations, said Stephen Shannon, DO, AACOM's president and chief executive officer. "The joint decision of AACOM, AOA (the American Osteopathic Association) and ACGME came about after five months of careful deliberation and coordination, underscoring the mutual resolve and commitment shared by all parties to strengthen the GME system and improve U.S. health care."

ACGME also recently appointed John Dougherty, DO (COM '92), and Anthony Ottaviani, DO (COM '68), to serve on its newly formed Osteopathic Principles Committee.

Dr. Dougherty currently serves as senior associate dean for clinical affairs and graduate medical education at KCU.

Dr. Ottaviani serves as chief academic officer for Largo Medical Center in Largo, Fla., and clinical professor of internal medicine and regional dean for Nova Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine. He is also the current president of the American Osteopathic Foundation's Board of Directors.

As members of the ACGME Osteopathic Principles Committee, Dr. Dougherty and Dr. Ottaviani will play key roles in the development and implementation of standards for osteopathic-focused residency training programs, and in establishing the prerequisite knowledge and skills necessary for allopathic physicians to enter osteopathic-focused training programs.

"As a KCU alumnus whose post-graduate work was 100 percent osteopathically accredited, I feel a strong duty

to represent the heritage of that osteopathic training," Dr. Dougherty said. "My appointment also helps ensure that KCU remains at the forefront of the ongoing discussions to strengthen our initiatives in innovative graduate medical education."

In February 2014, ACGME, AOA and AACOM reached agreement to establish a single accreditation system for graduate medical education programs in the United States. As a result of this single accreditation system, osteopathic and allopathic medical students will complete their residency and/or fellowship education experiences in ACGME-accredited programs and demonstrate achievement of common milestones and competencies. This transition begins in July 2015 and is expected to occur by July 2020.

The agreement to establish a new single accreditation system created two new osteopathic review committees – the ACGME Osteopathic Principles Committee and the Neuromusculoskeletal Review Committee – to evaluate and set standards for the osteopathic aspects of GME programs seeking osteopathic recognition.

ALUM EARNS RECOGNITION AS AMERICAN OSTEOPATHIC FOUNDATION'S PHYSICIAN OF THE YEAR

When it comes to treating some of the most complicated immunological cases in the world, many patients have come to rely on the expertise of Leonard Calabrese, DO (COM '75), at the Cleveland Clinic.

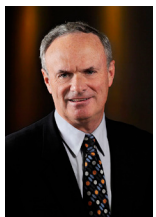
That's why it comes as no surprise, perhaps, that the American Osteopathic Foundation recently chose to honor Dr. Calabrese as its 2014 Physician of the Year. Dr. Calabrese received the award Oct. 24 during the AOF's annual "Honors" event in conjunction with the American Osteopathic Association's OMED conference in Seattle.



Dr. Calabrese is known for his work in rheumatology and immunodeficiency diseases, particularly HIV and hepatitis C. He is also the first and only physician to hold two endowed chairs at the world-renowned Cleveland Clinic, where he serves as both the RJ Fasenmyer Chair of Clinical Immunology at the RJ Fasenmyer Center for Clinical Immunology and as the Theodore F. Classen Chair of Osteopathic Research and Education.

NEW PHYSICIANS' HALL OF SPONSORS SCHOLARSHIP HONORS FORMER BOARD CHAIR

The most recent scholarship inducted into the Physicians' Hall of Sponsors (PHOS) honors the profound impact a former chair of KCU's Board of Trustees made on the University during his tenure.



Darwin J. Strickland, DO (COM '65), and Suzanne Strickland established a PHOS scholarship honoring the leadership of Terrence P. Dunn, who served two terms on the Board of Trustees, including as the group's chair from 2011-2013. Dunn, the president and chief executive officer of J.E. Dunn Construction Group, also received the University's highest honorary degree, the doctor of humane letters, in May 2014.

Since 1996, PHOS scholarships have been awarded to deserving students who demonstrate need and who exhibit potential for excellence in their chosen medical fields. KCU currently has approximately 90 PHOS scholarships, which are fully funded with a minimum of \$25,000. Scholarships may be funded through one-time gifts or over a period of up to five years.

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Scholarships. Programs. Facilities.

KCU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION INSTALLS NEWEST SLATE OF OFFICERS

The KCU Alumni Association chose a full slate of new officers at its annual meeting of members Sept. 18 during Homecoming on the KCU campus.

Those elected to leadership positions were:

- Joel Feder, DO (COM '75), president
- Cameron Knackstedt, DO (COM '75), president-elect
- Ross Sciara, DO (COM '71), vice president
- Mary Franz, DO (COM '91), treasurer
- Janis Strickland Coffin, DO (COM '98), immediate past president

Other current members of the Alumni Association's Board of Directors are:

- Paul Dybedal, DO (COM '54)
- Frederick Flynn, DO (COM '76)
- William Halacoglu, DO (COM '91)
- Nathan Hall, DO (COM '10), MS (COB '06)
- Cameron Knackstedt, DO (COM '75)
- Thomas Randoll, DO (COM '05)
- Jeffrey Schlachter, DO (COM '76)
- Mark Schwartz, DO (COM '10)
- Daryn Staley, DO (COM '00)
- Darwin Strickland, DO (COM '65)
- Adam Whaley-Connell, DO (COM '01)
- Leslie Wiscombe, DO (COM '71)

Are you interested in serving a four-year term on the KCU Alumni Association's Board of Directors? Nominate yourself or another Alumni Association member at www.kcumb.edu/AlumniBoard. You must be an active (dues paid) member of the Alumni Association to make a nomination. If your membership is not currently active, visit www.kcumb.edu/AlumniDues to pay the \$50 annual dues.

University Offers COM Graduates Free CME Credits During Future Homecoming Events

KCU – now more than ever – is committed to promoting lifelong learning for its students and alumni. As evidence of that commitment, the University announced that it will offer all KCU-College of Osteopathic Medicine alumni free CME credits for life in conjunction with future Homecoming events.

Make plans now to take advantage of this special offer during the 2015 KCU Update in Medicine, scheduled for Sept. 17-19, during Homecoming.



CLIMBING THE LADDER TO SUCCESS

Elly Riley, DO (COM '09)

Oppportunity met ambition for Elly Riley, DO (COM '09), in October 2012, when the University of Tennessee was interested in her as an assistant professor at its Family Medicine Center in Jackson, Tenn.

"I knew I wanted to go into academics eventually," Dr. Riley said. "I honestly didn't think that I would have the opportunity."

She got more than just an opportunity for the job – she got the job.

"It just sounded perfect, within the right area, and it was what I wanted to do and they were willing to accommodate my goals in working in outpatient medicine. They accommodated a position for me and it's just been great."

An Ohio native, Dr. Riley completed a two-year residency at Doctors Hospital Family Practice in Columbus, Ohio. She parlayed her residency into the University of Tennessee teaching position right after, which was also a return to roots, of sorts.

Dr. Riley graduated from UT at Martin in May 2003, earning her bachelor's in biology.

Following UT, she came to KCU, a decision she believes has paid numerous dividends, both academically and otherwise.

"When I went to interview there, I just loved it," Dr. Riley said. "I loved the city, I loved the school and the campus. I loved how friendly everybody was and was very happy after I moved there and got kind of enveloped in the campus."

KCU is instrumental in propelling the osteopathic profession forward, she said.

"They just know what they're doing," she said. "They have really good alumni, which gives it a supportive feel. It makes you feel like you're in the right place."

After KCU, she found Ohio similar to Missouri – states strong in DOs. The environment is different in Tennessee, she said, though she's tried changing that aspect.

"I've tried to promote osteopathy here," Dr. Riley said. "I've gone to my alma mater (UT at Martin) and spoken to the pre-med group there about what is a DO and what is an osteopath, and tried to promote KCU a little bit, too."



"Being a DO is so important to me, and I feel like we make really good physicians and I would like to bring more of that back to this area."

Thus far, Dr. Riley said her career path toward academics has proven right. She enjoys the variety of still seeing patients, while also preparing lectures, tutoring medical students and serving the community.

"I do think I want to stay in academics," she said. "Back in fall (2013), I went to a conference for program directors and that really solidified I made the right decision because I was so excited about everything they were talking about."

She's also grown to agree with a colleague, who described a benefit of teaching versus private practice.

"He felt like academics allowed him to influence and help way more people than he ever would be able to in private practice," Dr. Riley said. "You can help one person at a time when you're seeing patients, but if you're (teaching) four residents in a clinic and each of those residents sees six to 10 people, you have a great impact."

"This is where I need to be. I enjoy teaching and I like that everything is different."

Do you know of a KCU graduate who is accomplishing great things? Let us know his or her story by emailing editor@kcumb.edu.

CLASSNOTES

1953

William Legg, DO (COM '53), was featured by The Kansas City Star in an article, "From Doctor to Teacher, William Legg is Still a Healer at 93," which was published on Sept. 23. Shortly after retiring in 1999, Dr. Legg began helping KCU students one day a week in the Osteopathic Clinical Skills Laboratory, which he still does today.

and associate professor of family medicine at Lincoln Memorial University-DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine in Harrogate, Tenn., since 2005. Prior to joining LMU-DCOM, he served as associate dean and associate professor of family medicine, as well as the director of the Division of Rural Health at the Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences in Tulsa, Okla.

1973

Ray Stowers, DO (COM '73), retired Jan. 1 after serving as founding dean

1974

George Smith, DO (COM '74), was featured Oct. 29 in an article,

"This Could Happen to You: Lessons Learned from Explosion in West, Texas," which was published in The DO Dr. Smith recounted his efforts to help patients following a devastating fertilizer plant explosion in his town and how other physicians can better prepare for similar situations they may face. He shared his experiences in a presentation Oct. 29 during the American Osteopathic Association's 119th Osteopathic Medical Conference and Exposition in Seattle.

recipient of the Maine Osteopathic Association's Physician of the Year Award.

Patrick Leary, DO (COM '81), currently serves as president of the American Osteopathic Academy of Sports Medicine. Dr. Leary is the director of the sports medicine fellowship program at the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine in Erie, Pa. He is board-certified in family medicine, earned certificates of added qualification in sports medicine and geriatrics, and is a fellow of AOASM.

1975

Edward Glinkski, DO (COM '75), was recently recognized among the "500+ People to Know in the ASC Industry" by Becker's ASC Review. Dr. Glinkski serves as medical director at Heritage Eye Surgicenter of Oklahoma in Oklahoma City, where he is a specialist in refractive and cataract surgery.

Stephen Nesbit, DO (COM '81), recently joined HCA Gulf Coast Division as its chief medical officer. Dr. Nesbit now oversees all clinical and quality services for 11 acute care hospitals and two specialty hospitals in Houston and South Texas. He previously served as chief medical officer and chief quality officer for Via Christi Health in central Kansas.

1981

Dale Bratzler, DO (COM '81), currently serves as senior policy advisor for the Office of the Associate Director of Policy at the Centers for Disease Control. He is also a professor of health administration and policy, and associate dean in the College of Public Health at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center.

Karen Nichols, DO (COM '81), currently serves as dean at Midwestern University / Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine. She chaired the Osteopathic International Alliance conference in London.

1982

Laurence Belkoff, DO (COM '82), was honored Sept. 19 by the American College of Osteopathic

John Gaddis, DO (COM '81), was recently honored as the first

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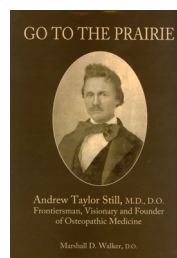
The Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences (KCU) currently has faculty positions available in the following areas:

- Primary Care / Family Medicine
- Internal Medicine
- Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine

KCU is always looking for talented individuals to add to our team. KCU offers an outstanding salary and benefits package.

View Career Opportunities and Apply at:

<https://jobs.kcumb.edu>



GO TO THE PRAIRIE

Andrew Taylor Still, MD, DO: Frontiersman, Visionary and Founder of Osteopathic Medicine

by Marshall Walker, DO (COM '72)

Published Dec. 3, 2014

Available on Amazon, \$22.50

Dr. Walker, who previously served as the 13th president of the Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences and is currently chair of the University's Board of Trustees, wrote this 254-page book, which captures the history of osteopathic medicine and its founder, Dr. Still. Dr. Walker's book is one of the most in depth and accurate treatises on the life and times of Dr. Still. This work will become a must read for all involved in the osteopathic profession.

Surgeons. Dr. Belkoff received the Orel F. Martin Medal, the highest award bestowed by ACOS, in recognition of his outstanding service in the areas of surgery, education, leadership and research. Dr. Belkoff is a senior partner with Urologic Consultants of Southeastern Pennsylvania and a previous ACOS president.

1984

Marc Stephens, DO (COM '84), recently joined McPherson Hospital as medical director for the Emergency Department. Dr. Stephens is among five full-time physicians from Emergency Medical Services Kansas that will practice at the hospital, where he has worked part-time for the past 10 years.

1985

Sam Fillingane, DO (COM '85), was recently honored as a top physician in the field of cardiovascular risk reduction by The Leading Physicians of the World and the International Association of HealthCare Professionals. Dr. Fillingane is the founder and chief executive officer at Fillingane Medical Clinic in Jackson, Miss. He also serves as medical director for Jackson Sleep Laboratory.

Jim Neely, DO (COM '85), is seeking re-election to the Missouri House, eighth district. Dr. Neely was first elected to the Missouri House in 2012, and he previously served nine years on the Cameron (Mo.) School Board.

1986

Kevin Hubbard, DO (COM '86), professor and interim chair of specialty medicine at KCU, was mentioned in an article, "Half Baked: Concerned Mothers, Patients and Doctors Weed Through the Pros and Cons of Legalizing This Controversial Plant," which was published in the January issue of 435 Magazine.

1987

Peter Clothier, DO (COM '87), and his daughter, Emma, traveled to Nicaragua in June for a medical

mission with the Corner of Love organization. Their group treated 1,400 patients in 10 days and provided much-needed medical care in remote mountain villages. Dr. Clothier has practiced family medicine at Dublin Primary Care in Colorado Springs, Colo., for 25 years. Emma hopes to become a pediatrician.

1990

Mona Afrassiab, DO (COM '90), recently joined Lake Regional Obstetrics and Gynecology. Dr. Afrassiab previously practiced at Moberly Regional Medical Center for more than 10 years, and served as an assistant clinical professor for Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine for five years.

1994

Jeffrey Umfleet, DO (COM '94), recently joined the staff at Saint Francis Emergency and Trauma Center in Cape Girardeau, Mo. Dr. Umfleet, who specializes in emergency medicine, previously served as medical director for emergency services at Southeast Hospital in Cape Girardeau.

1997

Aimee Raup, DO (COM '97), was featured in an article, "As a Mother, Health First Ob/Gyn Relates to Patients," which was published Aug. 23 in Florida Today. Dr. Raup practices obstetrics and gynecology at Health First Medical Group in Merritt Island, Fla.

R. Sam Lingamfelter, DO (COM '97), recently joined Houston Methodist Primary Care Group at its Clear Lake practice in Houston, Texas. Dr. Lingamfelter, board certified in family medicine, completed clinical training at Houston Methodist San Jacinto Hospital in Baytown, Texas.

1998

Casandra McKarnin, DO (COM '98), recently joined the staff at Saint Luke's South Primary Care in Overland Park, Kan. Dr. McKarnin, who specializes in family medicine, previously practiced in Olathe, Kan.

Become a Part of the KCU-COM LEGACY FUND

Honor the Past, Shape the Future

The Legacy Fund honors KCU-COM faculty, staff, alumni and physician partners, both past and present, who have left a lasting imprint on student doctors of all generations.

All gifts designated to the Legacy Fund will be directed to specific programs benefitting faculty or educational initiatives and will be dispersed annually at the Faculty Senate's discretion.

A gift of \$500 is required for inclusion in the Legacy Fund.

For more information on how you can support the KCU-COM Legacy Fund, please call the Advancement Office at 816-654-7280, email alumni@kcumb.edu or visit www.kcumb.edu/LegacyFund.



KCU employees joined students Dec. 2 for a special Score 1 for Health screening event. Above, Britt Johnson, PhD, assistant professor of bioethics, conducts an eye exam for a young student. The annual employee participation event provides a great opportunity for employees to learn more about Score 1's impact.

2005

Laura Hobart-Porter, DO (COM '05), recently joined the faculty as an assistant professor at Arkansas Children's Hospital in Little Rock, Ark. Dr. Hobart-Porter, who practices pediatric physical medicine and rehabilitation, previously completed a fellowship in pediatric physical medicine and rehabilitation in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Nicholas Hobart-Porter, DO (COM '05), recently rejoined the faculty as an assistant professor at Arkansas Children's Hospital in Little Rock, Ark., where he practices pediatric emergency medicine. Dr. Hobart-Porter previously practiced in the Emergency Department at Cincinnati Children's Hospital.

April Turner, DO (COM '05), recently joined a surgical group at Baptist Health Medical Center in Little Rock, Ark., after returning

from her second deployment to Afghanistan.

2006

Amanda Lea, DO (COM '06), recently joined the staff at Zachary Family Practice in Zachary, La. Dr. Lea is board certified in internal medicine and in hospice and palliative medicine, and also is a certified medical examiner.

Mary Schinkel, DO (COM '06), recently joined ProHealth Medical Group in Pekin, Ill., where she serves as the practice's ear, nose and throat specialist. Dr. Schinkel previously practiced otorhinolaryngology at Fairview Range Medical Center in Hibbing, Minn.

2008

Margaret Owegi, DO (COM '08), recently joined the Department of Medicine at UMass Memorial Medical Center in Worcester, Mass. Dr. Owegi, an assistant professor of neurology, completed a neurology residency and neuromuscular disease fellowship at Johns Hopkins Hospital. She specializes in neuromuscular disorders in adults.

Jason Bessey, DO (COM '08), recently joined Lee's Summit Medical Center and Family Health Specialists of Lee's Summit in Lee's Summit, Mo. Dr. Bessey completed a family medicine residency and fellowship in integrative medicine at Goppert-Trinity Family Care in Kansas City, Mo.

Lauren Bessey, DO (COM '08), recently joined Lee's Summit Medical Center and Family Health Specialists of Lee's Summit in Lee's Summit, Mo. Dr. Bessey completed a residency in family and integrative medicine at Goppert-Trinity Family Care in Kansas City, Mo.

2009

Josh Brickner, DO (COM '09), hosted a community forum, "Caring for Kids: A Look at Lake Regional Pediatric Care," on Oct. 29 in Osage Beach, Mo. Dr. Brickner is an internal medicine and pediatric hospitalist at Lake Regional Health System.



Students line up on campus to buy cupcakes Sept. 30 as part of KCU's annual Breast Cancer Awareness Week. A portion of the proceeds from the event, which was sponsored by the Women in Medicine and Obstetrics/Gynecology clubs, went to benefit breast cancer awareness causes.

Christina Feser, DO (COM '09), recently joined the Murfreesboro Dermatology Clinic and MDC Aesthetics Center in Murfreesboro, Tenn. Dr. Feser previously completed a residency in dermatology through Michigan State University at Oakwood Southshore Medical Center in Trenton, Mich., and a fellowship in dermatopharmacology at Haber Dermatology & Cosmetic Surgery, Inc., in South Euclid, Ohio.

Kelly Galster, DO (COM '09), recently joined the staff at Baystate Mary Lane Hospital in Ware, Mass., where he is a general surgeon. Dr. Galster completed a residency in general surgery at McLaren-Oakland Hospital in Pontiac, Mich.

Jonathan Gray, DO (COM '09), recently joined the staff as an orthopedic surgeon at Citizens Memorial Hospital in Bolivar, Mo. Dr. Gray completed a residency in orthopedic surgery at Oklahoma State University - Saint Anthony's Hospital in Oklahoma City, as well as additional training in pediatric orthopedic surgery at the Univer-

sity of Oklahoma Health Science Center in Oklahoma City.

Katherine McKenzie, DO (COM '09), is currently completing a fellowship in trauma and critical care surgery at Rutgers University Hospital in Newark, N.J. In 2013, Dr. McKenzie won first place for a research presentation, "Does Increased Surveillance of Urinary Catheters Result in Less Hospital-Acquired Infections and Cost Savings?" during the American College of Surgeons Clinical Assembly Resident Scientific Research Presentations in Las Vegas.

2010

Danielle Hay, DO (COM '10), recently joined Siouxland Women's Health Care P.C. in Sioux City, Iowa. Dr. Hay, who specializes in obstetrics and gynecology, previously completed a residency at Doctors Hospital in Columbus, Ohio, where she served as chief resident in obstetrics and gynecology.

Emily Linklater, DO (COM '10), recently joined the Mayo Clinic Health System in Red Wing,

DON'T GET STUCK IN THE STONE AGES

Update Your Email Address

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Get the latest KCU news delivered straight to your inbox and help the University reach its goal of becoming a more sustainable institution.



Minn., where she practices obstetrics and gynecology.

Nhat Nguyen Thi Nguyen, DO (COM '10), MS (COB '06), recently joined the Urgent Care Center of SW Florida in Cape Coral, Fla. Dr. Nguyen is board certified in family medicine and previously completed a family medicine residency at St. Petersburg General Hospital.

2011

Glenn Geron, DO (COM '11), recently joined CoxHealth Adult Medicine and Endocrinology Specialists in Springfield, Mo. Dr. Geron is board-certified in family medicine and participated in the Cox Family Medicine Residency program.

Kayla Gray, DO (COM '11), recently joined Hays Medical Center in Hays, Kan., where she is a hospitalist. Dr. Gray previously completed an internal medicine residency at the University of Kansas-Wichita.

Jessica Segedy, DO (COM '11), recently joined Borgess ProMed Physicians Pediatrics at Woodbridge Hills in Portage, Mich. Dr. Segedy, who also serves as a clinical instructor at the Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine, previously completed a residency in pediatrics at the Michigan State University/Kalamazoo Center for Medical Studies.

WE WANT TO SHARE YOUR NEWS

Did a professional organization recently honor your work? Are you on the move, thanks to a new job?

Send any recent professional accomplishments – awards, fellowships, new jobs, published research articles or other noteworthy achievements – by email to editor@kcumb.edu. Be sure to include pertinent details, such as dates and locations.

We cannot guarantee that your submission will be published. Submissions may be edited for length, style and clarity.

Jamie Thomas, DO (COM '11), recently joined CoxHealth Center Rogersville in Rogersville, Mo. Dr. Thomas is board-certified in family medicine and participated in the Cox Family Medicine Residency program.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the members of the corporation of the Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences (KCU) will be at 2 p.m. (CDT) Tuesday, May 19, 2015, in Ricci Auditorium, which is located on the first floor of the Strickland Education Pavilion on the KCU campus, 1730 Independence Ave., Kansas City, MO 64106. The purpose of the meeting is to receive from the Board of Trustees a report on the condition and affairs of the corporation and for consideration of any other matters, which may be presented for consideration by resolution of the Board of Trustees of the University.

*Marshall Walker, DO (COM '72)
Chair of the Board of Trustees
March 12, 2015*

IN MEMORIAM

KCU remembers the following alumni and friends:

Charles W. Marsh, DO
(COM '45), Aug. 26, 2014

William B. Geb, DO
(COM '50), June 19, 2014

Jacob L. Harmon, DO
(COM '50), June 4, 2014

Virgil C. Inglett, DO
(COM '53), July 21, 2014

Ernest A. Lewandowski, DO
(COM '53), Feb. 7, 2015

William C. Sunderwirth, DO
(COM '53), July 26, 2014

Frank M. Weaver, DO
(COM '53), Dec. 5, 2014

John Q. Dickey, DO
(COM '55), Sept. 1, 2014

John B. Gardiner, DO
(COM '55), Sept. 14, 2013

Gordon DeVries, DO
(COM '56), Oct. 13, 2014

William J. Munro, DO
(COM '56), Nov. 16, 2014

Donald R. Trepanier, DO
(COM '56), Oct. 22, 2014

Robert J. Izbicki, DO
(COM '57), Dec. 7, 2014

Michael Kondik, Jr., DO
(COM '57), June 17, 2013

Harry C. Cohen, DO
(COM '58), Oct. 2, 2014

Jack V. Gallagher, DO
(COM '58), Dec. 15, 2014

Angelo Pardo, DO
(COM '58), Aug. 27, 2014

William T. Hillyard, DO
(COM '59), Aug. 8, 2014

DuWayne E. Gilkey, DO
(COM '61), Sept. 19, 2014

Robert G. Patzkowsky, DO
(COM '61), Dec. 20, 2013

Billy G. Mills, DO
(COM '62), June 22, 2014

Dean A. Wierman, DO
(COM '62), June 28, 2014

W. Scott McCormick, DO
(COM '63), Dec. 16, 2014

James Edwin "Scotty" Little, DO
(COM '64), Feb. 23, 2014

Henry J. Parcinski, Jr., DO
(COM '70), April 28, 2013

Michael S. Freistat, DO
(COM '74), Sept. 17, 2014

Robert L. Moody, DO
(COM '76), Jan. 9, 2015

William J. Stechschulte, DO
(COM '78), Jan. 11, 2015

John J. Corzine, DO
(COM '79), June 21, 2014

Marc R. Gregory, DO
(COM '81), June 2, 2013

Michael J. Namey, Jr., DO
(COM '81), Oct. 4, 2014

Rodney C. Perry, DO
(COM '83), Feb. 28, 2014

Eugene A. Calabrese, DO
(COM '86), Jan. 15, 2015

Henry W. Lipps, DO
(COM '97), June 23, 2014

Clifton R. Dabbs, DO
(COM '01), Dec. 13, 2014

If you know of a KCU graduate or former faculty member who has passed away, please email his or her information to editor@kcumb.edu. Be sure to include the person's full name, class year and date of death, if possible.

POP QUIZ

A Perfectly Puzzling Picture

To answer the riddle below, find the seven individual pieces in the large photo. Some pieces have been rotated. When you find a piece, fill in the color-matched boxes with the letters from the piece's original row and column. Then, read those letters in order for the answer to the riddle. (*Hint: The answer is four words.*)

Riddle: It should be obvious, given our University's mission of "improving the well-being of the communities we serve" and all that we do, but why would our students take time out of their busy schedules to train children for a 5K run?

Email the answer to editor@kcumb.edu. If you are correct, you will win a \$25 Starbucks gift card and the notoriety that comes with having your name printed in the next issue of KCU.

Required disclaimer: In the event that more than one person answers the puzzle correctly – something we would hope is highly likely, given the world-class education the vast majority of our readers have – we will draw one winner at random from all correct submissions.

Megan Collins, a second-year osteopathic medical student, encourages her two running partners Nov. 2 during the Cliff Hanger 5K Run in Kansas City, Mo.





UPCOMING EVENTS

YOUR GUIDE TO ALL THINGS KCU

See the latest event announcements and updates at www.kcumb.edu/UpcomingEvents.

 **Kansas City University**
OF MEDICINE AND BIOSCIENCES

4:30 p.m. Thursday, March 26, 2015
The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Atkins Auditorium
4525 Oak Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64111

THE INVESTITURE OF MARC B. HAHN DO, FAOCA

as the Fourteenth President of the Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences

RSVP at www.kcumb.edu/Investiture

MARCH
12-15

American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians
52nd Annual Convention and Scientific Seminars
KCU Alumni Reception: 6-7:30 p.m. March 13
Bar Vdara, Las Vegas, NV 89158

APRIL
9-11

Kansas Association of Osteopathic Medicine
KCU Alumni Reception: April 10
Watch for more details coming soon!

APRIL MAY
29-3

Missouri Association of Osteopathic
Physicians and Surgeons 117th Annual
Convention

KCU Alumni Reception: April 30
Watch for more details coming soon!

MAY
9

KCU Commencement
9 a.m. at Municipal Auditorium,
Kansas City, MO 64105

MAY
14-17

Michigan Osteopathic Association
116th Annual Spring Scientific Convention
KCU Alumni Reception: May 15
Watch for more details coming soon!

SEPT
17-19

KCU Homecoming Celebration:
Watch for more details coming soon!
Did we mention free CME?
(Find out more on Page 34.)

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Visit www.kcumb.edu/UpdateInfo to ensure that we have your email address and other contact information. It's also a great way to update us on address or phone number changes, or to let us know your recent career accomplishments.

For more information or to RSVP for a KCU alumni reception, contact Carol Birkel at 816-654-7284 or cbirkel@kcumb.edu. For more information regarding any of these events, contact Kimberly Fry, associate director of university events, at 816-654-7040 or kfry@kcumb.edu.

REMEMBER WHEN ...

What do you remember most about your time at the Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences? If you have an interesting historical photo or simply want to share your personal memories, email editor@kcumb.edu with a brief description. We cannot guarantee that your submission will be published.



KCU's Administration Building, currently undergoing renovations, was the original home for Kansas City's Children's Mercy Hospital. Above, baseball legends Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig stopped by to visit hospitalized children in 1927.