

THE MAGAZINE OF KANSAS CITY UNIVERSITY OF MEDICINE AND BIOSCIENCES

SUMMER 2010

# KCUMB

COMMUNICATOR



## *Who We Are*

*Stakeholders Provide Perspective  
on the Many Faces of KCUMB*

# Celebrate Tradition

Homecoming • White Coating • CME



## Aug. 4-8, 2010

### Don't Miss It!

Watch for the brochure in your mailbox or visit [www.kcumb.edu/tradition](http://www.kcumb.edu/tradition) to register online. Register before July 1 to receive the early bird discount!

### Schedule of Events

#### Wednesday, Aug. 4

Be a part of the annual Community Service Day in the morning, then enjoy an afternoon of golf with fellow alumni and students.

#### KCUMB Community Service Day

7 a.m.-Noon Various locations throughout the Kansas City area  
Please note: Many activities are outdoors and may require varying degrees of physical labor.

#### A Day on the Greens in Memory of Robert G. Ricci, D.O. (COM '68)

All alumni are invited to play Shoal Creek Golf Course and will be paired by class.

#### All-Student and Alumni Event

Join faculty and staff for a special outing. Watch for additional details!

#### Thursday, Aug. 5

Participate in Continuing Medical Education sessions and welcome new students to the profession during the traditional KCUMB White Coating Ceremony.

8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. CME Seminar (InterContinental Hotel)

7 p.m.

KCUMB White Coating Ceremony\* (Weaver Auditorium) \*In order to participate in the White Coating Ceremony, we must receive your registration information by July 1!

#### Friday, Aug. 6

Experience CME sessions, enjoy a picnic on the KCUMB campus and gather for reunion dinners for the classes of 1950, 1955, 1960, 1965, 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000 and 2005.

8 a.m.-4 p.m.

CME Seminar on the KCUMB Campus (Shuttle provided from and to the InterContinental Hotel)

11-11:30 a.m.

KCUMB Alumni Awards and Physician Hall of Sponsors Inductions (Weaver Auditorium)

11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Picnic Lunch (Tent on Highland Avenue)

6 p.m.

Reunion Dinners, Hosted by KCUMB (Locations vary by class)

#### Saturday, Aug. 7

Participate in CME sessions and attend the annual Alumni Association luncheon.

8 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

CME Seminar (InterContinental Hotel)

Noon

Alumni Association Luncheon and Annual Meeting

#### Sunday, Aug. 8

CME sessions conclude.

8 a.m.-Noon

CME Seminar (InterContinental Hotel)

Over the past five months, I have realized a unique opportunity that few have. I have had the opportunity to see something that has been familiar to me for my entire life, in a completely different way.

With a family full of KCUMB alumni, and a real love for this institution, I made a decision to serve this University on the Board of Trustees and later as its chairman.

But it wasn't until I became acting president and chief executive officer, and was immersed in the day-to-day functions of the University, that I realized what a treasure we have here in Kansas City. That treasure is the people who make KCUMB what it is today.

So many people touch this institution – faculty and staff, students, preceptors, community clinical faculty, alumni and community members. Each individual who comes in contact with KCUMB leaves a mark that affects how others view it.

Those of us who care about this University are extremely fortunate that the KCUMB community is working diligently to uphold the mission and values of the University. In spite of recent strife and unsettling



H. Danny Weaver, D.O.

situations, faculty, staff and students come to the KCUMB campus each day and make significant contributions to the University's ongoing success.

On May 15, we congratulated 247 new physicians as they crossed the stage at Weaver Auditorium to receive their doctor of osteopathic medicine degrees, and many also earned dual degrees in biomedical sciences or bioethics.

The future is incredibly bright for these students as they have earned degrees from an institution that is committed to excellence in educating highly competent and compassionate physicians and providing them with opportunities to expand their skills into business and ethics.

Beyond their physical skills, these new physicians also have learned the importance of service and the value of respecting other cultures and beliefs. It is these intangible aspects that will make them truly outstanding in their field.

This issue of the *KCUMB Communicator* puts a face on just a few of the people who represent KCUMB. I invite you to read and reflect on how this institution continues to demonstrate the power of a strong vision and the commitment of dedicated individuals. ●

# Summer 2010

# KCUMMB

COMMUNICATOR

THE KCUMMB COMMUNICATOR IS  
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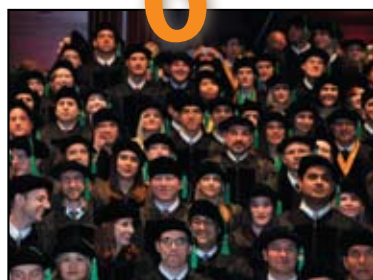
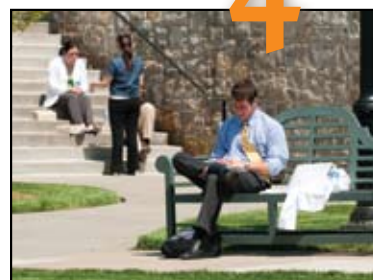
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## MOVING FORWARD

As the University looks ahead to its future,  
KCUMMB remains committed to its mission



## THE MANY FACES OF KCUMMB

Take a close look at KCUMMB through the  
perspectives of some of those who know it best

## MAKING PHYSICAL ACTIVITY A COMMUNITY PRIORITY

A KCUMMB researcher works toward  
development of a plan for increasing  
physical activity in today's youth



## PLUS...

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### A Renewed Hope

With the administrative changes at KCUMB, my hope is renewed that osteopathic principles and practice can be integrated with undergraduate and graduate education there. The continuance of our profession depends on it. I have withheld my giving to the University based on the low priority given to OMM during the tenure of our past CEO. Perhaps a new direction at KCUMB will allow more monetary giving that for me is meaningful.

**R. Paul Lee, D.O. (COM '76)**

### A Call for an Osteopathic Vision

I am quite upset at the comments by Dr. Weaver regarding M.D./D.O. degrees. Is KCUMB an osteopathic institution? Will it begin to uphold the ideal of osteopathy as an integral part of its mission statement?

My intuition senses a lack of vision.

How is opting for a dual M.D./D.O. degree an option that is even discussed at the level of the administration? There is no possible explanation that supports this

idea. This sounds more like a lack of vision and dedication to osteopathy. It seems that there are those in powerful decision making places that do not ascribe to the belief of osteopathic medicine and its unfolding application and integration. The winds of change are seemingly reacting to situational pressures rather than leading a charge. Very weak minded indeed, if that is at the core of what is outwardly visible.

I have spent years defining for myself what an osteopath truly is, and I do not get a sense from my alma mater that they have experienced the same struggle, let alone put much thought towards the idea.

I feel uneasy and I get no sense of comfort that there is an identity of osteopathy from the administration.

Let me hear in word and deed that which is most needed right now. Support for the principles and practice of osteopathy. What we need now is a leader.

**Mark Sutherland, D.O. (COM '00)**

*Editor's note: At this time, the Board of Trustees and KCUMB administration have determined not to move forward with a dual M.D./D.O. degree.*

### Got Something to Say?

Submit a Letter to the Editor at [www.kcumb.edu/myletter](http://www.kcumb.edu/myletter) or by e-mail to [communicator@kcumb.edu](mailto:communicator@kcumb.edu). Due to limited space, please limit your letter to 250 words. We cannot guarantee that your letter will be printed. Letters may be edited for length, style, clarity and civility.

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# MOVING FORWARD

**As the University looks ahead to its future, KCUMB remains committed to its mission and to its constituents.**

By Natalie Lutz

Late spring on the Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences' campus brings with it the bustle of activity that regularly accompanies the conclusion of another academic year – final exams, Commencement ceremonies, the finalization of residency matching and preparations for incoming classes in the fall.

These annual milestones signal that while KCUMB continues to experience significant change, the University's most important endeavor continues unabated – the business of educating highly qualified students in osteopathic medicine and the life sciences.

More than five months ago, a shift in senior administrative leadership triggered by alleged financial mismanagement led to a review of how the University functions at all levels. This intense analysis has led to ongoing organizational changes that include institutional restructuring, revisions to bylaws and governance documents, and, most importantly, a renewed sense of commitment to the University's primary constituents – its students.

"KCUMB continues to fulfill its mission of educating its students in spite of all of the issues that surround it," said H. Danny Weaver, D.O. (COM '84), acting president, chief executive officer and chairman of the Board of Trustees. "It's the hard work and dedication of the faculty, staff and students that continue to aid this University in reaching its goals."

While Dr. Weaver had served as chairman of the Board of Trustees since 2004, assuming the role of acting president and chief executive officer brought with it new challenges and insights into the institution that had been a constant throughout his life.



Dr. Weaver

"KCUMB has been important not only to me, but to our family, since my father first graduated from here in 1963," Dr. Weaver said. "I've been brought up around this University,



first as a son of a graduate and then as a student and graduate myself. I met and married my wife, who is a graduate. Her father was also a graduate from here, so we feel it's a part of our family. We want to see nothing but success come to this University."

That desire for success is something that drives Dr. Weaver and the entire Board of Trustees. To ensure that KCUMB was taking the right steps, they rounded out the new senior leadership team by adding individuals who had experience with non-profit organizations.



Susan Stanton

In February, KCUMB hired Susan Stanton, a former corporate and non-profit chief executive officer, to the newly created position of executive administrative officer. The University also named Linda Falk, former chief



Linda Falk

financial officer and senior vice president of finance and operations for the United Way of Greater Kansas City, as KCUMB's new executive vice president for finance and chief financial officer.

In her new role, Falk oversees all financial activities of the University, including directing financial strategy, supervising investments and managing all accounting practices. Stanton

provides operational oversight and is leading the effort to restructure KCUMB, which focuses on developing an effective organizational structure and replacing supervisory relationships that were lost through personnel changes.

"The goal was to bring some sense of stability to the organization so that we can focus on the business of educating students and serving our other constituents," Stanton said. "We hope to encourage collaboration by developing partnerships between departments and provide a work environment that's challenging and energizing for our faculty and staff."

While the restructuring process focuses on the operational functions of the University, the Board of Trustees also began the process of reviewing and strengthening bylaws and governance documents to increase accountability.

"The Board is dedicated to bringing a higher level of transparency, stronger governance and accountability, so that past issues do not reoccur," Dr. Weaver said. "We'll be a stronger, more focused institution as we move forward."

Initially, the Board has taken major steps by solidifying the infrastructure, developing a new committee structure and revising bylaws. The bylaw changes include provisions that the chairman of the Board of Trustees is no longer required to be a D.O., and the majority of the Board must be graduates of the institution, not necessarily physicians or D.O.s. This will allow graduates of the College of Biosciences to actively participate on the Board.

In addition, the Board is seeking additional diversity by exploring additional local, regional and national members, including alumni. The intent is to recruit trustees who can offer specific skill sets that will broaden and strengthen the Board's membership.

"I think that every member of the Board of Trustees feels very strongly about their responsibility to the school, to the community and, especially, to the students," said Cynthia Morris, D.O. (COM '87), a member of the Board of Trustees. "I think



Dr. Morris

the governance changes will keep us more in touch with changes at the University and allow us to be much more involved with the executive team."

The Board will continue to review and adapt processes, but it is also looking to strengthen relationships with University constituents and develop greater oversight into the school's business functions.

"We're restructuring to be more involved and really understand everything we're seeing," Dr. Morris said. "We've always had a strong relationship with the medical school and the alumni, but we're also going to establish a much stronger relationship with the faculty. We're going to have a much better understanding of the day-to-day budgetary process and increase our focus on research."

These additional insights will aid the senior leadership team as it prepares for the 2011 accreditation process with the American Osteopathic Association's Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA).

In addition, KCUMB has immediate plans to enhance resources for students, including adding power outlets and data jacks to classrooms for computing needs, renovating the OMT laboratory and securing high-definition cameras for the anatomy lab. The University is also investigating ways to enhance the third- and fourth-year curriculum with additional interactive case-based offerings, allowing students to become more engaged in the educational process.

"The landscape for medical education is constantly changing, so we have to be constantly reassessing so we continue to be at the forefront," Stanton said. "Whether it's the curriculum, the support we provide students or the students we recruit, there is no part of our world where you can be static."

As KCUMB continues to assess its next steps, the underlying intent is to protect the educational experience of its students.

"Every institution has points where they can make dramatic changes," Dr. Morris said. "This is a tremendous opportunity – an opportunity to look back and then move forward in any direction. I feel confident that everybody involved in these changes has a real desire to make this the greatest school possible." ●



# The Many Faces of

By Scott Summers



**W**ho are we? It is a fundamental question, of sorts. It is also the type of question that is easier to answer about an individual, but more complex when speaking in terms of an institution's identity.

Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences is the largest medical school in Missouri and the oldest in the Greater Kansas City area. Founded in 1916 as the Kansas City College of Osteopathy and Surgery, it could be argued that change has been the one constant in its approximately 95 years of existence.

Through a slew of statistics, a sometimes-nostalgic look at the past and – perhaps most importantly – the perspectives of a handful of those here along the way, we'll attempt the unthinkable ... to put a face on who we are.

## Observing Near and Far

Mary Pat Wohlford-Wessels, Ph.D., may have arrived at KCUMB in late 2006, but her knowledge and awareness of the University started much earlier.

"I was very familiar with KCUMB because I was at Des Moines University (College of Osteopathic Medicine) for 18 years," said Dr. Wohlford-Wessels, executive vice president for research and institutional effectiveness. "Part of my responsibilities were to track and trend benchmarks at DMU against major competitors."

For that reason, Dr. Wohlford-Wessels became well acquainted with KCUMB, situated approximately 195 miles south of DMU on Interstate 35. The two osteopathic medical schools often found themselves crossing paths while fishing for potential applicants from the same pool.

"KCUMB is a comfortable, inviting campus," she said. "I

think the campus is a surprise to those who haven't been here because the buildings and grounds are gems in the neighborhood."

Since her role at KCUMB requires her to constantly evaluate and measure many aspects of the University's programs and performance, Dr. Wohlford-Wessels is able to see the breadth of KCUMB more so than the average observer. What she has found is that no one aspect of KCUMB defines the institution.

"Because of our size and structure, we are more agile (than many other medical schools)," she said. "We can make changes quickly. Public institutions have additional constraints that can slow them down."

She has been impressed by the quality of the faculty at KCUMB and often finds time to watch professors interact with students inside and outside the classroom.

"This institution is a teaching machine," Dr. Wohlford-Wessels said. "We have marvelous master teachers here. They are individuals who effectively communicate dense, complex content. The passion for teaching is evident among the faculty, and the quality of teaching is impressive."

She has also learned a lot about KCUMB's student body.





“Our student body is primarily from the Midwest, and many students come from small cities and towns in rural, underserved areas,” she said.

As might be expected, a large portion of students graduating from the College of Osteopathic Medicine end up practicing in areas of need.

“I think we make significant contributions to primary care,” she said. “More of our graduates go into family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics and general surgery. A large number of our graduates practice in underserved and rural, underserved areas as well.

“There is something about KCUMB that attracts high-touch people,” Dr. Wohlford-Wessels said. “I would guess that could be attributed to KCUMB’s history and heritage. Osteopathic medicine is high touch.”

The College of Biosciences, created in 2004, has also transformed the University’s landscape. Students now can earn a master’s degree in bioethics or in biomedical sciences, and there are a variety of degree tracks available that work in concert with earning a doctor of osteopathic medicine.

“Having graduate programming is a good thing because it enhances the breadth and depth of the faculty, the teaching and learning opportunities, and it certainly provides for enhanced collaborative ventures. Biomedical sciences and bioethics have had a wonderful impact.”

Dr. Wohlford-Wessels believes the future for KCUMB is bright.

“It’s amazing how quickly things can change – how quickly they have changed.”

### Taking Full Advantage of Opportunities

If there were ever a student who had experienced most everything KCUMB has to offer, it might be Nathan Hall, D.O. (COM ’10, COB ’06).

Dr. Hall earned a master of science in biomedical sciences in 2006 as a member of the first class of graduates from KCUMB’s College of Biosciences before entering the College of Osteopathic Medicine that fall. On May 15, he also earned a doctor of osteopathic medicine and a master of business administration in healthcare leadership through KCUMB’s dual-degree affiliation with Rockhurst University.

And, if that were not enough, Dr. Hall was recently named KCUMB’s 2010 Student D.O. of the Year, an award presented in recognition of outstanding service to the community, students and the osteopathic profession.

“KCUMB is more than just a medical school to me,” he said. “It has become a home away from home. When you go through something as difficult as medical school, you need others to lean on and rely on. I felt that at KCUMB, from my classmates and from the faculty and administration.”

Dr. Hall said the experiences he had at KCUMB have helped him grow both personally and professionally. He has served as a KCUMB student ambassador, as president of his class, as a student representative for the Missouri Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons, and as national treasurer for the Council of Osteopathic Student Government Presidents, among other roles.

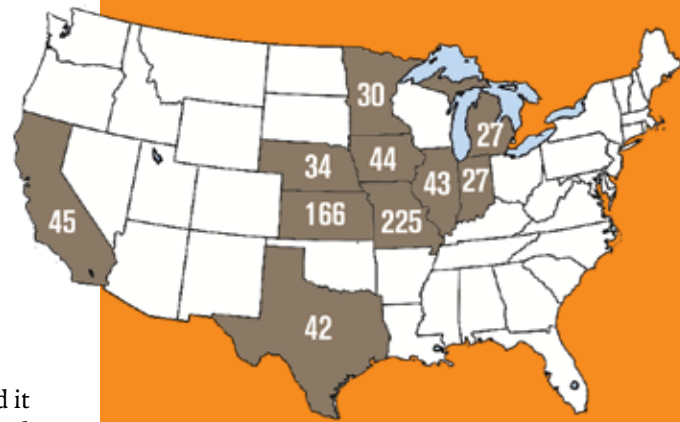
“I began medical school with little confidence in myself as a leader,” Dr. Hall said. “As a future physician, it’s very important to be confident and be a leader for my patients.

“Fortunately, KCUMB has given me some wonderful opportunities to spread my wings as a leader, and I have



Continued on page 8

### Top 10 States by Number of COM Students



### Looking Inside the Numbers: KCUMB’s College of Osteopathic Medicine

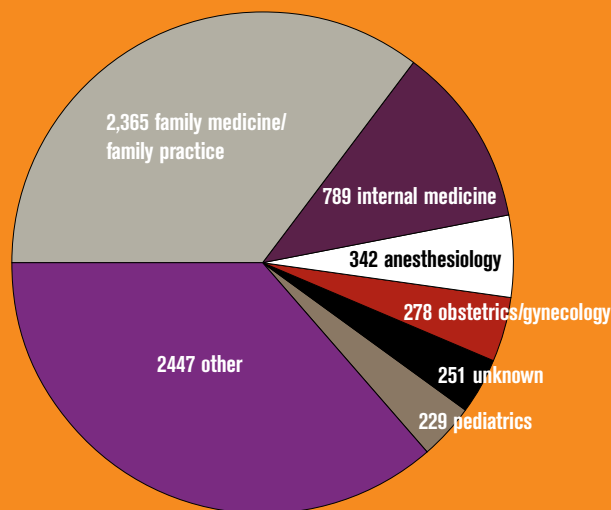
- 48 percent female
- 52 percent male
- 22 percent from Missouri
- 17 percent from Kansas
- 69 percent from the Midwest region
- 16 percent from the South region
- 11 percent from the West region
- 4 percent from the East region

### What’s in a Name?

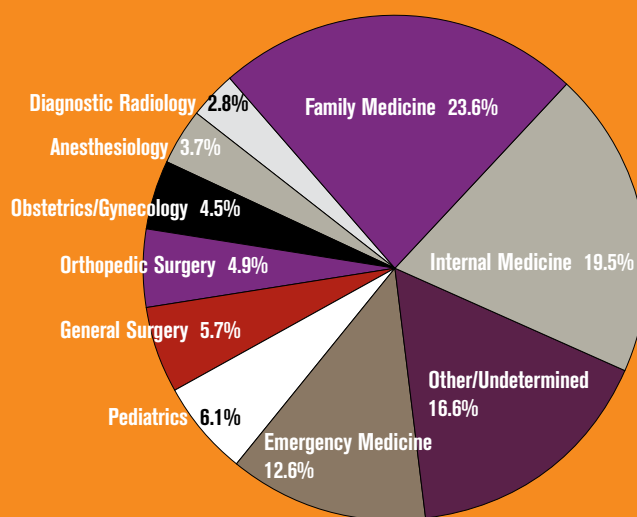
Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences has been known by several names during the course of its approximately 95-year existence, including:

- The Kansas City College of Osteopathy and Surgery (1916-1970)
- The Kansas City College of Osteopathic Medicine (1970-1980)
- The University of Health Sciences (1980-2004)
- Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences (2004-current)

## A Sampling of Alumni by Medical Specialty



## Class of 2010 Specialties by Residency Match



also had some great role models here who have guided me to becoming a more confident person.”

Despite maintaining the significant study requirements of medical school, Dr. Hall said he still found time to forge what he expects will be lifelong friendships with many of his classmates.

“We all know how to study hard, yet we had a good time together,” he said, recalling trips to go ice fishing, camping, mountain biking and to baseball games. “Being with my classmates will be the thing I miss most about medical school. I will never forget all the great times we had.”

Those feelings extend to KCUMB, too, he said.

“KCUMB has done an outstanding job of creating a friendly and hospitable environment on campus,” Dr. Hall said. “Everyone seems to work for a common goal – the goal of producing great, caring, competent physicians.

“I feel like the kind of person you become relates directly to those who you have surrounded yourself with,” he continued. “I am grateful to have been able to become part of a family that cares so much.”

### Finding the Satisfaction in Serving Others

Work is work, right? Not always, especially when you are fortunate enough to have a job you truly enjoy, like Nicole Weitkamp does.

As assistant director of student activities, Weitkamp spends much of her time working directly with KCUMB students on a wide variety of activities and events. In addition, she serves as a resource to the many student-run organizations and clubs on campus, as well as overseeing other not-so-glamorous tasks, such as issuing student IDs and mailbox assignments.

“I like our department and where I work,” said Weitkamp, who started at KCUMB in 2008. “You can’t go wrong working with Sara (Selkirk) and LeAnn (Carlton). They know how to get things done, but enjoy what they do and have a good time doing it. It makes work fun.

“I’m excited to come into work, not dreading waking up and coming in,” she added. “What makes KCUMB unique is

that we’re a fairly large campus, but I think most people still know each other by name. It’s very friendly and welcoming.”

The students are the other big reason Weitkamp enjoys her job.

“I like working with students because it’s always different,” Weitkamp said. “There is always something new – a different question, a different idea – that you’ve never seen before. A big part of it is having the ability to adapt and be open to new ideas.”

Through her job and her frequent interaction with students, Weitkamp has come to appreciate the tremendous amount of effort it takes for them to be successful.

“It’s a lot to balance their academic lives, their social lives and their families,” she said. “They work hard and do a lot.”

In addition to the rigors of medical school, many KCUMB students regularly devote time to one or more of the approximately 30 student organizations on campus. Students also participate in the University’s service-learning program, which helps team students with various community organizations where they can make a positive difference in the lives of others.

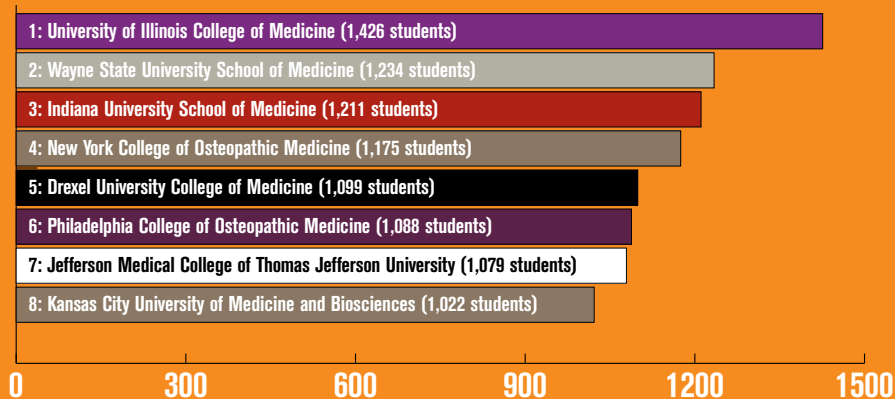
“KCUMB stresses the importance of service,” she said, noting several successful service projects undertaken by KCUMB students for a lengthy list of organizations, including the Kansas City Free Health Clinic, Sheffield Place and Operation Breakthrough.

Part of Weitkamp’s responsibility is ensuring that KCUMB students discover ways of taking breaks from the pressure and anxiety of their



## Climbing the Ladder

KCUMB is the third largest osteopathic medical school in the country, and ranks as the eighth largest medical school overall in the nation when including allopathic schools in the rankings. (Based on enrollment figures for the 2008-2009 academic year and statistics provided by both the American Osteopathic Association and the Association of American Medical Colleges. Note: This listing is based on the number of students per campus location, thus enrollment figures for medical schools with satellite campuses are not combined.)



classes. That includes planning picnics, the annual Follies celebration, ice skating and other outings.

“We try to plan fun events that provide students with opportunities to get away from studying and the stress of medical school, but mostly we’re there to support them and listen to them,” she said. “Sometimes, people just need someone to listen.”

### Fostering a Sense of Pride

It’s a simple concept, really: If you are proud of where you work, you will do a better job.

For Douglas Rushing, Ph.D., who after nearly 38 years has worked at KCUMB longer than almost everyone else, pride is something he thinks about quite often.

“This is a much better place to work today than when I came here,” said Dr. Rushing, who serves as dean of the College of Biosciences and professor of biochemistry. “I’d have retired by now, if it weren’t.

“There is a greater sense of pride in the institution now than when I started in 1972 – and not just because the buildings look better. It’s the people inside the buildings that ultimately make the difference.”

It was an otherwise non-descript employment ad made Dr. Rushing one of those “people.” After earning a bachelor’s degree in chemistry from Knox College in 1962, Dr. Rushing completed a doctorate in biochemistry at the University of Missouri in 1967 and post-doctoral training in biochemical genetics through the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. He was in his third year of teaching at Concord College, a small state college in Athens, W.Va., when he saw the ad that led him to KCUMB.

“I was not aware that there was an osteopathic medical school in Kansas City until I saw the ad in *Science*,” he explained. “I hadn’t really thought about teaching in a medical school, but I applied and got the job here.”

Teaching was difficult in the beginning, he said.

“Teaching at this level is different from teaching at an undergraduate level,” Dr. Rushing said. “I lost track of how

many times I said, ‘I don’t know,’ in response to students’ questions my first year here. They were asking clinically related questions. After about three years, I learned what I needed to know to be able to answer most of the questions.”

In the early 1990s, things began to change at KCUMB. With newer facilities, the University began attracting higher caliber students and the introduction of a patient-centered curriculum in 2000 only furthered the transformation.

“When I was 60, I thought I would retire at 65,” he said. “When I was 65, I thought I would retire ... I will retire someday, I expect, but I can’t think of anything else that I would enjoy doing more or that I would get more satisfaction from. This is like a family to me, another home.”

When – or better, if – Dr. Rushing retires, he remains confident that KCUMB will be successful in the years ahead. As evidence, he points to the rising stature of the University’s graduate programs, the beautiful campus and state-of-the-art facilities, the ever-increasing emphasis on serving the community and the never-ending efforts to keep improving all facets of the curriculum.

“As long as we keep doing that, the reputation of the institution will continue to grow,” he said.

He is proud not only of the efforts put forth by fellow faculty members and students, but also of all KCUMB has achieved over the past several decades.

“If you have a chance to educate people who are going to go out into the world and make the world a better place, you can take satisfaction from that,” Dr. Rushing said. ●





*Politically Speaking ...*  
**KCUMB Alums Play  
Prominent Roles in  
the Political Process**

By Joshua Roberts

**A**lthough separated by opposing ideologies, three politically active Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences graduates share a common belief that transcends their differences from across the aisle.

Their belief: It is time for physicians to assume a bigger role in the seats of America's political arena, particularly at a time when national debate over proposed health-care reform wages in the power circles of state legislatures and Congress.

"I'm a little disappointed in myself for not having been able to recruit more physicians to run for office at this level," said State Sen. Alan Bates, D.O. (COM '77), a Democrat, who currently serves as the Oregon State Senate Majority Whip.

A veteran politician, Dr. Bates said he often finds himself a solo voice amongst "hordes of lawyers" when debating issues of paramount importance, such as health care. More physicians need to take an active role in politics, he said, forgoing the politically-neutral stance those in the profession have traditionally taken.

"You're the only doctor against 20 or 30 lawyers," said Dr. Bates, who faces re-election in November. "That's what you're up against.

"Doctors just don't want to do it. Their lives are full practicing medicine and they've got commitments to their families. I don't think they realize how much of what goes on at the state level really does affect their lives. If we had more physicians in the legislatures, we would be much better off—and more importantly, our patients would be better off."

Allan Escher, Jr., D.O. (COM '97), a Florida Republican and a member of the state's Board of Osteopathic Medicine, agrees with Dr. Bates.

"A lot of docs feel things are out of their control and that they have no say over what happens," said Dr. Escher, a former state board chairman. "You have to fight that. That's a really tough thing to overcome. It's a barrier in medicine right now.

"I think that physicians need to remain active, and if they're not active, they need to become active. You would be amazed at how many docs are apolitical. They will not contribute, they will not get involved and it's a major problem for our profession. I think it's really hurting our profession right now and the country."

J. Scott Holliday, D.O. (COM '00), has a similar mindset.

"I think it's critical now more than ever for physicians to be involved in the political process," said Dr. Holliday, a Texas Republican, who was appointed by Gov. Rick Perry in 2008 to serve on the Texas Medical Board. "I think it's important for osteopathic physicians to be seen in leadership roles and influencing the direction of legislation."

Each of the physicians took different routes toward entering politics.

For Dr. Bates, 64, who practices at Rogue Valley Physicians in Medford, Ore., his foray into the state legislature was paved by a 10-year stint on a local school board.

"We had a rural school district with a lot of financial

problems and inadequate buildings, some of which were going to be condemned,” he said. “I didn’t think the board was making the right decisions financially. I spent 10 years helping get four new schools built. We made some really good changes in the district as far as management that I think led to better outcomes as far as kids are concerned.”

At the same time he was working on the school board, Dr. Bates was serving on a state commission instrumental in designing and implementing the Oregon Health Plan. Soon, he realized that to shepherd the health-care changes he sought, he needed a bigger platform.

“It finally reached a point with health-care reform that I didn’t think I could go any further just chairing the Health Services Commission,” he said. “At that point, I decided to go for elected office. I didn’t think I could do enough without being in the House or the Senate.”

In 2000, he was elected to the Oregon House of Representatives, and four years later, the Oregon State Senate.

A self-described “blue-dog Democrat,” he prides himself on being both fiscally conservative and socially progressive. Dr. Bates has been a 20-year political contributor, and holds a seat in a traditionally Republican district. He’s also considered a run for governor in the past, and doesn’t rule out the idea of making a bid for Congress one day.

Dr. Escher’s route to politics also included a gubernatorial appointment. In 2008, he was asked to serve the state board of osteopathy, of which he is a former chairman. He has also been a member of his county’s Republican executive committee for the past nine years as a precinct captain, representing 2,000 registered Republicans in Pasco County, Fla.

One of his primary tasks while serving the state board was to help address Florida’s burgeoning problem with illegal use of prescription drugs.

“Right now, south Florida is the pill mill capital of the United States,” said Dr. Escher, 45. “In Florida, we have about 12 people every day dying from prescription drugs. They’re injecting them, snorting them, freebasing them. They’re smoking them, chewing them and trafficking them. It’s a huge cash cow, unfortunately, for a lot of opportunists.”

Dr. Escher, in partnership with the Florida Board of Osteopathic Medicine, has helped craft comprehensive, new regulations that include pain clinics within the state being registered and subject to inspections. The regulations could be enacted into law in the coming months, he said.

Dr. Escher describes himself as a “progressive Republican,” and he also has political plans for the future under consideration, including a possible run for public office.

“Down the road, I am very interested in possibly running for the Florida House,” he said, adding that he’s also considering forming political organization made up of physicians. The group would support candidates that members felt best represented their organization’s views.

Dr. Holliday’s term on the Texas Medical Board expires in April 2013. Dr. Holliday is the youngest member of the board, which serves as the regulatory agency that licenses

and disciplines physicians. He is continuing the legacy of his father, Joel Holliday, D.O. (COM ’66), who served on the same board from 1981 to 1987.

Dr. Holliday’s contribution to the political arena extends beyond the Texas Medical Board. He serves on the finance committee for the Dallas County Republican Party, and is also a member of the Texas Society of Anesthesiologist Government Affairs Committee.

Dr. Holliday said he is particularly proud of serving the Texas Medical Board.

“In this role, you serve both the physicians and the public by protecting the public and preserving the sanctity of the practice of medicine,” he said.

Balancing the rigors of a medical career and contributing politically can be difficult.

“To be an effective leader, you need to dedicate a significant amount of time, which means you need an understanding family and work environment,” Dr. Holliday said. “I’ve been fortunate to have support at both home and at work.”

Dr. Bates has his political future on the line this year while running for re-election. The rigors of practicing medicine and being politically involved are many, he said, and compounded by running a re-election campaign.

“It’s going to be a real barn-burner,” he said. “I’m in a Republican district and I’ve got a good Republican candidate against me. I think it’s going to be a serious, full-on campaign.”

“It takes a lot of time. You’re out every evening, walking door to door, or you’re going to campaign debates or meetings.”

Dr. Escher summed up why he and others take part in the political process.

“The real purpose of politics should be service,” he said. “I’m giving you the ideal reason here, but that really should be what drives people in politics. That’s really what it’s all about.”

“If you approach it as public service, you’ll be much, much happier than I think some people who do it for egoistical reasons or some other reason that doesn’t involve serving the public good. No matter what party you’re in, that should be really what’s driving you to do this.” ●



Dr. Bates



Dr. Escher



Dr. Holliday

# A Nation Apart

By Julie Stutterheim

Spring break marked first-year medical student Ryan Butler's only breather in classes for the year. As a dual-degree student, he knew his M.B.A. classes would take most of his free time during summer. He was looking forward to a skiing trip with family over the break.

After news of the earthquake in Haiti, his plans began to change. He began to explore the possibility of coordinating a medical outreach trip instead. Butler sent an e-mail to his classmates to gauge their interest in the trip. In four hours, he had 20 responses.

Butler decided to reach out to Heart to Heart International, a Kansas City-based humanitarian agency, which referred him to the International Medical Alliance of Tennessee (IMA), a medical relief organization with connections to a small hospital in the border town of Jimani, Dominican Republic. With the help of the organization, Butler and 12 of his classmates planned a 10-day trip to the hospital.

The primary goal of the student group was to help with patient care and reorganize the supply rooms and pharmacy. Amidst the chaos of the dealing with an influx of seriously injured patients, the medical personnel had little time to organize the supplies.

"At one point they had 450 patients, almost all of them crush victims and amputees," Butler

## KCUMB Students Participate in Haitian Earthquake Relief

said. "There were also 1,500 people on the campus that they had to feed."

By the time the KCUMB student group arrived, the pace was slowing down due to the patients being sent back to Haiti. However, there was still a massive amount of work to be done. It took them four days to organize the supplies. They also assisted with wound dressings and transporting patients, and watched surgical procedures.

That's when Gary Morsch, M.D., president and founder of Heart to Heart International, arrived at the hospital. A family friend of Butler's, Dr. Morsch offered to take the student group with his volunteers to Port au Prince, Haiti's capital and the epicenter of the earthquake relief efforts. IMA cleared the group to leave, and eight of the 13 students decided to go into Haiti.

When they got to the capital, it was chaotic as a severely damaged city worked to meet the immediate needs of its now largely homeless or displaced population.

"It was amazing to see a five-story building now only 15 feet high," Butler said. "People were living literally in the street."

The group stayed in the city for three days, visiting remote clinics with the doctors and helping with general care, such as dressing wounds and distributing medication.

The relief efforts have made a lasting impression on other KCUMB students who also went to Haiti following the quake. Almost exactly a month earlier, eight days after the earthquake disaster, Lauren Henderson, third-year medical student, traveled with the Taiwan Peace Corps to participate in relief efforts.

The group set up tent clinics for pediatric, adult medicine, trauma and dentistry.

"We opened the clinics from 8 a.m. to sundown," Henderson said. "We would see patients until we didn't have any more light. That was a typical day."

The last few days in the country, the group of volunteers branched out to help at a general hospital in the capital.

"Many of the doctors at the general hospital left at night, leaving only two or three physicians to care for almost 500 patients," Henderson said.

"For the last three nights we were in Haiti, we took turns doing overnight shifts. We would work at our clinic until 5 p.m., then take a two-hour nap, then work through the night at the hospital."

For KCUMB students, the relief work is also an extension of the osteopathic principles that are building the foundation of their education.

"One of my goals was to expose all of us to this kind of work," Butler said. "I really wanted this to be an opportunity to see what we can do as physicians." ●



Hela Kelsch, a first-year medical student, attended the 10-day trip to help victims of the earthquake in Haiti.



## Making Physical Activity a Community Priority: Research Helps Fuel a Sustainable Solution

By Christopher Ryan

**N**ot surprisingly, given that he is an exercise physiologist, Richard Suminski, Ph.D., is fit, trim and energetic. He is also enthusiastic because, thanks to a \$100,000 grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, he has been able to continue and expand research he started while at Ohio State University.

A long-time advocate of physical activity for people of all ages, Dr. Suminski received a bachelor of science in psychology, a master of science in exercise physiology, a master of public health in epidemiology and a doctorate in exercise physiology from the University of Pittsburgh in Pittsburgh, Pa. He has served as an associate professor of physiology at Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences since 2005.

For a number of years, Dr. Suminski has been drawn to physical activity and its impact on human health and well-being. It was his unique approach that convinced Active Living Research, a national program office and funding arm of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation at San Diego State University, to fund his research in Kansas City.

The objective of the study for which Dr. Suminski received the grant was to gain information about how opportu-

nities for youth physical activity are supported. That knowledge will be used to develop community-level physical activity intervention that includes small-business involvement.

Carmen Cutter, deputy director of Active Living Research, points out that not much information is available about the role of small business in physical activity.

“We want to fund more research like this,” Cutter said. “We funded Dr. Suminski because economic data is important. We need to look at the economic impact of physical activity.”

### Surprising Findings

Eight Kansas City-area neighborhoods were included in Dr. Suminski’s study, which is the first step in developing the community-level physical activity program, dubbed KC FIT (Fit In Time). The researchers gathered data about opportunities in the area for youth to become physically active and identified what small businesses were doing to support youth physical activity. They also located the sources of funding for activities, such as foundations or governments.

*Continued on page 14*

The opportunities included virtually anything kids could do to be active. The list included community centers, playgrounds and organized activities such as team sports. The inventory also recorded the condition and quality of the amenities and took note of “incivilities” – things like needles discarded by drug users and broken bottles.

Some of the most interesting data came from the small businesses. For example, only about 30 percent of them were doing anything to support youth physical activities. Yet, nearly all the business owners thought they should be providing support.

When asked why they did not support physical activities, the majority of business owners gave the same answer: “Nobody asked.”

Not being asked to help was the most surprising reason businesses were not supportive, but there were others. Some owners said they did not provide financial support because

they did not know where the money was going. They were asked to give, but couldn’t tell what was being funded.

Based on this data and other findings, Dr. Suminski plans to submit another grant proposal to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation in the future. The new research will be focused on ways to increase small business support.

Would businesses be more willing to give if a line item for prevention of childhood obesity were added to budgets? That would let owners see immediately and clearly where their money is going. How important is the public relations aspect of support? Would businesses be more responsive if they were better recognized for their contributions?

The work will be far from finished when Dr. Suminski and his colleagues know better how to increase small business support of youth physical activity. They plan to study more neighborhoods, try infusing KC FIT into existing programs, such as the Kansas City Chronic Disease Coalition, and help establish health networks to deliver health programs.

Dr. Suminski’s group has already met with the Kansas City Small Business Council and is working with that group to connect with about 9,000 small businesses throughout Kansas City. The Kansas City Parks & Recreation Department, local government leaders and the Jackson County Health Department will all be involved.

Along the way, “we want to measure what’s going on to see if it’s sustainable,” he said. “People have to adopt the program, make it their own, implement it, then sustain it. You can help them, but you can’t do everything for them. Once the grant money is gone, it’s over.”

### Toward Sustainability

Dr. Suminski’s research at Ohio State University was closely related to his work on small business support of youth physical activity in the Kansas City area. The results of the Ohio State project, which involved neighborhoods in Columbus, Ohio, were published in 2009. The report, “Neighborhoods on the Move: A Community-Based Participatory Research Approach to Promoting Physical Activity,” clearly showed that evidence-based strategies to support physical activity could be developed.

Developed – not necessarily sustained. Dr. Suminski wants to take the time to see if an increase in small business support for youth physical activities can be made to last. The ultimate test of that support, as well as other initiatives aimed at increasing youth physical activity, is sustainability.

The five-year program Dr. Suminski launched in the Kansas City area is designed to measure not only progress, but also sustainability. It uses the proven techniques of community-based participatory research to develop a partnership that will give people in the community an ownership stake

Richard Suminski, Ph.D., associate professor of physiology, and Tanya Tota, project coordinator, survey available recreation equipment at an area park as part of their research into how communities support youth physical activity.





in increasing physical activity. The solutions will come from the bottom up instead of the top down and so, presumably, become part of the community's culture.

This addition to the culture is not so hard to imagine. After all, as Dr. Suminski pointed out, people in some neighborhoods had to learn how to be afraid to take a walk. They had to learn how to lock themselves in a room with a TV and video game station. Given the opportunity, they can change their behavior and, eventually, their community's culture.

But someone from the outside coming in and trying to change the culture without understanding it is a recipe for failure. Real and permanent change comes from within the community, he said.

### *Moving From Top Down to Bottom Up*

To be felt and to have positive effects, an economic impact does not have to arise from something on the scale of a multinational corporation or, to put it in more physical activity-oriented terms, holding the Summer Olympics. It can be much more subtle, especially at the community level where small businesses operate.

Dr. Suminski and Tanya Tota, his project coordinator and research assistant, conduct their work using an approach called community-based participatory research. Simply put, they operate from the bottom up instead of from the top down.

"You need to work hand-in-hand with community people," he said. "And you need someone like Tanya who can bridge the gap between academia and the community."

The community itself can be as small as a neighborhood, and each community has its own unique culture. That culture has to be taken into consideration when working with businesses and community leaders to identify the resources needed to start activity programs.

For this kind of work, Dr. Suminski said Tanya Tota is eminently qualified. A community advocate, she works with youth, primarily in Kansas City's urban core. She helps develop "edutainment" programs that encourage physical activity.

Tota is a firm believer in the community-based approach to research. Programming aimed at increasing physical activity has to be like a rubber band, she said. "It has to fit the contours of the community and make itself fit the area's needs and circumstances. Then neighborhoods can teach each other."

Tota not only develops physical activity programs, but she also works with businesses on ways to help support them. This, said Dr. Suminski, is where advocates like Tota can benefit greatly from an evidence-based approach. If she and other individuals and organizations involved in promoting physical activity can demonstrate with hard data that a program works, they are much more likely to raise the support they need.

Collaborating with businesses and community leaders to do research does not mean abandoning the science. Science is what people like Dr. Suminski are there to do. They



handle the statistical models and evaluate data. But community members not only supply data, they can help collect it.

Perhaps the most important aspect of this collaboration is communication. "You can't just impose what you think you know," Dr. Suminski said. "You have to talk to people."

With good communication and trust, the results of partnerships between community and academia can be community ownership of the research, a better understanding among community members of what the research says, and a stronger basis on which to build programming specifically tailored to the community's culture. It is grass-roots action that enjoys the benefits of academic expertise.

For KC FIT to become sustainable, communities have to take it personally.

"We want people to take ownership and develop programs according to their needs," Dr. Suminski said. "It has to be their accomplishment as a community."

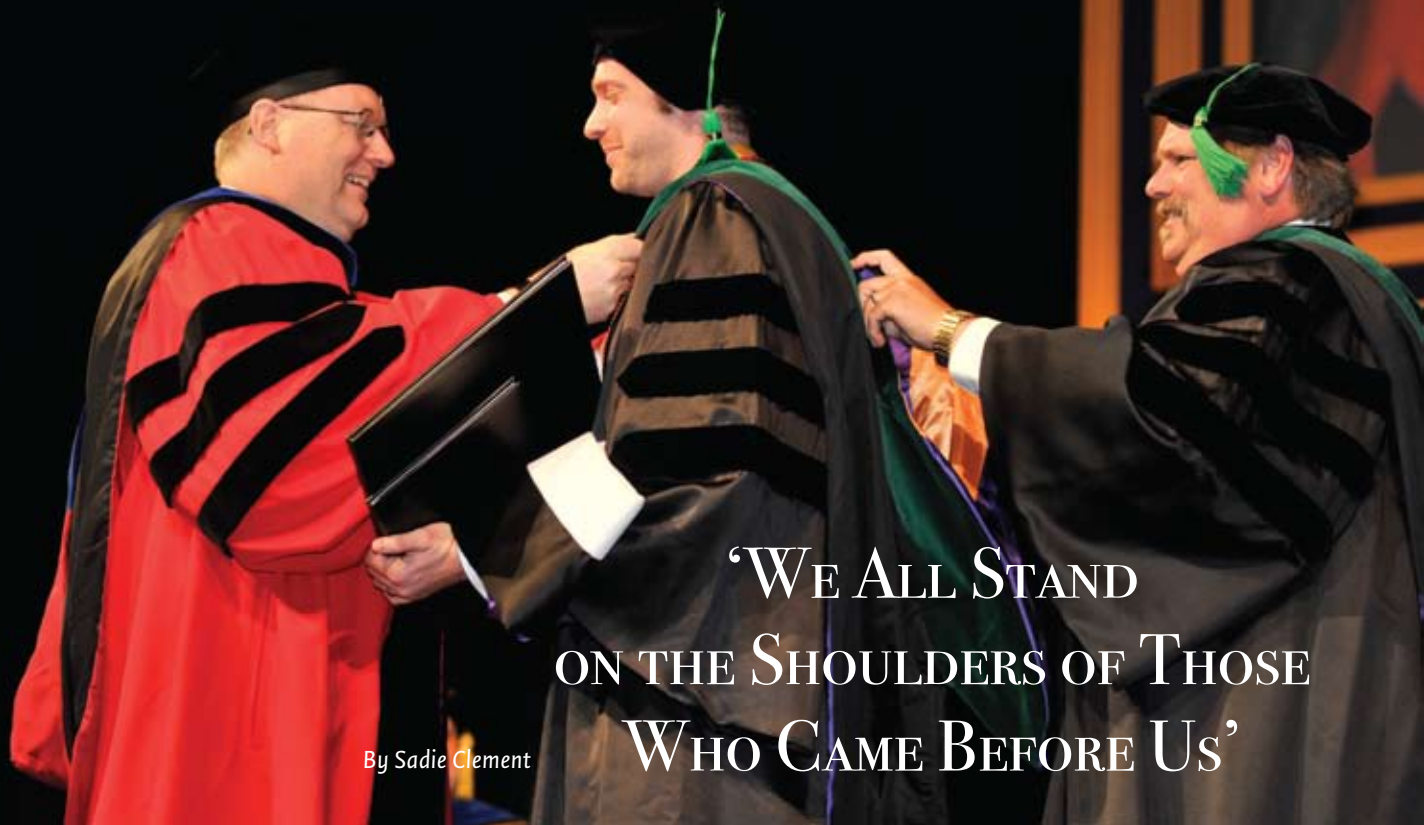
### *Perfect Timing?*

The economy might be in the dumps, and grant funding might be scarce, but this could be exactly the right time for Dr. Suminski's work. First Lady Michelle Obama has come out as a strong advocate for youth physical activity and the fight against childhood obesity. She has given the issue a much higher profile, and this increased attention will no doubt translate into some type of action at the community level.

At this point, there is no way to know how much impact Michelle Obama will have and how communities will respond. However, her position certainly lends credibility to the importance of the work Dr. Suminski, Tota and their colleagues are doing.

For his part, Dr. Suminski is already looking well into the future. He has many more questions he wants to answer. Based on his experiences in Ohio, he has a great deal of confidence in KC FIT.

"It's an evidence-based program," he said. "We know it works. Now, can we get it to work in more diverse communities? Can it be done in any city, anywhere?" If so, the First Lady might have found a champion. ●



## ‘WE ALL STAND ON THE SHOULDERS OF THOSE WHO CAME BEFORE US’

By Sadie Clement



(Top) Michael Schick, D.O., (center) receives his hood during Commencement from KCUMB faculty.

(Above) John Hans Schick was preparing to enter medical school in 1938 when Germany’s Third Reich derailed his dream of becoming a physician. More than 70 years later, his grandson, Michael Schick, D.O. (COM ’10), earned his doctor of osteopathic medicine during KCUMB’s 124th Commencement ceremonies.

### A Family’s Journey: KCUMB Graduate Earns Medical Degree His Grandfather Had Dreamed Of

Inside KCUMB’s Weaver Auditorium on May 15, four generations of Michael Schick’s family were gleaming with pride as he fulfilled his lifelong dream by becoming an osteopathic physician.

A total of 247 KCUMB medical students joined the ranks of osteopathic physicians during the College of Osteopathic Medicine’s 124th Commencement ceremonies that day. What makes Dr. Schick’s story particularly remarkable is that in fulfilling his dream, he fulfilled another’s ...

#### A Twist of Fate

Life doesn’t follow a script. Few things work out exactly as planned, and even fewer real-life stories have happy, Hollywood endings. If they did, Dr. Schick’s grandfather, John Hans Schick, likely would have earned an ending worthy of an Academy Award.

Born in Vienna, Austria, in 1920, John was the son of a successful produce company owner. John’s father had hoped his sons would one day take over the family business, but John had other plans and instead chased his dream of becoming a physician.

“My grandfather began taking evening and weekend classes in science and Latin,” Dr. Schick explained. “He did all of his coursework, in addition to his required high school work.”

John’s hard work and dedication eventually paid off when he was accepted to the Sorbonne Medical School in Paris, France, where he was scheduled to begin courses in the fall of 1938.

Before that could happen, though, the unfathomable occurred. On March 12, 1938, Adolf Hitler’s Third Reich crossed the border into Austria, where the family lived. The following day, Hitler proclaimed the Anschluss, or link-up, of Germany and Austria. On March 26, 1938,

Herman Goering, whom some historians regard as “more cunning and brutal than Hitler,” warned all Jews in Austria to leave the country.

Heeding that warning, John fled Austria to Italy, then Israel, with his brother, Rudi, leaving behind his mother and father, the family home, many of his possessions and, ultimately, his opportunity to become a doctor.

Shortly after John fled, his father was arrested by the Nazi Party. They forced him to sign over his business and his property.

“My grandfather lost a lot,” Dr. Schick said. “His dreams were crushed at the age of 18. He was a very courageous man. He was a refugee.”

By 1939, 117,000 Jews had fled Austria. Approximately 65,000 of those who stayed behind were ultimately killed. According to the Jewish Virtual Library, 6 million Jews were killed in German-governed countries between 1933 and 1945.

Israel became John’s new home, but with no medical schools in Israel, John shifted gears and began taking evening classes to pursue a career as an attorney. During the day, he worked for the Israeli army, which is where he met his wife of more than 48 years, Helga, also a Jewish refugee from Austria. John and Helga had two children and the family remained in Israel until 1958.

Twenty years after fleeing Austria, John, his wife, and their two children returned. There, John served as a reparations attorney on behalf of Jewish victims and worked to help Jews reclaim some of what was taken from them by the Nazis. Sadly, his family’s business and most of its property were gone. The Nazis had destroyed everything.

After spending 10 months in Austria, the family packed everything it owned into a five-foot trunk and boarded a boat to America, eventually stopping in San Francisco.

“We were happy,” recalled Helga, who later gave birth to a third child in the United States. “I don’t remember being nervous. We just did what we had to.”

With each move, the family had to start over.

“My father and mother started with nothing each time,” said Daniel, John’s son and Dr. Schick’s father. “But each time, they made a successful life for themselves wherever they went.”

John was once again forced to begin a new career. He worked as an insurance agent, while Helga worked as a beautician. Five years after arriving in America, John and Helga earned American citizenship.

## A Foundation of Education

John and Helga stressed the importance of education to their children.

“He always encouraged us to do well in school,” Daniel said. “My father didn’t care what we did professionally. He just wanted us to reach for our full potential. Even though my father didn’t achieve what he wanted to, he was very successful.”

John spoke English, Hebrew, French and Italian, as well as studied Latin and Esperanto, an artificial language.

“He told me, ‘If only all the people in the world could

communicate with each other, many of the social and political problems we continually face would be greatly reduced,’” Daniel said.

“In spite of many challenges and difficulties, my father was successful on three continents,” Daniel continued. “He passed that confidence and ambition to his children. We, in turn, have passed those qualities on to our children.”

All three Schick children born to John and Helga have achieved success. All attended graduate schools and now have respected careers and families of their own. For the Schick family, the importance of education is emphasized still today.

After receiving an undergraduate degree from the University of California in molecular and cell biology, Dr. Schick applied to and was accepted to KCUMB. In addition to earning a doctor of osteopathic medicine, Dr. Schick was among the first students to enroll in KCUMB’s joint D.O./master of arts in bioethics degree program.

Sadly, one year prior to his acceptance to medical school, Dr. Schick’s grandfather passed away.

“I wish he could have been here to see me go to medical school,” Dr. Schick said, “but I know he was already proud of me.”

Helga believes the family has come full circle with her grandson’s graduation.

“His grandfather would have been in seventh heaven to have seen him graduate,” Helga said. “He was always so proud of his children and his grandchildren.”

For Dr. Schick, knowing his grandfather’s aspiration to become a physician made receiving his medical degree even more memorable.

“I think about what my grandfather went through a lot,” said Dr. Schick, who will soon move to Philadelphia with his wife and 15-month-old son to complete a residency in emergency medicine.

“I think about what courage means. You can’t go through residency and internship without courage,” he said. “I know that he faced serious challenges, and still he had the courage to move forward.”

For Daniel, watching his son walk across the stage to receive his medical degree makes him recall his father’s journey.

“When I see Michael with his son, I see my father,” Daniel said. “We all stand on the shoulders of those who came before us.” ●



Helga Shick, Daniel Shick, Dr. Schick and Dori Schick, his mother, gather on the KCUMB campus.



## KCUMB Breaks Ground on New Library, Student Activities Center

Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences marked another milestone on Nov. 30, when construction crews broke ground on a new library and a new student activities center.

The spacious 37,000-square-foot D'Angelo Library will enable growth of the library's collections as well as technological advancements, and will include a learning resources center; collection and reference rooms; training, study and conference rooms; an audio-visual/multimedia room; and offices for library support personnel.

The 32,500-square-foot student activities center will provide a central gathering space for students, including a large multipurpose room for student events; a fitness center, with an aerobics facility, locker rooms, and cardiovascular and weight-training equipment; a student lounge with meeting and conference rooms; student government offices; a gaming area; and a new campus bookstore.

"The new buildings are not only state-of-the-art facilities for current students to enjoy, but will make a big

**Be sure to check out all the progress at KCUMB Aug. 4-8 during Celebrate Tradition – Homecoming • White Coating • CME**

impact on our ability to continue to recruit the highest quality students," said Beth Dollase, vice president for advancement. "Recruiting and retaining the best students is one of the primary ways for KCUMB to flourish in the future."

The two new facilities, which are located on opposite sides of Weaver Auditorium, are scheduled for completion in Spring 2011. They are a direct result of generous giving by alumni and friends of the University. Fund-raising efforts for the buildings are ongoing.

Donors have a variety of options for giving to KCUMB. Gifts can support student scholarships, awards, facilities, programs or departments. Gifts can also be unrestricted.

There are several other unique ways to give, including purchasing

seats in Weaver Auditorium or naming various rooms in the new buildings. Those interested can name auditorium seats for \$250 each, and opportunities to name rooms in the new student activities center begin at \$5,000 each. The student lounge, bookstore, café/ coffee bar, the fitness room and locker rooms represent just a few of the many naming opportunities still available.

In addition to financial donations, there remain many other opportunities for alumni to show their support for KCUMB. Alumni can mentor KCUMB students by serving as preceptors or guest lecturers, or by serving as supervising physicians during Score 1 for Health screening events. ●

With your help, we can ensure that KCUMB continues to reach new milestones in osteopathic medical education, graduate education and research. To learn more about how you can play a part in KCUMB's progress, contact the Advancement Office at 800-234-4847.

### Answering the Call Alumni Pledge More Than \$62,000 During Phone-a-thons

KCUMB alumni continue to show great support for the University and its students, as they clearly illustrated during the past two phone-a-thons.

A team of first- and second-year medical students made personal phone calls to alumni from the Mary L. Butterworth, D.O., Alumni Center in October and again in March, with impressive results. All told, the University's active alumni donated more than \$62,000 to KCUMB

during the two events. Donors were able to designate their gifts to any aspect of the University they chose, including student scholarships, individual departments, facilities or other areas.

"Thank you to each of the alums who helped make this year's fall phone-a-thon a success," said Christine Wahlert, executive director of alumni and donor relations. "Our students truly appreciate the feedback they receive, as well as the commitment alumni show to KCUMB and their educations through their gifts."

If you were not among those contacted, but would still like to make a donation, please contact Christine Wahlert at 800-234-4847, ext. 2255, or via e-mail at cwahlert@kcumb.edu. ●

## New Award Encourages Creativity in Teaching

Prominent Alumna Honors Legacy of KCUMB's First Graduate

For Betty Jo White, D.O. (COM '63), FACOS, the practice of medicine has always been a seamless blend of science and art.

With that in mind, it should come as no surprise that Dr. White would establish a new award at her alma mater to encourage the incorporation of medical and scientific art in teaching while advancing the practice of osteopathic medicine.

The Mamie E. Johnston, D.O., FACOP, Creative Medical Art in Teaching Award provides funding for students, interns, residents, fellows, faculty and other professional staff at KCUMB to explore the arts. The award encourages recipients to express themselves in ways not included in the conventional medical school curriculum, while enhancing lifelong connections between the art and science of medicine.

The award is named in honor of



Dr. Johnston, who in 1917 became the first graduate of the Kansas City College of Osteopathy and Surgery (now KCUMB).

Dr. Johnston also served the University as a professor of practice (pediatrics) and a professor of gynecology for a 46-year span from 1920-1966. In 1961, Dr. White met Dr. Johnston when she was a student.

"I will never forget the first time she lectured to our class," Dr. White recalls. "The simple act of her walking into our classroom generated a buzz of awe and a deep respect from us all. She was the first professional woman to inspire me."

Dr. Johnston practiced osteopathic medicine for 64 years, retiring in 1981 at the age of 92. She died five years later, Nov. 6, 1986.

"I was privileged to have been her student, and am privileged to honor her memory," Dr. White said. ●

### AND THE AWARD GOES TO ...

Can studying actually be fun? Possibly, if you are a member of Lynne Boone's study group.

Boone, a first-year medical student from Warsaw, Ill., earned the first Mamie E. Johnston, D.O., FACOP, Creative Medical Art in Teaching Award in March for developing a board game that helps students study. The game, "Slam! A Game for Study Groups," transforms otherwise-mundane

subjects into an interactive competition for prizes – snacks, namely.

"It was totally exciting to formulate (the game) in my mind, then try it out on the tough crowd – my study group," said Boone, who had worked for 15 years as a graphic artist before entering medical school. "I plan to use the game's techniques again, adapting it as needed. I've found that if you feed people, they are agreeable to crazy ideas." ●



### A San Francisco Treat: Join KCUMB at the AOA

Be sure to join KCUMB for the 2010 American Osteopathic Association convention in San Francisco.

Make plans now to stop by the KCUMB booth during exhibit hours Sunday, Oct. 24-Tuesday, Oct. 26, in the AOA Exhibit Hall. While there, catch up on all things KCUMB and learn more about the University's reception for alumni from 6:45-9 p.m. Monday, Oct. 25, at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.

*Thanks to All Who Traveled to The Big Easy*

More than 200 KCUMB alumni attended the 2009 AOA convention Nov. 1-5 in New Orleans. The University sponsored a reception Nov. 2, 2009, at the Southern Food and Beverage Museum, where participants got a taste of authentic New Orleans cooking and an opportunity to hear about all the great things happening at KCUMB. Thank you to everyone who attended!

## Alum's Decision to Attend KCUMB was Pivotal to His Future

It is often decisions in life – both the seemingly mundane and those of the utmost importance – that shape a person's future.

Fortunately, for Matthew Mannini, D.O. (COM '87), a wise decision he made as an aspiring medical student resulted in the patients-first style of medicine he's proud to practice today.



Dr. Mannini points to one moment as the stepping stone to his career, a moment that occurred just before entering medical school.

While working as a hematology technician at the Bronx Veterans Affairs Medical Center in New York, he was faced with a critical choice: Travel west, far from the familiarity of his hometown, the Bronx, and enroll in medical school at Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences, or accept an offer from a colleague to wait a year, let the colleague pull some strings and enroll in the Mount Sinai Medical Center School in New York.

Dr. Mannini, now 50, took the offer he had on the table, left home and didn't look back. Even today, he doesn't mince words when asked in hindsight whether he made the right decision.

"One hundred percent sure," he said. "One hundred and 10 percent. One-thousand-percent sure. No question. I'm very proud of my school, and I only have good things to say about it." Dr. Mannini currently practices in Brewster, N.Y., at Mount Kisco Medical Group, which is comprised of more than 200 primary care and specialty physicians. He specializes in internal medicine.

He credits his experiences at KCUMB with shaping his career. He shucks the rigors of publishing, lecturing and academia, preferring instead to keep his primary emphasis on his patients and their health-care needs. That he would end up a physician seems fitting: As a youth, Dr. Mannini gravitated toward science.

"I always liked science and I was always tinkering," he said. "I was 14 or 15 when I got my first microscope."

Growing up in a family he describes as "blue collar," he watched his father, the late Vincenzo Mannini,

a welder, wake up well before sunrise each day to head off to work, something he credits with instilling a strong work ethic in him.

"There was no question about it," Dr. Mannini said. "He was a role model."

Making the transition from home, where he attended high school a few blocks from Yankee Stadium and completed his undergraduate work at Fordham University, to KCUMB and to middle America wasn't easy.

"It was a leap ... into a far away world for me," he said.

What he found at KCUMB – an institution where he bonded with students and felt comfortable learning from the faculty – convinced him he made the right decision.

It is those types of experiences and others shaped him into the astute physician he is today.

"Every day is different," said Dr. Mannini, remarking on why he enjoys practicing medicine. "The fact that you're working with people and giving care ... There is a degree of trust and comfort (patients give), and in giving back to them, you give 100 percent every day." ●

### Sparks Foundation Award Scholarships to Deserving Students

The Sam and Marille Sparks East Town Osteopathic Foundation recently awarded scholarships to six deserving KCUMB medical students.

The 2009-2010 recipients of Sparks Foundation scholarships, which are awarded to exemplary students originally from Texas, are: Susan Huynh and Jane Lee, both fourth-year medical students; Sari Hochberger, a third-year medical student; Paul Aaron and Cortney Oehler, both second-year medical students; and Katherine Mae Poquiz, a first-year medical student. ●



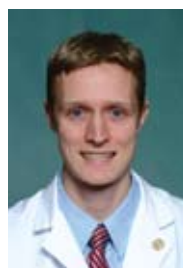
Huynh



Lee



Hochberger



Aaron



Oehler



Poquiz

## AACOM Honors Karius KCUMB Professor Receives Prestigious Recognition

Simply put, Diane Karius, Ph.D., is a great teacher.

Her recent selection as one of two educators nationwide chosen as fellows of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine's National Academy of Osteopathic Medical Educators illustrates that fact.

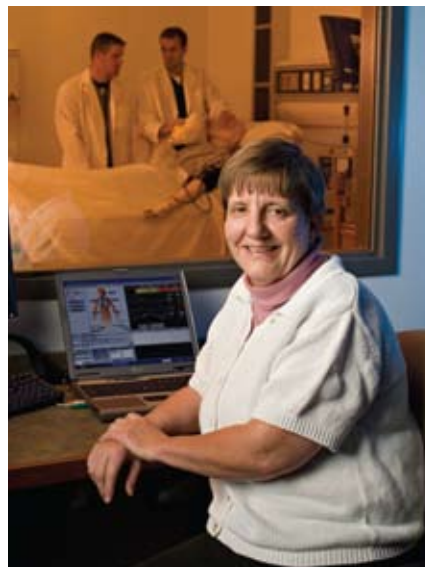
The irony is that when her fellowship expires in 2015, she will likely be an even better teacher – thanks to the time spent reflecting on her own teaching skills as part of the application process.

Dr. Karius, director of the human patient simulation program and associate professor of physiology, spent approximately two months analyzing all aspects of her teaching while developing the “mini-portfolio” that was part of that process.

“All that introspection about my teaching led me to consider a lot of new ways of doing things,” she said. “There were so many ideas bouncing around in my head that I started a separate list of things I want to try. I think I’ll be 97 or 98 years old before I get them all tried out!”

The NAOME was established in 2009 as the first national health professions education academy. It was created to develop a community of outstanding osteopathic medical educators. Each fellow must meet rigorous academic standards of excellence and is inducted for a five-year period, during which he or she serves as a leader and mentor for academic scholarship in osteopathic medical education.

For Dr. Karius, who will officially be



inducted into the NAOME at the Awards Banquet April 9 during AACOM's annual meeting, teaching is a passion.

“I love the interaction with the students – either in the big classrooms or individually,” Dr. Karius said. “Every time a student asks a question, it's a chance for me to learn something new, too, and I find that exciting.”

Each student brings a unique perspective to the material, and all it takes is one little twist on the way something is worded and suddenly a whole new way of approaching things appears.” ●

## A Runaway Success: Northeast Children Benefit from Collaborative Effort

More than 60 children from elementary schools near KCUMB accomplished something late last fall that many adults have never done – they ran a 5K.

Members of KCUMB's Fit Doctors Association teamed up with Score 1 for Health to add a children's component to the annual Cliff Hanger 5K/8K run. KCUMB medical students volunteered to serve as training partners for the children. Score 1 for Health used a grant from Saucony's Run for Good Program to pay registration fees for the children and to purchase new running shoes for each of them.

“The medical students serving as mentors and coaches to the kids was important,” said Annette Campbell, director of Score 1 for Health. “This fit with our desire to do whatever we can to address health issues that our screenings have been identifying – obesity and lack of physical activity are big problems. We want to promote physical fitness.” ●



Lindsay Bayer, a second-year KCUMB medical student, runs alongside an elementary-age student Nov. 1 during the Cliff Hanger 5K/8K run.

## KCUMB Research Symposium Looks to Build Lifelong Research Interests

Whether a vaccine for polio, insulin treatments for diabetes or improved therapeutic regimens for those living with HIV, science has a key role in most of the tremendous advances in medicine made over the past several decades.

Ensuring the continuation of behind-the-scenes research necessary to achieve medical advances far into the future was the premise of KCUMB's 18th annual Research Symposium, which took place March 18-19 on the KCUMB campus. "Scientific Foundations for Future Physicians" was the theme for the event.

Larry Pickering, M.D., senior advisor to the director of the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, served as keynote speaker for the KCUMB Research Symposium. The event featured 18 poster presentations and 10 oral research presentations.



At the conclusion of the two-day event, evaluators presented awards for deserving projects. Brandy Conner, a second-year medical student, earned the Betty Jo White, D.O., FACOS, Prize for Research for her research project, entitled "Prostaglandin E2-Dependent Modulation of Macrophages' Responses by Colon Cancer Cells." The award was established to encourage research activity at KCUMB and is given for projects that significantly advance the

osteopathic medical profession and the University's position in the research community. Conner's research earned second place in the oral research presentation category.

Others honored were: Kara Hessel, a first-year medical student, who earned first place in the poster presentation category for her research, entitled "Role of Mitogen-Activated Protein Kinase (ERK) Signaling in COX-2-Mediated Colon Cancer Cell Migration;" Todd Brittain, a second-year medical student, who earned first place in the oral research presentation category for his research, entitled "Predicting Atherosclerosis: An Examination of the Intima-Media Thickness of the Carotid and Coronary Arteries;" and Joshua Smith, a second-year medical student, who earned third place in the oral research presentation category for his research, entitled "Effects of HIV-1 Tat Protein on the Efflux Pump P-Glycoprotein in Caco-2 Cells." ●



**GAME SET MATCH:** Residency Forum 2010  
KCUMB Event Showcases How to Get the Most From Residency Process

Preparation is often what separates those medical students who land the residencies of their choice and those who don't. With that in mind, approximately 200 KCUMB medical students gathered March 20 in Ricci Auditorium for "Game • Set • Match: Exploring Winning Strategies and Applications in the Residency Selection Process," the first event of its kind at the University.

"This is one of the largest student-driven events that KCUMB has had," said Ryan Biga, a second-year medical student who spearheaded the event.

John Molidor, Ph.D., professor and regional campus assistant dean for Michigan State University, served as keynote speaker for the event. The program centered around a series of in-depth discussions and mini-workshops on a variety of topics, including:

- preparing for the residency selection process and the Match
- creating a comprehensive application and Curriculum Vitae
- crafting a compelling personal statement
- mastering the art of the interview

Students also had the opportunity to participate in breakout sessions hosted by physicians, residents and residency program directors from various medical specialties, including family medicine, pediatrics, internal medicine, dermatology, emergency medicine, obstetrics/gynecology, orthopedic surgery, radiology, anesthesiology and general surgery. ●



## Reading Between the Lines

# KCUMB Library Director Keeps Turning the Pages After 42 Years

By Sadie Clement

A lot has changed in the past 42 years at Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences – including the name, which has changed three times. One name that hasn't changed, however, is Marilyn DeGeus.

On April 9, 1968, DeGeus traveled to Kansas City from a small Dutch community in Iowa to interview for a position as the library director at the Kansas City College of Osteopathy and Surgery. It is a trip she remembers well for many reasons.

Instead of being greeted by University staff as she had expected, DeGeus was met by a group of armed guards. Riots were taking place at City Hall as a result of the burial of Martin Luther King, Jr.

"I thought, 'Oh, my goodness, what am I getting myself into?'" DeGeus said. "And the people who I was to interview with, the president and the dean at that time, were stuck downtown for a number of hours. So, I just walked around the campus. Everybody was so nice while I was there."

A month later, on May 6, 1968, DeGeus began working at what is now KCUMB, leaving behind a successful career in education. DeGeus has undergraduate degrees in Spanish and in sociology from Central University of Iowa, and masters degrees in both library science and in education from the University of Iowa. She spent several years in the classroom before making the career change.

"I always had it in the back of my mind that I wanted to work in a medical library because I loved medicine," DeGeus said. "I was always intrigued with medicine. I had uncles and cousins who were in the medical field, and nurses in my family. I've heard about medicine all my life. I really can't think of a library that I'd rather work in than a medical one."

When DeGeus began working as the library director, the library was very small, "about the size of two offices," she explained. "We didn't have near the



type of resources that we have now. We didn't have computers at that time. I can remember having card catalogs."

Twenty-eight years later, the University added the Strickland Education Pavilion, which houses the current University library. Along with location changes came the changes in the role of the librarian and in the technology of the profession.

"The library field has changed tremendously," she said. "We have a lot of Web-based materials now, which means librarians are acting as teachers more and more. We no longer have 16-millimeter films. Instead, they are being replaced by DVDs and online materials. Ninety-nine percent of our journal collection, for instance, is now online. We no longer carry printed journals."

DeGeus works closely with the Curriculum Department so that she knows in advance what materials to purchase for the Library to supplement students' learning. She also helps teach a one-hour class on medical informatics to first- and second-year students to help them prepare for clerkships.

"An important part of my job is to get the materials that are going to

help with their classes and with their boards," she said. "It's very important to me the library have resources that are going to help them get through both their day-to-day classwork and, ultimately, their boards."

Forty-two years, three University name changes, and two library locations later, DeGeus is preparing for yet another move. The 37,000-square-foot D'Angelo Library is currently under construction and is set to open in the fall of 2012.

According to DeGeus, the new library will offer more than just current titles.

"We're going to have a special collections room," she explained. "That room is going to house a lot of our osteopathic collections. When you come into the library, you're not going to be able to miss it."

Change is never easy, but DeGeus has learned that being a great librarian means taking it in stride.

"Libraries have changed so much over the years. You just need to adapt to meet the needs of the time," DeGeus said. "The new library is going to be very modern, and that's the way I think it should be." ●

# faculty and staff notes

● **Linda Adkison, Ph.D.**, associate dean for curricular affairs and professor of genetics, recently co-authored an article, entitled “Updating the Model Definition of the Gene in the Modern Genomic Era with Implications for Instruction,” which was recently published in *Science and Education*.

● Elizabeth Miller, M.D., an anesthesiology resident at Saint Luke’s Hospital/the University of Missouri-Kansas City, recently completed a visiting research rotation in the laboratory of **Norbert Seidler, Ph.D.**, professor and chair of biochemistry. Dr. Miller and Dr. Seidler were among the co-authors of an abstract, entitled “Toxic-

ity of a Serotonin-Derived Neuromelanin,” which Dr. Miller presented Feb. 20 during the Midwest Anesthesia Residents Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio. The research was also published Jan. 8 in *Biochemical Biophysical Research Communications*.

● Two research articles written by Dr. Seidler, entitled “Abeta-Polyacrolein Aggregates: Novel Mechanism of Plastic Formation in Senile Plaques,” and “Albumin-Bound Polyacrolein: Implications for Alzheimer’s Disease,” were recently curated

by the Comparative Toxicogenomics Database, a public database that elucidates molecular mechanisms by which environmental chemicals affect disease. The first article was co-authored by **Trevor Squire, D.O.** (COM ’08), and the second article was co-authored by the late **George Yeargans**, who previously worked at KCUMB.

● **Barth Wright, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of anatomy, was invited in February to serve as a member of the International Union for Conservation of Nature’s Species

## Patch Adams, the ‘Clown Prince of Medicine,’ Offers a Lesson on Compassion in Medicine

In a brightly colored shirt and rubber-ducky tie, Hunter “Patch” Adams, the famous “Clown Prince of Medicine,” spoke March 26 at KCUMB. A fork-shaped earring added to his unique appearance. He uses the fork to feed pediatric patients who refuse to take their medicine. It’s more fun that way.

He is most famously known from the 1998 movie “Patch Adams,” which starred Robin Williams as the title character. Dr. Adams also founded the Gesundheit! Institute, currently involved in raising money to build a 40-bed hospital in rural West Virginia, which would offer medical care free of charge.

While lecturing at KCUMB, Dr. Adams spoke on his views on the health-care delivery system and shared poignant videos of he and his team of volunteers clowning for patients. At the heart of his speech was a lesson on the im-

portance of compassion for patients, for doctors and within a community.

“Practicing medicine is all about the permission to love somebody,” Dr. Adams said. “I mean they are taking off their clothes for you, for crying out loud!”

Self-described as a political activist and nerd, he described how he entered the study of medicine to use it as a vehicle for social change. As a medical student, he was fascinated by the problems that existed within the health-care delivery system and obsessed with creating a medical model for how health care could be delivered.

“There’s been so much language about health-care reform, but it hasn’t been about health care or reform,” Dr. Adams said. “In the richest country, we do not take care of our people, a humiliation if there ever was one.”

His scathing commentary on the health-care delivery system as it exists pointed to insurance companies, malpractice, time management, hospital hierarchy and environment, and pharmaceutical companies as the root of the health-care problems. And yet, he remained optimistic on health-care reform and offered support to medical students who are feeling frustrated by the system.

“There are answers to all problems of health care,” Dr. Adams said. “You can be exactly who you choose.”

Many students, faculty and staff who attended the event had a positive reaction to his lecture.

“I personally enjoyed it,” said Chris Buchholz, a second-year medical student. “He definitely said some controversial things. He discussed (making a patient’s first visit) four hours long, and I know that’s not realistic. But, at the same time coming from the osteopathic approach, it really falls in line with our philosophy because we’re treating mind, body and soul.” ●



Survival Commission Primate Specialist Group. The group has approximately 15 members worldwide, including scientists, field biologists and others committed to the conservation of biodiversity at the species level.

● **Sally Kopyy**, training and development specialist, was recently appointed to serve on the Program Committee for the Kansas City chapter of the American Society for Training and Development.

● **Freddy Poindexter**, director of security, recently completed a seven-week review course for the Certified Protection Professional examination, which he plans to take later this year. The review course was sponsored by the Kansas City chapter of the American Society of Industrial Security International.

● **Heidi Terry**, registrar, co-presented two sessions, entitled "Size Matters: The Role of the Small College Registrar," and "Developing an Effective Online Policy Library," during the annual conference of the Southern Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers Jan. 30-Feb. 3 in Chattanooga, Tenn.

● **Kevin Treffer, D.O.**, associate professor of family medicine and discipline coordinator for osteopathic manipulative medicine, was awarded the COMLEX OPP Item Writer of the Year Award for 2009 during the NBOME COMLEX OPP Item Writing Committee meeting Feb. 17-20 in Chicago. The award is based upon how well questions written

by particular contributors performed on examinations. Twenty-eight questions written by Dr. Treffer were used on various levels of the COMLEX exams in 2009, with those questions performing the best of all questions written by approximately 200 other item writers.

● Dr. Seidler was recently invited to serve as a peer reviewer for a primary research article in consideration for publication in *Nanomedicine*, which carries out the peer review process in a double-blind fashion.

● **Alan Glaros, Ph.D.**, associate dean for basic medical sciences, was awarded the 2010 Distinguished Scientist Recognition by the Association of Applied Psychophysiology and Biofeedback. The honor is in recognition of Dr. Glaros' career achievements in the publication of scientific works, including biofeedback.

● **Jennifer Denney**, administrative assistant and project manager for dental funds in Score 1 for Health, recently earned a certificate in public health from A.T. Still University.

● **Clarissa Rice**, interpreter for Score 1 for Health, completed cultural and interpreter training March 6 at Jewish Vocational Services in Kansas City, Mo. The training, through Bridging the Gap, was paid for through a grant for Score 1 for Health.

● **Darin Haug, D.O.** (COM '01), executive vice president for academic and medical affairs, and dean of the College of Osteopathic Medi-



## Don't Miss the 18th Annual Deron Cherry Celebrity Invitational Golf Tournament

Show your support for Score 1 for Health by participating in the 18th annual Deron Cherry Celebrity Invitational Golf Tournament.

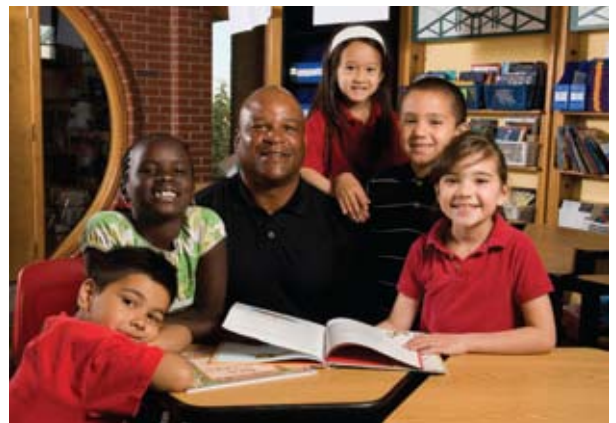
**Tuesday, June 22**  
**10 a.m. Shotgun Start**  
**Loch Lloyd Country Club, Belton, Mo.**

Proceeds from the tournament benefit Score 1 for Health's efforts to screen urban-core children for various health conditions that may affect their abilities to learn in the classroom.

During the 2008-2009 academic year alone, Score 1 for Health conducted more than 13,600 health screenings, finding that:

- 37.7 percent of children screened had untreated dental decay
- 14 percent were identified as needing vision examinations and possible correction
- More than 40 percent of the children screened were overweight, obese or very obese, as classified by body mass index (BMI)

For information on sponsorship opportunities or other ways to support Score 1 for Health, contact Dionne Lewis at 816-283-2259 or [dlewis@kcumb.edu](mailto:dlewis@kcumb.edu). ●



cine, was recently named the 2010 recipient of the prestigious Medallion Award by the Missouri Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons.

● **Paul Dew, M.D.**, professor of preventive medicine, served on the Planning Committee for the 32nd annual Carroll Hungate Seminar, which took place Feb. 26-27 in Kansas City, Mo. Dr. Dew, who is the current president of the Great Plains College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, also served as moderator for the seminar.

● **A. Baki Agbas, Ph.D.**, associate professor of biochemistry, served as a judge Jan. 30 for the Brookside Frontier Math and Science School's Science Fair.

● **David Moller, Ph.D.**, professor and chair of bioethics, recently learned that Oxford University Press will publish a new edition of his book, "Dancing With Broken Bones," which will be available for release later this year. Oxford University Press also notified Dr. Moller that he will receive a contract for another new book, "Healing in the Trenches: Notes on Care of the Urban Poor Near the End of Life."

● **V. James Guillory, D.O.**, associate professor and chair of preventive medicine, and associate dean of research, serves as a member of the Blue Ribbon Panel on Infant Mortality. Dr. Guillory recently suggested an active surveillance system during a planning meeting, and many of his recommendations have made it into pending

legislation in the Kansas Legislature. Dr. Guillory is president of the Perinatal Association of Kansas and a member of Healthy Kansas 2015.

● **Sara Cox**, dietitian for Score 1 for Health, attended training for counseling overweight and obese children March 18-20 in Chapel Hill, N.C.

● **George Kolo, D.O.**, associate professor of family medicine, conducted a basic disaster life support course Nov. 7 on the KCUMB campus. Dr. Kolo is medical director of KCUMB's National Disaster Life Support Training Center, a designation bestowed upon him by the National Disaster Life Support Foundation. The NDLSF works to ensure standardized training for medical response to disasters.

● **Mary Peace McRae, Pharm.D., Ph.D.**, assistant professor of pharmacology, wrote an article, entitled "Plasma Bile Acid Concentrations in Patients with Human Immunodeficiency Virus Infection Receiving Protease Inhibitor Therapy: Possible Implications for Hepatotoxicity," which was published in the January issue of *Pharmacotherapy*.

● Dr. Dew co-authored an article, entitled "Risk Factors for Recurrent Small-for-Gestational-Age Birth," which was published in the January issue of the *American Journal of Perinatology*. Another of Dr. Dew's articles, entitled "Ponderal Index of the Newborn: Effect of Smoking on the Index of the Small-for-Gestational-Age Infant," has

been accepted for publication in the same journal.

● **Patrick Clay, Pharm.D.**, director of clinical research, wrote an article, entitled "A Bad Break – Bone Issues in People with HIV: What We've Learned So Far and What You Can Do," which was published in the February issue of *Positively Aware*.

● **Rance McClain, D.O.**, associate professor of family medicine, successfully passed his family medicine board re-certification examination, which he completed during the American Osteopathic Association's annual convention and scientific seminar in New Orleans.

● **Julie Fountain**, help-desk/IT asset coordinator, completed Blackboard GUI administration certification training in December.

● KCUMB's annual William J. Legg, D.O., FAOASM, Distinguished Lecture Series featured a Dec. 3 presentation by Kyle Turner, athletic trainer for the Kansas City Royals, entitled "Globalization of Sports Medicine."

● **Diane Karius, Ph.D.**, director of the human patient simulation program, completed an eight-hour course, entitled "Active Shooter and Intruder Response for Schools," Dec. 28 in Smithville, Mo.

● **Angie Clemmer**, access services/serials coordinator in the Library, was named KCUMB's "Favorite Turkey" Nov. 24 in a contest to collect the most non-perishable food for Harvesters, a Kansas City organization

that provides assistance to more than 60,000 people each week. Other candidates included **Larry Segars, Pharm.D., Dr.P.H.**; **Phillip Homier**, a third-year medical student; **Amy Spellman**, student administrator in Community Clinical Education; Dr. Clay; and Dr. Karius.

● Clemmer also developed and hosted a special exhibit in the KCUMB Library honoring the University's women graduates. The KCUMB Library's event coincided with the arrival of a special traveling exhibit from the National Library of Medicine, "Changing the Face of Medicine: Celebrating America's Women Physicians," which was on display Oct. 3-Nov. 11 at the University of Kansas Medical Center. KCUMB and the University of Missouri-Kansas City were among the sponsors of the traveling exhibit's stop in the Kansas City area.

● Several KCUMB employees sorted toys Dec. 15 for the Salvation Army's Angel Tree Program, which helps ensure that thousands of Kansas City children have gifts to open on Christmas morning. The volunteer experience was the latest KCUMB CAREs (Create a Rewarding Experience) project.

● KCUMB's chapter of the National Osteopathic Women's Physicians Association recently donated \$200 to the Breast Institute at St. Luke's Hospital, which will go toward the mobile mammography program. The money was raised through sales of pink ribbon cookies during Breast Cancer Awareness Week.

● The KCUMB Sports Medicine Club sponsored a donation drive for Sheffield Place, a Kansas City shelter for homeless mothers and their children. The club collected new linens, hygiene products, gift cards and other items.

● **Maria Cole, Ph.D.**, executive director of academic and institutional research, recently donated 47 hand-knitted scarves to be sold with the proceeds benefiting the Alexander W. G. Glaros Scholarship. Approximately \$600 has been raised thus far.

● Dr. Guillory was among the authors of a position statement by the American College of Preventive Medicine that calls for screening all adults for depression. The article, entitled "Screening Adults for Depression in Primary Care: A Position Statement of the American College of Preventive Medicine," appeared in the October issue of the *Journal of Family Practice* and has since been featured in other media outlets, including *American Medical News*.

● Dr. Dew co-authored an article, entitled "Excess Hispanic Fetal-Infant Mortality in a Midwestern Community," which was published in the September-October issue of the *Journal of Public Health Reports*. Dr. Dew also wrote and reviewed COM-LEX questions Oct. 2-3 for the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners in Chicago.

● **Douglas Rushing, Ph.D.**, dean of the College of Biosciences and professor of biochemistry, was named



Allison Moore, placement coordinator in Academic Affairs, teaches KCUMB colleagues the finer points of painting during a fund-raising event for the ArtsKC Workplace Giving Campaign.

## KCUMB Employees Showcase Their Artistic Sides, Raise \$16,047

In March, KCUMB faculty and staff showcased their artistic talents for a good cause, raising \$16,047 during the ArtsKC Workplace Giving Campaign, a citywide fund-raising event for the Arts Council of Metropolitan Kansas City.

"It is important to fund the arts because art makes our city a better and more interesting place to live," said Matt Johnson, multimedia technician in Information Technology, and chair for KCUMB's campaign.

Johnson was impressed by the dedication of those he worked with in coordinating the weeklong effort.

"What I will remember most about this year's campaign is all of the support from the committee," he said. "Everyone, in their own way, played a huge role in raising this year's contribution and for making the week so much fun for everyone who was able to participate." ●

a member of the Unicorn Theatre's Board of Directors in August.

● **Leah Oliphant**, medical assistant, and **Kim Erickson**, regulatory specialist, received notice from the Association of Clinical Research Professionals in October that they each passed their Clinical Research Coordinator Certification examinations. With their newly earned recognition, the Dybedal Center for Clinical Research now has 100 percent of its full-time research staff certified in clinical research.

● Dr. Segars was recently appointed to a three-year term as chair of the Finance Committee for the American

College of Epidemiology.

● Dr. Clay, Dr. Guillory and **Charlott Williams**, nurse manager in the Dybedal Clinical Research Center, gave a presentation, entitled "Blinding in the Age of Blogging," Oct. 30 during the Heartland Area Research Professionals annual conference.

● KCUMB was recognized as one of America's healthiest companies by Willis HRH, the University's insurance broker. The University was one of 103 winners nationally.

● **Edward Friedlander, M.D.**, associate professor and chair of pathology, was honored by the Kansas chapter of the American GI Forum March 6

for his continuing service to amateur boxing. The event marked Dr. Friedlander's 50th time serving as a ring-side physician in Kansas.

● **Richard Magie, D.O.**, assistant professor and chair of pediatrics; **Annette Campbell**, director of Score 1 for Health; and **Nancy Farrand**, program coordinator for Score 1 for Health, were among the authors of an article, entitled "The Prevalence of Infections with Trichophyton tonsurans in School Children: The CAPITIS Study," which was published in the May 2010 issue of the *Journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics*.

# class notes

## 1970s

● **Jerry Smola, D.O.** (COM '71), was honored by his peers May 1 with a certificate of recognition for 28 years of service in the Texas Osteopathic Medical Association's House of Delegates.

● **Steven Barag, D.O.** (COM '73), will be inducted as president of the California chapter of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians during the organization's meeting Aug. 5-9 at Disneyland.

● **Ray Stowers, D.O.** (COM '73), was re-elected to the American Osteopathic Association's Board of Trustees during a House of Delegates meeting in Chicago. Dr. Stowers currently serves as vice president and dean of the Lincoln Memorial University – DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine.

● **Ron Fitch, D.O.** (COM '75), and **Michael Kenner, D.O.** (COM '78), were among a group that traveled to Haiti in January to assist with relief efforts following the earthquake there.

● **Randall Howell, D.O.** (COM '78), currently serves as associate chief of emergency medicine at Barnes Jewish Hospital and an assistant professor at the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, Mo.

## 1980s

● **George Erbacher, D.O.** (COM '80), was inaugurated as president of the American Osteopathic College of Radiology Oct. 28 during the organization's annual awards ceremony in Las Vegas.

● **Edward Salko, Jr., D.O.** (COM '80), recently joined Kennewick Emergency Physicians in Kennewick, Wash. Dr. Salko has more than 27 years experience practicing medicine, most recently in a Level One Trauma Center in Fort Meyers, Fla.

● **Charles Stephens, D.O.** (COM '80), recently became a diplomate of the American Board of Addiction Medicine. Dr. Stephens is co-founder of Peak Addiction Recovery Center in Colorado Springs, Colo.

● **A. Daniel Toland, D.O.** (COM '80), was honored in January by his patients with the Patient's Choice Award. Dr. Toland is certified in cosmetic plastic surgery and practices at the Toland Cosmetic Surgery Centre in Warner Robins, Ga.

● **Ben Johnson, D.O.** (COM '81), joined the Scientific Advisory Board of Cannabis Science Inc., a pharmaceutical cannabis company. Dr. Johnson owns Dr. Ben Johnson Services, a company that promotes products for natural health care, and his



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[www.kcumb.edu/alumni](http://www.kcumb.edu/alumni)

Visit the alumni section of the KCUMB website. The site allows you to learn about opportunities to get involved, register for events and much more. You can also submit professional or personal updates, or send them to:

KCUMB Advancement Office  
 1750 Independence Ave.

Kansas City, MO 64106-1453

E-mail: [cwahlert@kcumb.edu](mailto:cwahlert@kcumb.edu) Fax: 816-283-2453

expertise centers in complimentary oncology.

● **Elaine Joslyn, D.O.** (COM '84), was featured in a story, entitled "Her finger is on the Northeast's pulse," which was published in the Sept. 30, 2009, edition of the Northeast News. Dr. Joslyn operates NEighborhood Family Care, which is not far from the KCUMB campus.

● **Stanley Szczecienski, D.O.** (COM '86), was appointed the first sports medicine fellowship director at Garden City Hospital in Garden City, Mich. Dr. Szczecienski works with athletes of all levels and has served as a residency preceptor for more than 20 years in the family medicine department at Garden City Hospital.

● **Anita Charochak, D.O.** (COM '87), recently joined Borgess Critical Care Ser-

vices in Kalamazoo, Mich.

● **George Mychaskiw, D.O.** (COM '88), was recently named chairman of the Department of Anesthesiology for the Drexel University College of Medicine and Hahnemann University Hospital in Philadelphia.

● **Col. Brett Wyrick, D.O.** (COM '89), reported for a new assignment in July as the air surgeon for the National Guard in Washington, D.C.

## 1990s

● **William Sullivan, D.O.** (COM '90), retired Dec. 5, 2009, from the Kansas Army National Guard. Dr. Sullivan served his country for 21 years, including overseas deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. He remains a member of the staff at Mt. Carmel Regional Medical Center in Pittsburg, Kan.

## Pedaling to End Poverty: KCUMB Alum Plans Trek Across U.S.

When Deborah Hellinger, D.O. (COM '89), finished her residency, she bought a bicycle. Little did she know, she would be riding her bike across the United States in order to help reduce poverty, and inspiring others to do the same.

Dr. Hellinger is part of Cycling for Change, a small group of cyclists sponsored by Catholic Charities that will bike 5,050 miles in 100 days across the United States, from Cape Flattery, Wash., to Key West, Fla., in hopes of raising money to help the impoverished.

Initially made up of only a small team, the fund-raising initiative has picked up momentum and turned into a nationwide event. The team began its journey across the U.S. on May 29, and other cyclists will be joining the team in segment rides, hosting fund-raising events to benefit the cause, and participating in efforts to help those less fortunate in their own communities.

Father Matthew Ruhl, S.J., a Jesuit priest whose parish home is in Kansas City, leads this bicycle "pilgrimage" and began Cycling for Change as part of Catholic Charities' initiative to reduce poverty 50 percent by 2020. Dr. Hellinger, who was part of the core team planning the event, works as a tele-radiologist part time, while training for the ride and raising awareness for the cause.

Dr. Hellinger recently answered some questions about her planned journey.

### ***This being the inaugural Cycling for Change, are you surprised about the momentum of this event?***

**D.H.:** It's very exciting! For the last two years, nine of us from the core team, including riders and directors from Catholic Charities have been sitting around the table, planning this event. Last year, Catholic Charities hired a coordinator and now there are many people on different committees working to make this project a reality ... It's just ballooned this past year. People all over the country are joining us for smaller segment rides.

As of now, we have 12 core riders and two support and gear people who will follow us or go ahead in cars. We will be going from Cape Flattery, Wash., to Key West, Fl., which is about 5,000 miles. We picked this route because it's downhill. [She laughs.]

Each full-time rider is trying to raise \$10,000 in donations, and we're receiving sponsorship from various companies. Proceeds from our rides will help the Caritas House in Kansas City, where services for the impoverished are offered – financial, spiritual, vocational – trying to help people get back on their feet.



Dr. Hellinger, (second row, second from left) with a team of cyclists, will be biking across the U.S. to help poverty.

### ***Where will the team stay in each city along the ride?***

**D.H.:** We have a logistics team that is working on accommodations. We're trying to get donated rooms from hotels. If not, we'll stay in churches or schools, but we want to stay together as a team. There is one place that there's nowhere to stay – in Wyoming, I think – and they are building us a tent city!

### ***Why choose this cause?***

**D.H.:** This is going to be an epic journey. It's going to change my life, and hopefully it will change other people's lives as well. As a physician, I've dealt with a lot of underprivileged people who couldn't afford to pay their own bills ... It's unbelievable how expensive things are. People are deciding whether they can eat or go to the doctor, which is why I've decided to help raise awareness about this cause.

As a rider, there are things that are very daunting about this journey – the distance, the terrain, the traffic and weather.

But you have to put it into perspective, too. When I think about what's difficult for me, I think about the homeless who face the elements in the weather that we've had in the Midwest this winter. This is something I'm choosing to do. But when you consider someone who is homeless – they don't choose that.

It's exhilarating and exciting to know you're doing something like this, but the whole time I want to keep in mind why I'm doing it – to help underprivileged people.

To support Dr. Hellinger's fund-raising efforts, visit [http://cyclingforchange.blacktie-athon.com/Deb\\_Hellinger/](http://cyclingforchange.blacktie-athon.com/Deb_Hellinger/) ●

● **Martin Hendrickson, D.O.** (COM '93), currently serves as a hospitalist at Akron General Medical Center in Akron, Ohio, as well as serving as a clinical assistant

professor at the Northeast Ohio University College of Medicine in Rootstown, Ohio.

● **Ron Holt, II, D.O.** (COM '93), spoke to second-year

medical students Oct. 5-6 regarding the biology of homosexuality. While in Kansas City, he also had dinner with students from SAFE.

● **Lisa Holloway, D.O.** (COM '94), joined Methodist Family Medicine Group in late 2009, working on the campus of Methodist Sugar Land Hospital in Sugar

## BOOK RECOUNTS ALUM'S HEROICS DURING VIETNAM

If there is a moment in one's life that defines true character, Edward Feldman, D.O. (COM '66), had that moment in the dark, early morning hours of Jan. 21, 1967.

At approximately 5:30 a.m. South Vietnamese time, the North Vietnamese military began what would become one of the longest running battles in U.S. military history, dropping rockets, mortars and pelting the Khe Sanh Combat Base with heavy artillery.

"It was dark, there was lots of smoke, fire and screaming," Dr. Feldman said. "A medic came running up to me and said there was a casualty in the bunker. When I got there, I saw a soldier with a pipe that looked like the butt of a flashlight sticking out of his upper left quadrant of his stomach. I couldn't see the casing."

The pipe, as it turned out, was a time-release bomb with an 81mm shell at the end. Dr. Feldman ordered the Marines to build a wall of sandbags around himself, the victim, a medic and an engineer.

Inside the wall of sandbags, with no power and only illuminated by two flashlights, Dr. Feldman did his best to comfort the young Marine, Pvt. First Class Robert Mussari.

"I told him he had gotten some of his gas mask into his belly, and I gave him some morphine ... I didn't want to scare him," Dr. Feldman said. "I called for the engineer to help me. He held a flashlight, while I began cutting away the tissue."

It was a dangerous procedure. The men believed that



Drs. Feldman and Finnegan work on a casualty in the triage bunker at Khe Sahn.

the bomb was designed to detonate in 45 minutes and that metal-to-metal contact could cause it to detonate sooner.

"I used tools and my hands to remove muscle and tissue away from the bomb," Dr. Feldman said. "I got my hands under it; it was very hot. I handed the bomb to the engineer, who took it to another bunker and detonated it while I closed the Marine up."

Thanks to Dr. Feldman's bravery and true courage under fire, Mussari survived.

The battle at Khe Sanh lasted 77 days. There were an estimated 20,000 to 30,000 North Vietnamese soldiers against 6,000 U.S. soldiers. In those 77 days, an estimated 1,600 U.S. troops were killed and 15,000 enemy troops were killed. Another 2,000 U.S. Marines were injured. Dr. Feldman is credited with saving many of their lives.

Eleven years after that fateful day, Dr. Feldman's and Mussari's paths crossed again. Dr. Feldman, who had returned to New Jersey to practice obstetrics and gynecology after his service in Vietnam, played an integral part in another defining moment of Mussari's life: He delivered Mussari's first child.

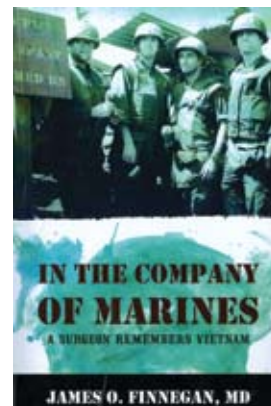
Thanks to his acts of bravery during the war, Dr. Feldman was awarded the Silver Star, an award given for uncommon valor and total disregard for personal danger. Dr. Feldman was also nominated by several of his fellow soldiers and surgeons for a Congressional Medal of Honor.

"I was proud to go serve with the Navy as a surgeon for the Marines," Dr. Feldman said.

He served two years in active duty, and five years of inactive duty. It was during his service at Khe Sanh that he met James O. Finnegan, M.D., one of three other surgeons on the combat base.

Dr. Feldman's account of saving the young Marine, as well as other stories of Dr. Feldman's acts of heroism are told in Dr. Finnegan's book, "In the Company of Marines, A Surgeon Remembers Vietnam." In his book, Dr. Finnegan calls Dr. Feldman a "bona fide war hero."

Dr. Feldman currently resides in California, where he is still actively involved in the Battle at Khe Sanh's Veteran's Group. ●





## Passion and Praise

### Organization Lauds Alum as 'Emerging National Champion,' Bestows Community Service Award

Rare is the occasion when pursuits of passion and profession intersect. Even more rare are times when they collide with lofty praise and recognition.



Dr. Holt

However, that was exactly the case recently for Ronald Holt, II, D.O. (COM '93), an attending psychiatrist at the Kaiser Permanente Medical Center in south San Francisco since 1997.

Kaiser Permanente recently honored Dr. Holt with its 2009 David Lawrence Community Service Award. The award recognizes individuals who demonstrate extraordinary efforts to improve the health of our communities.

Dr. Holt, who was among more than 180 people and organizations nominated for the award, won based on his advocacy for Gay Lesbian Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) health.

"I am completely humbled to be recognized for my passion in life," Dr. Holt said. "Receiving this award has fueled my energy to broaden my presentations to more audiences nationwide."

In a letter announcing the award, Dr. Holt was described as an "emerging national champion" for GLBT health issues, and a "highly effective educator, coach and advocate for college audiences."

"My inspiration to educate and be a role model for GLBT youth is because there was no one available in that capacity when I was a student," Dr. Holt said. "Increased awareness about the biology and psychology of human sexuality leads to a better understanding of the GLBT population."

"It's my firm belief that education about sexuality can lead to better emotional and physical health."

For the past decade, Dr. Holt has voluntarily returned to his undergraduate alma matter, Wayne State College in Wayne, Neb., to lecture on the impact of homophobia on

GLBT youth and society at large.

"Initially, the target audience was education and psychology majors who became teachers, counselors and coaches," Dr. Holt said. "I emphasized the danger of allowing homophobia in the classroom, as it leads to low self-esteem, increased risk for drug and alcohol use and suicide in GLBT youth."

Over the years, Dr. Holt has expanded his presentations to include many GLBT issues, including homophobia in college sports, biology of sexuality and GLBT health-care issues.

His service at Wayne State also includes mentoring members of the GLBT Pride group, and donating money annually to help the group in its educational efforts to raise awareness on the impact of homophobia on youth and society.

One of the biggest issues in GLBT health today, Dr. Holt said, lies with medical providers not being adequately trained to discuss sexual orientation while taking a history. This can lead to overlooking issues that are more prevalent in the GLBT community, he said.

"An issue of concern is that if the patient doesn't feel comfortable disclosing their sexual orientation, the provider may miss some important screening tools or base their ongoing treatment on the assumption the patient is heterosexual," he said.

Dr. Holt also has been revamping his website, [www.audacityofpride.com](http://www.audacityofpride.com), to include resources for practitioners on GLBT health care.

As part of his award from Kaiser Permanente, Dr. Holt will receive a \$10,000 donation to designate to a non-profit organization. Although he has not decided where to allocate the money, he has narrowed in on the subject area he wants the funds to address.

"I will donate the money in a way that will have the greatest impact on furthering GLBT education on a more national level," he said. ●

Land, Texas. She completed her internship and residency through the Oklahoma State Healthcare Center in Tulsa, Okla., the Tulsa Regional Medical Center and Union Hospital/St. Barnabas Medical Center in Union, N.J.

● **Elizabeth Recuperero, D.O.** (COM '96), completed a fellowship in integrative medicine Dec. 11 at the University of Arizona's Center

for Integrative Medicine in Tucson, Ariz. Dr. Recuperero, certified in internal medicine and pediatrics, is in private practice in Lambertville, N.J.

● **Allan Escher, Jr., D.O.** (COM '97), was recognized as a fellow in the American Osteopathic College of Anesthesiologists Sept. 13-16 during the organization's 2009 annual convention in Williamsburg, Va. Dr. Es-

cher also spoke to first- and second-year KCUMB medical students Oct. 28 about avoiding drug errors and the importance of remaining focused on the task at hand.

● **Richard Slusher, D.O.** (COM '99), recently joined Watson Orthopaedics in Springfield, Ill., after completing 22 years of military service. Dr. Slusher spent more than a year in Af-

ghanistan, where he treated soldiers and civilians as part of a 20-member U.S. Army surgical team that achieved a 97 percent success rate. None of the more than 100 patients treated by Dr. Slusher died while in his care.

### 2000s

● **Adam Whaley-Connell, D.O.** (COM '01), gave a presentation Aug. 7 at the

## Striking a Different Beat

### KCUMB Student Mixes Love for Medicine and Music

Brandon Alexander can't remember what he wanted to be first: a musician or a doctor. Fortunately, he has had the opportunity to do a little of both.

Alexander, a first-year medical student, is one part of The Cadence, a six-man percussion rock group from Springfield, Mo., with the looks of a "boy band" and the sound and the showmanship of the Blue Man Group.

After responding to a casting call in the summer of 2008, The Cadence won a chance to compete on the third season of NBC's "America's Got Talent," a talent competition show.

"When my bandmate told me he had entered us in the casting call, I thought 'Yeah, right, like that's going to happen,'" Alexander said. "Then, I learned we made it, and that we had a week to get everything together and head to Vegas to audition for the show. I figured we would go and they would say no and we'd be sent home."

The group didn't get sent home. The band wowed the judges and was invited back to compete, along with 40 other acts, for the chance to win \$1 million and the opportunity to host their own Las Vegas show.

There was only one hitch – the show began taping the first week of September, soon after Alexander was to begin classes at KCUMB. Alexander had a big decision to make. If he chose not to compete, the band wouldn't progress to the final competition, and if he chose not to begin classes, he might lose his spot in medical school.

"We were all nervous," fellow bandmate Rob Lowery said. "He was stressing because of medical school. We thought if things didn't pan out with the show, he would have blown his shot at medical school for nothing, and we knew how hard he had worked to get into school."

As fate would have it, Alexander received a letter from KCUMB offering a year's deferment. Alexander accepted the deferment, and the band packed up and headed to Los Angeles to compete.

"It was so crazy when it was all happening," Alexander said. "We had very little time to rehearse and come up with new acts. We were so loud that we interrupted other acts. We even interrupted the filming of other shows that were

taping in the same studio, so they limited our practice time."

On Aug. 26, 2008, The Cadence performed before an estimated 11 million viewers for their chance to proceed to the top 20. The judges

advised the group to use background music to enhance the show, which meant they had to change their act.

"It was really stressful," Alexander said. "In very little time, we created a new set design, and with the help of choreographers, we came up with a new act. We had to drum it out on the backs of chairs."

On Sept. 9, 2008, the group performed its new act on the top-20 show for a cheering crowd and a national audience. They followed the judges' advice and pounded their instruments to "Beat It" by Michael Jackson.

"I love the fact that you're living your dream," Judge David Hasselhoff told the group after their performance. "You guys are incredibly talented ... you've got incredible potential."

Although Judge Piers Morgan called it a good act, it was the end of the line for the group. They did not proceed to the top 10.

"It was a lot of fun," Alexander said. "I'm glad I did it. It's so crazy when it's happening and crazy when it's all over. Everything just seemed to go by so fast. We got to live the rock-and-roll dream. We were able to perform on stage before millions of people."

A year later, Alexander is in his first year of medical school at KCUMB and still living his dream. He is pursuing his passion for medicine during the day and still performs with his band evenings and weekends.

"Ever since I was little, I always wanted to be a doctor, but I love being a musician, too," Alexander said.

To see The Cadence perform, visit You Tube, keyword: The Cadence Promo, or visit the band's website at [www.myspace.com/theiconcadence](http://www.myspace.com/theiconcadence). ●



InterAmerican Society of Hypertension meeting in Brazil.

● **Kevin Joseph, D.O.** (COM '01), currently serves as chief of child neurology and acting program director for the neurology residency at Madi-

gan Army Medical Center in Tacoma, Wash. Dr. Joseph is certified in neurology with a special qualification in child neurology.

● **Benjamin Makamson, D.O.** (COM '02), has joined Memorial Physicians

Clinic in Gulfport, Miss. Dr. Makamson is a vascular surgeon.

● **Vinh Mai, D.O.** (COM '02), serves as a lieutenant commander in the U.S. Navy and recently returned from a nine-month deploy-

ment to Djibouti, Africa, where he provided medical care in the Horn of Africa as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. He also serves as an adjunct assistant professor at the University of Maryland University College Europe, teaching active-duty

personnel interested in earning a college degree while overseas.

● **Scott Rogers, D.O.** (COM '03), traveled to Haiti for seven days in late January with The Global Orphan Project, an organization that provides care for orphaned and abandoned children in extreme poverty. Dr. Rogers worked to assess health needs of orphaned children as part of a medical team. He is a pediatrician with Priority Care Pediatrics in Kansas City, Mo.

● **Sarah Mildred Gamble, D.O.** (COM '04), was recently appointed as assistant program director for in-patient medical education at the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York, N.Y. Dr. Gamble is the first osteopathic physician to be appointed to Stamford Hospital's residency administration.

● Dr. Gamble also was recently elected to the board of directors for Friends in Africa, an organization which provides quarterly two-day medical clinics in the slums and remote villages surrounding Dakar, Senegal. Dr. Gamble has traveled with the organization since 2003.

● **Maren Dunn, D.O.** (COM '05), recently joined Pioneer Health Care Center and Prineville Memorial Hospital as a staff family physician in Prineville, Oregon.

● **Hilary A. Flint, D.O.** (COM '06), completed a pediatric residency at the University of Mississippi

Medical Center in 2009 and is currently completing a fellowship in palliative medicine at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

● **Holly Heichelbech, D.O.** (COM '06), joined the Deaconess Oakland City Clinic in Oakland City, Ind. Dr. Heichelbech completed a residency in family medicine at Deaconess Hospital in Evansville, Ind.

● **Joshua Kindrat, D.O.** (COM '06), joined Deaconess Health System in Evansville, Ind., where he serves as an attending in emergency medicine.

● **April Kurkowski, D.O.** (COM '06), has joined the staff of Kalkaska Memorial Health Center in Kalkaska, Mich. She practices family medicine at Kalkaska Rural Health Clinic.

● **Joe Monaco, D.O.** (COM '06), an anesthesiology

resident at Saint Luke's Hospital/the University of Missouri-Kansas City, recently completed a visiting research rotation in the laboratory of **Norbert Seidler, Ph.D.**, professor and chair of biochemistry. Dr. Monaco, Dr. Seidler and **Asma Zaidi, Ph.D.**, associate professor of biochemistry, were among the co-authors of an abstract, entitled "Effects of Isoflurane on the Plasma-Membrane Calcium ATPase," which Dr. Monaco presented Feb. 20 during the Midwest Anesthesia Residents Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio.

● **Rhonda Simons, D.O.** (COM '06), was one of several physicians featured in a Dec. 4 story in the Kansas City Business Journal regarding physicians' differing approaches to practicing medicine. Dr. Simons, who has her own practice with one nurse, focuses on

providing individualized care, with hour-long initial patient visits.

● **Andrew Maes, D.O.** (COM '07), currently practices urologic surgery at Metro Health Hospital in Grand Rapids, Mich., and serves on the clinical assistant faculty at the Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine.

● **Timothy Lawler, D.O.** (COM '08), was named in March as one of Symtricity's "Top 25 Celebrity Doctors on Twitter Worth Following." Dr. Lawler is a flight surgeon for the U.S. Navy and enjoys educating others about various issues with life after college.

## 2010s

● **Nathan Hall, D.O.** (COM '10, COB '06), was recently named KCUMB's Student D.O. of the Year for 2010.

### Rolling Out the Red Carpet ...

#### AOA President Makes Visit to KCUMB

Larry Wickless, D.O., president of the American Osteopathic Association, strolls the KCUMB campus April 12 during a personal tour with Darin Haug, D.O., executive vice president for academic and medical affairs, and dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine, and Kelstan Lynch, a first-year medical student and KCUMB student ambassador.

Dr. Wickless' goal is to visit each of the country's osteopathic medical schools during his 2009-2010 term leading the AOA. In addition to a tour of campus facilities, Dr. Wickless had breakfast with KCUMB student government officers and gave presentations to both first- and second-year medical students.





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- **Christopher Surek**, a third-year medical student, presented his research project, entitled "Determining a Surgical Safe Zone for Avoidance of Nerve Trauma in Skull Base Dissection of the Cerebellopontine Angle," Oct. 14 at the North American Society of Skull Base Surgeons Conference in New Orleans. Surek is the first medical student invited to give an oral presentation at the prestigious conference. His research was also accepted for publication in the organization's journal. Co-authors are **Mark Van Ess, D.O.** (COM '03), and **Robert Stephens, Ph.D.**, associate dean of the College of Biosciences and professor and chair of anatomy.

- **Jennifer Yeast**, a second-

year medical student, presented a poster, entitled "Spirituality of Persons Infected with HIV," Nov. 29-Dec. 1 at the 2009 International Association of Physicians in AIDS Care and Foundation for AIDS Research conference in New Orleans. Yeast's project, which she completed as a summer research fellow at KCUMB, is a follow-up to one completed by **Jodie Barr, D.O.** (COM '09), which assessed how becoming infected with HIV changes a person's perceived religious and spiritual beliefs.

- **Greg Rice**, a first-year medical student, was chosen by the American Medical Association Foundation as the recipient of a \$2,500 seed grant for his research proj-



Tom Stark, D.O. (COM '98), recently returned from a medical expedition to the rain forest of southern Costa Rica, where he supervised a team of pre-med and nursing students from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Dr. Stark plans to return to Costa Rica in February 2011 as co-sponsor of a primary care CME conference.

ect, entitled "HIV Tat Effects on the Drug Efflux Pump P-glycoprotein in an Enterocyte/Lymphocyte Coculture System." **Mary Peace McRae, Pharm.D., Ph.D.**, assistant professor of pharmacology,

and **Tracey Taylor, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of microbiology, will also be participating in the research.

- **Sokunthirith Thach**, a first-year student, volun-

teered Dec. 27-30 for Give Kids the World, a non-profit organization that gives children with life-threatening illnesses and their families an opportunity to escape the realities of their illnesses. Medical students from several osteopathic schools participated in the event, which took place in Kissimmee, Fla.

- The KCUMB Student Government Association recently elected new officers and senators for the Class of 2013. Those elected were: **Paul Campbell**, president; **Renata Palasiewicz**, vice president; **Rachel High**, secretary; **Catherine Mallory**, treasurer; and senators **Stephen Doyle**, **Amanda Foster**, **Emily Heronemus**, **Kelstan Lynch**, **Christine Schneider** and **Thomas Sprys**.

- KCUMB recently announced its student ambas-

sadors for the Class of 2013. Congratulations to each of those selected: **Priya Agrawal**, **Brandon Alexander**, **Emily Barnard**, **Alan Barnes**, **Andrew Brochu**, **Paul Campbell**, **Marisa DeGennaro**, **Monica Duke**, **Samantha Egbert**, **Josef Hannah**, **Adam Howerton**, **Hela Kelsch**, **Michelle Korn**, **Aaron Kunz**, **Kelstan Lynch**, **Laura McCarthy**, **Renata Palasiewicz**, **Mark Pence**, **Ben Skoch** and **James Smith**.

- KCUMB's College of Biosciences recently elected student government representatives for its master of arts in bioethics and master of science in biomedical sciences programs. Those elected for bioethics were: **Kim Beagley**, president; and **Kristine Domingo**, vice president. Those elected for biomedical sciences were: **Josh Weir**, president; and **Fred Balch**, vice president.



Clint Rathje, a second-year medical student, traveled with the sports medicine club and KCUMB faculty members to the Dominican Republic as part of a medical outreach effort that coincided with providing physicals at the Kansas City Royals Baseball Academy.

The trip, which took place shortly after the earthquake disaster in Haiti, provided a means to bring several 50-pound crates of desperately needed orthopedic surgical supplies to the area.

"I've always been interested in doing international work," Rathje said. "It opened my eyes to how badly other countries have it, health care-wise. As a future physician, it makes me want to do more."

## PASSAGES

- Harold S. Jones, D.O. (COM '46), Oct. 25, 2009

- Elton E. Cassity, D.O. (COM '49), Dec. 24, 2009

- Merle Jennings, D.O. (COM '50), Nov. 10, 2009

- Alfred A. Haight, D.O. (COM '53), Feb. 22, 2010

- Calvin T. Kinsman, D.O. (COM '55), Feb. 7, 2009

- George D. Wohlschlaeger, D.O. (COM '55), March 21, 2009

- James E. Taft, D.O. (COM '57), Sept. 7, 2009

- Albert Azarian, D.O. (COM '58), March 1, 2009

- Herbert Joshowitz, D.O. (COM '58), Dec. 21, 2009

- Frank A. Dold, D.O. (COM '60), July 28, 2009

- Sherman B. Smith, D.O. (COM '60), Oct. 19, 2009

- Richard W. Heisler, D.O. (COM '61), Jan. 28, 2009

- Anthony R. Uonelli, D.O. (COM '61), Oct. 30, 2009

- Ray M. Jones, Jr., D.O. (COM '62), Oct. 31, 2009

- Oran G. Anderson, D.O. (COM '63), Nov. 13, 2009

- Rayburn W. Baker, Jr., D.O. (COM '63), July 26, 2009

- Cecil H. Farley, Jr., D.O. (COM '66), Nov. 3, 2009

- Marvin D. Combs, D.O. (COM '67), Dec. 5, 2009

- Paul G. Kleman, D.O. (COM '67), Feb. 26, 2010

- Marshall A. Shapiro, D.O. (COM '68), Nov. 30, 2009

- Joel H. Jaffe, D.O. (COM '71), Jan. 4, 2010

- Joseph C. DeBlase, D.O. (COM '72), April 20, 2010

- Walter D. Opfer, D.O. (COM '77), Jan. 21, 2010

- Floyd W. Brown, D.O. (COM '78), June 26, 2009

- Judith B. Page, D.O. (COM '84), Nov. 17, 2009

- Joseph M. "Mike" Stokes, D.O. (COM '85), April 29, 2009

- Lorne A. Querci, D.O. (COM '92), Jan. 9, 2010

# Last Look Hair Razing

Diagnosed with Stage II non-Hodgkin's lymphoma a year ago, Richard Magie, D.O., assistant professor and chair of pediatrics, found out his treatment would start on April 9.

Since he was going to lose his hair either way, Dr. Magie came up with the unique idea to issue a challenge to students, faculty and staff to raise money for a good cause. For \$2 a ticket or \$10 for their hat size in tickets, potential barbers could purchase raffle tickets to be the person to shave Dr. Magie's head.

On April 15, it was time for Dr. Magie to fulfill his part of the deal ... and about a dozen other members of the KCUMB community decided to get their own haircuts, too. By the time it was over, more than \$800 had been raised to benefit the McCandless Medical Mission Scholarship Fund, which provides financial support for students seeking to perform foreign medical mission work.



Those getting impromptu trims above are: Dr. Magie (top left); Eduardo Garcia, M.D., instructor of pathology (bottom left); Sarah Parrott, D.O., assistant professor of family medicine; and Richard Randolph, Ph.D., associate professor of bioethics (bottom right). Many of those who participated also gathered for a group picture to commemorate the occasion (top right).

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is what osteopathic medicine is all about.**



**At Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences, we take that message to heart while training the next generation of osteopathic physicians.**

Founded in 1916, KCUMB is one of the country's oldest and largest osteopathic medical schools. More than 7,000 doctors of osteopathic medicine have earned their degrees at KCUMB.

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## calendar of events

### Monday, July 5

Independence Day Holiday  
Observed, KCUMB Closed

### Tuesday, July 27

College of Biosciences  
Commencement, 2 p.m.

### Wednesday, Aug. 4, to Sunday, Aug. 8

Celebrate Tradition –  
Homecoming • White Coating • CME

### Thursday, Aug. 5

Class of 2014 White Coating, 7 p.m.

### Sunday, Oct. 24, to Thursday, Oct. 28

AOA Convention, San Francisco

