

# KCIUMB

C O M M U N I T Y



## Making a World of Difference

Students share their first-hand  
accounts from a rewarding DOCARE  
medical mission to Guatemala





# Climbing the Ladder to Success

## Keith Robinson, D.O. (COM '07)

After years of moving from place to place as a child whose father served in the military, Keith Robinson, D.O. (COM '07), found a home while pursuing a doctor of osteopathic medicine degree at Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences.

"I met people at KCUMB who I am still in contact with and who will be lifelong friends," Dr. Robinson said. "The staff and administration at KCUMB were also amazing. They went out of their way to make sure you were having a good experience, and they provided me with great educational exposure. Everyone at KCUMB is there to support the students and help them to be successful."

Dr. Robinson, who is currently completing a residency in medical dermatology through Summa Western Reserve Hospital in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, said the education he received during his time at KCUMB prepared him well for dealing with real-world scenarios.

He is also grateful for having the opportunity to further his business skills by participating in the KCUMB's joint MBA program with Rockhurst University's Helzberg School of Management, one of the nation's leading business schools.

"The opportunity to participate in the MBA program with Rockhurst provides you with a greater knowledge of the business aspect of being a caregiver," Dr. Robinson said.

For Dr. Robinson, attending KCUMB meant more than just receiving an exceptional education. It was also an opportunity to make a difference.



"I really enjoyed my time at KCUMB," he said. "I especially enjoyed participating in student government, which was something I always wanted to do," said Dr. Robinson, who served as vice president of his class during his first year, and student body vice president during his second year. "Because of its size, KCUMB is a great place to get involved. I enjoyed being able to work with the administration and help facilitate things."

After he finishes his final year of residency training in Ohio, Dr. Robinson hopes to establish his own practice in the Midwest or on one of the coasts.

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Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) and the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) to sponsor continuing medical education for physicians. \*14.5 hours of AMA PRA Category 1 credit and 14.5 hours of AOA Category 2-A credit is anticipated.



Over the course of the past six months, KCUMB has hosted accreditation-related site review teams from both the Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation and the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. Both visits were invaluable for a variety of reasons, but primarily for the opportunity to have external teams provide fresh perspectives on everything going on at KCUMB.

As a result of these visits, we received constructive feedback in areas where improvements can be made, and we heard validation of other processes where we already excel.

Although final reports from both accrediting organizations are still pending, the feedback received thus far has played an important role in identifying key initiatives to include in the University's strategic planning process, which will be finalized in late spring or early summer. The Strategic Plan is critical to KCUMB as it lays out a roadmap for moving the University forward in the years ahead.

We are working diligently to develop a comprehensive scorecard for strategic planning that sets measurable goals and fosters a higher level of accountability throughout the University community. The scorecard is scheduled to be presented to the Board of Trustees in mid-April for review and will provide the means for alumni, students, faculty, staff and other constituents to measure our progress. It is yet another tool we hope will allow us to be more transparent in everything we do.

KCUMB is also working with a local architectural planning firm to lead development of the University's first Campus Master Plan. This plan will dovetail closely with the Strategic Plan, and help us identify facility needs for the future. We anticipate presenting the Campus Master Plan to the University community during Homecoming, scheduled for Sept. 19-22.

In addition to the internal work and planning that everyone at KCUMB has been involved in, the



H. Danny Weaver, D.O.  
(COM '84), FACOFP

University continues to make a positive impact on the community, both locally and abroad.

KCUMB continues to support redevelopment efforts in Kansas City's historic Northeast Neighborhood, where our campus is located. It is important that the University has a seat at the table, so to speak, and we continue developing positive relationships through our work with surrounding neighborhood associations and other groups.

Score 1 for Health, which conducted its final health screenings of the school year in late January, contin-

ues to serve thousands of the Kansas City area's most vulnerable elementary-age children. We are happy to announce that Score 1 for Health is officially merging with the University once again, after having spent the past six years as its own non-profit organization. (Read more about Score 1 for Health on Page 21.)

In late February, faculty, staff and student volunteers returned from an exhilarating and fulfilling 17-day medical mission to remote areas of Guatemala with DOCARE International. The trip not only provided much-needed medical care, but also provided valuable early clinical experiences for our students. (Read more about the trip on Page 14.)

In recent months, we have expanded our efforts to reach alumni and friends of the University through social media avenues, including Facebook and Twitter. I encourage you to become better informed about what's happening at KCUMB by joining us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/kcumb](http://www.facebook.com/kcumb) and [www.facebook.com/kcumbalumni](http://www.facebook.com/kcumbalumni)) or Twitter ([www.twitter.com/kcumb](http://www.twitter.com/kcumb)). (Read more about the University's social media efforts on Page 22.)

On a personal note, it has been a pleasure getting to visit with many KCUMB alumni this past year. My wife, Debra Albers, D.O. (COM '86), and I recently attended the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association Convention and the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians Convention. I look forward to meeting many more alumni soon during the Kansas Association of Osteopathic Physicians Conference and the Missouri Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons Conference.

Thank you again for all you do for KCUMB. ●



# Spring 2012

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Editorial Director  
**SCOTT SUMMERS**

Art Director  
**CORTNEY CHRISTENSEN**

Vice President for University Relations  
NATALIE LUTZ

President and Chief Executive Officer  
H. DANNY WEAVER, D.O. (COM '84)

We welcome your responses to this publication.

Please write to:  
EDITOR, KCUMB COMMUNICATOR  
KANSAS CITY UNIVERSITY  
OF MEDICINE AND BIOSCIENCES  
1750 INDEPENDENCE AVENUE  
KANSAS CITY, MO 64106-1453

Send Email to:  
COMMUNICATOR@KCUMB.EDU

Visit:  
[WWW.KCUMB.EDU/MYLETTER](http://WWW.KCUMB.EDU/MYLETTER)

Please send all address changes to Christine Wahlert, executive director of alumni and donor relations, at [cwahlert@kcumb.edu](mailto:cwahlert@kcumb.edu) or visit [www.kcumb.edu/updateinfo](http://www.kcumb.edu/updateinfo).

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Cover Photo  
CORTNEY CHRISTENSEN

ON THE COVER: BRADY HANSON, A FOURTH-YEAR OSTEOPATHIC MEDICAL STUDENT, EXAMINES A YOUNG GIRL DURING KCUMB'S RECENT DO CARE MEDICAL MISSION IN GUATEMALA.

**KCUMB**  
COMMUNICATOR

## IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE: BRAIN INJURY MOTIVATES ALUM TO HELP OTHERS

After suffering a traumatic brain injury in a collision with a drunk driver, Thomas Seastrunk, D.O. (COM '97), becomes an advocate for patients.



4

8



## RISING FROM THE RUBBLE: A SMALL-TOWN DOC REBUILDS

When tornadoes destroyed his two Alabama clinics on the same day, Stanley Keith Morrow, D.O. (COM '85), remained focused on caring for his patients.



14



## MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

Dozens of KCUMB students, faculty and alumni team up with DOCARE International to diagnose and treat more than 3,100 patients in Guatemala.

## PLUS...

Campus News.....	20
Alumni News.....	25
Class Notes.....	28
Passages.....	31
Last Look.....	32





## We Asked ...

### ANYONE HAVE GOOD SNOW STORIES FROM MEDICAL SCHOOL?

In winter of 2002, we had an ice storm in KC that shutdown the whole city. Woke up to a world encased in ice – even my car (what a hassle chipping it out). The whole city was beautiful. Everyone chipped in together to take care of those without power. Loved the KCUMB family spirit.

Paula Schwartz, D.O. (COM '06)

### WHO WERE YOU MOST THANKFUL FOR DURING MEDICAL SCHOOL?

I am thankful for the incredible friends I met while attending KCUMB, who supported me while I was there, and continue to be close friends over five years later, even while scattered across the country.

Crystal Seluk, D.O. (COM '06)

### ABOUT SCORE 1 FOR HEALTH CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF SERVICE ...

Great program! Wonderful learning opportunity for me as a medical student. Now that I have been a pediatrician for seven years, serving in an underserved area, I can really appreciate what great service Score 1 for Health is doing. Keep it up!

Lou Hakan, D.O. (COM '02)

## Got Something to Say?

Submit a Letter to the Editor at [www.kcumb.edu/myletter](http://www.kcumb.edu/myletter) or by email to [communicator@kcumb.edu](mailto:communicator@kcumb.edu). Please limit your letter to 175 words. We cannot guarantee that your letter will be printed. Letters may be edited for length, style, clarity and civility.

## Editor's Note

The KCUMB Communicator will now be published three times a year to keep you better informed regarding what's going on at KCUMB.

## Correction

In the Winter 2011 issue of the KCUMB Communicator, the number of children who received free health screenings from Score 1 for Health was incorrectly listed. Score 1 for Health provided more than 13,000 free health screenings in the past academic year. The KCUMB Communicator staff regrets the error.

## Keep in Touch!

KCUMB MAIN SWITCHBOARD  
816-654-7000  
1-800-234-4847 TOLL-FREE

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS  
816-654-7200  
[COMDEAN@KCUMB.EDU](mailto:COMDEAN@KCUMB.EDU)

ADMINISTRATION/PRESIDENT'S OFFICE  
816-654-7100  
[OPENDOOR@KCUMB.EDU](mailto:OPENDOOR@KCUMB.EDU)

ADMISSIONS  
816-654-7160, 877-425-0247  
[ADMISSIONS@KCUMB.EDU](mailto:ADMISSIONS@KCUMB.EDU)

ADVANCEMENT/ALUMNI RELATIONS  
816-654-7280  
[ALUMNI@KCUMB.EDU](mailto:ALUMNI@KCUMB.EDU)

CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION  
816-654-7350, 877-425-0248  
[CME@KCUMB.EDU](mailto:CME@KCUMB.EDU)

D'ANGELO LIBRARY  
816-654-7260  
[LIBRARY@KCUMB.EDU](mailto:LIBRARY@KCUMB.EDU)

DYBEDAL CENTER FOR CLINICAL RESEARCH  
816-654-7650  
[CRC@KCUMB.EDU](mailto:CRC@KCUMB.EDU)

FINANCIAL AID  
816-654-7175, 877-425-0247  
[FINAID@KCUMB.EDU](mailto:FINAID@KCUMB.EDU)

HUMAN RESOURCES  
816-654-7010  
[EMPLOYMENT@KCUMB.EDU](mailto:EMPLOYMENT@KCUMB.EDU)

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY CLINICAL EDUCATION  
816-654-7330, 877-425-0248  
[OCCE@KCUMB.EDU](mailto:OCCE@KCUMB.EDU)

REGISTRAR'S OFFICE  
816-654-7190, 877-425-0247  
[REGISTRAR@KCUMB.EDU](mailto:REGISTRAR@KCUMB.EDU)

SCORE 1 FOR HEALTH  
816-654-7960  
[SCORE1@KCUMB.EDU](mailto:SCORE1@KCUMB.EDU)

STUDENT AFFAIRS  
816-654-7210  
[STUSERVICES@KCUMB.EDU](mailto:STUSERVICES@KCUMB.EDU)

UNIVERSITY RELATIONS  
816-654-7030  
[COMMUNICATOR@KCUMB.EDU](mailto:COMMUNICATOR@KCUMB.EDU)

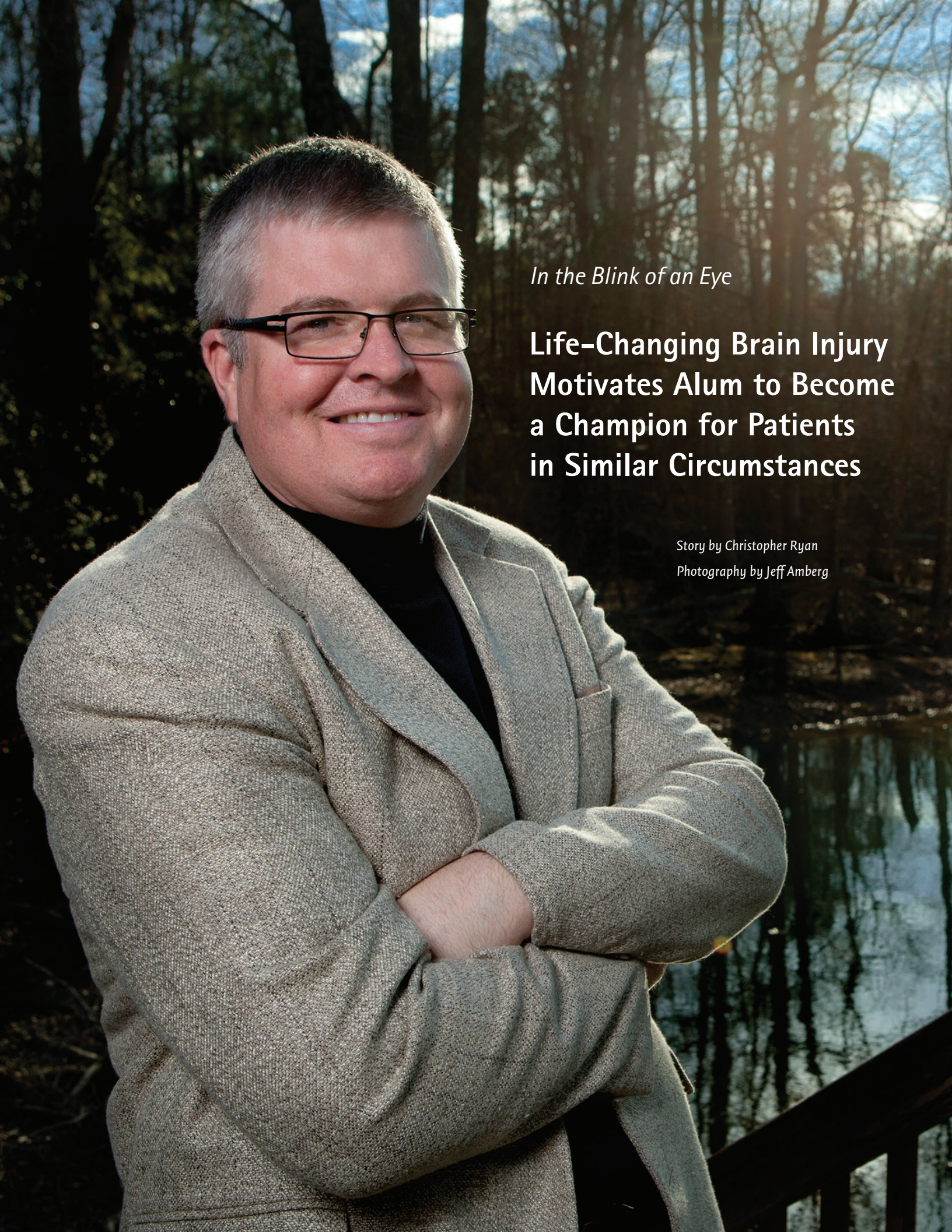
## REMEMBER WHEN ...

Students play pool in the student lounge in 1967.

What do you remember most about your time at KCUMB? If you have an interesting historical photo, email it to [communicator@kcumb.edu](mailto:communicator@kcumb.edu) with a brief description. We cannot guarantee that your photo will be printed.





A man with short, graying hair and black-rimmed glasses is smiling at the camera. He is wearing a light-colored, textured blazer over a dark turtleneck. His arms are crossed over his chest. He is standing outdoors in a wooded area with a body of water in the background. The lighting is warm, suggesting late afternoon or early morning. The background shows bare trees and a reflection in the water.

*In the Blink of an Eye*

**Life-Changing Brain Injury  
Motivates Alum to Become  
a Champion for Patients  
in Similar Circumstances**

Story by Christopher Ryan

Photography by Jeff Amberg



Until Jan. 19, 2003, Thomas Seastrunk, D.O. (COM '97), was practicing medicine in Columbia, S.C., and looking forward to doing the work he loved for many years to come. His plans changed abruptly when a collision with a drunk driver sent him not only to the emergency room with life-threatening injuries, but also on an unanticipated and unwelcome journey into a new life.

So far, the course of that new life has included the death of his mother, divorce and the inability to practice medicine with his father. Yet, for everything that has happened, Dr. Seastrunk views himself as one of the lucky ones.

He still has problems related to his brain injury. His memory is not what it once was. He has some trouble controlling his anger. But he plays golf, makes music and wine, and practices his karate. He also spreads the word about traumatic brain injury, commonly referred to as TBI.

"My recovery has progressed way beyond expectations, and I am able to do things I never thought I would again," Dr. Seastrunk wrote on the South Carolina Brain Injury Leadership Council website ([www.scbilc.com](http://www.scbilc.com)). "However, the worst part was finding out how little we know about TBI. As a physician, I must admit that as a group, physicians are but children when it comes to understanding TBI ... The only way to combat this shortcoming is through education and awareness."

### Nearly the Same Guy

Matt Diamond, D.O. (COM '03), saw Dr. Seastrunk as a mentor. Dr. Diamond did a rotation in 2002 at the office where Dr. Seastrunk practiced with his father. The younger Dr. Seastrunk and Dr. Diamond soon became friends.

Not long after Dr. Diamond completed that clerkship, he found himself in the ER, where his friend lay bloody and unconscious.

"I was one of the first people to see him after his accident," Dr. Diamond said. "He was about as broken up as anybody I've seen in my practice."

In the days following the accident, Dr. Diamond visited the trauma unit as often as he could. Over time, he watched as Dr. Seastrunk recovered from his injuries and went on to a long rehabilitation.

"He's still the same guy I remember," Dr. Diamond said. "His short-term memory is not as good, and he tends to repeat himself, but he can still swing a golf club."

That Dr. Seastrunk has recovered to the point where he is nearly the same person is testimony to his strong will and the support he has received.

As Dr. Seastrunk himself points out, every brain injury is different, but when it comes to recovery from TBI, one thing is always true: Time, patience and professionalism are critical. Because of excellent, consistent care and family support, Dr. Seastrunk is, in the words of his counselor, Rafe Ellisor, a licensed master social worker (LMSW), "the most highly functioning brain injury patient I've ever seen."

The majority of people who suffer brain injury are not so fortunate.

"Recovery, making a living and having relationships are not the norm" among people with TBI, said Ellisor, also a certified brain injury specialist. "Thomas went to the best rehab available. That was just the start of the process of getting better, but he was referred on as he continued to recover, not missing a step."

Too many people with TBI miss steps in their recovery or never really begin the process at all. Often, the journey simply ends too soon.

The lack of ongoing care is sometimes a consequence of the injury itself. Patients whose judgment and memory have been affected by TBI do not continue their therapy because they are unable to follow through. This problem, Ellisor said, is the reason support from family, friends and medical professionals is so critical.

*Continued on page 6*

Dr. Seastrunk continues to recover from the traumatic brain injury he suffered in 2003. Working with Rafe Ellisor (seated, at right), a certified brain injury specialist, has been an important component of his therapy.





## Finding a New Road

When Dr. Seastrunk tried to go back to the practice of medicine, it soon became clear it was not to be. His impaired short-term memory prevented him from delivering the level of care he had previously been able to provide.

“What has frustrated Thomas the most is that he really enjoyed practicing medicine,” Dr. Diamond said. “He had a real passion for it. He really liked working with the patients.”

The transition away from direct patient care was not easy. “I finally had to be told, ‘It’s not going to happen,’” Dr. Seastrunk said. “I would not be returning to medicine.”

It was a hard blow. However, Dr. Seastrunk was fortunate. He had the personal and professional support he needed to adapt to his new circumstances. His father and sister encouraged him, and he could turn to his friends and caregivers, including Dr. Diamond, Ellisor and Daniel Westerkam, M.D., who specializes in physical medicine and rehabilitation.

Dr. Westerkam knew Dr. Seastrunk before the accident that nearly ended his life. He consulted on the case while Dr. Seastrunk lay unresponsive in the intensive care unit.

“In the beginning, it looked pretty grim for him,” Dr. Westerkam said, noting that he thought there was a good chance the badly injured man would not survive.

Dr. Westerkam knew what lay ahead should Dr. Seastrunk live, and he told Dr. Seastrunk’s parents the facts. There would be a long recovery. He could not say how much recovery was possible. Their son would undergo extensive rehabilitation, and he would not be able to live on his own for a long time.

Dr. Westerkam was right. It would be some time before Dr. Seastrunk could function on his own. But it did happen – to a degree that surprised everyone.

Over the years, Dr. Seastrunk became one of the Southeast’s strongest voices for people with traumatic brain injury. He joined the South Carolina Brain Injury Leadership Council and rose to lead the Brain Injury Alliance of

South Carolina. He began addressing general audiences and groups of medical professionals about TBI. Dr. Seastrunk also teaches medical students about TBI, attempting to correct a deficit he sees in medical education.

“He is quite an advocate,” Dr. Westerkam said. “I’ll call him to talk to people about brain injury. He’s one of the first people I’ll call.”

## “Innocent Ignorance”

There in the hospital, listening to Dr. Westerkam map out the long road their son would have to travel, Dr. Seastrunk’s parents must have felt overwhelmed. But Dr. Seastrunk already had an advantage over many people who suffer TBI. He was in the hands of the first of many physicians and therapists who had moved beyond what Ellisor calls “innocent ignorance.”

“Innocent ignorance,” Ellisor said, describes the situation of medical professionals who, through no fault of their own, have not been exposed to what is known about TBI. For many medical professionals, not to mention the public at large, traumatic brain injury is, for the most part, terra incognita.

“It’s time to address brain injury because it’s understudied,” Dr. Seastrunk said. “We don’t know what’s going on.”

Before his accident, Dr. Seastrunk also knew little about the world of TBI. After his accident, he made it his mission to increase and share his knowledge. One thing he discovered was how complex TBI can be.

Dr. Westerkam, who has years of experience working with brain-injured patients, said TBI does not present patterns of symptoms the way a stroke might. Instead, TBI is a “diffuse axonal injury.”

The brain has been “bounced around,” he said. “The whole brain is injured, so the symptoms are highly variable.”

This lack of patterns has led to a kind of hands-off attitude, Ellisor said. Medical professionals do not know what to do about TBI, so they tend to stay away from it. Nevertheless, those physicians and therapists who do tackle TBI have made progress.

“Think about the difference now,” Ellisor said, speaking of people with traumatic brain injury just a few years ago. After their injury, patients would “convalesce,” he said. In other words, “there was no physical therapy, cognitive therapy. People who recover well today would have gotten bed sores and died.”

Even so, new knowledge and techniques have not been widely or evenly applied. It is true that the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have brought new attention to TBI, as have sports injuries. Still, Ellisor said, there is much ignorance and many misconceptions.

Dr. Seastrunk reviews his progress regularly with Daniel Westerkam, M.D., a specialist in physical medicine and rehabilitation. Dr. Westerkam knew Dr. Seastrunk before his injury and has helped guide him and his family through the recovery process.





Dr. Seastrunk's remarkable progress has been aided by the support he receives from family members and friends. Many people dealing with traumatic brain injuries are not as fortunate.

## A Long-Term Commitment

When he had recovered sufficiently after his accident, Dr. Seastrunk spent a month at the Brain Injury Rehabilitation Center in Charlotte, N.C., a world-renowned institution. He was then an outpatient at the HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital of Columbia for a year and a half.

By the time Dr. Seastrunk started cognitive-behavioral therapy with Ellisor, he was in rather good shape, physically. However, Ellisor said, "he struggled with the 'filter.' There was no block between his mind and his mouth. He was very angry. He could lose his cool in a heartbeat."

Dr. Seastrunk's problems were not entirely attributable to his TBI, although the brain injury certainly exacerbated them. His mother died within a year of his accident. His marriage was failing. His future was uncertain.

It was enough to overwhelm someone who was already dealing with cognitive deficits as well as chronic pain from vertebral fractures suffered in the collision – especially if adequate support were absent. According to Ellisor, that is exactly what too often happens.

Ellisor facilitates a brain injury support group. He has met people whose families simply do not understand what is happening.

"They think these folks are just being hard-headed," he said. "It's not hard-headed. It's poor insight, poor judgment."

Beyond the physical problems that might put people with TBI in a wheelchair or even disable them entirely, there are myriad other possible challenges. For example, they might think they can drive when they cannot because they have poor peripheral vision or other deficits, but they do not have the judgment to realize it.

Often, people with TBI can be quite gullible. They can be easily victimized, turning money over to swindlers or allowing their bank accounts to be drained by unscrupulous acquaintances.

The goal for anyone with TBI is to get back as close as possible to normalcy, Ellisor said. But for people with TBI, finding normal can be a long, difficult process, and it requires commitment, knowledge and understanding on the part of many people.

"Some people get care for a time but then fall through the cracks. Money runs out. Spouses say, 'That's not the person I married' or parents say, 'He's not our son anymore.' It's hard to stay with it."

However, staying with it is key, not only for the person with TBI but also the entire support system, professional

and non-professional. Of Dr. Seastrunk, Ellisor said, "If he would not have had the connections in the community, if he would not have had the family support, if he would not have had the therapeutic support, he would not have turned out as positively as he did."

Now, a little more than nine years later, Dr. Seastrunk lives a near-normal life because he has received the kind of care that creates the best outcome in cases of TBI. He sees himself as lucky, and he wants every person with TBI to be just as fortunate.

He is still undergoing cognitive-behavioral therapy with Ellisor. His recovery is not complete, nor will it ever be.

"It's a lifelong process," Ellisor said. "He'll have to deal with deficits every day. It never goes away." ●

**GOT SOMETHING TO SAY ABOUT THIS STORY? SUBMIT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR AT [WWW.KCUMB.EDU/MYLETTER](http://WWW.KCUMB.EDU/MYLETTER) OR BY EMAIL TO [COMMUNICATOR@KCUMB.EDU](mailto:COMMUNICATOR@KCUMB.EDU).**





# Expanding Their Horizons

Bioethics, Biomedical Sciences Programs  
Create New Opportunities for Students

Story by Christopher Ryan and Scott Summers

Photography by Bob Greenspan





**F**or Rebecca Fahlgren, D.O. (COM '10), earning a master's degree in biomedical sciences through KCUMB's College of Biosciences in 2006 served as a stepping stone, of sorts, toward her ultimate goal of becoming a physician.

"I am so thankful that I got my master's (at KCUMB) because I don't think that I would have performed the way that I wanted to in medical school had I not had a good background in research and also in the biomedical sciences," said Dr. Fahlgren, who is currently completing a residency in pediatrics through Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, Mo.

"You don't have much time as a physician to be able to sit and spend two hours reading one article," she said. "Now, I'm able to go through that article more quickly and get out of it the information that is important for me to maintain good patient care."

While Dr. Fahlgren used the biomedical sciences program to further her dream, how future graduates of KCUMB's College of Biosciences utilize their degrees in biomedical sciences or bioethics is up to them. A graduate may choose to become a research scientist in a laboratory, pursue an advanced degree in medicine or dentistry, serve on a workplace ethics board, go on to study nursing or chase any of a dozen different career paths. The list of opportunities students are able to pursue after earning a master's degree at KCUMB is limitless.

In many ways, that's exactly the point. Since it was established in 2004, the College of Biosciences has expanded the horizons of many of its graduates.

### Reaching Common Ground

As important as the science of medicine has become, Karen Divelbiss, M.D., believes medicine is so much more than just science. That belief is what drove her to pursue a master's degree in bioethics, something she said has helped her to overcome a gap she perceived in her medical education experiences.

"(Good physicians) are respectful of patients with different backgrounds and they seek common ground," Dr. Divelbiss said. "The art of practicing medicine requires insight about individual people living their own story. Their story informs their health, their ability to form relationships surrounding their health and the medical choices they make."

She also believes outstanding physicians regularly engage their patients in conversations that tackle real issues and that they share decision-making responsibility.

At the same time, Dr. Divelbiss also recognizes that the practice of medicine involves hard ethical and moral decisions. Physicians "are sometimes left with little chance of curing a patient and must face this with an openness that can be unsettling," she said. "Some decisions made against their advice and some decisions made following their advice will haunt them. These events can leave moral residue that a physician is left to process or carry through the years."

All students in KCUMB's College of Osteopathic Medi-

cine can participate in elective courses in bioethics. Those interested in taking it a step beyond electives can apply for a dual-degree track that concurrently allows students to earn a master of arts in bioethics along with a doctor of osteopathic medicine. So far, two dual-degree classes have graduated, with a third class scheduled to graduate in July.

The bioethics program also offers a one-year track, which includes a special science component and Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) training. The science component offers several choices, including a "science immersion" program – popularly known among the students as Science Fridays – modeled after the first year of medical school.

Included in the one-year master's program is a requirement that students get out into the community to gain first-hand experience with vulnerable populations.

"We wanted to have a service component, and we wanted to be able to pay attention to the needs of vulnerable populations who are all too often off the radar screen," said David Moller, Ph.D., professor and chair of bioethics.

Kristine Domingo, a second-year osteopathic medical student, recalls fondly the opportunities afforded her in the one-year bioethics program.

"I decided to research and write about homelessness in Kansas City," she said. "Through the experience, I learned how to create a research proposal, conduct interviews, and organize and execute my research. Needless to say, my bioethics experience was a year spent in growth, self-discovery and achievement."

Kristen Colyer, a fourth-year osteopathic medical student, said she learned to further appreciate the differences that will make each of her future patients unique.

"For me, it has prompted intense self-reflection and personal growth in the way of becoming more culturally sensitive and cognizant of the extreme disparities that exist in the world around me, especially in health care," said Colyer, a participant in the one-year bioethics program.

Dr. Moller said a strong foundation in bioethics not only promotes personal growth in students, but also makes for better doctors in the long run. It can also have a positive impact as students apply for residencies, he said.

*Continued on page 10*

**“Knowing about a person's life experiences and how that shapes how they perceive illness goes hand in hand with the holistic view of osteopathic medicine. It's crucial to understand where someone is coming from in order to help them.”**



Melanie Robbins, a bioethics and osteopathic medicine dual-degree student, on why bioethics is important to her



“On a practical level, it’s going to make them more competitive for highly desirable residencies,” Dr. Moller said. “Residency directors are very keenly interested in their bioethics training. Once they get into clerkships and residencies, it’s going to set them apart and differentiate them from their peers who don’t have this training.”

The bioethics program also provides working professionals – practicing physicians, nurses, lawyers, chaplains and other health-care workers – opportunities to enhance their knowledge, credentials and careers. Dr. Divelbiss, one of those working professionals, understands how important a foundation in bioethics is to practicing good medicine. She just wishes she could have received training in bioethics earlier, while she was in medical school.

“None of these ideas were addressed when I was a medical student, but they are so important to the practice of medicine,” Dr. Divelbiss said. “I am proud of the program at KCUMB. They are enriching the education of medical students with tools by which to handle some of the more complex aspects of real, human interactions.”

### Building a Solid Scientific Foundation

Dr. Fahlgren is thankful she had the opportunity to improve her understanding of scientific and medical literature before starting medical school. She is one of many students who have earned a master of science in biomedical sciences degree, then successfully transitioned into medical school.

“Medical school is a very challenging program, and students coming out of undergraduate school directly into medical school often find themselves overwhelmed,” said Doug Rushing, Ph.D., dean of the College of Biosciences and professor of biochemistry. Dr. Rushing is quick to point out that the degree also prepares students for success in many other health-related programs, such as in dentistry, veterinary medicine and nursing.

“What we teach students today is obsolete in 10 to 20 years,” he said. “Any competent physician needs to stay on top of their field to provide the best possible care for their



**“ I’ll always be thinking in the back of my mind: Is there more out there that we know about this? Is there a different strategy, a different modality that I can try that may not be the standard, but that might be a little more promising? As someone coming from a biomedical sciences background, you’re more apt to think outside of the box. ”**



Christopher Coppock, a 2010 graduate of the biomedical sciences program and current second-year osteopathic medical student, on how his biomedical sciences degree has helped him

patients. The way to do that is to be able to pick up medical literature and read that with comprehension.”

Pursuing a career in medicine is just one of many options available to students earning a M.S. in biomedical sciences. Students who want to improve their ability to be admitted to a doctoral program can choose a one-year M.S. in biomedical sciences. Unlike the one-year master of arts in bioethics track, students pursuing the biomedical sciences track all take the same courses.

Dr. Rushing points toward what might be called an “aha student” as an example of the kind of individual who might opt for the one-year M.S. in biomedical sciences. In most cases, the student might not have chosen a health-related degree path in college, only later realizing a true calling in medicine.

For students whose ambition is to become a research assistant in a research laboratory or hospital, the two-year program for a M.S. in biomedical sciences is a good choice. It is also a strong option for students who wish to earn a Ph.D. and want to enhance their academic resumé. To complete the degree in the two-year program, students must perform an original research project and write a thesis.

“The students actually undergo a research project, which has many twists and turns that they don’t expect, and they have to develop the technique of being able to analyze data, understand it and interpret it,” said Robert White, Ph.D., professor of medical genetics and molecular biology.

Often, students’ classroom work is directly related to their laboratory experiences.

“It is tailor-made to the students’ interests and includes courses that would be relevant to the research that the student is pursuing,” Dr. Rushing said. ●

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# Rising from the Rubble: A Small-Town Doc Rebuilds

Story by Monica Rix Paxson

Photography by David Higginbotham

**S**tanley Keith Morrow, D.O. (COM '85), had quite a year in 2011. Both of the practices he built from the ground up were destroyed in a single day – part of an April outbreak of 359 tornadoes that swept across 21 states in the worst natural disaster in the United States since Hurricane Katrina – and he was named the nation's "Country Doctor of the Year."

As one newscast put it, the small communities where Dr. Morrow practiced were "wiped from the map" by EF5 tornadoes, the strongest and most destructive tornadoes. While it wasn't entirely true that the towns vanished (FEMA says they were approximately 75 percent destroyed), everyone agrees that the level of devastation was incomprehensible. More than 50 people died in the communities of Hackleburg (population 1,527) and Phil Campbell (population 1,091), both located in northwest Alabama, where Dr. Morrow practiced. Many of them had been his patients. Little remained standing; nothing was undamaged.

## *It Started with Caring*

For a quarter of a century before the storms, Dr. Morrow served his rural Alabama communities with a level of dedication that is only possible if you really love what you are doing. He speaks openly about how he genuinely loves the people he cares for, and he is loved and trusted in return.

For Dr. Morrow, the challenge of having a personal bond with his patients is that when someone dies he knows what they meant to their family, to their community. But there is an upside to his rural practice as well. His connection with his patients is so close that Dr. Morrow admits, "Sometimes people say, 'You know, you don't feel like no doctor, you feel like you're my family,' and I think that kind of bond is different than most urban doctors have."

At this point in his career, Dr. Morrow, now in his mid-50s, has cared for several generations in some families.

Dr. Morrow grew up on a small family farm in Red Bay, Ala., 25 miles from where he now practices. As a small-

town boy, he was an unlikely candidate for medical school since he lacked exposure to anyone with a medical background. But he did well in chemistry and biology, and meeting some people from Kansas City led to attending KCUMB.

"The stuff that you remember from school are the study groups and the friends you make, and what seem like really hard times," he recalled. "But the hard times are when you come out and you have to be responsible for a practice. For me, it's like having a child. It's your own baby."

Soon after graduating from medical school in 1985, Dr. Morrow returned to his roots to start a practice in Phil Campbell. In 1987, he started a second clinic in Hackleburg, a few miles southwest. He has a devoted staff and is an active member of the medical staff at nearby Russellville

Continued on page 12



Hospital. Despite days that begin with hospital rounds at 6:30 a.m. and office hours that run until 6:30 p.m. while seeing 50 patients a day, Dr. Morrow has no regrets about the choices he's made. He has rarely taken more than a long weekend away for vacation – he remembers taking a week off once – although he lives on a lake, enjoys boating and is a big fan of the University of Alabama.

### *The Day the World Turned Upside Down*

Patti Baker, Dr. Morrow's office manager for 13 years, recalls that the weather had been stormy the morning of April 27 and just seemed to be getting worse.

"I called Dr. Morrow in Hackleburg and said, 'It's getting real bad up here,' because it had hailed so bad. 'We may need to go home,' he told me. 'Let's just go home.' As soon as we got through the patients that were already in the office and called the others to reschedule, we left. That was about 11:30."

That was the last time Patti would see the office in Phil Campbell intact. Later that afternoon, the building was entirely destroyed along with most of the town. Just a few minutes earlier, the town of Hackleburg had also been demolished and Dr. Morrow's clinic there had been torn to bits as well.

When Patti returned after the storm later that day to retrieve important papers, nothing was recognizable.

"I tried to get there with my husband and daughter, but we couldn't get into town because of downed power lines and trees that were blocking the road," she said. "They finally got us routed around, but we had to park and walk to the clinic. You couldn't even tell where you were. That

“ **When you see this, it makes you appreciate life as a whole more.** ”

*Stanley Keith Morrow, D.O. (COM '85),  
honored as the 2011 "Country Doctor  
of the Year"*

was something that I'll never forget. Every car we walked by had no windows in it. All the windows exploded out of the cars. We found where the clinic had been because we saw red. We'd had red walls in our lobby, and we recognized the place by the one red wall that was still standing."

Seeing the devastation left by an EF5 tornado is indeed unforgettable. According to the National Weather Service, an EF5 tornado has winds topping 200 miles per hour and is capable of causing an extremely high degree of damage.

That was definitely the case in Alabama. Nearly a mile across and with wind speeds of more than 230 mph, the tornado didn't just blow branches off the trees, it stripped the bark off the trunks leaving twisted, limbless stumps in the ground, frayed ends pointing skyward. Houses and buildings were ripped off their foundations.

For all the physical damage, the real tragedy of an EF5 tornado is the loss of life. A person cannot typically survive a direct hit, unless in a reinforced shelter.

Dr. Morrow said the ordeal has taught him a lot.

"When you see this, it makes you appreciate life as a whole more," Dr. Morrow said, recalling the moment when he first stood in the rubble of his own clinic. "You know, all of us in the health-care industry understand how fragile life is. This demonstrated the fragility of life in a whole other sense. When you understand that and you look at the rubble around you, you see what life actually means to you. You ask, 'What do I want to do with the rest of my life?'"

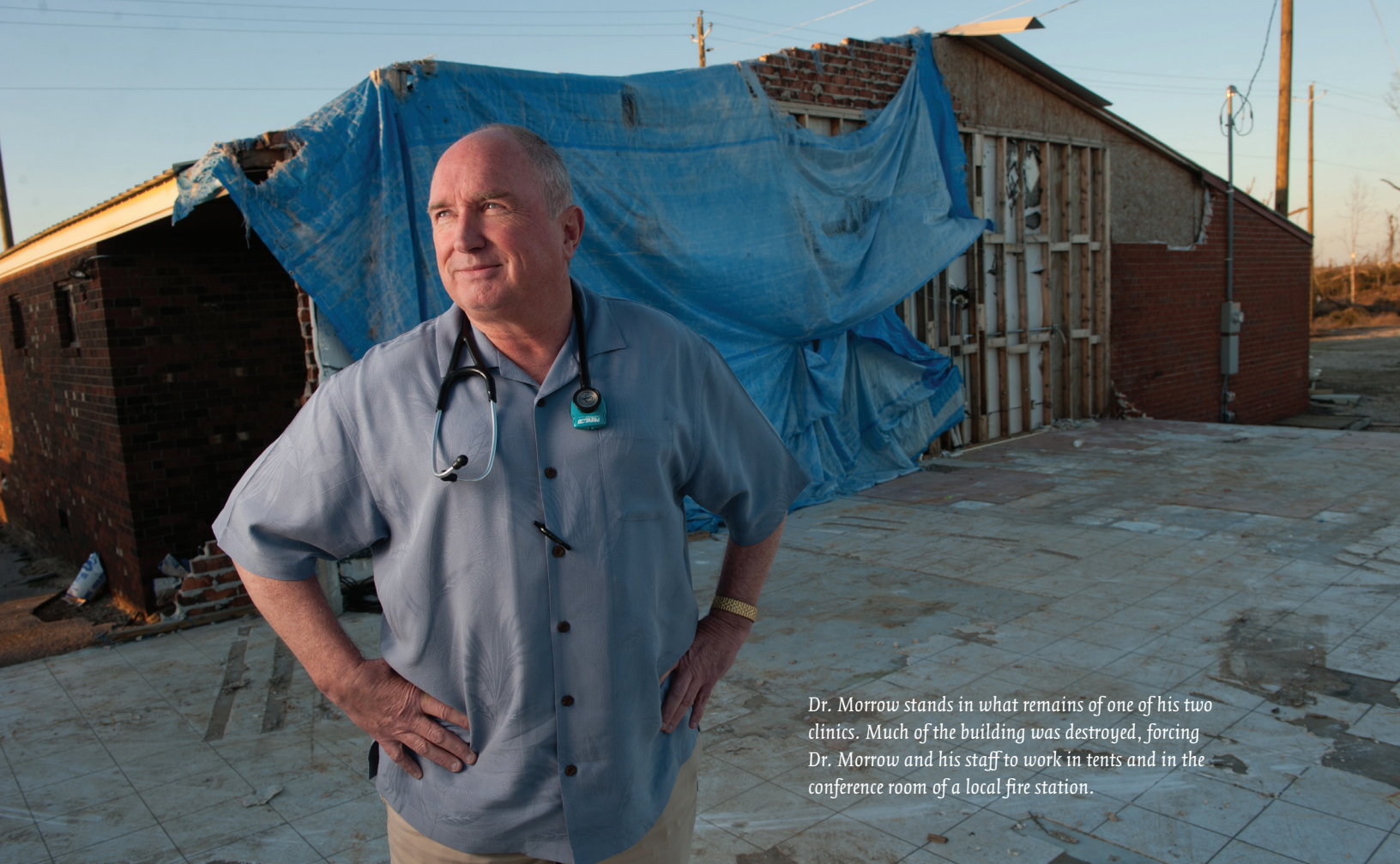
The answer for Dr. Morrow was a resolve to use what remains of his career to serve his patients and to rebuild where his patients needed him. There was no question of quitting or moving his offices to Russellville, about 20 miles away, where space was readily available. In fact, by 8:30 the next morning, his staff were already sorting through the rubble in an attempt to find what equipment and medical records they could – almost nothing could be salvaged – and he was making hospital rounds and strategizing with his wife about how to get up and running again.

"That was all he kept saying," Patti recalls. "We got to get back. Our patients need us," he said, because of all they'd just been through. Most everybody here had just lost a family member."

Dr. Morrow visits with a patient in March, approximately 11 months after both of his two clinics were destroyed. For his efforts to help his patients immediately following the tornadoes, Dr. Morrow was named the 2011 "Country Doctor of the Year" by Staff Care.







Dr. Morrow stands in what remains of one of his two clinics. Much of the building was destroyed, forcing Dr. Morrow and his staff to work in tents and in the conference room of a local fire station.

### *Climbing Out of the Rubble*

Monday morning, after an enormous team effort over the previous days, both offices were reopened in temporary locations. One office reopened using Army Reserve tents, while the other was housed in the conference room of the local rescue squad's building – a building where officials had established a temporary morgue in the parking lot. Logistics had to be coordinated by text message since there was no phone service nor electricity, and Dr. Morrow moved back and forth from one town to the other, even seeing some patients in their cars when mobility was an issue.

The rescue squad that pulled people from the rubble practiced medical triage, sending the most critically injured patients to hospitals, but leaving many more of the injured to be treated locally. Counselors were brought in to help people cope with the psychological trauma they were suffering. Eventually, a trailer donated by a beverage company and modified with makeshift examination rooms replaced the tents Dr. Morrow and his team had been using.

"At least we had basic sanitation, then," Dr. Morrow said.

Today, a few new homes have replaced the rubble in Hackleburg, and there will be more homes being built in Phil Campbell as the weather improves. Children are attending school in trailers, anxiously awaiting completion of a new school being built. The congregation whose church was destroyed no longer has to meet in a tent. They are rebuilding one of the damaged structures. Dr. Morrow and his staff were able to move into newly constructed medical

offices in August in Phil Campbell and in February in Hackleburg. Life in the area is slowly improving.

In a show of compassion and generosity to honor the losses the two communities experienced, Dr. Morrow and his wife have applied to form a non-profit organization they plan on calling Primary Care Healthfirst, or PCH. But for Dr. Morrow, the acronym will always stand for Phil Campbell and Hackleburg. With the new organization, they hope to help other small towns when disaster strikes by sending a mobile medical clinic.

"We would practice in the back end of a tractor trailer," Dr. Morrow said. "Our clinic was in an 18-wheeler trailer and it worked. It wasn't lavish and it wasn't great, but it worked."

In December, Staff Care, an organization that provides temporary medical staffing, named Dr. Morrow as its "Country Doctor of the Year" for being the physician who best exemplifies the spirit, skill and dedication of America's rural medical practitioners.

As part of the honor, Staff Care will provide Dr. Morrow with a temporary physician to fill in for him at no charge while he enjoys two weeks off. Dr. Morrow said he is considering taking his wife to Italy, a place she's always wanted to visit, but probably only for a week.

"It's hard to turn over your patients to somebody else," he said. ●

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# Making a World of Difference

Story and photography  
by Cortney Christensen

Imagine commuting to your clinic or hospital for three hours through the mountains on a refurbished school bus, over narrow, dirt roads and cobblestone lanes. When you arrive, 100 people are lined up waiting to see you, and you must share your exam room with six other doctors and their patients. You have no clean running water, and must occasionally deal with stray dogs and livestock wandering through. Finally, you must communicate with your patients in a language that you just started learning a few weeks ago.

This was reality for the 29 KCUMB students who traveled to Guatemala for two weeks in February 2012 as part of a medical mission with DOCARE International. They were led by KCUMB faculty members Gautam Desai, D.O., Richard Ogden, D.O., Richard Magie, D.O., and Don McCandless, Ph.D., and joined by 35 KCUMB alumni, volunteers, and faculty and students from other medical institutions, including the University of North Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine, University of Missouri-Kansas City, and Touro University Nevada College of Osteopathic Medicine and School of Physician Assistant Studies.

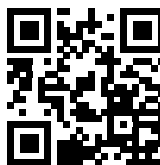
Their mission was to provide much-needed health care to people in Guatemala who have little access to the kinds of medical resources that most people in the U.S. take for granted. They visited eight communities and saw more than 3,100 patients. The following pages contain first-hand accounts from some of the third- and fourth-year students as they dealt with the joys and struggles of serving abroad. ●

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KCUMB staff members Cortney Christensen, graphic designer, and Beth Dollase, vice president for advancement, accompanied the KCUMB delegation to Guatemala.

Read a blog about their experiences, view videos and photo galleries, or make a donation to KCUMB's annual DOCARE trip to Guatemala by visiting [www.kcumb.edu/MagazineExtras](http://www.kcumb.edu/MagazineExtras) or using your smartphone to scan this QR code:







## Mary Anne Estacio

When I think about why I wanted to participate in the DOCARE Guatemala trip, the "Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi" comes to mind. It says to "make me an instrument of your peace ... for it is in giving that we receive." Growing up in a Third-World country, it has always been very important to me to be able to participate in medical outreach. I wanted to go to Guatemala so I could meet the people there one on one and see through my own eyes the health disparity that exists. I wanted to be able to help them with my actions. In addition, I wanted to get the experience and education from a medical outreach trip so that I may be able to lead my own trips in the future. Now that I am back, I am so glad and honored to have worked with my fellow classmates and professors that went. It was amazing to have 40-plus people work so well together as a team and to make such an impact on the people's lives. I went to Guatemala seeking to help improve people's lives, but in reality, the people there helped to improve me as a person. They have reaffirmed my love of being able to help people through medicine and helped me to grow as a better physician. The trip to Guatemala is a priceless rotation. I'm so glad that I went.

## Aaron Meyer

At first, I was unsure of the kind of impact we would be able to make in two short weeks. I had become somewhat skeptical of short-term medical missions because so much of medicine is dealing with chronic conditions. However, when I stepped foot in some of the villages we visited, I was immediately convinced that any kind of help we could offer was going to make a huge impact in the lives of the people we would see. It was so gratifying to see the faces of the people I could give medications to for infections, gastritis, headaches or arthritis. It brought joy to my heart every time a child was given a toy, a sticker and some vitamins to help them grow strong, healthy and happy. I couldn't help but smile each time someone put on a pair of glasses and acted as if they could see for the first time.



## Michelle Wyszomirski



I learned about the DOCARE trip to Guatemala even before I started at KCUMB, and it was one of my biggest draws to the school. I had never done a mission trip, and I wanted to have the experience prior to residency. I knew that it would motivate me when I am a busy doctor to make time for international medical trips. It was extremely gratifying as a future OB/GYN just to be able to pass out prenatal vitamins to malnourished females. The patients were extremely thankful for the treatment and education we shared with them. It is amazing to think how lessons on basic hygiene can make a tremendous difference in some of the towns we visited. I am grateful for this opportunity, and I hope that DOCARE can continue to be a gateway for many more KCUMB students to become involved in international medicine.



## Chrystal Detweiler



Although we went with trunks full of medications, I truly feel what we gave to the patients weren't baggies of pills or tubes of cream. Our presence let them know that someone in the world cared for their health and well-being. They knew that their ailments weren't ignored and their voices were listened to. Knowledge was something else we imparted upon the patients. Whether it was diabetic teaching or simple sanitary instructions, our patients were empowered with information. Even when the baggies of pills run out, they will still be able to recall the conversation had at our clinic. It is most important to realize that this medical trip has not reached its full potential. I hope future trips will expand on our impact, knowing that there will always be more we can do and more we can give of ourselves. I am so thankful for what I have learned from the generous and grateful people of Guatemala.

## Jaclyn Allred

I decided to go to Guatemala because I had such an amazing time on the trip the previous year. It is truly a one-of-a-kind experience, one that every medical student should have the chance to participate in. I would encourage anyone considering the trip to go because afterward, you will be so thankful you did. The patients are in desperate need of medical care. They are willing to wait in line for hours in the sun, even if to only receive 30 vitamins for their child – and for this, they are beyond grateful. It is very hard to accept the huge disparities that exist. It really opens your eyes to the luxury we live in at home. One of my biggest challenges was frustration due to the limited resources we had to offer some patients. Dr. Desai is currently doing epidemiological studies to improve the mission each year and to better plan for what medications to bring.



## Paul Rotert



My time in Guatemala opened my eyes to a community of genuine, hard-working people who were not looking for charity, but rather a partnership in their health and an opportunity for a better life. My biggest challenges were difficulty with communicating in another language and adjusting to a lower-resource setting. Some of the patients needed further testing or follow-up that we could not offer during our short trip. This reaffirmed the importance of continuity of care and creating a sustainable, long-lasting partnership when working internationally. Many of the people we saw had very little, but this did not mean they deserved second-rate care. One's health is so vital to their life, and every person on earth deserves equal treatment regardless of borders, social status or wealth.



*Lindsey Bayer*



The first clinic day was very frustrating for me because I really struggled speaking Spanish and communicating. However, after that first day, things became better. I think my most cherished moment was one day when a mother brought her two children to the clinic. One of them was underweight and we diagnosed him with having parasites. When we sent them over to the pharmacy to get their medicines, they misunderstood us and left before receiving them. I had been looking around for them and realized they were gone, so another student and I left the clinic and chased them down on the street. We brought them back and gave them the medicines with instructions. The mother started crying and told us how thankful she was for what we were doing. That moment really touched my life and made me feel like we made a difference.

*Renato Aller-Zumaeta*

A common mistake students going on mission trips make is pitying the people who are welcoming us into their country, thinking how lucky we are back in the U.S. for having all those "commodities" and "things." If we realize that lucky are those who live free of the unnecessary excess and material clutter that we fill our lives with, we will understand that we can learn more from them than they can learn from us.



*Amy Prudhomme*

I will always remember this trip as one of the best experiences I've had in medical school. I've been on mission trips before that were non-medical in nature, visiting orphanages, building churches, etc. Although these past trips were very meaningful, the ability to practice what I've learned over the past four years in order to provide quality health care to people in dire need was exhilarating. It fulfilled so many of my long-time hopes and dreams to play a very active role on a medical mission trip. Meeting the precious people of Guatemala and experiencing their overwhelming love and appreciation for the great help you are providing is intoxicating. I will never forget the tears, kisses and Spanish blessings I received from a mother and her two young boys in exchange for the vitamins, anti-parasitics and Ibuprofen that was given to them by myself and a classmate of mine. These are things that you and I would normally take for granted. However, when these children experience real hunger and malnourishment, vitamins seem more precious than gold.



## Pooja Bhadbhade



I wasn't sure what to expect before we started, but after a few clinic days, I began to see some patterns. Many of the patients suffered from back pain, knee pain and headaches because they carry children on their backs or food and water on their heads while walking miles in the sun every day. While we only had certain medications, such as Ibuprofen and Tramadol, in addition to providing joint injections, I realized it was a perfect opportunity to utilize my unique osteopathic skills to help treat these patients. I used it on anyone with back pain, shoulder pain or headaches because I realized that many of the patients simply needed to be touched. I'm sure many of the women never take the time to relax or treat themselves since they are so devoted to tending to the children and house, so I felt that I could use my hands to relieve muscle tension and address pressure points.

## David Schwartz

What struck me about the people we saw in clinic was that the most basic things we take for granted are monumental to them. The largest impact we have is through patient education and information sharing. By reaching out to isolated people, we were able to teach them what their condition is, what treatment they need to follow up with and where to go to receive that treatment. For people who largely rely on medical care that comes from outside Guatemala, they need to know to access those resources. I am confident that we communicated valuable information and education as well as treating the common colds and ear infections.



## Kelly Reed

On day three of the trip to Tecpan, as we were winding precariously around the one-lane mountain road, I suddenly had the realization that we were actually making some sacrifices to help these people – as I pictured in my mind the bus careening over the edge of the cliff. Thankfully, our bus drivers were more than adept and got us safely to every site, though there was some uphill hiking on this particular occasion. Up until that point, I had reveled in the opportunity to see the countryside and beautiful clothing the locals wore, as well as take in the new sights and sounds of the eclectic city of Antigua. It was a flood of new sensory information that briefly overshadowed the gravity of what we were actually doing. The importance of what we were doing became real to me as we pulled into the Tecpan clinic site perched on the side of the mountain, overlooking a beautiful valley and inundated with people who lived in the community who had been waiting for hours for our arrival. There was barely room for our buses to unload as the patients waited for us along the narrow, mountain road. At that moment, I realized we really were making a difference in the lives of people, some of whom may have never seen a doctor before. It was incredibly rewarding.





## Amy Rice

While we were cleaning up and loading the bus, a few children who had not received toys earlier in the day asked me if we had any more. We had given out all the toys that we brought for the day. My spontaneous response was to rip out a piece of notebook paper, and I started folding it into a paper airplane. Paper airplanes – an easy solution, right!? After trying to remember how to fold the sacrificial notebook paper into a handcraft plane, I tried to fly it, and unfortunately, my paper airplane only soared for seconds before its embarrassing spiral crash to the floor.

I asked Dr. Magie if he could craft a better paper airplane, and he saved the day! He was able to construct a paper airplane that would continue flying until an outside force acted upon it. All the children stared in amazement. Suddenly, all the children and several medical students started flying the paper airplanes. It was quite a sight. I must say it was an incredible ending to a long, difficult day.

## Cory Jabara

One of the most important lessons I learned from this trip was that the ability to help others is a gift that must be used wisely. One cannot simply unleash curative treatment without regards for the consequences. As doctors, we cannot just think one step ahead; we have to think 10 steps ahead. Of course, this is important in the United States, but when you are providing medical treatment in a town where there is no immediate hospital or other medical care, you have to be especially mindful of the side effects of medications you are going to prescribe. With that being said, the consequences of treating must also be weighed carefully against the consequences of not treating. When the consequences of treatment were miniscule compared to the dangerous consequences of not treating, it made perfect sense to go ahead and treat.



## Jessica Tackett



One of my patients was a 6-year-old girl. She was there with her mom, who told me that the little girl had always had a cough. She also told me that the little girl doesn't speak well. She tries to speak, but her words are not understandable. I was afraid that my Spanish translation was off because the story wasn't making much sense. Once I examined the little girl, though, I saw that she had a cleft palate, which was most likely due to poor maternal nutrition and lack of proper vitamins during pregnancy. We instructed the mom to take the patient to the hospital in Antigua, because she would need surgery to fix the problem. I hope that they are able to do this; however, it is discouraging because it is highly unlikely that they have a vehicle and it is a three-hour drive with a vehicle, not to mention the expense of the trip, hospital stay and surgery. Very discouraging. I feel like, at this point, all I can do is pray that this little girl gets the operation she needs.



## Research Under the Microscope

# Mentoring Relationship Results in Student's Presentation at National Conference

Having the right connections, building the right bridges and maintaining the right relationships are important in most professions. That's especially true in the fields of science and research, contends Robert White, Ph.D., professor of molecular biology and medical genetics at KCUMB.

Dr. White credits colleagues, former professors and professional acquaintances with helping shape a successful career path for him, particularly early on. It should come as no surprise, then, that he has made it a point to provide others with the same considerations and assistance that once proved so vital for him.

"I look at (mentoring) as a very serious responsibility," said Dr. White, 60, a Boston native, and former research fellow in pediatrics and visiting investigator in hematology/oncology at Harvard Medical School. "It's all about connections, all about paying it forward."

Dr. White is proud to have served in a mentoring role with his current research assistant, Derek Logsdon, whom he has seen blossom as a scientist. He's also taken on that same role with Kyle Miller, a second-year osteopathic medical student, and seen similarly productive results.

That student/mentor relationship recently produced an experience Miller described as a tremendous honor. Dr. White asked Miller to present findings on research the pair has conducted before the American Society of Hematologists, a prestigious world-

wide conference, which took place Dec. 9-13, 2011, at the San Diego Convention Center.

A summary provided by Dr. White describes their research as follows:

"Transgenic mice represent a unique opportunity in biomedical research to discover the genes underlying disease and understand how manipulating the function of single genes and proteins alters physiology in a whole animal system. These advances in biomedical research may accelerate the time between when basic discoveries are made and when research can be 'translated.' That is, when the research will positively impact the lives of patients."

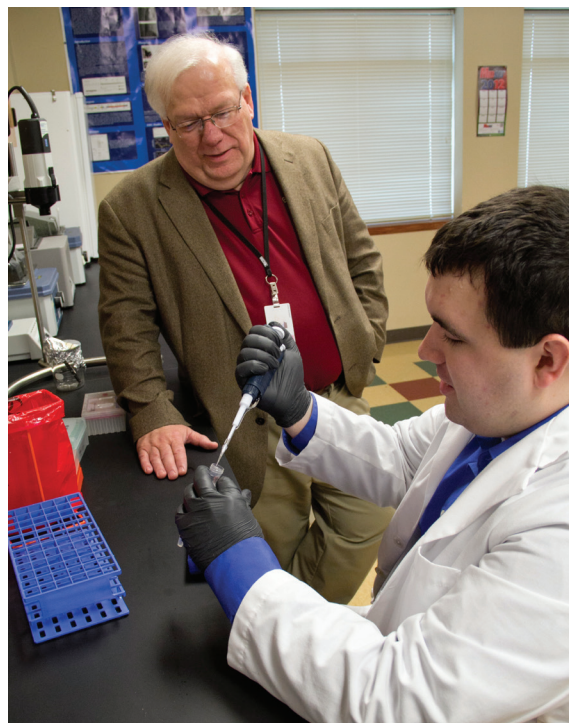
Miller was honored by the trust shown to him by Dr. White to present at such an important conference.

"The thought of knowing that research I had spent the last year and a half working on was coming to fruition was just a great feeling of accomplishment," Miller said. "I was also very honored by the fact that Dr. White had enough confidence in me to represent his lab at an international conference."

Dr. White said his student performed admirably at the conference.

"He did a fantastic job," Dr. White said. "It was terrific. What Kyle does is he really understands the research. He's going to go far in his career, I think. He is really invested in the work."

That Dr. White and Miller have



Dr. White serves as a mentor for Kyle Miller, a second-year osteopathic medical student, who hopes to become a clinical researcher after completing his education at KCUMB.

developed the rapport they have in the laboratory isn't surprising. They've been at KCUMB for roughly the same timeframe.

Dr. White arrived at KCUMB in July 2010, fresh off a nearly 17-year stint at Children's Mercy Hospitals & Clinics in Kansas City, Mo. His previous appointments have included five years at Harvard Medical School, four years as a research fellow in medicine, hematology and oncology at Children's Hospital in Boston, and five years as a pre-doctoral associate at The Jackson Laboratory in Bar Harbor, Maine.

Miller began pursuing a doctor of osteopathic medicine degree at KCUMB only a month after Dr. White's arrival.

"When I first met Dr. White, I saw him as a professor who was willing to give me an opportunity to gain research experience while I was in medical school," Miller recalled. "In my time working with him, though, he has become a great mentor to me."

"My time working with Dr. White has made me realize that I want to be a clinical researcher, and he has done everything he could to help me achieve that goal." ●



# Score 1 for Health Completes 20 Years of Service

## Program Provides More Than 13,000 Free Health Screenings Annually

Along with wrapping up its final health screenings of the 2011-2012 academic year on Jan. 26, Score 1 for Health also marked a milestone: 20 years of providing free in-school health screenings, preventive health education and mentors for elementary-aged children who need them most.

Since its founding in 1993, Score 1 for Health has grown exponentially.

"We started screening in four schools," said Annette Campbell, director of Score 1 for Health. "Today, we have expanded into 50 schools in five districts and we screen more than 13,000 children. The screenings are absolutely free, at no cost to the children, the schools or the districts."

Score 1 for Health officials shared the organization's milestone with more than 30 faculty and staff from Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences, who took the afternoon away from their regular work responsibilities to volunteer to help with the screenings.

Score 1 for Health is an integral part of the curriculum at Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences-College of Osteopathic Medicine.



KCUMB-COM students make up the largest contingent of volunteers for the program, assisting with seven screenings during their first two years of medical school. The relationship is so close, in fact, that Score 1 for Health recently became an official part of KCUMB as a department of the University.

Campbell is proud of Score 1 for Health's success, and she knows its long-term sustainability is thanks to the collaboration the program has managed to foster among many health organizations throughout the Kansas City area.

"It wouldn't happen if we didn't

have the 100 percent support from KCUMB and, of course, our partnerships with nursing and dental schools," she said. "It ends up being a very unique opportunity for students to have a clinical experience outside of a hospital."

Special guests for the final screenings of 2011-2012 included representatives of Lockton, Inc., the United Way of Greater Kansas City, the Kansas City (Mo.) City Manager's Office and KCUMB's Board of Trustees. All were im-

pressed with what they saw.

"The medical students are so sweet to them," said Karen Gettinger, senior community impact manager for the United Way of Greater Kansas City. "The children were really enjoying the attention they were receiving."

In honor of 20 years of service to its community, Score 1 for Health will host a special celebration in June to raise money for the program. The special festivities are scheduled for June 16, three days before the annual Deron Cherry Invitational Golf Tournament to benefit Score 1 for Health takes place on June 19. ●

### FORE! Don't Miss the 20th Annual Deron Cherry Celebrity Invitational

to Benefit Score 1 for Health, a Program of KCUMB

Tuesday, June 19, 2012  
10 a.m. Shotgun Start  
Loch Lloyd Country Club

16750 Country Club Drive  
The Village of Loch Lloyd, MO

For more information on how you can participate, contact Dave Garcia, tournament director, at 913-707-4653 or [kcgtmgolf@aol.com](mailto:kcgtmgolf@aol.com).





## Award Honors KCUMB Professor as a 'Hero in Healthcare'

### Professor Dedicates Himself to Providing Care in Underserved Areas

Seeing a doctor is not an easy thing to do in the remote mountain villages of Guatemala. That's why Richard Magie, D.O., assistant professor and chair of pediatrics, and medical director at KCUMB Physician Associates, has made it a point of emphasis to get to places like Guatemala whenever he can.

For his dedication to providing health care abroad, *Ingram's Magazine* recently honored Dr. Magie as one of its 2012 Heroes in Healthcare in the medical mission category.

Dr. Magie and other Heroes in Healthcare were honored Feb. 24 during a presentation that took place only two days after Dr. Magie returned

home from a trip with KCUMB osteopathic medical students to Guatemala.

In addition to his work as a full-time faculty member and clinical physician at KCUMB, Dr. Magie has participated in more than two-dozen medical mission trips to Mexico and Guatemala over the years. He does it for many reasons, but mostly because he enjoys it.

"I get so much more out of it than I ever give," Dr. Magie said. ●



Dr. Magie works with patients in February during KCUMB's medical mission to Guatemala with DOCARE International.

## KCUMB Bolsters Use of Social Media to Better Connect with its Audiences

Want to read about former classmates who have been in the news? ... The deadlines for the annual KCUMB Research Symposium slip your mind? ... Need to know what activities are scheduled during Senior Week? ... Think you might be interested in taking part in a research study at KCUMB's Dybedal Clinical Research Center?

These represent just a few of the many ways KCUMB is utilizing social media – Facebook and Twitter, primarily – to share news and events, and keep in touch with alumni, students, prospective students, parents and community members.

"Through social media, we can quickly and easily keep everyone in the

loop on what's new with KCUMB," said Liz Marsh, web editor, who serves as the University's primary social media expert. "Social media helps spread the message and spread it quickly. It comes in handy for short updates, such as a deadline reminder or change in events."

For example, KCUMB recently created a #COM2012 hash tag to alert members of the Class of 2012 to important graduation-related information. And, after a May 2011 tornado destroyed parts of Joplin, Mo., the University created a KCUMB Helping Joplin Facebook page to organize students, faculty, staff and alumni to collect donations and raise money.

While KCUMB continues to make strides in its social media endeavors, Marsh said the main challenge has been building awareness of the University's presence on Facebook and Twitter and getting people involved.

"One of the biggest misconceptions about social media is that creating an account is the same thing as



Marsh

having a presence," Marsh said. "To be successful, you must produce timely, engaging content on a regular basis, which takes dedication and collaboration."

"I'd just like to see more people sharing – thoughts, photos, you name it – on the KCUMB Facebook pages or mentioning KCUMB in their tweets."

While KCUMB currently focuses its efforts on Facebook and Twitter, the University is also exploring other means of communication. In February, Beth Dollase, vice president for advancement, and Cortney Christensen, graphic designer, shared photos and stories about the University's DOCARE mission trip to Guatemala via an Internet blog. The blogging effort was well received by volunteers' friends and families, since it allowed them to follow what was going on.

"Anyone who knows KCUMB realizes it's about community and service," Marsh said. "That can be hard to conceptualize. Luckily, when students share photos of their Community Service Day activities, alumni recount their Score 1 experiences or Joplin High School band members post pictures of the instruments KCUMB collected and donated, it helps solidify what we're about." ●

### WANT TO WIN A NEW IPAD? JOIN THE CONVERSATION.



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[www.facebook.com/kcumbalumni](http://www.facebook.com/kcumbalumni)



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See the ad on Page 28 for more details!



## Biochemistry Professor has a Knack for Magical Thinking Inside and Outside the Lab

There's something about Asma Zaidi, Ph.D., that many people around her may not know.

Harry Potter? She's a fan – a really big fan.

"I am a huge Harry Potter fan and am transformed into a kid when I am in the magical world of Hogwarts," said Dr. Zaidi, professor of biochemistry at KCUMB and a member of the University's faculty since 2007. "I love reading the books, watching the movies and buying Potter artifacts."

But, it's magic of another kind – science and discovery – that truly captures Dr. Zaidi's heart.

"I am very passionate about research," she said. "Even though I have been engaged in biomedical research for many years, at various levels, every time I step into a research lab, I get a feeling of exhilaration, an excitement that reinforces the notion that this is where I belong and (where I'm) most content."

"The most exciting aspect of research is discovery: the intellectual process of outlining a scientific question that addresses a major gap in knowledge, a viable idea which is feasible and has a real potential for a major breakthrough."

A long, winding road spanning four countries on four different continents in just four years led Dr. Zaidi to KCUMB, a close-knit environment she adores and a place that's allowed her to "grow up personally as well as professionally."

A Lawrence, Kan., resident, Dr. Zaidi was born and raised in Lucknow, the capital of Uttar Pradesh, a state in northern India.

She completed a bachelor of science degree in chemistry and biology at Isabella Thoburn College in Lucknow, and a master of science in biochemistry. Later, she earned a master's and a doctorate of philosophy in biochemistry from Aligarh University in India.

Her whirlwind globe-trotting began in 1993.

After academic appointments as a junior and then senior research fellow at Aligarh, Dr. Zaidi jumped to a visiting scientist position at Hospital de Bicetre in Paris. In 1995, she was a postdoctoral fellow in the medical biochemistry department at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro in Brazil.

In 1996, she made her way to the United States, becoming a research associate in the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology at the University of Kansas, where she stayed until joining KCUMB.

"I was absolutely fascinated by the West, its history, culture and customs, and absorbed information from books like a sponge, little knowing that it would come in handy one day. So, when I did travel and lived in various countries, it felt like a natural transition. I believe I have adapted very well between the East and the West."

Dr. Zaidi's current research is focused on two differing but closely related themes: the mechanisms underlying the age-dependent loss of neuronal function in the elderly brain, and unraveling biochemical links

between normal aging and the onset of neurodegenerative disorders.

"We are using multiple scientific approaches to tackle these dilemmas with the long-term goal of understanding the cellular mechanisms that cause neuronal dysfunction and cell death, but more importantly, to develop innovative strategies to prevent, reverse and/or treat these conditions," she said.

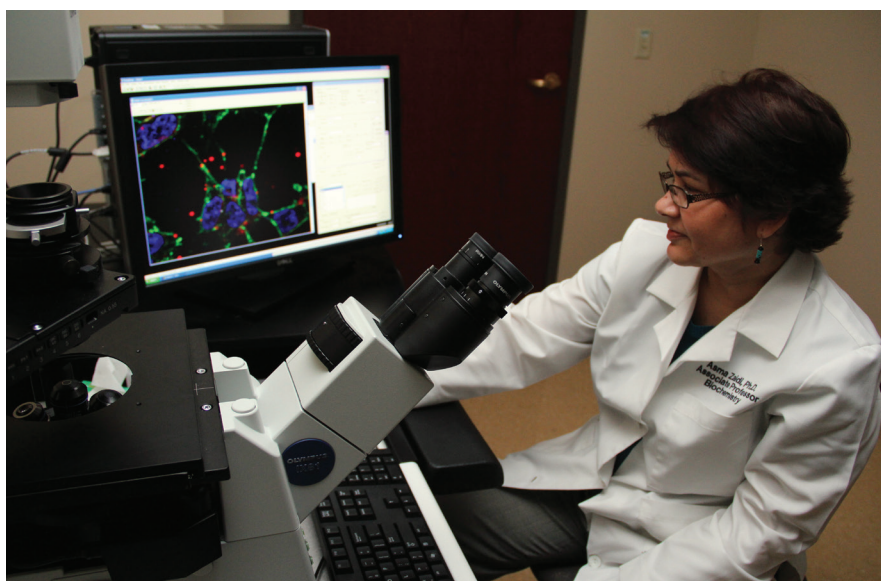
Research, Dr. Zaidi said, gets exciting after the thought process is refined and critical analysis and imagining possibilities happens.

"Then, the fun part begins," Dr. Zaidi said. "Actually working in the lab with students and doing the experiments. Interpretation of the results and data analysis has a realm of its own, often times a puzzling and complex process. Many times, there is a 'eureka' moment and suddenly everything makes sense."

Dr. Zaidi's passion for research has also been sparked by a new project, one with the goal of developing a biomarker for Parkinson's disease, the most common movement neurodegenerative disorder and one that afflicts millions of Americans annually.

"Currently, there is no diagnostic test to catch the disease early on until severe neuronal cell death, which

*Continued on page 24*



Dr. Zaidi works inside KCUMB's Dybedal Center for Research. She recently began a new project with the goal of developing a biomarker for Parkinson's disease.



## KCUMB Joins First Lady's Initiative to Serve Veterans and Their Families

Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences-College of Osteopathic Medicine recently committed to its participation in First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden's Joining Forces initiative, announced in January by officials at the White House.

As part of the initiative, the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) and the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) have committed to creating a new generation of doctors, medical schools and research facilities to better address the health issues faced by America's veterans and military families. KCUMB-COM joined 130 medical schools and research facilities in making this pledge.

KCUMB pledged to leverage its mission in education, research and clinical care to train physicians to meet the unique health-care needs of members of the military and veterans.

"We are honored to work collaboratively with AACOM, the AAMC and our fellow medical schools in an effort to provide the medical education for our students and the highest quality of health care from our physicians to those who serve our country," said Darin Haug, D.O., executive vice president for academic and medical affairs, and dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine. "We are currently educating our students on traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder and other topics regarding this important need."

Key priorities of the Joining Forces initiative include employment, education and wellness, all while raising awareness of the service, sacrifice and needs of America's veterans and military families. More information is available at [www.joiningforces.gov](http://www.joiningforces.gov). ●



Dr. Haug

## Professor Develops a Knack for Magical Thinking Inside and Outside the Lab

*Continued from page 23*

is when clinical symptoms become evident," Dr. Zaidi said. "There is some evidence to suggest the olfactory system is impaired almost a decade before the observation of clinical symptoms – obviously, a very useful detection tool."

"We are working on the cellular mechanisms that cause dysfunction of the olfactory system in efforts to develop it as a diagnostic tool."

Dr. Zaidi said there exists a stereotype about research that it's "extremely difficult and not so exciting."

The perception, she said, is far from reality.

"I want to get the message out to the contrary – that in reality biomedical research is a fun activity," Dr. Zaidi said. "It is an experience that trains one to think accurately and critically and to learn to solve problems – attributes that have a very useful place in almost any profession." ●

## Student's New York Art Show Raises Money to Benefit Ovarian Cancer Research

What's the worst thing to hear as an artist?

For Steven Swancoat, it's that his works are "not bad."

"I would much rather hear, 'That's not even art,' because then I know

I have something innovative on my hands," said Swancoat, a fourth-year osteopathic medical student, who hosted his first solo exhibition Feb. 11 in Manhattan, N.Y.

The combination art show and wine tasting featured 26 pieces of acrylic and mixed media on canvas that Swancoat had created, all to raise money for New York's Ovarian Cancer Research Fund. Through direct donations, a raffle and sales of paintings – 50-75 percent of which went to the cause – he was able to raise \$1,130.

"I am always looking for new methods, techniques, processes and approaches to my art," Swancoat said. "Some of my pieces I make because I want them to send a particular message to the viewer, whether that would be political, a humorous pun on society or a piece that challenges the concept of what 'art' is."

Swancoat enjoys the process of creating each of his paintings, and each one has special meaning to him. To view a few of his works, visit [www.swancoatart.com](http://www.swancoatart.com).

"Painting allows me to escape reality," he said. "It allows me to put aside everything and create a channel for my creativity ..."

"My favorite part is creating something that someone else loves. To capture their love, excitement, attention or passion is what drives me to continue painting."

Swancoat will graduate May 19 from KCUMB. He recently achieved his goal of matching with his top residency choice and will pursue obstetrics and gynecology at Wyckoff Heights Medical Center in Brooklyn, N.Y.

"This is a dream come true for me," he said, since living in the Upper West Side will allow him to further his career as both a physician and an artist. ●





## Luncheon Leads to Friendship

# From a Chance Encounter Came a Valuable Mentoring Opportunity

When a first-year osteopathic medical student chose to sit down for lunch next to a KCUMB alumnus in fall 2004, he had no idea the impact that decision would have on his life and in his future career.

Miguel Hernandez, D.O. (COM '08), then only a couple months into medical school, spent about an hour that day talking to James Pike, D.O. (COM '84), and his wife, Jan. They shared quick greetings, talked about where they each were from and their thoughts on KCUMB. It was by all means a typical encounter, until later that day.

"They seemed like a nice couple," Dr. Hernandez recalled. "Later in the day, I was in the bookstore buying some textbooks, and Dr. Pike walked up behind me, pulled out his credit card and paid for my books. I was blown away. I got his contact information, and we have been friends ever since."

Dr. Pike said his random act of kindness was spurred by his own mentor, Dr. Ramon Dunkin, whom he met

at age 18 while working as a respiratory therapist.

For his part, Dr. Hernandez likes to believe there was something more at play that day in 2004.

"Dr. Pike was someone I was destined to meet at that crossroads in my life," he said. "He was my mentor all through medical school. Dr. Pike understood the stressors of medical school. He was there to offer advice."

A couple years after they first met, Dr. Hernandez did a clerkship at Community Westview Hospital in Indianapolis, where Dr. Pike and his family live. The time they spent together during Dr. Hernandez's clerkship only served to deepen their friendship. When it became time for Dr. Hernandez to graduate from KCUMB, he asked Dr. Pike to hood him during the ceremony, a very special honor.

Over the years, the two men have stayed in contact, visiting in person, over the phone and via daily text messages.

"I send Dr. Hernandez texts every day,

Monday through Friday," Dr. Pike said.

One of Dr. Hernandez's favorite texts from Dr. Pike reads: "A mentor is someone who sees more talent in you than you see in yourself."

Dr. Hernandez said that the texts he receives from Dr. Pike both encourage and uplift him.

"He always seems to know what I'm going through and what kind of message I need to hear," Dr. Hernandez said.

Even though the two lead very busy lives, they still speak on the phone about once a month. Both say they will always have a special relationship.

"He was there for me at a time when I needed a mentor," Dr. Hernandez said. "He's just an amazing guy. He's become a father figure to me."

Dr. Pike has been present for some of Dr. Hernandez's biggest moments, including his graduation and his wedding.

"Dr. Hernandez's wife, Kristina, is pregnant with their first, and I suspect my wife and I will get to be 'grand-parents,'" Dr. Pike said. "He is just an outstanding young man. I know that he would take care of me or my family at a moment's notice."

"Our hearts are similar in our desire to care for our patients and our friends," Dr. Pike continued. "It is no surprise that we have grown to love each other as friends during these past several years."

Dr. Hernandez said he plans to continue the pay-it-forward spirit Dr. Pike has shown him, and he tries to mentor new interns and residents as often as he can. ●



## What Should Future Osteopathic Physicians Know?

# Now, You Have the Opportunity to Provide 'Words of Wisdom' to Current KCUMB Osteopathic Medical Students!

KCUMB's Advancement Office is now offering you a chance to share your "Words of Wisdom" with 500 future osteopathic medical students. For only \$100, you can purchase a date during the 2012-2013 academic year to share a special message with KCUMB's first- and second-year osteopathic medical students, all while supporting the University's general scholarship fund!

*Look for the envelope inside this magazine for more details!*



FROM THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

## Get Involved to Help KCUMB-COM and Future Osteopathic Physicians

William Halacoglu, D.O. (COM '91)

As your Alumni Association president, I have many opportunities to visit with alumni and reminisce about our great days in Kansas City. Many of these conversations end with the same question: "What can I do to help KCUMB-COM?"



It is both an easy and a difficult question to answer. There are so many areas in which alumni can contribute to maintain our institution's excellence in education and proud osteopathic heritage.

One specific need – the need for high-quality preceptors and training sites for rotations – always springs to the front of my mind. It would be of great benefit to the University and its students if alumni who practice in teaching hospitals were able to help secure rotation sites for our students.

KCUMB-COM produces top-notch osteopathic medical students that will make you proud. The University's pass rates on board exams illustrate this: COMLEX 1, 98.25 percent; COMLEX 2-CE, 94.88 percent; and COMLEX 2-PE, 98.7 percent. I frequently receive compliments for the students' base of knowledge and hard work they put forth during rotations at my institution.

If you are interested in learning more about the clinical education process at KCUMB-COM or learning more about bringing students to your hospital, please contact KCUMB's Office of Community Clinical Education at 816-654-7330 or [occe@kcumb.edu](mailto:occe@kcumb.edu).

If you are unable to serve as a preceptor, you might want to consider participating in KCUMB's mentoring program. University staff works with interested students to gather more information regarding specific specialties and geographic locations, as well as answer many other questions and concerns. The goal of the program is to help future osteopathic physicians understand that they are a part of a much larger community, and to feel more comfortable with making incredibly important decisions about their future.

If you are interested in serving as a mentor, please contact Cara Davis, assistant director of alumni development, at 816-654-7288 or [cdavis@kcumb.edu](mailto:cdavis@kcumb.edu).

Another way that alumni can make a positive impact is by providing lectures in their areas of expertise during our yearly Homecoming and Winter CME seminars. KCUMB offers excellent 1-A CME programs and guest speakers are continually being recruited to participate. These conferences are also a great opportunity for alumni to visit campus and the Kansas City area to relive fond memories of our days in medical school.

If you are interested in learning more about CME lecture opportunities, please contact the Advancement Office at 816-654-7280 or [alumni@kcumb.edu](mailto:alumni@kcumb.edu).

As practicing physicians, we all have faculty, staff or others who have left a lasting imprint on our careers and education. KCUMB-COM recently created the Legacy Fund to honor these individuals. Inclusion in the Legacy Fund requires a minimum gift of \$500. Gifts designated to the Legacy Fund will be directed to specific programs benefitting faculty or educational initiatives.

Donors to the Legacy Fund may include the stories of how their honorees influenced their education and their lives. Stories may be used in future communications.

With the participation of our alumni, we can honor the past and shape the future. ●

## Support Your KCUMB Alumni Association

Stay connected with KCUMB and former classmates as a member of the Alumni Association!

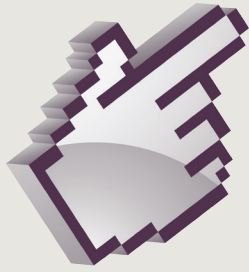
Your \$50 membership dues support many activities, including alumni receptions during various professional meetings, alumni mentoring panels for current students and University-sponsored Continuing Medical Education programs.

Submit your \$50 Alumni Association dues today by calling 800-234-4847 ext. 7284, visiting [www.kcumb.edu/alumni dues](http://www.kcumb.edu/alumni dues) or mailing your payment to the KCUMB Advancement Office, 1750 Independence Ave., Kansas City, MO 64106.





## Stay Connected



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[www.twitter.com/kcumb](https://www.twitter.com/kcumb)

## Visit KCUMB at the 2012 AOA Convention

Make plans now to attend the American Osteopathic Association's 117th Osteopathic Medical Conference and Exposition, which will take place Oct. 7-11 at the San Diego Convention Center.

While there, be sure to stop by KCUMB's booth (No. 1001) to pick up a special gift for alumni and visit with KCUMB representatives.

KCUMB will also host a special fiesta-themed reception for alumni from 6-8 p.m. Oct. 9 on the Windsor Lawn of the Hotel del Coronado. Enjoy a fun evening with the sounds of a mariachi band and be sure to have your portrait taken in front of the beautiful Pacific Ocean. Transportation will be provided. ●



## *Make a lasting impact for generations to come as a member of the Heritage Society*

- Would you like to reduce or avoid paying estate taxes?
- Would you like to make a charitable gift to KCUMB that makes payments back to you?
- Would you like to use a life insurance policy to benefit KCUMB while receiving a yearly tax deduction for your premium payment?

The Heritage Society was established to honor those individuals whose gift plans set a firm foundation for the long-term financial health of Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences, and for the University's continued ability to support students as they pursue degrees in osteopathic medicine, bioethics and biomedical sciences.

For more information, please contact Ted Place, executive director of alumni development, at 816-654-7286, [tplace@kcumb.edu](mailto:tplace@kcumb.edu), or visit [www.kcumb.edu/plannedgiving](http://www.kcumb.edu/plannedgiving).

Please note: Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences does not provide tax or legal advice. Gift calculations may be provided for illustrative purposes only, and the actual values may vary based upon the timing and nature of your gift. Advice from legal and tax counsel should be sought when considering a charitable gift of any kind.



# class notes

## 1960s

• **Betty Jo White, D.O.** (COM '63), FACOS, was officially inducted into the Kirksville Osteopathic Alumni Association on Nov. 1 as an honorary member. Dr. White has long been a supporter of the Museum of Osteopathic Medicine and has served on the museum's National Advisory Board.

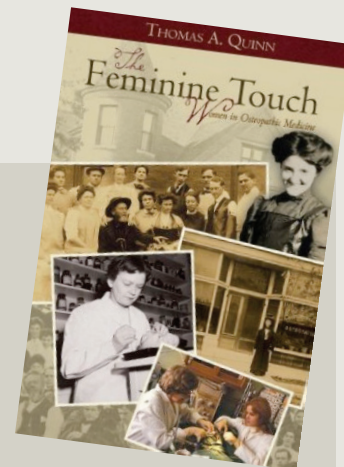
## 1970s

• **James Violet, D.O.** (COM

'71), recently joined the Health Foundation of Greater Massillon's Board of Directors in Massillon, Ohio. Dr. Violet practices at Doctors Hospital, Massillon Community Hospital, Aultman Hospital and the Aultman Center for One Day Surgery.

• **Jeffrey Weisberg, D.O.** (COM '71), was recently appointed to the Scientific Advisory Board for Viralytics Limited in Sydney, Australia. Dr. Weisberg cur-

The late **Margaret Jones, D.O.** (COM '22); the late **Anne Wales, D.O.** (COM '26); **Mary McClellan Burnett, D.O.** (COM '49); **Betty Jo White, D.O.** (COM '63), FACOS; **Karen Nichols, D.O.** (COM '81); **Sandra Willsie, D.O.** (COM '83); **Gail Fancher, D.O.** (COM '84); and **Diane Bourlier, D.O.** (COM '87) are among several KCUMB alumni highlighted in "The Feminine



Touch: Women in Osteopathic Medicine," which tells the stories of prominent female osteopathic physicians of the past century.

rently serves as the head of therapeutic oncology for the Americas for Pharmanet/iz and as a clinical professor at Nova Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine.

• **Rebecca deVillers, D.O.** (COM '76), was recently elected to serve as a member of the Osteopathic Heritage Foundation's Board of Directors. Dr. deVillers currently practices family



Get an iPad



Give an iPad

## Help KCUMB Wrap Up a Successful Fiscal Year, and Win a New Apple iPad for Yourself and a First-Year Student!

All donors who make a gift of at least \$250 during the 2011-2012 fiscal year (July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012) will be entered in a drawing to win a new Apple iPad. The drawing will take place on July 13, 2012, and the winner will be notified by phone and/or email.

As an added bonus, the winner will be given the opportunity to randomly choose the name of an incoming first-year student during the first week of classes, and that student will also win a new Apple iPad.



**Like Us on Facebook to Double Your Chances to Win!**  
Go to [www.facebook.com/kcumbalumni](http://www.facebook.com/kcumbalumni) to participate.

### Don't Miss Out. Make a Gift to KCUMB Today!

Giving is easy:

- Visit [www.kcumb.edu/give](http://www.kcumb.edu/give) to make a donation online.
- Call the Advancement Office at 816-654-7280.
- Mail a check to KCUMB, 1750 Independence Ave., Kansas City, MO 64106-1453.





## Become a Part of the KCUMB-COM LEGACY FUND

*Honor the Past, Shape the Future*

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

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

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

For more information on how you can support the KCUMB-COM Legacy Fund, please call the Advancement Office at 816-654-7280, email [alumni@kcumb.edu](mailto:alumni@kcumb.edu) or visit [www.kcumb.edu/legacyfund](http://www.kcumb.edu/legacyfund).

medicine in Hilliard, Ohio, and serves as an adjunct clinical faculty member with the Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine.

- **William Faber, D.O.** (COM '76), recently wrote a book, "The Osteopathic Medicine Advantage: How Medical Miracles are Made," which covers the birth of osteopathic medicine, the founding of the first school and more. It is available on [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com).

- **Wayne Andersen, D.O.** (COM '79), currently serves as medical director for Take Shape for Life, Inc., which he co-founded.

- **George Watson, D.O.** (COM '79), wrote an article, "Health Insurance Companies: An Endangered Species by 2020," which was published Feb. 13 in *The Cypress (Texas) Times*. Dr. Watson is a former president of the Association of American Physicians. He canceled all

insurance contracts and opted out of Medicare in 2003, and he is an advocate for the patient-direct model of practicing medicine.

### 1980s

- **Richard Ogden, D.O.** (COM '80), wrote an article, "Management of Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus with Diet, Exercise, Medications, OMT and Patient Involvement," which was published in the January issue of *AOA Health Watch*, a publication of the American Osteopathic Association.

- **Ben Johnson, D.O.** (COM '81), owns Dr. Ben Johnson Services, LLC, a business promoting products for natural health care. Dr. Johnson is a complimentary and alternative medicine physician and also co-founder of Thermography Unlimited, LLC.

- **Marc Cote, D.O.** (COM '82), currently serves as functional clinical senior executive physician and

medical director for the U.S. Army Western Regional Medical Command, overseeing clinical operations encompassing 20 states.

- **H. Danny Weaver, D.O.** (COM '84), was inducted March 17 as a fellow in the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians. Dr. Weaver serves as KCUMB's president and chief executive officer.

- **John Brewer, D.O.** (COM '85), joined Mercy Hospital's Gorham Crossing facility Dec. 27, 2011, in Gorham, Maine, where he specializes in family medicine. Dr. Brewer previously operated a private practice in Gorham, and he has served as a clinical faculty member at the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine since 1986.

- **Gregory Beard, D.O.** (COM '87), a physician with Great Lakes Surgical Specialists, was recently named medical director for

the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center's (UPMC) Hamot Trauma Program in Erie, Pa. Dr. Beard is board certified in general surgery and recently completed a fellowship in trauma/surgical critical care at UPMC Presbyterian.

- **Peter Clothier, D.O.** (COM '87), was honored as one of the 2011 "Top Docs in Family Medicine" by *Colorado Springs Style* magazine. Dr. Clothier has been in private practice since 1995 and previously practiced in several suburban, rural and military clinics.

- **Manuel Crespo, D.O.** (COM '88), recently joined the Itegris Nazih Zuhdi Transplant Institute as a hospitalist and director of inpatient medicine services. Dr. Crespo is board certified in family medicine.

- **J. Russell Bowman, D.O.** (COM '89), was recently promoted to medical director for SouthEast Alaska



Regional Health Consortium Community Health Care Services. Dr. Bowman had previously served as deputy medical director for Community Health Care Services. He is a captain in the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps.

● **Deborah Hellinger, D.O.** (COM '89), will be inducted as a fellow in the American Osteopathic College of Radiology during the organization's annual convention April 25 in Las Vegas.

## 1990s

● **Kipp Van Camp, D.O.** (COM '90), recently wrote a book, "Misdiagnosis: A Practicing Physician's Case Study in Health Care Reform," which educates readers on a variety of topics related to the U.S. health-care system. Dr. Van Camp is an interventional radiologist in Topeka, Kan., and owns Critical Imaging Associates. He also serves as co-host of a radio talk show called "Doctor's Orders," which airs in the Topeka and Kansas City areas.

● **John Dougherty, D.O.** (COM '92), was recently approved for induction into the Association of Osteopathic Directors and Medical Educators' Collegium of Fellows. Dr. Dougherty, who serves as KCUMB's associate dean for clinical education and medical affairs, and professor and chair of family medicine, will be inducted April 27 during the AODME's annual conference in Louisville, Ky.

● **Ronald Holt, II, D.O.** (COM '93), recently created

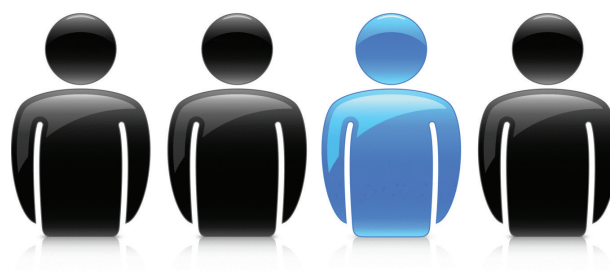
a video, "LGBT Bullying and Suicide: It Does Get Better," which addresses bullying and suicide in the lesbian, gay bisexual and transgender community. The video, which is available on YouTube and Dr. Holt's website, [www.audacityofpride.com](http://www.audacityofpride.com), has been featured by various news outlets, including The Huffington Post.

● **Thomas Dierkes, D.O.** (COM '94), was recently appointed as a member of the Board of Trustees for Cape Regional Health System, an affiliate of the University of Pennsylvania Health System, in Cape May Court House, N.J. Dr. Dierkes has served on the medical staff of Cape Regional Medical Center since 1997, and is a senior partner at Rainbow Pediatrics.

● **Ronald Alexander, D.O.** (COM '95), will be inducted as a fellow in the American Osteopathic College of Radiology during the organization's annual convention April 25 in Las Vegas.

● **Roy Danks, D.O.** (COM '98), was recently deployed as a trauma surgeon with the U.S. Army in Afghanistan, where he serves as a member of the 352nd Combat Support Hospital. Maj. Danks was previously deployed in Iraq in 2009. Upon returning from service, he will return to his practice with the Saint Luke's Medical Group in Leavenworth, Kan.

● **James Horst, D.O.** (COM '98), was recently elected as president of the American Osteopathic College of Neurology and Psychiatry for 2011-2012. Dr. Horst is a board certified adult and



## Find Us On Facebook

 [www.facebook.com/KCUMBAlumni](http://www.facebook.com/KCUMBAlumni)

### Join the Conversation with Fellow KCUMB Alumni on Facebook

Visit [www.facebook.com/KCUMBAlumni](http://www.facebook.com/KCUMBAlumni) to:

- Track down former classmates
- Plan trips to upcoming KCUMB events
- See what's happening on campus
- Network with other KCUMB alumni
- Share your personal or professional accomplishments
- Post photos and videos that may interest colleagues
- Get updated news about the University
- Get exclusive updates and offers
- Participate in the discussion and win prizes

## Post a Comment and Enter to Win!

*How did you feel when you graduated from medical school? Why did you feel that way?*

Post your thoughts on our Facebook page for a chance to win a KCUMB gift bag. Winners will be randomly selected from all who post a comment by May 12, 2012, and winners will be announced on Facebook.



**Kim Gasper**  
Assistant Director of Alumni Programs  
Call: 816-654-7287  
Email: [kgasper@kcumb.edu](mailto:kgasper@kcumb.edu)

"I'll be on our KCUMB Alumni Facebook page regularly to answer your questions and listen to any suggestions you may have. I can't wait to hear from you!"



child psychiatrist practicing in the Miami, Fla., area.

● **Chris Reeves, D.O.** (COM '99), recently joined the medical staff at North Arkansas Regional Medical Center in Harrison, Ark., where he is an orthopedic surgeon. Dr. Reeves completed a residency through Michigan State University POH Regional Medical Center in Pontiac, Mich., and a fellowship in spine surgery at Beverly Hills (Calif.) Spine Group.

## 2000s

● **Cathy Dahl, D.O.** (COM '00), recently joined the staff at St. Francis Gynecology Clinic in Topeka, Kan. She has worked for St. Francis Health Center since 2005.

● **Darin Haug, D.O.** (COM '01), wrote an article, "Jeopardized Medicare Funding Will Negatively Impact Physician Workforce," which was posted on the Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City's *Local Health Buzz* blog. Dr. Haug serves as KCUMB's executive vice president for academic and medical affairs, and dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine.

● **Mini Tandon, D.O.** (COM '02), currently serves as an instructor in the Psychiatry Department at the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, where she specializes in disorders that arise during the pre-school period.

● **Joseph Vickaryous, D.O.** (COM '02), was recently profiled in *Coastal Breeze News*, a local newspaper in Marco

Island, Fla. Dr. Vickaryous practices at Marco Island Medical Center.

● **Christopher Griggs, D.O.** (COM '04), M.B.A., recently completed a general vascular surgery fellowship at Deborah Heart and Lung Center in Browns Mills, N.J., and accepted a position as a staff vascular surgeon with the KC Vascular Group in Kansas City, Mo.

● **Catherine Anderson, D.O.** (COM '06), recently joined Bothwell Family Health in Sedalia, Mo. She previously worked in private practice in the Kansas City area.

● **Wes Thorpe, D.O.** (COM '07), recently joined the White County Medical Center Hospitalist Group in Searcy, Ark. Dr. Thorpe previously completed a residency in internal medicine at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.



● **Kristi Weaver, D.O.** (COM '07), recently joined the medical staff at Providence Medical Center in Kansas City, Kan. Dr. Weaver completed a residency in obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Kansas Medical Center.

● **Shauna Kern, D.O.** (COM '08), was recently featured in an article, "Doctor Changed Plans Based on ER Experience," which was published Jan. 25 in the Hillsboro (Kan.) *Star-Journal*.

● **Krista Clark, D.O.** (COM '10), was recently named as chief resident in family medicine for the 2012-2013 academic year at Truman Medical Center-Lakewood in Kansas City, Mo.

● **Chad Sharky, D.O.** (COM '10), was recently named as chief resident in family medicine for the 2012 - 2013 academic year at Truman Medical Center-Lakewood in Kansas City, Mo.

## PASSAGES

● **Clark N. Wagner, D.O.** (COM '50), Oct. 20, 2010

● **George L. Eckert, Jr., D.O.** (COM '53), Feb. 2, 2011

● **Martin Doyne, D.O.** (COM '55), Jan. 18, 2012

● **Glenn V. Carney, D.O.** (COM '56), Jan. 23, 2012

● **William S. Delp, D.O.** (COM '56), Nov. 29, 2010

● **Fred B. Cooksley, D.O.** (COM '57), Oct. 29, 2010

● **Dale Stoops, D.O.** (COM '57), Oct. 7, 2010

● **T. Eugene Zachary, D.O.** (COM '59), Feb. 20, 2012

● **Martin Sherer, D.O.** (COM '61), Nov. 7, 2010

● **Albie Hitrys, D.O.** (COM '62), April 13, 2011

● **Frank L. Langford, D.O.** (COM '65), May 4, 2011

● **Russell J. Martz, D.O.** (COM '67), Jan. 19, 2012

● **Buddy L. Hulsman, D.O.** (COM '70), Jan. 1, 2012

● **Frank J. Vermes, D.O.** (COM '70), Nov. 13, 2010

● **Denny E. Krout, D.O.** (COM '71), Feb. 20, 2012

● **William Bowman, Jr., D.O.** (COM '72), March 15, 2012

● **Nicholas E. Cavitt, D.O.** (COM '80), April 24, 2011

● **David L. Jones, D.O.** (COM '81), Jan. 25, 2012

● **Steven B. Jenkins, D.O.** (COM '88), Dec. 19, 2011

● **Floyd E. "Doc" Dunn, D.O.**, former chair of neurology and psychiatry at KCUMB, Dec. 20, 2011



# Last Look

## Say Cheese!

There are always plenty of laughs during KCUMB's annual Follies event, but add a photo booth to the mix and what you get is, well, ... Can we say interesting? Dozens of students, faculty, staff and their guests took part in the big event March 2 at the InterContinental Hotel on the Plaza in Kansas City, Mo.





# Come Home to



Mark Your Calendar Now!

## Don't Miss KCUMB's Homecoming Celebration

Sept. 19-22

**Register Today! Early-Bird Registration Discount Ends Aug. 24**

### Schedule of Events\*

\* All events are subject to change. Visit [www.kcumb.edu/homecoming](http://www.kcumb.edu/homecoming) for regularly updated information.

#### Wednesday, Sept. 19

- Robert G. Ricci, D.O., Golf Outing at Shoal Creek Golf Club

#### Thursday, Sept. 20

- CME Sessions, KCUMB Campus

#### Friday, Sept. 21

- CME Sessions, KCUMB Campus
- Picnic Lunch, KCUMB Campus
- Alumni Class Reunion Receptions, InterContinental Kansas City on the Plaza
- Alumni Banquet and Awards Ceremony, InterContinental Kansas City on the Plaza

#### Saturday, Sept. 22

- CME Sessions, KCUMB Campus

### Hotel Accommodations

Reserve a room by Aug. 24 to receive the special room rate of \$139 per night, plus taxes.

InterContinental Kansas City on the Plaza  
401 Ward Parkway  
Kansas City, MO 64112  
816-756-1500  
[www.kansascityic.com](http://www.kansascityic.com)

### Questions?

1-800-234-4847 ext. 7280 or [alumni@kcumb.edu](mailto:alumni@kcumb.edu)

### Take the KCUMB Reunion Challenge!

1952, 1957, 1962, 1967, 1972, 1977,  
1982, 1987, 1992, 1997, 2002, 2007

The KCUMB Alumni Association challenges each reunion class to achieve the highest amount of donations by Sept. 21, 2012. The winning class will receive the Strickland Challenge Award, honoring Darwin J. Strickland, D.O. (COM '65), for his outstanding commitment to building alumni participation at KCUMB. The winning class will be recognized during Homecoming and in KCUMB's Annual List of Donors.

Each alumnus making a donation of \$100 or more will receive a specially designed KCUMB silk tie or scarf that can be worn with pride.

Show everyone that your class is the best!

To make your reunion gift, contact Kim Gasper by phone at 1-800-234-4847 ext. 7287 or by email at [kgasper@kcumb.edu](mailto:kgasper@kcumb.edu). Reunion gifts can also be made online at [www.kcumb.edu/give](http://www.kcumb.edu/give).

Visit [www.kcumb.edu/homecoming](http://www.kcumb.edu/homecoming)  
for more information or to register today.





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## calendar of events

*\*Note: All dates subject to change without notice.*

**April 16-17**

KCUMB Board of Trustees Meeting

**April 16**

KCUMB Alumni Association Board  
Meeting

**April 17**

KCUMB Annual Meeting of the  
Corporation

**April 19-20**

KCUMB Research Symposium

**May 19**

College of Osteopathic Medicine  
Commencement

**May 28**

Memorial Day, KCUMB Closed

**June 19**

20th Annual Deron Cherry Invita-  
tional Golf Tournament to Benefit  
KCUMB's Score 1 for Health

**June 21-22**

KCUMB Bioethics, Spirituality and  
Humanism in Medicine Conference

**July 4**

Independence Day, KCUMB Closed

