

KCUMB

COMMUNICATOR



The Other Side of the Tracks

*KCUMB Professor's Study
Views Homeless Population
as a Valuable Resource
in Urban Renewal*

Mark Your Calendar Now!

Don't Miss KCUMB's 2011 Homecoming

Sept. 21-24



Visit www.kcumb.edu/homecoming for more information or to register online.
Register by Aug. 17 to receive the early-bird discount!



Schedule of Events*

Wednesday, Sept. 21

- Robert G. Ricci, D.O., Golf Outing
Adam's Pointe Golf Club
- CME Session

Thursday, Sept. 22

- Meet-and-Greet Session with
KCUMB Leadership Team and
Board Members
Butterworth Alumni Center
- CME Sessions and Exhibitors
- Alumni Association Board Meeting
- Investiture to Install H. Danny
Weaver, D.O., as KCUMB President
and Chief Executive Officer
- President's Remarks Regarding
D'Angelo Library and Student
Activities Center
- Reception in Student Activities
Center and Tours of the Student
Activities Center, D'Angelo Library
and Weaver Auditorium

Friday, Sept. 23

- CME Sessions
- Panel Discussion: KCUMB Board of
Trustees and Alumni Association
Board
- Alumni Association Annual Meeting
- Picnic Lunch on Campus
- Student Ambassadors Lead Campus
Tours
- William J. Legg, D.O., FAOASM,
Distinguished Lecture Series
Ricci Auditorium
- Alumni Class Reunion Gatherings,
Classes of 1946, 1956, 1961, 1966,
1971, 1976, 1981, 1986, 1991, 1996,
2001 and 2006
Westin Crown Center
- Alumni Banquet and Awards
Ceremony, with Physicians'
Hall of Sponsors Inductions
Westin Crown Center

Saturday, Sept. 24

- CME Sessions

While You Are Here ...

Browse the 79th Annual Plaza Art Fair

Sept. 23-25 on the Country Club Plaza

Every fall, the streets of Kansas City's famed Country Club Plaza are transformed into a beautiful outdoor art gallery. Artists from across the country will come together Sept. 23-25 to showcase their artwork. The nationally-recognized Plaza Art Fair features 240 artists, 30 restaurants, three live music stages, a children's art workshop and the Kemper Street Museum.

It's just one more reason to plan your trip back to KCUMB for Homecoming 2011!

*Subject to change.

Visit www.kcumb.edu/homecoming regularly for updated information.

During the past few months, Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences has been fortunate to mark several important milestones.

On Feb. 28, KCUMB celebrated the opening of two new facilities that dramatically improve our students' experiences while on campus.

Just to the east of Weaver Auditorium, the new D'Angelo Library is a spacious facility that incorporates the latest technologies into a first-class learning environment. It includes several independent and group study spaces, a computer lab, offices for library personnel and a special collections room for many of our historic osteopathic materials.

To the north of Weaver Auditorium, the new Student Activities Center provides a centralized gathering place for students to unwind, enjoy a cup of coffee or workout in the fitness center. The building also houses the Office of Student Affairs, a new campus bookstore and meeting space for student clubs and organizations.

The addition of these state-of-the-art new facilities, along with recent upgrades to many of our existing facilities, are thanks in large part to alumni and others who have generously given to KCUMB. Along those lines, it is my pleasure to share with you the results of the University's first comprehensive internal fund-raising campaign.

We asked KCUMB faculty, staff and members of the Board of Trustees for their support of the University and our students earlier this spring. They came through, raising a staggering \$132,857. (Read more about their efforts on Page 22.) It is a wonderful demonstration of the type of individuals who



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

make up our University and their willingness to stand behind our students.

With the Board of Trustees' approval of the 2012 fiscal-year budget in April, KCUMB is also committed to providing an additional \$1.3 million in scholarship money to our students, bringing the total allocated for scholarships to \$2.1 million.

In addition, the newly approved budget sets aside \$3.48 million for future improvements to facilities and other key areas, including a renovation of

Smith Hall, classroom upgrades in the Annex Building, a network upgrade for information technology infrastructure, remodeling of the cafeteria, a redesigned KCUMB website and facility upgrades to Strickland Education Pavilion and the Administration Building.

I would like to invite you to make plans now to view our progress in person by returning to KCUMB for our 2011 Homecoming celebration, scheduled for Sept. 21-24. This will be the first time the entire CME program will be on our campus. In addition to reconnecting with former classmates and faculty, Homecoming offers informative CME sessions, reunion gatherings and the ideal opportunity to engage and interact with our students. It is also the ideal time to get an up-close glimpse of our new Student Activities Center and D'Angelo Library.

As you read this issue of the *KCUMB Communicator*, I encourage you to take the time to learn more about all of the great things happening at KCUMB. View stunning photographs of the new D'Angelo Library and Student Activities Center, read about the accomplishments of members of the Class of 2011, learn about a KCUMB faculty member's ground-breaking research into exercise during pregnancy and much more.

As always, thank you for everything you do to support KCUMB. ●

Summer 2011

The KCUMB Communicator is published twice yearly for alumni, students and friends of Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences by the University Relations Department.

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Cover Photo
TAL WILSON

ON THE COVER: JASON WASSERMAN, PH.D., ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF BIOETHICS AT KCUMB, STANDS IN KANSAS CITY'S WEST BOTTOMS AREA. DR. WASSERMAN HAS CONDUCTED EXTENSIVE RESEARCH INTO THE TYPES OF COMMUNITIES FORMED BY HOMELESS POPULATIONS.

KCUMB COMMUNICATOR

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Professor's study views homeless people as a valuable resource in urban renewal



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letters to the editor

'A Little Thing'

I always look forward to receiving the current issue of the KCUMB Communicator and reading about the progress of the University, alumni and students. As an alumnus, I am proud to say that I graduated from KCUMB and that I am an osteopathic physician.

As osteopathic physicians we are uniquely positioned to educate our patients and friends about the uniqueness of our profession. The D.O. designation after my name often raises questions, but also gives me the opportunity to explain the philosophy of my training. Like most of you, every day I am asked to sign multiple documents that usually include my printed name followed by the familiar D.O. afterward. It may be a little thing, but each time a document erroneously includes the designation M.D., I take an extra second to cross through the M.D. and add D.O. By doing this, I mean no disrespect to my M.D. brethren. We have much in common. I honor and admire their training and profession, but the fact remains that I am a D.O. – equal but distinct.

The last issue of the KCUMB Communicator included a very good story about an

alumnus who has made remarkable advances in his specialty. The article mentioned that he serves as faculty at one of the most prestigious allopathic medical schools in the nation and that he is on staff at one of the premier hospitals in the nation. The article included a photograph of this fine physician at work. If one looks very carefully, it is obvious that his photo identification badge includes the designation M.D. after his name. It's a small thing, but it matters. Whether we practice in a rural community in Montana or at one of the leading academic medical centers in the nation, we have a responsibility to educate our colleagues and patients. I mean no disrespect, but these errors are easily corrected and give us an opportunity to further advance the excellence of our profession.

Paul L. Beckett, D.O. (COM '03)

Got Something to Say?

Submit a Letter to the Editor at www.kcumb.edu/myletter or by e-mail to 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.

FLASHBACK PHOTO ...

Peace, or something like that. We're not sure exactly what these guys were doing in this photograph from 1971.

What do you remember most about your time at KCUMB? If you have an interesting historical photo, e-mail it to communicator@kcumb.edu with a brief description. We cannot guarantee that your photo will be printed.



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The Other Side of the Tracks

KCUMB Professor's Study Views Homeless Population as Valuable Resource in Urban Renewal

Story by Lisa Cambridge

Photography by Tal Wilson, Jeffrey Michael Clair and R. Nicole Wasserman

Meet Ernest. Ernest is a homeless man in his 60s. Once a minor league baseball player, he does intensive physical labor, when he can find a job, and lives on the streets of Birmingham, Ala.

Ernest is one of many homeless individuals befriended by Jason Wasserman, Ph.D., associate professor of bioethics at KCUMB, during his four-year field study on homelessness. The last time Dr. Wasserman saw him, Ernest told him an emotional story about his family. His last words were "You tell 'em that if I had kin out here, I'd let 'em in. You tell 'em that."

It was individuals like Ernest who intrigued Dr. Wasserman enough to extend the scope of an assignment to shoot video featuring homeless people for a visual sociology class that he was co-teaching at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He continued with this study for four years. It eventually led him to publish one book, with a second forthcoming, along with several articles, distribute a video and complete his doctoral dissertation on the subject.

"We genuinely thought that in 16 weeks we would have a short film and be finished," Dr. Wasserman said. "We ended up doing a full-fledged ethnography over the next four years."

The trigger for Dr. Wasserman to dig deeper was a great disparity between the accounts of the homeless and those of providers of service to this population regarding who they are and what they need.

"There were just too many gaps

between the accounts of the homeless and the service providers," he said. "Things didn't seem to match up, and that raised key questions."

Question No. 1: Why do people prefer to stay on the street rather than in shelters?

"Contrary to the sense that shelter directors had, we found a long list of really lucid reasons why people didn't like to go to the shelters," Dr. Wasserman said. "They didn't feel safe, it was crowded, they didn't like all of the rules, they didn't like the way they were treated."

The list went on and on, according to Dr. Wasserman. And he continued to hear the same reasons over and over again. The homeless extended an invitation to Dr. Wasserman and his co-author, Jeffrey Clair, Ph.D., associate professor of sociology at University of Alabama at Birmingham, to stay out on the street. So, they did.

A shelter director encouraged Dr. Wasserman and Dr. Clair to make a fair comparison by staying in the shelter. Their experience confirmed what the homeless told them.

"The beds are bunk beds, and you literally can reach out and touch people who are complete strangers on both sides of you," Dr. Wasserman said. "It's a very uncomfortable place. And, it's more chaotic, far more chaotic (than on the street)."

After learning that his own life had been threatened, Dr. Wasserman certainly wouldn't categorize the shelter as safer than the street.



Continued on page 6

“My co-author and I checked in and ate separately, because people usually don’t check into shelters together. We wanted to be as anonymous as possible,” Dr. Wasserman said. “Jeffrey heard these guys saying, ‘Hey look at that guy over there. His eyes are too clean. He’s a cop.’”

Dr. Wasserman said they were talking about him and began to discuss how they would stab him in his sleep.

“It was just awful,” Dr. Wasserman said. “It really only confirmed that if I became homeless tomorrow, there’s no way I would go to a homeless shelter. I felt far more comfortable in the urban camp ... infinitely more comfortable.”

Return stays in the urban camp, a common term for the downtown, outdoor dwellings for the homeless, eventually revealed to Dr. Wasserman that camps reflect values and concerns that are parallel to the concerns of redeveloping city centers.

“There are hierarchies in these camps. Not a real authoritarian structure, but they are based on seniority – who established the camp first,” he said.

He described the leadership as being much like a pyramid scheme.

“If someone established a camp, they’re kind of the No. 1 person at the top of the order, because they’ve invited the other people. Whoever has been there the longest has more influence,” he said.

That’s one aspect of it. Another is based on charisma, according to Dr. Wasserman.

“In society, there are just people who are natural-born leaders,” he said. “The same is true among these homeless communities.”

Camp dwellers typically know each other, and strangers are not allowed to just wander in.

“You don’t even walk into a camp and say ‘hello’ if you’re not invited,” Dr. Wasserman emphasized. “That’s because they don’t want it to be a free-for-all. They want boundaries that make them feel safe and give stability to their community, the same boundaries that we all want out of a community.”

This is just one similarity, and there are others, according to Dr. Wasserman. He contends that focusing on similarities rather than disparities between mainstream society and the homeless can be critical to providing aid for this growing population, or even shrinking it.



“We partition out a group like the homeless and then try to differentiate all the things about them, all their maladies, that make them homeless,” he said. “We don’t have methods for knowing similarities the way we know the differences.”

Dr. Wasserman’s study led him to discover more similarities. For instance, a common perception is that people become homeless because of drug addiction or mental illness. He says that perception is so prevailing that services for the homeless are modeled after treatment for these diseases.

“If you have a drug problem or mental illness, the shelters are a great place to go for help. And, if you’re in their programs, you get more amenities than if you just check in for the night,” Dr. Wasserman said.

“For a lot of people, that’s not the fundamental reason that they’re homeless. If you’re homeless just because you lost your job or because your home burned down, and you don’t have a drug problem, there is very little help for you.”

A common belief shared by many in mainstream America is that most of the homeless population will not or cannot work. However, during Dr. Wasserman’s research, he encountered a good many homeless people who are willing to work but are unemployed unskilled or semi-skilled laborers.

“Catch Out Corner,” as it was dubbed, was a popular place for “catching” a job in Birmingham. Until it was bulldozed to make room for a park, it was a hub for laborers to gather and wait for contractors to come by to get the help they needed for the day.

“Contractors knew to go there and people would be ready to work. Sometimes they have regular work,” Dr. Wasserman said. “Particular homeless workers were regularly sought out because they are dependable and will do good work. Guys would come by looking for Jeff because they liked Jeff and knew he would work hard. There was an unspoken negotiation between the homeless people and the contractors.”

Panhandlers were not welcome. Not on Catch Out Corner and not in the camps where Dr. Wasserman stayed.

“If a guy were at Catch Out Corner holding up a sign panhandling, they would run him off. They all worked down there,” Dr. Wasserman said.

Want to Learn More?

“At Home on the Street: People, Poverty & and Hidden Culture of Homelessness” by Jason Wasserman, Ph.D., and Jeffrey Clair, Ph.D.

“Housing Patterns of Homeless People: The Ecology of the Street in the Era of Urban Renewal” published in the February 2011 issue of the *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography* by Jason Wasserman, Ph.D., and Jeffrey Clair, Ph.D.

“American Refugees: Homelessness in Four Movements” video by Jason Wasserman, Ph.D., and Jeffrey Clair, Ph.D.

“Please Underestimate Me” by Richard Tripp

“It’s Hip to Help the Homeless” by Richard Tripp

By the Numbers ...

- 671,859 people in the United States experience homelessness on any given night

- National Alliance to End Homelessness

- 1 in every 50 children in America is homeless each year

- Campaign to End Child Homelessness

Now meet Tripp. Actually, it’s Richard Tripp. Tripp was homeless in Kansas City. His story bears out Dr. Wasserman’s research in many respects.

In 1989, life as Tripp had known it came to an end. He was a cab driver, had a home, everything he needed. But, one fateful day, he injured his back taking a suitcase out of his cab.

“I was 35 years old, injured and needing many surgeries,” Tripp said. “I lost everything I had.”

Tripp lived under the Broadway Bridge near downtown Kansas City, Mo. He depended on shelters, but found them to be unsafe and unfriendly. Removal of residents from the shelters, regardless of the temperature or day of the week (holidays were not exempt), was not the only objection Tripp had.

“I finally decided I had to find a place where I wouldn’t get kicked out into the cold early every morning,” he said. “Guys would get beat up, so it was safer on the streets.”

Tripp went to work as a staff member at one of the downtown church shelters. Since he worked there, he didn’t have to leave at 6 a.m. He eventually decided he could no longer stand idly by and watch injustices to homeless people.

Tripp is no longer homeless. He lives in an apartment in Kansas City, is employed as a cab driver, and is the executive director for Care of Poor People (COPP), a non-profit organization that provides services to and advocates for the homeless. He has published two books and is featured in an upcoming documentary titled *Bridges of Hope*.

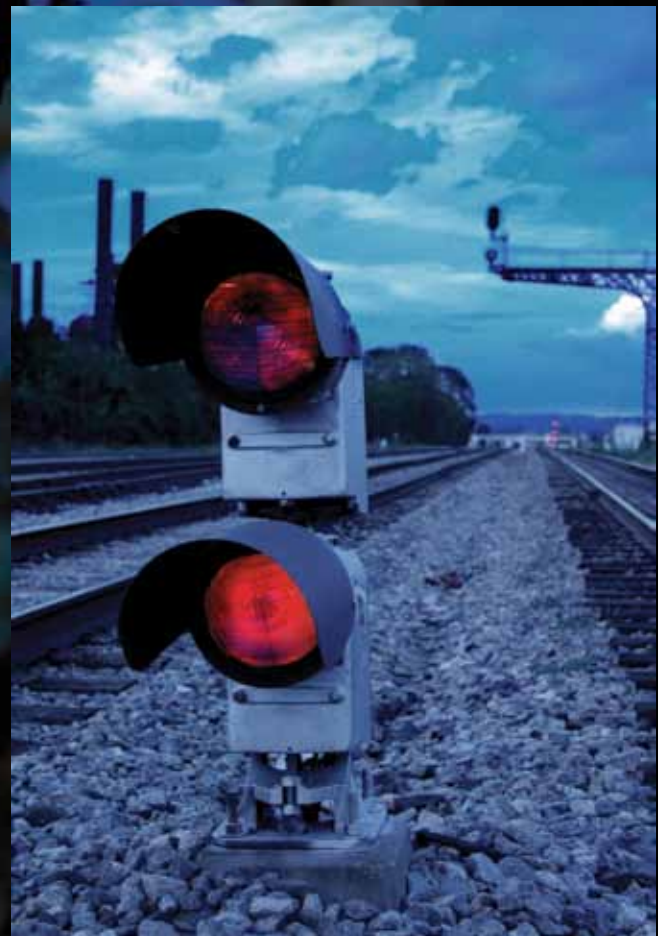
Tripp is Kansas City’s living testimony to Dr. Wasserman’s assertions that:

- not all homeless want to stay in a shelter
- not all homeless suffer from mental illness or drug addiction;
- not all homeless are unemployed and content to stay that way;
- not all homeless are looking for a handout.

Dr. Wasserman, Tripp and Ernest have a message to share with society. It’s a message that Dr. Wasserman teaches his bioethics students to apply in a broad sense to all of humanity.

If the differences between homeless people and mainstream American are fewer than most people care to admit, then perhaps society can help the homeless more by engaging with them because of our similarities rather than turning them away because of our differences.

“You tell ’em that.” ●





Research Sheds New Light on Exercising While Pregnant

KCUMB Faculty Member's Work Helps Show Fetal Heart Benefits

Story by
Kevin Wright

Photography by
Bob Greenspan

A few years back, Linda May, Ph.D., found some research exploring the acute effects of an expectant mother's physical exercise on the fetus.

"Most of the studies dealt with the mother's health," said Dr. May, assistant professor of anatomy at KCUMB. "None of the research looked at the chronic effects to the baby."

Studies have shown that women working out while pregnant have lower blood pressure, improved nervous systems, less back pain and improved emotional states.

"We knew exercise was good for the mother, but what about the baby?" Dr. May said.

Her interest in the subject – both professional and personal – began during her graduate studies in exercise physiology.

"Someday, I wanted to exercise when I was pregnant," she said.

And when the day arrived, her physician gave her a conservative approach to exercise.

"Pretty much, she told me I could exercise, but didn't have extensive knowledge of what kind of exercise I should do or the long-term effects the exercise would have on the baby," Dr. May said.

Dr. May decided to research the subject as she worked on her doctoral dissertation at Northeastern Ohio University's College of Medicine. She would later apply that knowledge to a fetal heart health research study after she joined Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences in 2005.

"I thought surely, if there are benefits for the mom to exercise, there has to be some beneficial effects on the baby," she said.

The fetal heart health research project was born when Dr. May attended a lecture by Kathleen Gustafson, Ph.D., director of the Fetal Biomagnetometry Laboratory at the University of Kansas Medical Center's (KUMC) Hogle Brain Imaging Center.

"She approached me and told me about her idea to research the effects of a mother's exercise on the fetus," Dr. Gustafson said.



Dr. May and Dr. Gustafson prepare to examine a patient inside the Fetal Biomagnetometry Laboratory at the University of Kansas Medical Center's Høglund Brain Imaging Center.

Dr. Gustafson has an interest in the autonomic nervous system and how it develops within the fetus, such as how a fetus learns to breathe.

The autonomic nervous system, which is controlled by the brain, is the part of the peripheral nervous system that acts as a control system for visceral functions. It affects heart rate, digestion, respiration rate, salivation, perspiration, diameter of the pupils, micturition and sexual arousal.

"I saw a direct correlation between Linda's idea and my interests," Dr. Gustafson said. "I was really interested in doing the research."

The research took more than four years to complete, including the approval process, testing the subjects and interpretation of the data. KCUMB and the Høglund Brain Imaging Center funded the team's work.

The team consisted of Dr. May, Dr. Gustafson, Henry Yeh, Ph.D., a statistician at KUMC, Alan Glaros, Ph.D., associate dean for basic medical sciences at KCUMB, and Richard Suminski, Ph.D., associate professor of physiology at KCUMB.

The initial research study in 2008 found that pregnant women who exercised had babies with lower heart rates during the final weeks of development.

"Aerobic exercise is one of the important things a pregnant mother can do to help her baby," Dr. May said. "It improves the system that controls heart function."

Dr. May and the team of researchers took 61 pregnant women and assessed their heart functions and the fetuses' heart functions during pregnancy.

This was done with Høglund's dedicated fetal biomagnetometer, which measures the magnetic fields surrounding electrically active heart, brain and muscle tissue. There are only two of these devices in the United States.

Women performed exercises, including walking, running, yoga and weight lifting at various amounts. Women who exercised at least 30 minutes a day, three days a week had babies with lower heart rates. Women who exercised less had babies with higher heart rates.

The mothers who exercised regularly also had good heart rate variability, which indicates the nervous system has better control over the heart.

The research team recently revealed results that show the babies' improved cardiovascular heart control is maintained one month after pregnancy, which indicates that the mothers' efforts to stay active have lasting effects.

"A low heart rate indicates that the baby's heart is healthy," Dr. May said.

Improved heart control function is evidence of a healthy cardiovascular system and overall health, Dr. May added. Researchers are not 100 percent certain how the mom's exercise transferred to the baby's development, but Dr. May believes it could be hormones or growth factor produced by the mother, which is improved with exercise, affects the placenta and stimulates the baby's development.

The result is a baby's health improves just like an adult who goes through physical training.

Continued on page 10

“This exposure to exercise influences the way the nervous system and heart develops,” Dr. May said.

Dr. Gustafson said the team’s findings are significant.

“The evidence is quite strong that what happens with mom gets passed on to the fetus,” she said.

Dr. Gustafson studies the effects of Docosahexaenoic acid (DHA), commonly referred to as an omega-3 fatty acid, in the development of a fetus and on the human body. Exercise, she said, is not a substitute for DHA in a one’s diet, but a mother’s exercise has a correlation with it in the development of the baby.

Most types of exercise are safe during pregnancy, with some obvious exceptions.

“You don’t want to go skydiving or scuba diving while pregnant, though,” Dr. May said.

She recommends that pregnant women follow the guidelines set forth by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, which includes walking, low-impact aerobics, running, weight training and swimming as safe exercises for an expectant mother to perform.

The research team found that even small amounts of exercise, such as walking 20 minutes twice a week, will improve the fetus’ health.

“We don’t want to overwhelm women saying they have to exercise three times a week or more,” Dr. Gustafson said. “They’re already overwhelmed anyway with all information on diet and exercise, and they feel like there is nothing they can do.”

Dr. May presented the team’s findings in April at the 2011 Experimental Biology meeting in Washington, D.C. She always enjoys meeting with the different societies and disciplines, and it gave her great satisfaction to share her work.

The research findings have brought an onslaught of media requests for Dr. May and have resulted in the findings being featured in *The New York Times*, *Medical News*, *Time*, *Science Daily*, *The Times of India*, *Japan Herald* and on ABC’s “Good Morning, America.”

Dr. May, however, is not done with the subject.

“We would like to do a follow-up study on the babies at three months, six months, and one year to see the differences and if the effects are long term,” she said.

She also would like to perform controlled studies with expectant mothers of various ethnicities, socioeconomic standings and physical attributes to see if they can produce the same results.

“One of the studies could focus on obesity or high-risk mothers, which has become a critical issue,” she said.

She wants the research to help expectant mothers, improve their overall health and the health of the fetus. She also wants to share the team’s findings with the osteopathic medical students who attend her classes at KCUMB.

“It’s important information for them to have,” she said. “This is what they need to think about when they are advising their patients in the future.” ●





Story by Christopher Ryan

Photography by Cortney Christensen and Bob Greenspan

Overcoming Obstacles

Medical Student Stays the Course, Finds Success at KCUMB While Dealing With Son's Illness

Lying on his back but never lying still, kicking and gurgling, Demetri Fotopoulos smiles happily as he chomps down on a toy made of brightly colored plastic rings. At first, nothing about the little boy seems unusual. Even from just a few feet away, he looks like a typical 1-year-old – except for the six little red spots, three above each eye, that might be mosquito bites, if they weren't so neatly organized into two triangles.

Below those triangles and above two bright eyes are eyelashes that would be the envy of any fashion model, long, thick and luxurious. Further down the little body, at the end of a chubby arm, is a tiny hand with one digit partially missing. From under the pullover shirt runs a white tube – a feeding tube. Demetri has not had solid food in months.

A bystander might think, "It must be hard for Demetri's parents to have to feed their year-old child through a tube." But that bystander would be wrong, because Demetri isn't 1 year old. He's 2. Only recently has he been able to sit up. While other children Demetri's age are entering their "terrible twos," he still can't walk, though he can stand with help, and he speaks only couple of words, one of which is "Mama."

Chris and Kristen Fotopoulos spend some quality time with their children, 4-year-old Eleni and 1-year-old Demetri. Family time is precious in the household, with Chris in medical school at KCUMB and Demetri coping with Cornelia de Lange Syndrome, or CdLS, a genetic disorder.

Still, the little boy smiles, and his parents, Chris and Kristen Fotopoulos, sitting cross-legged on the carpeted floor of their suburban home, smile back. Kristen picks Demetri up and holds him on her lap. Eleni, the Fotopouloses' daughter, enters the room, returning from some 4-year-old's errand, and plops down beside Demetri on her mother's lap. Kristen wraps her arms around them both.

The peace of the moment belies the pain and worry that have been a large part of this foursome's life for almost three years. But the story of the Fotopoulos family is decidedly not a tragedy. Instead, it is one of strength, understanding and compassion. In fact, it is much larger than the four people it concerns most.

The story of Demetri Fotopoulos and his family includes the faculty, staff and students of Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences, where Chris is a second-year medical student; a variety of therapists, nurses and physicians; and a number of nonprofit organizations. This moment of peace and comfort is in large part possible because of their efforts.

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The Fotopoulos family takes a quick portrait April 17 before participating in the Trolley Run, the largest annual fund-raising event for the Children's Center for the Visually Impaired, an organization that has provided therapy for Demetri and others with CdLS.

One in 10,000

Demetri has Cornelia de Lange Syndrome, or CdLS, a genetic disorder that affects children of both sexes and every race and ethnicity at the rate of about one in every 10,000 live births. According to the CdLS Foundation (cdlsusa.org), the disorder causes medical, physical and cognitive challenges that vary in severity.

On its website, the CdLS Foundation describes the characteristics of CdLS as “low birth weight (often under 5 pounds), slow growth, small stature and small head size.” However, other features may develop, including small hands and feet, gastro-esophageal reflux disease, heart defects, seizures, difficulty feeding, vision problems, hearing loss, behavioral issues, communication problems and developmental delays. About 25 percent of children with CdLS are missing arms, forearms or fingers.

It is a daunting list and, with the exception of behavioral difficulties, Demetri has experienced almost all of them – including the long eyelashes – to varying degrees. But it was the eyelashes Kristen noticed first after Demetri was born.

The physician who attended the birth noticed the lashes, too, and told Kristen she believed the baby had CdLS. That was the start of the second leg of a long journey that had begun about 17 weeks earlier.

Labor of Love

The first indication there might be a problem with Kristen's pregnancy came in October 2008 during the first trimester. Something was not right with her pregnancy screening, but no one could determine what it was. So, on Nov. 4, Kristen underwent amniocentesis.

“I'll never forget that date,” Kristen said. “I'll remember it forever.”

During the procedure, Kristen's membrane ruptured, and she lost all her amniotic fluid. She was admitted to the hospital for four days and then sent home on bed rest. She would be on bed rest for another 17 weeks, until Demetri was born. She was told the baby probably would not survive.

At this point, Chris was in his first year of medical school at KCUMB. Although he was a good student, he needed time to study and prepare for examinations. It was time, however, that was in shortest supply.

With Kristen on bed rest – and studying for her nursing board exams – Chris had to devote more hours to taking care of her and

Eleni who, at the time, was barely more than a baby herself.

“I'd go to school, come home, go to school, come home,” Chris recalled.

The doctors continued monitoring Demetri's progress in the womb. They noticed that his growth had slowed. There was something abnormal about his hand. It was difficult to determine anything with certainty on the ultrasounds.

Chris was having trouble keeping up with his studies. But leaving medical school was not an option. He went to school, came home, went to school, came home, until, on Feb. 27, 2009, Demetri Fotopoulos made his way into the world. The little boy weighed 2 pounds, 3 ounces. From the start, he did astonishingly well.

'A Lot of Not Knowing'

In the neonatal ICU, where he spent the first six weeks of his life, Demetri gained weight steadily. He ate well and showed few signs of trouble, except those long eyelashes and the missing digit on his hand. The doctors did not know what had caused the abnormalities, but CdLS was not mentioned as a possibility. It looked as though Demetri could have a nearly normal childhood.

“We didn't want anything to be wrong with him, even though we knew there was something wrong,” Kristen said.

Demetri weighed 3 pounds, 8 ounces when Chris and Kristen brought him home. They took turns staying up with him, and noticed something wasn't right.

Instead of passing from his stomach into his intestines, Demetri's food was staying in his stomach. This problem led to his readmission to the hospital just five days after he arrived home. He underwent surgery to try to correct the pyloric stenosis that was preventing him from digesting his food properly.

Then Demetri started aspirating his food, so the doctors decided to give him nothing by mouth until he grew to more than five pounds and then put in a feeding tube. He had surgery to stop the reflux that was causing him to choke on his food. The reflux worsened. He underwent another surgery, and a feeding tube was inserted.

Throughout these difficult days, Kristen and Chris rotated shifts staying with their son at night. They made a point, however, to be home for family dinner with Eleni. It was important, they agreed, to maintain some normalcy.

Again, Chris was unable to attend classes. He had a tutor, and when he missed class, he could view the lecture at home. Kristen went back to work because the family needed the money. She was able to schedule 24-hour shifts that allowed her to maintain full-time employment while working three days every two weeks.

Demetri continued to experience severe reflux. The doctors tried medications without much effect. The baby had an anaphylactic reaction to one of them. Once, Demetri aspirated after a reflux and stopped breathing. He had turned blue before his father was able to clear the obstruction with a suction machine that had just been installed in the home.

Darkest Before the Dawn

Demetri's aspiration episode required a trip in an ambulance but only a day's observation in the hospital. He seemed to improve afterward.

At last, after six months, a diagnosis came. Demetri did, indeed, have Cornelia de Lange Syndrome. He would require lots of therapy.

Chris and Kristen knew they needed help, and they found it from a number of sources.

Before Kristen went back to work, she and Chris found an in-home nurse through a Kansas program that provides nursing care for children with medical needs. To provide the physical, occupational, speech and feeding therapies Demetri needed, they connected with the Children's Center for the Visually Impaired. Supporting CCVI would soon become a passion for both Chris and Kristen, and the organization would be the recipient of funds they would raise through events they helped establish and promote.

These nonprofit agencies and organizations provided critical help and support for the Fotopoulos family, but Chris and Kristen reserve special gratitude for KCUMB.

"The school," Chris said, "... was fabulous." Kristen breaks in. "They really worked with Chris."

From students to faculty and staff, Chris and Kristen found boundless support from KCUMB. Those individuals who helped in one way or another – and there are many of them – seem to agree that part of their enthusiasm for helping had to do with the people they were helping.

"Chris and I became friends during graduate school, which later became a close friendship of four," said Leslie Mills, a third-year medical student. "Like glue, Chris kept the four of us together."

It was this stability and air of competence that also impressed Angel Fox, KCUMB's curriculum coordinator for first-year students. She was responsible for coordinating the excused absences that allowed Chris to find the time he needed to take care of his family and himself.

"I don't know what makes you so strong you can overcome these obstacles," Fox said. "Chris is a compassionate man. He understands why people struggle to stay together."

Chris needed those excused absences and finally, with the encouragement of Darin L. Haug, D.O. (COM '01), KCUMB's executive vice president of academic and medical affairs and dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine, he decided to take a leave of absence after his first year.

"Your heart bleeds for what he and his wife are going through," Dr. Haug said. "Chris did an amazing job of dealing with the situation, with Demetri and medical school. Chris has perseverance. He wants to be a wonderful physician."

Chris returned to class in the fall of 2010. He is still in school and recently completed his second-year exams.

Still Together, Still Strong

Back in the Fotopouloses' home, Kristen jumps up to check on Eleni who is playing in the backyard, handing Demetri to Chris, who smiles at his son and receives a smile in return. The red spots still form a triangle above each of Demetri's eyes. It turns out they are the result of another surgery, this one to correct severely drooping eyelids.

Returning, Kristen again sits cross-legged on the carpet. She and Chris glance at each other and smile. For a moment, the room is silent, except for the little noises Demetri makes. The Fotopoulos family is at home. ●



Chris Fotopoulos has managed to juggle the demands of medical school while also helping his son, Demetri, overcome various medical challenges.

CLASS OF 2011 GRADUATES REFLECT ON THEIR TIME IN THE COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

Four years of late-night study sessions, countless cups of coffee and nerve-wracking exams all culminated with that one special moment when they walked across the stage, accepted their degrees and officially earned the right to put those two short, yet significant letters after their names: D.O.

KCUMB's College of Osteopathic Medicine bestowed doctor of osteopathic medicine degrees upon 237 students May 14 during its 125th Commencement Ceremony at Weaver Auditorium.

Now, as the newest graduates embark on their medical careers, they reflect on some of their countless experiences while at KCUMB and how serving others is now in their blood – well, not literally, but almost ...

Finding Fulfillment of a Lifelong Dream

VALERIE DYE, D.O. (COM '11)

From a young age, Valerie Dye always knew she wanted to be a doctor.

"My parents have a picture of me at 2 with a stethoscope," said Dye, a native of Cleveland, Miss. "My family has always called me 'Dr. Dye.'"

As a student in KCUMB's College of Osteopathic Medicine, Dye was active in working with Docs for Tots, a national organization that focuses attention on advocacy for infants, toddlers and children. Her involvement in Docs for Tots gave her numerous opportunities to develop her medical skills while also providing a valuable service to some of Kansas City's most vulnerable children.

"We organized Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas and Valentine's Day parties," she said. "We also worked with Operation Breakthrough and helped local Boy Scouts by providing physicals."

In addition, she and Docs for Tots played an integral role in the success of KCUMB's Community Garden. The garden, located across the street from the University's Administration Building, provides area children an opportunity to learn more about the importance of nutrition while helping grow fruits and vegetables.

"I really enjoyed getting involved in the community," she said. "The day-to-day stuff we did – keeping it clean, weeding and watering, etc. – was all worth it when the kids would come out and help us in the garden."

"They got so excited about the fruits and vegetables," she continued. "They would use them in their snacks and take them home for their families to eat. It was our way of teaching kids about health care and healthy eating."

Before arriving at KCUMB, Dye hoped to one day become a pediatric oncologist. Although her aspirations have since changed – she's now interested in internal medicine – she is grateful for having the opportunity to explore various medical specialties early in her medical school experience. It allowed her to make a more informed decision about her future career path.

"Even though I will be working in internal medicine, I still loved working with children, and Docs for Tots allowed me that," she said. ●



Story by Sadie Clement and Scott Summers
Photography by Cortney Christensen



Filling a Void by Serving Others

DANIEL STYPULA, D.O. (COM '11)

Starting his first year of studies at KCUMB's College of Osteopathic Medicine was a whirlwind for Daniel Stypula, typical of most beginning such an arduous program. But Stypula's reaction to all the new stressors in his life was anything but typical.

"I was very busy with school, meeting new people and exploring Kansas City," he said. "Even with everything going on in my life, I still felt like something was missing."

Stypula soon realized that he had found that missing piece a couple months earlier at Cherith Brook, a Catholic ministry dedicated to serving the area homeless population by offering food, showers and fellowship.

"I stumbled into Cherith Brook serendipitously," he explained. "The assignment was to go over and help cook a meal. I convinced several of my friends to come along because it was a short engagement – two hours – and it was close to the school. We didn't know what to expect."

After helping transform a pile of donated vegetables that day into an enormous vat of vegetable soup – something for which Stypula credits fellow student Barry Stoll, who had some professional culinary training before entering medical school – and a tour of the facilities with the organization's founders, Stypula was hooked. He soon found himself back at Cherith Brook.

Stypula helped clean and sort laundry, built rain barrels, worked in the garden and did whatever else was needed.

"Eventually, I became more interested in helping prepare the meals," he said. "Cooking had always been a hobby of mine. Cooking at Cherith Brook became a perfect outlet for me."

Most Wednesday nights, Stypula bought groceries and combed through the Cherith Brook pantry for ingredients to combine. His work would end up filling the plates and stomachs of 30 to 50 people during the organization's regular Thursday night dinners."

While he quietly went about his work with little fanfare, others at KCUMB took notice of his efforts.

"Daniel is the most humble person," said Sara Selkirk, executive director of community and student affairs at KCUMB. "He never told anyone about all the work he had done during his time on campus."

Stypula believes he got as much out of the experience as he gave. He calls his work with Cherith Brook his "defining experience at KCUMB." ●



Continued on page 16

Worth Noting ...

GRADUATES RECALL SPECIAL MOMENTS, MEMORIES

“I interviewed at a few different places. I was most impressed with KCUMB. When I finished my interview and got back into the car with my mom, I said ‘If they will accept me, this is where I’m going.’”

– Valerie Dye, D.O. (COM ’11),
on her initial visit to KCUMB

“I will never forget what she said to me. ‘You will give blood, sweat and tears in this place – literally, blood, sweat and tears. But in the end, it will be worth it.’ She was absolutely right.”

– Katie Kenney, D.O. (COM ’11),
on interviewing with the late
Mary L. Butterworth, D.O. (COM
’54), when she was considering
KCUMB

“People at KCUMB really do want you to be successful. It’s a family atmosphere. We’ll all miss that when we leave.”

– Brad Scheu, D.O. (COM ’11),
on what he believes is special
about KCUMB

Making an Impact One Person at a Time

ERRIN WEISMAN, D.O. (COM ’11)

When fellow KCUMB student Katie Moore’s husband passed away in April 2009, Errin Weisman was among several KCUMB medical students who stepped in to help Moore and her two young daughters.

“We just knew we had to do something to help this family,” Weisman said. “We arranged a pancake breakfast. Many people came in and just gave money, without eating any pancakes. To this day, money continues to pour in.”

Moore, also a Class of 2011 graduate, is grateful to all those who helped get her through a difficult time.

“The outpouring of support was absolutely amazing,” Moore said. “The class came together ... I was overwhelmed at the generosity we were shown.”

Finding balance in your life can be a bit tricky when you are in the midst of medical school. For Weisman, that is what serving as a volunteer provides for her.

In addition to helping Moore and her family, Weisman was active with Christian Medical and Dental Association and Micah’s Ministry, through which she helped organize two on-campus clothing drives and a shoe drive that collected more than 400 pairs of shoes for Kansas City’s homeless population. She also donated her time to Micah’s Ministry on Monday nights by cooking meals and helping distribute clothing to those in need.

“There are so many ways to serve and to volunteer both on and off campus,” she said. “Volunteering and getting involved helps balance out the academics and allows students to have some fun and help out.”

Having grown up in Evansville, Ind., Weisman has seen the impact of helping those in her community. It is something she hopes will shape her experiences as a physician.

“Helping others allows you to connect to people on a different level,” she said. “Volunteering helps you see what you can give back to the community.” ●





Advice from an Expert (Yeah, She's a Doctor Now.)

KATIE KENNEY, D.O. (COM '11), OFFERS WORDS OF WISDOM TO INCOMING FIRST-YEAR MEDICAL STUDENTS

No. 1

Studying for medical school is much different from studying in college. It will take a major adjustment to absorb the volume of information coming at you each day. Mindless memorization without comprehension will not work. Instead, appreciate why and how things work within the human body. If you can do this, medicine will make much more sense.

No. 2

Take a little time for you each day – even if it's just a few minutes. Take a run, dance to a loud song, play your guitar, challenge the rainbow road in MarioKart or share a meal with friends. Find something that works for you. Find something that keeps you sane and lowers your stress level.

No. 3

To receive the distinguished honor of leading the entire class in the day's pathology lecture, proceed as follows: Walk in front of the projector beam, keep your bookbag in the aisle and leave your cell phone on a loud and, preferably, catchy tune.

No. 4

Admitting you do not know an answer is OK! It is impossible to learn absolutely everything in medical school, or even years into practice, for that matter. As physicians, we are always learning and medicine is constantly changing. Stay curious and you will do well.

No. 5

Take a load off. Pull up a chair and have a conversation with your patient instead of perching over their hospital bed. Remember, as physicians, we treat more than the physical aspect of our patients. A few extra minutes of rapport and a smile can go a long way. ●



Worth Noting ...

GRADUATES RECALL SPECIAL MOMENTS, MEMORIES

“The systems-based approach (to learning) really clicked for me. When you leave KCUMB , you think you went to the best school in the country.”

– Valerie Dye, D.O. (COM '11), on how many of her preceptors have reacted to her level of preparedness

“This field can be so difficult, but every student at KCUMB can do well because the professors truly care.”

– Errin Weisman, D.O. (COM '11), recalling the dedication of faculty members to students, including emails getting answered at all hours of the night



A Special Photographic Look at KCUMB's Newest Facilities ...
by Bob Greenspan and Cortney Christensen



KCUMB students enter the new Student Activities Center, which sits adjacent to Weaver Auditorium. The new facility, which opened Feb. 28, has received rave reviews from students, who enjoy the many amenities it has to offer, in addition to the wealth of space for club and organizational activities.

(Top right) The second floor features an outdoor patio, where students can get some fresh air, listen to music and take in a magnificent view of the downtown Kansas City skyline.



Need a relaxing break from studying? In addition to the Common Grounds coffee shop, the first floor includes several flat-screen television monitors, comfortable chairs for lounging, a ping-pong table and a pool table.



The fitness center is one way students can relieve the stress of their studies. The aerobics room, pictured above, is used by groups for various workout sessions, including yoga and tae kwon do.

(Below) The fitness center also offers an extensive weight-training area, with both free weights and machines. Work up a good sweat? No worries. There are also expansive locker room facilities where students can grab a quick shower before heading off to class or any of the other facilities on campus.



The Student Activities Center also provides a spacious new home for the campus bookstore. In addition to required textbooks, it offers KCUMB apparel, snacks, fountain drinks and a variety of other merchandise.





The D'Angelo Library, which opened Feb. 28, offers a sleek new home for the library's collections, as well as all of the technology students have come to expect.



(Top) The library's circulation desk is a one-stop destination for all library-related questions. Need a specific book? This is the place.

(Bottom) Whether students prefer to study individually or in small groups, the D'Angelo Library has plenty of space to accommodate their needs.



(Top) The library houses a computer laboratory, where students can check email, surf the Internet or participate in various training sessions offered by library staff. The library also offers wireless Internet access for students looking for a little more freedom.

(Bottom) The Special Collections room houses many of the library's historic osteopathic collections.



The atrium inside the D'Angelo Library features lots of natural light and provides an open, airy feeling for visitors.

Faculty, Staff and Board Come Together to Benefit KCUMB

myKCUMB Internal Giving Campaign Raises More Than \$132,000

In late March, KCUMB employees were issued a challenge: Show alumni, students and others in the Kansas City community that you support KCUMB. With that, the myKCUMB internal giving campaign was officially born. Three weeks later, the results of the University's first comprehensive internal fund-raising campaign were staggering.

KCUMB faculty, staff and Board of Trustees members donated \$132,857 to the University. Sixty percent of employees participated in the fund-raising efforts and 35 people participated as campaign leaders. All totaled, the average gift by participants was \$885.



Dollase

age gift by participants was \$885.

"It was a fantastic result that we should all be proud of," said Beth Dollase, vice president for advancement. "I already knew that people here genuinely cared about each other and about this University. This just reaffirmed that we are just one big, caring community."

In addition to the money itself, the stellar campaign results can make a



significant impact in other ways.

"By giving to KCUMB, we make an impact beyond simply funding an area of interest," she said. "We set an example for others to follow. It's incredibly important for us to be able to say, when we go out and talk to potential donors, that employees support this University at this level because we believe in what we're doing."

Dollase asked members of the Board of Trustees and the University's Leadership Team to contribute to the campaign early on, something she believes was an essential component to making myKCUMB successful.

"It means a lot," she said. "Every campaign should start at the highest level because truly they're setting the example for us to all follow. It was wonderful to see them engaged in this effort."

The myKCUMB theme was developed to foster a sense of ownership among faculty and staff, as well as provide an opportunity for them

to highlight their favorite aspects of KCUMB.

"It's about people having a voice about what's important to them," Dollase said.

To encourage giving, the Advancement team created giving opportunities at various financial levels, all designed to support the University's strategic planning goals.

"The idea was that those who feel strongly about the goals that their departments have developed could play an active role toward making those goals happen," she said.

Among the most highly supported aspects of the University were: scholarships, fellowships and medical missions.

Employees who donated to the myKCUMB campaign received notes from Dollase, Board of Trustees members and H. Danny Weaver, D.O. (COM '84), president and chief executive officer.

"The great thing about this coming year is that, since we are here, we can see that money at work," Dollase said. "I would anticipate that all of that will lead to a very successful campaign next year as well." ●

“ We set an example for others to follow. It's incredibly important for us to be able to say, when we go out and talk to potential donors, that employees support this University at this level because we believe in what we're doing. ”

– Beth Dollase, vice president for advancement

Creative Medical Art in Teaching Award to Fund Anatomical Drawing Lessons

Through art, students in Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences College of Osteopathic Medicine will soon have a unique opportunity to further their medical knowledge by creating anatomical drawings.

Courtney Christensen, graphic designer at KCUMB, received the 2011



Christensen

Mamie E. Johnston, D.O., FACOP, Creative Medical Art in Teaching Award for his proposal that KCUMB provide its osteopathic medical students an opportunity to better learn anatomical structure by learning to draw various musculature through the use of live models. Rachel Mindrup, a professional artist and illustrator who studied figure drawing and artistic anatomy at the Art Academy of Los Angeles, will teach the sessions.

"I took a life drawing class in college, and I was surprised at how much I learned about anatomy just by observing and drawing what I saw," said Christensen. "By physically drawing the muscles, scientific concepts such

as bone formation and muscle insertion points become further reinforced. Rachel has taught a drawing class at KCUMB before as part of an ArtsKC fundraiser, and I've seen firsthand how well she is able to relate drawing concepts to non-artists. I think these sessions will help bring a new level of understanding for our medical students."

The award provides funding for students, residents, fellows, faculty and other professional staff at KCUMB to explore the arts. The award, established by Betty Jo White, D.O. (COM '63), FACOS, encourages recipients to express themselves in ways not included in the conventional osteopathic medical school curriculum, while enhancing lifelong connections between the art and science of medicine.

The award is named in honor of Dr. Johnston, who in 1917 became the first graduate of KCUMB. She also served the University as a professor of practice (pediatrics) and a professor of gynecology for a 46-year span from 1920-1966.

Dr. Johnston retired in 1981 after 64 years practicing osteopathic medicine. She died Nov. 6, 1986. ●



Organization Awards \$25,000 Scholarship to KCUMB Student

Representatives of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas City made a special presentation May 12 on the KCUMB campus – and it was a presentation that Katie Moore, D.O. (COM '11), certainly won't forget.

BCBSKC presented Moore, who plans to pursue family medicine, with a \$25,000 scholarship, which will help cover some of her educational expenses.

BCBSKC developed the scholarship to show the company's commitment to the continued strength of the health-care system in Kansas City, as well as recognize KCUMB for its role in supporting the system. KCUMB is one of three medical schools in the Kansas City area to award the scholarship on behalf of BCBSKC. ●



Dr. Moore accepts a \$25,000 scholarship from Blake Williamson, M.D., of BCBSKC (second from left). Darin Haug, D.O. (COM '01), executive vice president for medical affairs and dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine, and H. Danny Weaver, D.O. (COM '84), president and chief executive officer, were also on hand for the presentation.

Mineral Area Health Group Awards Scholarships to Deserving KCUMB Students

Several KCUMB students were recently awarded scholarships for the 2011-2012 academic year by the Mineral Area Health Group, Inc., a not-for-profit charity funded with proceeds derived from the sale of Mineral Area Osteopathic Hospital in Farmington, Mo.

The scholarship program, which was established in 2009, awards financial assistance to first- through fourth-year medical students to help offset the burden of tuition, books and other instruction-related expenses.

Recipients for 2011-2012 are:

John Downing (COM '12)
 Kelly Reed (COM '12)
 Aaron Bornstein (COM '13)
 Ivan Eck (COM '13)
 Samantha Gammon (COM '13)
 Angela (Sutton) Tarricone (COM '13)
 Julia Newby (COM '14)
 Whitney Wallace (COM '14) ●

New Scholarships Provide Unique Incentive for Two KCUMB Students

Two KCUMB students will soon find a little more money in their pockets and a lot less going toward paying their rent during medical school.

Thanks to a unique scholarship agreement between Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences and the owners of the Century Towers apartment building near the University's campus, one incoming first-year student will receive a year of rent-free living at Century Towers, while a second-year student will receive half-price rent. Both students also receive a \$1,000 scholarship.

A year of rent at Century Towers is currently valued at \$6,000. Renaissance Northeast, LLC, which owns the apartments, will provide the in-kind and

cash gifts to two students annually.

Applications for the first offering of scholarships are due Feb. 1. The first-year student scholarship will be based on financial need, and the second-year student scholarship will



be awarded based upon academic achievement. Recipients will be chosen by KCUMB's Scholarship Committee, with announcement of the first recipients expected in early March.

Since most medical students graduate with tens of thousands of dollars in debt, any amount of funding helps immensely, said Beth Dollase, vice president for advancement.

"This is just one more opportunity to take that load off their shoulders," she said. ●

DESERVING STUDENTS EARN PHYSICIANS' HALL OF SPONSORS SCHOLARSHIPS

KCUMB recently awarded Physicians' Hall of Sponsors scholarships to 76 deserving osteopathic medical students. Scholarship recipients were selected based upon a variety of

criteria, including academic excellence and financial need. Students receiving scholarships during the 2011-2012 academic year are:

Class of 2012

Renato Aller-Zumaeta
 Zachary Bailey
 Lindsey Bayer
 Ryan Biga
 Catherine Brockmeier
 Ashley Bruns
 Michael Casey
 Brandy Conner
 Kimberly Dabbs
 Michael Decker
 Regan Dulin, M.S.
 Julie Easterday Vircks
 Charles Frommelt
 Maribeth Guletz
 Starla Hayward

Phillip Homier

Cory Jabara
 Robert Learch
 Randall Leja
 Jennifer Litwin
 Aaron Mayer
 Randal Michelson, M.S.
 Jordan Mills
 Urvi Patel
 Jennifer Quick
 Stephanie Sammons
 Christine Scoby
 Nathan Sprengel
 Katie Thompson
 Jessica Treece
 Eileen Westhues

Class of 2013

Emily Barnard
 Alan Barnes
 Benjamin Barrick
 Andrew Brochu
 John Childs
 Matthew Crowe
 Stephen Doyle
 Alexander Flood
 Christopher Gifford
 Emily Heronemus
 Rachel High
 Jonathan Howerton
 Hela Kelsch
 Brian Lovitt
 Chiara Mancini

James Mitts

Brigid O'Brien, M.S. (2)
 Sherena Perry
 Katherine Mae Poquiz
 Nicole Record
 Heidi Smith
 James Smith
 Cynetta Sturghill, M.A.
 Cornelius Thiels
 Clive Wasson
 Rachel Wenzel
 Ashley Wessler
 Christopher Whiting

Class of 2014

Krista Bachamp

Kelly Carman

Brandon Cole
 Daniel Cornelius
 Matthew Cullen
 Kathryn Ellis
 Allen Heeger
 Lindsey Kirkpatrick
 Justin Little
 Joseph Loeb
 Joshua Richards, M.S.
 Benjamin Roth
 Christopher Sutton, M.S.
 Mandi Thomas, M.A.
 Jessica Toth
 Vivan Tran
 Andrew Wiele
 Patrick Williams

The Physicians' Hall of Sponsors is the University's premier scholarship and award program.

For more information on how you can help provide scholarship funds for deserving KCUMB students, contact Ted Place, executive director of alumni development, at 816-283-2454 or tplace@kcumb.edu. ●

KCUMB Names Newest Sparks Foundation Scholarship Recipients

Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences named the recipients for the Sam and Marille Sparks East Town Osteopathic Foundation scholarships. The foundation, based in Mesquite, Texas, awards scholarships to exemplary students originally from Texas.

Scholarship recipients for the 2010-2011 academic year were:

Class of 2011

Sari Hochberger, D.O.

Class of 2012

Paul Aaron
Brittnea Adcock

Class of 2013

Leon Tio
Ashley Wessler

Class of 2014

Daniel Cornelius

KCUMB Honors Sparks Foundation President

On May 5, his birthday, KCUMB's College of Osteopathic Medicine honored the long-time president of the Sam and Marille Sparks East Town Osteopathic Foundation for his service to the foundation, the osteopathic community and KCUMB students.

Richard Anderson, D.O., stepped down from the board of the Sparks Foundation earlier this year after having served as president of the foundation for more than two decades. Dr. Anderson's legacy will continue thanks to the more than 75 KCUMB medical students who received scholarships totaling over \$300,000 during his tenure. ●

Take Advantage of Tax-Free IRA Transfers

Consider Making a Gift to KCUMB Today

As part of the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization and Job Creation Act of 2010, individuals 70 years or older may now make tax-free transfers to KCUMB of up to \$100,000 from an IRA.

To qualify, gifts must be made no later than Dec. 31, 2011, and the gifts fulfill some or all of an individual's required minimum distribution without increasing that person's taxable income.

For more information on how you can help KCUMB through your IRA, please contact Ted Place, executive director of alumni development, at 816-654-7286 or tplace@kcumb.edu.

KCUMB Commits Additional Money to Scholarships

As part of its regular meeting in April, Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences' Board of Trustees voted to significantly boost the amount of scholarship funding available to its students.

The Board of Trustees set aside an additional \$1.3 million in funds for student scholarships, bringing the total allocated for scholarships to \$2.1 million.

"We are committed to providing the best possible learning environment for our students," said H. Danny Weaver, D.O. (COM '84), president and chief executive officer. "Part of that commitment extends to helping ensure that we provide our students with adequate scholarship opportunities to help lessen their financial burdens. I believe this is a step in the right direction, and hopefully, something we can continue to build on as we move forward." ●

VISIT KCUMB AT THE AOA CONVENTION

Make plans now to attend the AOA's 116th Osteopathic Medical Conference and Exposition, which will take place Oct. 30-Nov. 3 at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Fla.

While there, be sure to stop by KCUMB's booth (No. 424) to pick up a special alumni gift and visit KCUMB representatives.

The University will also host a special reception for alumni at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 1, at Cuba Libre Restaurant in Pointe Orlando, near the convention center. The evening will include fabulous food, Flamenco dancers and a Latin band. ●

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/alumnidues or mailing your payment to the KCUMB Advancement Office, 1750 Independence Ave., Kansas City, MO 64106.

FROM THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

The Alumni Association is Working for You in Numerous Ways

Megan McBride, D.O. (COM '01)



As president of the KCUMB Alumni Association, it has been my honor to represent you during the past nine months. It has been a time of great change at our alma mater, as well as for the Alumni Association and its members as we completed our recent transition to a separate 501(c)3 organization.

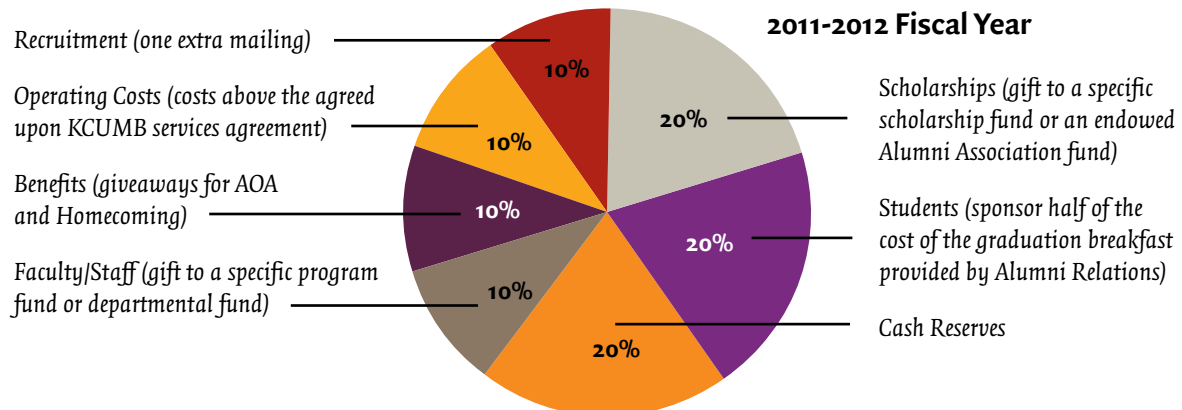
The Alumni Association has been working diligently to keep you connected to KCUMB and to ensure that we share information with you on a regular basis. This letter inside the KCUMB Communicator will become one of those ways we communicate directly with you, our members.

What Have We Done Recently?

The Alumni Association's Board of Directors put the finishing touches on new governance documents for the independent organization and approved the updated charter and bylaws earlier this year.

As I mentioned above, we have also been focused on establishing more frequent communications. During the past year, we have sent numerous emails and letters to keep you informed about what is happening at KCUMB and with the Alumni Association. This will continue to be an important focus in the months and years to come.

As such, the Alumni Association's Board of Directors believes it is critical that our members know how their membership dues are being spent. (Refer to the pie chart below for 2011-2012 details.)



What is on the Horizon?

Please plan to join your classmates Sept. 21-24 at KCUMB for the University's 2011 Homecoming celebration. In addition to a plethora of CME sessions, it is a great opportunity to reminisce with old friends and see all the improvements made to campus facilities over the years. (See the Homecoming ad on the inside front cover for more details.)

Thanks to your suggestions, the Alumni Association has also been able to arrange an opportunity for our members to ask questions during a panel discussion led by several members of KCUMB's Board of Trustees, administrators and members of the Alumni Association's Board of Directors. A legal update will also be provided.

Visit us at booth 424 during the American Osteopathic Association's annual convention Oct. 30-Nov. 3 at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Fla. All active members will receive an Alumni Association umbrella. Anyone who joins the Alumni Association at the booth can also take home an umbrella.

Host an Alumni Event

Would you like to host a KCUMB Alumni Association event in your area? The Alumni Association can work with your group and the University to host an event in your area.

Contact KCUMB's Advancement Office for more details at 816-654-7282.

Lastly, I would like to encourage you to get involved at KCUMB in whatever ways you are able. Become an active member of the Alumni Association, offer to become a guest lecturer, participate in training future osteopathic physicians or sign up to attend events on campus.

Feel free to reach out to me by email at: alumniassociation@kcumb.edu.

... And That's Why I Choose to Give Something Back

A REWARDING EDUCATION INSPIRES ALUM TO HELP KCUMB

Dale Kesl, D.O. (COM '82)

Although the campus was small when he arrived as a first-year medical student in 1978, Dale Kesl, D.O. (COM '82), soon realized that the educational experiences were second to none.

"Our training was excellent," said Dr. Kesl, an emergency medicine specialist for 28 years. "I couldn't ask for any better."

Nearly 30 years later, the campus facilities at Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences have grown significantly and rank among the best in the country – something that has happened thanks, in part, to Dr. Kesl and the many other alumni who have generously supported the University over the years.

"We have a good education and now we have a wonderful campus to go with it," he said.

Dr. Kesl and his wife, Peggy, a registered nurse, moved back to Missouri in 2007 after practicing medicine in southern Illinois.

Medicine is a way of life in the family. Two of the Kesls' five children, Megan Glenn, D.O. (COM '06), and James Kesl, D.O. (COM '11), also graduated from KCUMB. Their other children, Matthew and Abigail, are currently attending college, and Allison is a vocalist pursuing a career in the



Dr. Kesl had the honor of welcoming his son, James, to the osteopathic medical profession May 14 during the College of Osteopathic Medicine's Commencement ceremonies at KCUMB.

entertainment industry.

Besides bringing the couple closer to their children, the move back to the Kansas City area provided an opportunity for Dr. Kesl to support KCUMB students directly. He currently serves as director of emergency medicine at Lafayette Regional Health Center in Lexington, Mo., and two students from KCUMB perform clerkships at Lafayette Regional each month.

Dr. Kesl views this as an opportunity to help future physicians and his alma mater. He uses his time working with KCUMB students not only to share his knowledge of osteopathic medicine, but also to encourage them to find a way to give back.

"I tell them for every \$5 you earn, you owe at least \$1 back to them for the great education you received," Dr. Kesl said. ●



Like many of the parents who attended the College of Osteopathic Medicine's Commencement ceremonies on May 14, Deb Abernathy shed tears of joy during her son's graduation. But instead of sitting in the audience in Weaver Auditorium for the ceremony, Deb and her husband, Terry, watched their son, Avery Abernathy, D.O. (COM '11), from halfway around the world, in Kuwait.

Terry Abernathy, a member of the Kansas National Guard, has been deployed twice to the Middle East, and was recently joined in Kuwait by his wife, Deb, who teaches at the American School of Kuwait.

Thanks to KCUMB's live webcast video of Commencement, the Abernathys were able to watch the ceremony.

"It was like being a VIP with a front row seat!" Deb said. "Avery knew we were watching and, of course, looked directly into the camera several times. Just after his friend, Jason, hooded him, he mouthed, 'I love you mom and dad.'"

*'We Can Make a Difference
and We Should Make a Difference'*

Employee Dedicates Herself to Helping Students, Community

Sara Selkirk is the woman behind the curtain.

As KCUMB's executive director of community and student affairs, she's responsible for helping more than 500 osteopathic medical students discover new and meaningful ways to give back to the community each year.

"I have the wonderful opportunity to work with students every day and to oversee student activities and leadership programs," Selkirk said. "Our students are the best and the brightest this city has to offer. They want to be involved and make a difference in the lives of others."

Selkirk began her work at KCUMB in 2002 as a member of the Continuing Medical Education Department, where she helped coordinate programming and served on various committees. Although she enjoyed the position, she was eager to work more closely with the students and transferred to Student Affairs when a position opened up.

Her office is located inside the bustling new Student Activities Center, which allows convenient access for interacting with KCUMB students. From her office, she oversees the inner workings of the student ambassador program, serves as an advisor to 37 different clubs and organizations, works with the Student Government Association and handles a wide variety

of other student-related issues.

"One of my primary responsibilities involves overseeing the student ambassador program," she said. "We have an amazing group of student ambassadors, who represent KCUMB both internally and externally. They're the people we call for everything. They're always willing to go above and beyond what is asked. For any medical student, giving up two hours of his or her time is huge, but the ambassadors are always there to rise to the occasion and help when student representation is needed."

Selkirk knows something about giving time. She is undoubtedly one of the busiest people on campus. She's the type of person who begins responding to emails at 5 a.m. and continues late into the evening. If students need something, Selkirk is often the person to ensure it gets done.

Among her many other duties, Selkirk acts as a liaison between students, faculty, staff and dozens of nonprofit organizations in the Kansas City community. She helps University clubs coordinate volunteer opportunities and matches campus groups with outside organizations focusing on their chosen causes.

"If a club is passionate about a particular issue, we help them to identify an organization in Kansas City that



Sara Selkirk volunteers as a mock patient during the "Medical Student for a Day" event May 27 on the KCUMB campus.

matches with their mission and interests," she said. "Our objective is to reinforce a commitment to service. We want to heighten their awareness of the issues in the community, as well as make them aware of the resources they can offer their patients in the future."

Selkirk said the most rewarding aspect of her job is hearing about the impact the students are having.

"Until you work with the students, you don't know all they do on top of their studies," she said. "I love hearing all the good things our students are doing. I met with a representative of an area nonprofit recently, and she said to me, 'You have no idea what difference your students have made. My son's school needed sports physicals, and parents couldn't afford them. Your University came and did physicals so all my son's teammates could play.'"

Those are the types of stories that make Selkirk proud to work at KCUMB.

"As physicians in a community, you have a responsibility to give back," Selkirk said. "At KCUMB, we believe strongly in the importance of service. We can make a difference and we should make a difference. It is about bridging the gap between students and communities. It's such a rewarding experience to be part of that." ●

KCUMB Appoints New Chief Financial Officer

Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences' Board of Trustees recently appointed Joe Massman as the University's new chief financial officer.

Massman began work at KCUMB on May 31, taking over for Fred Cornwell, who had served as interim chief financial officer for the previous year.



Massman

“Joe Massman brings a unique combination of financial, operations and investment management expertise to KCUMB,” said H. Danny Weaver, D.O., president and chief executive officer. “His experience and skills are directly aligned with

the University's goals of developing strong corporate governance practices, improving the efficiency of our operations, and managing the growth of our endowment, while maintaining the University's mission and focus of educating its students.”

Massman's hiring follows an extensive national search that utilized the services of EFL and Associates, an executive search firm based in Overland Park, Kan.

“It was a very unique and compelling opportunity for me,” Massman said. “Higher education has always been something that was an interest of mine, and really the opportunity to help move the University forward was very exciting to me.”

Massman is the founder and chairman of the Board for the ETF Store,

a retail investment advisory business in Kansas City. He also served as chief financial officer at Freightquote.com, Inc., in Lenexa, Kan., and held other financial positions with DVD Express, Inc., in Los Angeles; Viacom, Inc., in New York; and KPMG, L.L.P. in Kansas City.

Massman said he plans to take the first few months before making any big changes.

“I don't have any preconceived notions about the most practical way to implement solutions or solve problems,” Massman said.

Massman earned a bachelor of business administration from the University of Notre Dame and a master of business administration from New York University. He is a certified public accountant licensed in the state of Missouri. ●

AOA President Addresses KCUMB Students, Faculty During Visit to Her Alma Mater

Karen Nichols, D.O. (COM '81), president of the American Osteopathic Association, visited KCUMB on March 2 to speak with students, faculty and staff, as well as tour the campus facilities.

Dr. Nichols gave an engaging and interactive presentation about medical students and the role of the AOA, and she spoke highly of University leadership and the expanded campus amenities.

During her visit, she also met with student government officers and senators, and attended a luncheon in her honor with faculty members.

Dr. Nichols visited KCUMB as part of her goal to tour all osteopathic institutions during her term.

“Visiting all the schools of osteopathic medicine is fabulous,” Dr. Nichols said. “I see students that are so enthusiastic about what is ahead. The faculty are so passionate ... They are so excited about their campus and being involved in this kind of life's work.” ●



As part of her visit to KCUMB, Dr. Nichols gave a presentation in Weaver Auditorium to faculty and students about the role of the AOA in osteopathic medical education.

Score 1 Director Climbs the ‘Ladder to Leadership’

Annette Campbell, director of Score 1 for Health, was recently chosen as one of approximately 30 nonprofit health leaders from throughout the Kansas City area to participate in a prestigious national initiative.

Campbell will serve as a fellow in the Ladder to Leadership: Developing the Next Generation of Community Health Leaders program. The program, which aims to enhance the leadership capacity of community-based nonprofit health organizations serving vulnerable populations, is part of an initiative developed by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Center for Creative Leadership. Ap-



Campbell

proximately 240 professionals in eight cities are taking part.

Campbell’s fellowship begins April 7 and runs through July 2012. During that time, she will participate alongside other area community health leaders in a series of leadership workshops, and her experience will culminate with the opportunity to tackle a yet-to-be-identified community issue.

“I’m very excited and ready to embrace the challenge that comes with it,” Campbell said. “The fellowship is set up to help each person develop their skills as a leader to benefit their organization. There is great potential for networking and sharing of new ideas with the other members of the group. Hopefully, it will help me become a better leader and it will help me to have stronger connections with others in the community.”

Learn more about the program at www.laddertoleadership.org. ●



Carolyn Enyeart, administrative assistant in Human Resources, and others from KCUMB help pack relief supplies destined for victims of the devastating earthquake and tsunami in Japan. Heart to Heart delivered the supplies.

Long-Time Professor Receives Heroes in Healthcare Award

For nearly 25 years, G. Michael Johnston, D.O. (COM ’73), professor and chair of internal medicine, has played an integral role at KCUMB in educating the next generation of osteopathic physicians.



Dr. Johnston

“Heroes in Healthcare,” an honor bestowed by *Ingram’s Magazine*.

“I was taken aback,” said Dr. Johnston, who was honored in the lifetime achievement category. “I was very humbled to get this recognition and remain so.”

Dr. Johnston believes that you don’t have to be a doctor to provide care for patients. Many people – in-home caregivers, nurses, patients’

family members and other volunteers – provide care regularly for those who are sick or in need, and they are much more deserving of recognition, he said.

“Those people are really the true heroes that deserve this,” Dr. Johnston said. “I’m just doing my job.”

Dr. Johnston started his employment at KCUMB in 1987 as an associate professor, while continuing his work in private practice. In 2000, he was named a full-time faculty member in the College of Osteopathic Medicine. Now professor and chair of internal medicine and on staff at KCUMB Physician Associates, he spends most of his time educating osteopathic medical students and treating patients with complex medical problems.

“I’ve never gotten tired of taking care of patients,” Dr. Johnston said. “I love that.”

“From the teaching side, I really enjoy teaching in a classroom setting and then watching those medical students apply what they’ve learned in a

clinical setting,” he said. “That’s a very gratifying experience. It just means a lot that you’ve been able to take part in that process.”

In 2001, Dr. Johnston received both the Robert E. Ricci, D.O., Graduate Medical Education Outstanding Educator Award and recognition as the Internist of the Year by the American College of Osteopathic Internists. A four-time recipient of the Teacher of the Year Award at Park Lane Medical Center and a two-time recipient of the same award at the Medical Center of Independence, Dr. Johnston is also a master fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Internists.

He is a member of the American Osteopathic Association, the Missouri Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons, the Jackson County Osteopathic Association and the Southwest Clinical Society. He is also a member of the KCUMB Alumni Association, and served as president of the organization from 1989-1990. ●

Self-Service Capabilities Enhance Options for Students, Faculty

With a few quick clicks, KCUMB students now have the ability to request transcripts, update their personal information, check their financial aid status, glance at their grades and much more.

The enhanced self-service capabilities for students and faculty are thanks to PowerCampus Self-Service, which the University began using April 1.

“Self-service is designed to provide current students, faculty, administrators and other members of the institution’s academic learning community with ‘anytime, anywhere’ access to student information ... without the limitation of location and hours of operation,” said Heidi Terry, vice president for enrollment management and registrar.

PowerCampus Self-Service will be accessible through the KCUMB portal. Once a student logs in, he or she will have immediate access to schedules,

demographics and financial information. Other benefits of the program include the opportunity for students to view their information on their own time schedules, more immediate access to their personal information, increased sustainability (less paper) and the ability to see grades as soon as they are posted.

“Students used to have to wait for paper grades,” Terry said. “Now, they can see them as soon as they are put into the system.”

Students, however, are not the only ones who will benefit from the program.

“For the first time, faculty will be able to view all their advisees’ information – their photos and demographics – as well as have immediate access to updated class rosters and email lists,” Terry explained. “Faculty who serve as advisors will have access to their own

student advisee dossiers, but not all student dossiers.”

Faculty teaching elective courses in either the College of Osteopathic Medicine or the College of Biosciences will have access to their own course rosters as well as the ability to submit their final grades electronically. However, select academic leaders will have access to all course rosters and will review and approve final grades before they post to the student’s transcripts. Students can also print unofficial transcripts through the program.

“Current and incoming students will have the ability to request an official transcript and to pay for it by credit or debit card,” Terry said. “Students will no longer have to send off paper requests for transcripts. There really are many benefits to the system. The biggest benefit to both the student and the faculty is convenience.” ●

KCUMB’s New Intranet Site Transforms Communications Within University

Site Earns ‘Best Website’ Recognition from AACOM

Several weeks ago, two KCUMB employees bravely rescued a deer that was trapped in a fence at the University. So where did the rest of the KCUMB community go to find out the fate of the deer? The KCUMB intranet, of course.

The KCUMB intranet, a private, internal website for KCUMB students and employees, launched in late 2010. The intranet serves as a critical information portal for non-academic resources at the University, including community service opportunities, photo directories, employee benefit information and even a little urban wildlife drama.

“It has been an important communication tool for us,” said Julie Stutterheim, director of online content at KCUMB. “During our internal fund-raising campaign and while we were gathering

supplies during the aftermath of the Joplin tornado, for example, we used the intranet to make sure everyone knew what was going on and how they could participate.”

The American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine recently

recognized KCUMB’s intranet with the award for best website during the organization’s 2011 Excellence in Communication Awards.

The launch of the intranet represented a significant shift from email-based communication at the University.

All information now resides in a centralized place online, making it easier for students and employees to stay up to date on what is going on at KCUMB. So far, the intranet has been well received at the University, and currently experiences between 500-700 visitors per day, and between 2,500-3,500 page views per day.

KCUMB worked with a local Kansas City-based agency, Yoodle, to develop the first phase intranet.

“Now we’re in a second phase to add more exciting features,” Stutterheim said. “We’re hoping this is just the beginning!” ●



KCUMB Research Symposium Marks 19 Years

KCUMB students, faculty and staff gathered April 19-20 to celebrate the role research plays in the treatment of illnesses and disease as the University hosted its 19th annual KCUMB Research Symposium.

The event, which took place in Weaver Auditorium and the new Student Activities Center, featured 12 poster presentations and 34 podium presentations by students and faculty.

"The main benefit of KCUMB's Research Symposium is to engage future clinicians in research," said Linda May, Ph.D., assistant professor of anatomy and chair of the 2011 KCUMB Research Symposium. "Ultimately, the goal is to enable our future clinicians to be able to apply current research findings to their practices in order to improve patient care."

Dr. May believes the level of research occurring daily at KCUMB would surprise many.

"KCUMB research is amazingly diverse and cutting edge," she said. "What impresses me most at KCUMB is our student involvement in research throughout their four years in medical school. The research curriculum truly fosters the level of lifelong learning in the next generation of doctors."

KCUMB Student Earns Special Recognition



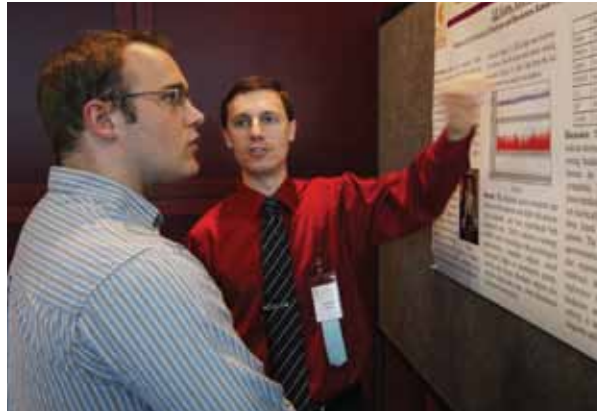
Easterday-Vircks

Julie Easterday-Vircks was honored as the 2011 recipient of the Betty Jo White, D.O. (COM '63), FACOS, Prize for Research for her work, entitled

"Three-Dimensional Quantification of the Ureter in the Abdomen and Implications for the Anterior Surgical Approach to the Lumbar Spine."

The prize was established to encourage research activity at KCUMB

and is given for projects that significantly advance the osteopathic medical profession and the University's position in the research community. Students, residents and faculty are eligible for the prize. ●



Students Earn Research Awards

Several KCUMB students were recognized for their work as part of the 2011 Research Symposium.

Poster Presentations

First Place:

- Susan Suozzo, "Analysis of P-glycoprotein Function Upon Exposure to GF120918, Verapamil and HIV Tat Protein"

Second Place (a three-way tie):

- Josh Ezell, "A 10-Year Review of Prevalence Rates of Overweight and Obesity With the Score 1 for Health Database, 1999-2009"
- Jessica McCain, "Functional Morphology of Cebus Lumbar Vertebrae"
- Emily Barnard, "Identifying Barriers to Guideline Adherence for Cervical Cancer Screening: Implications for Quality Improvement Initiatives"

Third Place (a tie):

- Jessica Kim, "Carnosine Promotes GAPDH Dimer Formation: Proposed Role in Preventing Neurodegeneration"
- Rachel High, "The Elderly Brain: A Chemical Environment Conducive to Alzheimer Disease"

Podium Presentations

First Place (a tie):

- Kaitlin O'Connor with Julie Sahrmann, "Examining BMI Among a Score 1 Population: From Health Screening to Physician Visit"
- Chris Surek, "Utilization of Bioprosthetic Mesh in Complex Chest Wall Reconstruction"

Second Place (a three-way tie):

- Zachary Bailey, "State-of-the-Art Pediatric Cranial Sonography"
- Nicholas Zarkadis, "Does PGE2 Control the M1/M2 Paradigm in Tumor-Associated Macrophages?"
- Adam Streit, "PGE2 May Regulate Expression of Toll-Like Receptors in Tumor-Associated Macrophages"

Third Place (a tie):

- Julie Easterday-Vircks, "Three-Dimensional Quantification of the Ureter in the Abdomen and Implications for the Anterior Surgical Approach to the Lumbar Spine"
- Greg Rice, "HIV TAT Effects on the Drug Efflux Pump P-Glycoprotein in an Enterocyte/Lymphocyte Co-Culture System"

KCUMB Rallies for Joplin

After a massive May 22 tornado leveled parts of Joplin, Mo., members of KCUMB's Student Affairs Department quickly began the process of sending care kits of necessities, such as soap, washcloths, toothbrushes and toothpaste to survivors.

But when LeAnn Carlton, assistant dean of Students Affairs, called first-year medical student Seth Bingman, a Joplin native, to offer support, the scale quickly changed. Bingman, who had lost friends to the disaster, had connections in the trucking industry, and he began to quickly coordinate a campus-wide effort to load a semi-truck with much-needed supplies.

The 53-foot-long truck left the KCUMB campus on May 28 with a hefty cargo of diapers, formula, clothes, shoes, blankets and other materials.

"So many people wanted to help, but just didn't know how to do it," Carlton said. "With the truck, we were able to provide them an outlet."

Generous donations were also used to help the family of Luke Wicke, a third-year medical student. After losing his home in Joplin, Wicke's three children moved to Minnesota to stay with their grandparents, while he and his wife rebuild. KCUMB was able to pack the Wickes' car with clothes and toys as they drove through Kansas City.

Several members of KCUMB's fac-



ulty went directly to Joplin in the hours and days following the disaster, where they provided medical care to survivors, distributed medications at a makeshift pharmacy and did their best to comfort those in need.

Read more about KCUMB's work in Joplin in the next issue of the KCUMB Communicator. ●

KCUMB Annual Winter CME Seminar Dec. 7-10, 2011

*New Location! For the First Time,
All CME Sessions will be on the KCUMB Campus.*

Earn Up to 25 Hours of CME Credit!

Make your plans now to join Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences for our annual Winter CME Seminar! For the first time, this year's event will be on the KCUMB campus.

Earn CME credit while enjoying the holiday season in beautiful Kansas City. CME sessions will include evidence-based presentations, hands-on workshops, panel discussions and interactive question-and-answer sessions.

For more information on how you can participate in the KCUMB Winter CME, please contact Roberta Mandl at 1-800-234-4847, ext. 7352, or by email at rmandl@kcumb.edu.

Accommodations

Make your hotel reservations now at the InterContinental Hotel on the Plaza by contacting the hotel directly at 1-866-856-9717 or www.kansascityic.com. Be sure to identify yourself as a participant in the KCUMB CME conference and/or use the group code "WIN" to receive the discounted group rate of \$149 per night plus tax.

All CME sessions will be on the KCUMB campus. Shuttle service will be provided to and from the campus and the InterContinental Hotel.



class notes

1950s

● **T. Eugene Zachary, D.O.** (COM '59), was honored with a certificate of recognition April 16 by the Texas Osteopathic Medical Association's House of Delegates. Dr. Zachary currently

serves as clinical education coordinator for the Division of Rural Medicine at the University of North Texas Health Science Center – Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine in Fort Worth, and he is a past president of TOMA.

1960s

● **Carl Mitten, D.O.** (COM '60), was honored with a certificate of recognition April 16 by the Texas Osteopathic Medical Association's House of Delegates. Dr. Mitten practices family medicine in Houston.

● **John Cegelski, Jr., D.O.** (COM '61), was honored with a certificate of recognition April 16 by the Texas Osteopathic Medical Association's

House of Delegates. Dr. Cegelski has practiced for more than 48 years and is a past president of TOMA and one of the founders of TOMA's Political Action Committee.

● **Robert Henson, D.O.** (COM '61), retired in 2010 after 44 years as a family physician in Hermann, Mo.

● **Roy Mathews, D.O.** (COM '61), currently serves as chief medical officer to the Little Rock Military Entrance and

Fun Run Takes a Harrowing Twist Student Performs CPR on Fallen Runner

It was a beautiful fall morning, the perfect day to run a race – not too hot, not too cold.

Taylor Eldridge, a fourth-year medical student at the time, and her close friend, Lisa McClain, Ph.D., a part-time professor at KCUMB, were prepared for a fun, relaxing run Nov. 21, 2010, amongst hundreds of participants in the Gobbler Grind in Overland Park, Kan.



Eldridge

“We were running for complete enjoyment,” McClain said. “We weren't trying to set any PRs (personal records). We were just enjoying the race.”

Unfortunately, the perfect morning run soon took an unexpected twist.

“When we rounded a corner at mile 10, I saw that a runner was down,” Eldridge said. “At first, I thought maybe he had hurt himself or that he was exhausted and laying down, but it became pretty clear that he was in bad shape.

“He was unresponsive,” she continued. “I couldn't get any peripheral pulses. He was blue and his pupils were starting to dilate.”

The runner, a 39-year-old man, was 2.1 miles away from finishing his first half marathon.

“Taylor did everything right,” McClain recalled. “She immediately jumped in, assessed the situation and began administering CPR.”

Another physician soon came to help, and McClain, who ran for the University of Kansas while in college, grabbed the man's bib and sprinted the final two miles to the finish line to find the runner's emergency contact information while Eldridge worked on the runner.

“I knew someone had called 911, but it seemed like such a long time before the paramedics got there,” Eldridge said. “I knew we had been doing CPR for a long time. Every once in a while, he would have some agonal breathing and so we'd try to lean him over to clear his airway.”

Each time chest compressions were stopped, the man would breathe on his own, but it wouldn't last long, Eldridge said. Approximately 20 minutes later, paramedics arrived on the scene.

When the paramedics reached the runner, they defibrillated him and were able to get his heart beating again. As paramedics and the man were on their way to the hospital, Eldridge finished the last two miles of the race.

“The whole incident was really strange,” Eldridge said, reflecting on her experience. “You know what to expect when you see an 80-year-old patient with a heart condition in cardiac arrest, but when you're looking at what appears to be a healthy, younger man passed out and unresponsive, it's hard to know how to react. I felt helpless.

“Even with my training and knowledge, there wasn't anything else I could do besides perform CPR because I didn't have the tools I needed to help,” she said.

McClain said she was impressed by the way her friend jumped in to help.

“Taylor absolutely saved his life,” McClain said. “She saw someone in need, and she did what she could to help. She didn't ask for any credit. She just did what was right at the time.

“So many people stopped and did nothing that day, and so many people just ran by,” McClain added. “Not Taylor. She's an incredible young woman.”

Eldridge, who was on a military scholarship, is still running and is currently training for the Navy triathlon. She graduated from KCUMB's College of Osteopathic Medicine on May 14. ●

Processing Station, where he provides physical examinations to applicants entering the military. He is a surgeon for the Veterans of Foreign Wars and also volunteers his time at a clinic that provides free medical care to an indigent population. Dr. Mathews retired as a colonel in the U.S. Air Force in 2000 after 20 years of service.

- **Ebb Reeves, D.O.** (COM '68), was honored with the Doctor of the Decades Award by the Oklahoma Osteopathic Association during the organization's annual convention April 27-May 1 in Norman, Okla. Dr. Reeves was recognized for his involvement in the creation of the Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine and his volunteer and leadership roles with the Oklahoma Osteopathic Association, the Oklahoma Osteopathic Foundations, various committees of the American Osteopathic Association and the Oklahoma State University Medical Center Hospital Trust.

1970s

- **James Marshall, D.O.** (COM '71), was honored with a certificate of recognition April 16 by the Texas Osteopathic Medical Association's House of Delegates. Dr. Marshall practices neonatal-perinatal medicine in Abilene, Texas.

- **Jerry Smola, D.O.** (COM '71), was honored with a certificate of recognition April 16 by the Texas Osteopathic Medical Association's House of Delegates. Dr. Smola practiced family medicine in Sweetwater, Texas, until his



(From left) Crystal Meacham, Jaelyn Allred and Cassandra Ramar were among 33 KCUMB medical students and a handful of faculty members who helped provide much-needed medical care to underserved villages in Guatemala as part of the University's annual medical mission with DOCARE International. The group helped treat nearly 2,900 patients during the trip, which took place Feb. 10-26

retirement in 2006. He is a past president of TOMA.

- **Al Faigin, D.O.** (COM '72), was honored with a certificate of recognition April 16 by the Texas Osteopathic Medical Association's House of Delegates. Dr. Faigin has a family and obstetrics practice in Fort Worth and earned TOMA's Community Service Award in 2010.

- **Marshall Walker, D.O.** (COM '72), was inducted as a fellow into the Association of Osteopathic Directors and Medical Educators during a ceremony April 15 at the AODME/American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine conference in Baltimore. He is also a member of KCUMB's Board of Trustees.

- **Mitchell Forman, D.O.** (COM '73), is the 2010-2011 president of the Clark County Medical Society.

- **Kennett Asher, D.O.** (COM '75), and his practice, Jackson Family Care, have joined Saint Francis Medical Center in Jackson, Mo.

- **George Cole, D.O.** (COM '75), was honored with a certificate of recognition April 16 by the Texas Osteopathic Medical Association's House of Delegates. He was also recently installed as a fellow in the American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics.

- **G. Dale Derby, D.O.** (COM '75), currently serves as chief of anesthesia at Bailey Medical Center in Owasso, Okla.

- **Arthur Speece, III, D.O.** (COM '75), was honored with a certificate of recognition April 16 by the Texas Osteopathic Medical Association's House of Delegates. Dr. Speece practices anesthesiology in Grand Prairie, Texas, and is a past president of TOMA.

- **George Sawabini, D.O.** (COM '76), was selected as the 2011-2012 president of the American College of Osteopathic Physicians. Dr. Sawabini serves as assistant director of the osteopathic family medicine residency program at St. John Hospital in Southfield, Mich., where he is also an osteopathic preceptor.

- **William Davis, D.O.** (COM '78), currently serves as chief medical officer for St. Mary's



Morris Couch, D.O. (COM '44), of Guymon, Okla., and his son, Steven Couch, D.O. (COM '76), of Wichita, Kan., made a special trip to visit the KCUMB campus on April 28. It was the first time they had returned to the campus since 1976, and they were both impressed with how much things had changed during the past 35 years.

Medical Center in West Palm Beach, Fla.

- **William Baker, D.O.** (COM '79), was inducted into the New Mexico State Athletics Hall of Fame on March 5. Dr. Baker has served as a team physician for the New Mexico State Athletics Department for more than 30 years.
- **James Stoneking, D.O.** (COM '79), retired in 2010 after 30 years practicing family medicine and 11 years as a pharmacist. Dr. Stoneking previously served as director of pharmacy at KCUMB for four years.
- **Schild Wikas, D.O.** (COM '79), was selected as a recipient of the Master Faculty Award by Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine. Dr. Wikas is a clinical professor of dermatology at Summa Western Reserve Hospital, has a private dermatology practice in Kent, Ohio, and is president of the Ohio Osteopathic Association. The Master Faculty Award is OU-COM's highest award and is presented every five years.
- **George Erbacher, D.O.** (COM '80), was honored in

- March with the Osteopathic Founders Foundation's Outstanding Physician Award in Tulsa, Okla. Dr. Erbacher also received the Outstanding and Distinguished Service Award during the Oklahoma Osteopathic Association's annual convention April 27-May 1 in Norman, Okla. He is a radiologist at Diagnostic Imaging Associates in Tulsa, serves as residency program director at Oklahoma State University Medical Center and is currently president of the American Osteopathic College of Radiology.
- **Dale Bratzler, D.O.** (COM '81), gave a presentation, entitled "Why Physicians Should Care: Transformation to a Culture of Quality and What it Means for Your Future Medical Practice," on Nov. 8 in Leland, Okla. Dr. Bratzler is chief executive officer for the Oklahoma Foundation for Medical Quality.
 - **Richard Becker, D.O.** (COM '84), and his wife, Cindy, are the award-winning hosts of "Your Health" and the documentary series "Seasons of Life," which offer preventative health advice from a Christian perspective. Dr. Becker is also the author

of "Foundations for Healing: Holistic Plans for Your Return to Health and Vitality."

- **William Irby, D.O.** (COM '84), has served on the Gallatin R-5 Board of Education since 1993. He has practiced at Northwest Health Services since 1987, and is a member of the Missouri School Board Association.
- **Peter Schoeps, D.O.** (COM '84), was inducted as a fellow in the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians on March 20, 2010, during the organization's Conclave of Fellows Ceremony in Las Vegas.
- **David Canton, D.O.** (COM '85), currently serves as vice president for medical affairs at Emanuel Medical Center in Turlock, Calif. He is president and chief executive officer for Emanuel Medical Group, Inc.
- **Denise Bratcher, D.O.** (COM '86), was named as one of 62 physicians at Children's Mercy Hospital and Clinics in Kansas City, Mo., to be honored as a 2010 "Best Doctor."
- **Kevin Treffer, D.O.** (COM '87), associate professor of family medicine and curriculum director for osteopathic clinical skills, hosted an event in February at his home to raise money for Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation, an organization that fights childhood cancer. The event raised approximately \$4,000.
- **Kevin Treffer, D.O.** (COM '87), associate professor

- of family medicine and curriculum director for osteopathic clinical skills, was selected as an inaugural member of the CONCORD-PBRN Fellowship, which is a practice-based researcher training program. As part of the fellowship, which began in February, Dr. Treffer will study low back pain and OMT for approximately two years and participate in several extended weekend sessions on the North Texas State University-TCOM campus in Fort Worth.
- **Daryl Callahan, D.O.** (COM '88), conducted a second-year research project at The Army War College, which was published in the September 2010 issue of the *Journal of the American Osteopathic Association*.
 - **Robert Halterman, D.O.** (COM '88), currently practices at CoxHealth Gynecology Clinic of Monett, Mo.
 - **Dung Nguyen, D.O.** (COM '88), was recognized in 2010 by Cambridge Who's Who for demonstrating dedication, leadership and excellence in osteopathic medicine. Dr. Nguyen currently practices at Grace Health and Healing Center, in addition to serving as an assistant clinical professor at Midwestern University Medical School.
 - **Richard Vienne, D.O.** (COM '89), was appointed as vice president and chief medical officer for Univera Healthcare, based in Buffalo, N.Y. Dr. Vienne holds the same positions with Univera Community Health.

1990s

● **Gregory Bloxdorf, D.O.** (COM '90), was selected as a recipient of the Master Faculty Award by Ohio Univer-

sity College of Osteopathic Medicine. Dr. Bloxdorf is a clinical professor of emergency medicine at St. John Medical Center. The Master Faculty Award is OU-COM's

highest award and is presented every five years.

● **John Dougherty, D.O.** (COM '92), was inducted as a fellow of the American

College of Osteopathic Family Physicians on March 19 during the organization's Conclave of Fellows Award Ceremony in San Antonio. Dr. Dougherty is also a 2011

KCUMB Medical Student Takes a Spin at Riches on 'Wheel of Fortune'

For most, the phrase "a visit from lady luck" would conjure thoughts of good fortune, but not for Aaron Mayer, third-year medical student and recent Wheel of Fortune contestant. For many years, Mayer was a fan of the show.

"I remember watching the show at my grandparents, eating macaroni and cheese," Mayer said. "We would all sit around the TV and try to solve the puzzles. It was kind of our tradition."

As the years passed, Mayer remained a fan of the show and would tune in whenever he had the opportunity.

"I would stand in front of the TV and pretend like I was a contestant and try to solve the puzzles before the contestants on the show could. I would also play against my bother and sister, and I would always win," Mayer noted. "I thought, I'm getting good at this."

As it turns out, Mayer has always had a taste for the spotlight. The Blue Springs native went to school with American Idol Season 7 winner, David Cook. The two were in a couple of plays and musicals together. Mayer was even voted, "Most Likely to Appear on a Reality Television Show."

"One day, I decided to apply online for the show," Mayer said. "Six months later, I still had not heard anything from the show, so I applied again."

A short time later, Mayer received an email from Wheel of Fortune notifying him he had been selected to audition for the show. In March 2010, Mayer attended the Kansas City auditions, along with 100 other hopeful contestants.

"We were all gathered in a large room," he recalled.

"We were told to announce our names loudly and proudly. After the introductions, we played an actual round of the game."

Of the beginning 100 con-

tants, only Mayer and 29 others were asked to stay for the second round.

During the second round of tryouts, the contestants were asked to re-introduce themselves.

"I pretended like I was on the show," Mayer said. "I told them I was a medical student as well as an MBA student. They were all pretty shocked."

Two weeks later, Mayer got a letter informing him he had been selected to be a contestant on the show. In September, Wheel of Fortune notified Mayer that his episode would film in October. At his own expense, Mayer flew to California to film.

The contestants were given a quick run down on how the episodes would tape. The contestants were then split into groups of three. The show films as many as six episodes per day, so each group of contestants sits in the audience and watches the other groups play until its their turn. Mayer was grouped with two women: Stephanie Liff, an advertising representative from Washington; and Rhonda Dunham, a pre-kindergarten teacher from Georgia.

After watching two episodes being filmed from the audience, it was Mayer's turn. The first two rounds Mayer chose a few letters correctly, but did not have a chance to solve the puzzles. Finally, in the third round, Mayer successfully solved the puzzle, "Hiking the Appalachian Trail" and pocketed \$2,650.

The next round was the Prize Puzzle Round.

"Every contestant wants to win the Prize Puzzle," Mayer explained. "Usually, the person who wins this round wins a trip and almost always goes on to win the whole game."

Mayer was off to a good start in the Prize Puzzle Round. "I landed on a trip to Hawaii and correctly guessed a letter that was on the board," Mayer said. "On the next spin, I landed on 'Bankrupt.'"

The bankruptcy cost Mayer more than \$10,000 and a trip to Hawaii. Another contestant went on to solve the puzzle, which was "A Visit From Lady Luck," winning a trip to Las Vegas and the entire game.

"Although I didn't win, I'm so thankful I got the opportunity to be a contestant," Mayer said. "It was such a great experience." ●



Photo courtesy of Sony Pictures

recipient of the ACOFP Fellows Outstanding Paper Crest Award for his scientific paper, entitled "The Core Defined." Dr. Dougherty currently serves as associate dean for clinical education and medical affairs, and professor and chair of family medicine at KCUMB.

● **Robert Canonic, D.O.**

(COM '93), was named director of the Emergency Department at Pali Momi Medical Center in Aiea, Hawaii, in April.

● **Ronald Holt, II, D.O.**

(COM '93), was awarded the 2010 R.J. Erickson Diversity Achievement Award on Oct. 27, 2010, by Kaiser Permanente. The award is presented in recognition of achievements in cultural competence, work force diversity, member satisfaction and community service.

● **Daniel Clang, D.O.** (COM '94), currently serves as president of the Colorado Society of Osteopathic Medicine.

● **Joseph Burkhardt, D.O.**

(COM '95), was recently ranked among the top 70 knee surgeons in the United States by Beckers Orthopedic, Spine and Pain Management Review. Dr. Burkhardt practices at Great Lakes Bone and Joint Center in Battle Creek, Mich., and serves as a member of the medical staff at Battle Creek Health System. He is also the team physician for the Battle Creek Revolution, a single A professional hockey team, and the Albion College football team.

● **David Northington, D.O.**

(COM '95), was elected as vice-chief at Memorial Hospital in Gulfport, Miss. Dr. Northington was appointed to the medical staff in 2003 and also serves as medical director of the hospitalist program.

● **Paul Glisson, D.O.** (COM '96), has joined the staff at Baptist Health Care as the organization's first chief medical informatics officer. Dr. Glisson had been working in emergency medicine since leaving the U.S. Navy.

● **Douglas Jorgenson, D.O.**

(COM '96), was inducted as a fellow of the American Academy of Osteopathy on March 19 during the organization's President's Banquet in Colorado Springs, Colo. Dr. Jorgenson is one of 88 osteopathic physicians nationwide to hold AAO fellowship status.

● **Allan Escher, D.O.** (COM '97), was elected to serve on the Board of Directors for the FBI Tampa Bay Citizens Academy Alumni Association for 2011-2012.

● **Analisa Reveiz Haberman, D.O.** (COM '97), was recently selected to serve on the Executive Committee of the Iowa Board of Medicine. Dr. Haberman was appointed to a three-year term on the board by Gov. Chet Culver in May 2009. She practices family medicine in Mason City, Iowa.

● **Thomas Shima, D.O.**

(COM '98), was inducted as a fellow in the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians on March 20, 2010, during the organization's Conclave of Fellows Ceremony in Las Vegas.

2000s

● **Kimberly Parks, D.O.**

(COM '01), was on the cover of the December 2010 issue of *Boston Magazine*, which featured "Boston's Top Docs." Dr. Parks is a cardiologist and transplant specialist at Massachusetts General Hospital.

● **Benjamin Makamson, D.O.** (COM '02), currently practices at Memorial Physicians Clinic in Gulfport, Miss.,

where he is a vascular surgeon.

● **Michael Pack, D.O.** (COM '02), was featured in a story, entitled "Treatment of Valvular Heart Disease," which was published Feb. 25 on mdnews.com. Dr. Pack is medical director of adult echocardiography at Bronson Methodist Hospital in Kalamazoo, Mich.

● **Ryan Hall, D.O.** (COM '03), has joined the Emergency Department at Stormont-Vail HealthCare in Topeka, Kan. Dr. Hall completed a residency in emergency medicine at Oklahoma State University's Freeman Health Systems in 2004.

● **Amanda Miller, D.O.**

(COM '03), has joined the Department of Emergency Medicine at Doylestown Hospital in Doylestown, Pa. Dr. Miller completed a residency in emergency medicine at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia.

● **J. Scott Rogers, D.O.**

(COM '03), traveled to Haiti in January 2010 as part of a medical team with the Global Orphan Project. Dr. Rogers is a pediatrician at Priority Care Pediatrics in Kansas City, Mo.

● **Amy Thompson, D.O.**

(COM '05), is participating in an adolescent medicine fellowship at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas. She previously served as chief of pediatrics at Weed Army Community Hospital in Ft. Irwin, Calif.

● **Amber Botros, D.O.** (COM '06), has joined Research Urgent Care, a new urgent-



KCUMB is seeking qualified alumni to serve as guest lecturers and CME speakers on a variety of topics. To become a member of the KCUMB Speakers Bureau, please indicate your areas of interest and upload a CV/resume by visiting: www.kcumb.edu/speaker.

care center located in downtown Kansas City, Mo. Dr. Botros specializes in family medicine and completed a residency at Research Family Medicine in Kansas City.

● **Erin Ramirez, D.O.** (COM '06), joined Lafayette OB-GYN in Lafayette, Ind., in October 2010. Dr. Ramirez previously completed her internship and residency at Genesys Regional Medical Center, an affiliate of Michigan State University's College of Osteopathic Medicine.

● **Selma Taylor, D.O.** (COM '06), has joined the medical staff at Ozark Medical Center in West Plains, Mo. Dr. Taylor completed a residency in obstetrics and gynecology at Good

Samaritan Hospital Medical Center in West Islip, N.Y.

● **Renee Volny, D.O., M.B.A.** (COM '06), is currently one of four postdoctoral health policy leadership fellows at the Satcher Health Leadership Institute at the Morehouse School of Medicine. Dr. Volny completed a residency in obstetrics and gynecology through the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, where she received the chairperson's research award.

● **Chad McClintick, D.O.** (COM '07), an anesthesiology resident at St. Luke's Hospital in Kansas City, Mo., presented his research, entitled "Isoflurane Pre-Con-

ditioning Involves Upregulation of Molecular Chaperone Genes," April 1-3 during the annual Midwest Anesthesia Residents Conference in Chicago. Dr. McClintick received second-place honors in the Clinical Pharmacology Section. Co-authors from KCUMB included **Christopher Theisen, Ph.D.**, academic assistant and instructor of biochemistry, and **Norbert Seidler, Ph.D.**, professor and chair of biochemistry.

● **Alana Fearey, D.O.** (COM '08), will begin practicing at Medical Arts Clinic in Emporia, Kan., in the summer of 2011. Dr. Fearey completed a residency in internal medicine in June at the University

of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita.

● **Christopher Surek, D.O.** (COM '11), **Shannon Lorimer, D.O.** (COM '10), **John Dougherty, D.O.** (COM '92), associate dean for clinical education and medical affairs, and professor and chair of family medicine at KCUMB, and **Robert Stephens, Ph.D.**, associate dean for the College of Biosciences and professor and chair of anatomy, were coauthors of an abstract, entitled "Teaching of Anterior Cruciate Ligament Function in Osteopathic Medical Education," which was published in April in the *Journal of the American Osteopathic Association*.

PASSAGES



● **Bernettie Krieger,** Feb. 7, 2011

"Bernie," as she was affectionately known across campus, worked at KCUMB for 60 years before retiring in 2009. She died at age 92. She served as secretary to the late Harold McAnally, D.O. (COM '29), and to the late Mary Lou Butterworth, D.O. (COM '54), who served as dean of alumni affairs.

The historic cottonwood tree in the center of the

KCUMB campus is dedicated in honor of her service to the University, and the Bernettie V. Krieger Physicians' Hall of Sponsors Scholarship serves as a lasting reminder of her impact.

● **Leland Wetzel, D.O.** (COM '47), Jan. 14, 2011

● **Charles Mellies, D.O.** (COM '50), Oct. 23, 2010

● **Patrick Moylan, D.O.** (COM '53), Nov. 14, 2010

● **Maurice Mann, D.O.** (COM '54), Nov. 28, 2010

● **Antone Roitz, D.O.** (COM '54), March 7, 2011

● **Robert Kerwood, D.O.** (COM '54), Nov. 29, 2010

● **Jack Zimmerman, D.O.** (COM '56), Jan. 12, 2011

● **Albert Black, Jr., D.O.** (COM '57), Nov. 28, 2010

● **Donald Peterson, D.O.** (COM '59), Feb. 10, 2011

● **Morton Dunn, D.O.** (COM '60), Feb. 2, 2010

● **Allan Mendelsohn, D.O.** (COM '61), Sept. 18, 2010

● **John Pifer, D.O.** (COM '62), Sept. 10, 2010

● **Justin Lane, D.O.** (COM '63), April 25, 2011

● **Vincent Parry, D.O.** (COM '63), May 17, 2010

● **William Ravenscroft, D.O.** (COM '63), March 6, 2011

● **Brian Rooney, D.O.** (COM '64), Nov. 23, 2010

● **Joel Jaffe, D.O.** (COM '71), Jan. 4, 2010

● **Richard Osman, D.O.** (COM '72), Nov. 25, 2010

● **Harold Margolis, D.O.** (COM '77), Nov. 17, 2010

● **Eugene Honeywell, D.O.** (COM '77), June 18, 2010

● **John LeFevre, Jr., D.O.** (COM '78), April 25, 2010

● **Joseph Golubski, D.O.** (COM '80), April 21, 2010

● **Roger Smith, D.O.** (COM '83), Dec. 18, 2010

● **Garry Turner, D.O.** (COM '85), Sept. 25, 2010

● **Wade Klosterman, D.O.** (COM '86), Jan. 6, 2011

Last Look

'Medical Student for a Day' Program Inspires Kansas City High School Students

Question: How do you persuade a bunch of high school students interested in possibly becoming physicians that they can achieve their dreams through hard work?

Answer: You show them they can.

On May 27, Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences hosted approximately 60 Northeast High School students as part of a special "Medical Student for a Day" experience on campus.

The day, which was spearheaded by Kameelah Rahmaan, a first-year medical student, allowed the high school students the opportunity to learn more about various aspects of being a medical student. Students involved not only learned about what makes osteopathic medicine unique, but also participated in hands-on sessions focusing on common medical procedures, and learned more about pathology, anatomy and many other topics.

Marshall Peeples, the principal at Northeast High School, said the Medical Student for a Day experience succeeded in getting the students excited to learn.

"The experience they received was fantastic," Peeples said. "I cannot thank you enough. Their excitement when they returned to the campus was thrilling for me. This kind of exposure is what spurs students to achieve academically." ●



(Above) A Northeast High School student listens to the "heartbeat" of a human patient simulator inside KCUMB's Kesselheim Center for Clinical Competence.

(Below) Several KCUMB medical students partner with Northeast High School students to view slides under microscopes.





Climbing the Ladder to Success

Molly Menser, D.O. (COM '07)

After earning a doctor of osteopathic medicine from Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences in 2007, Dr. Menser completed a residency in dermatology on June 30 at the University of Kansas Medical Center.

She has since joined her husband, Brian Matthys, D.O., at Sunflower Dermatology in Riverside, Mo., just north of downtown Kansas City. She practices a blend of medical, surgical and cosmetic dermatology for adult, adolescent and pediatric patients.

Although four years removed from her time as a student in KCUMB's College of Osteopathic Medicine, she still remembers the pressures she and her classmates faced.

"Exhausted and overwhelmed, I remember Dr. Maurice Oelklaus' words at the end of the first year," she said. "He encouraged us to press on through our end-of-term final exams. He said, 'Keep on, keep on going. Your patients are waiting for you.'"

"I find myself revisiting those words over and over again," she continued. "They remind me of why I am doing what I do – the patient."

Dr. Menser credits KCUMB, particularly the University's systems-based curriculum, with providing her a strong foundation to build her career upon.

"The philosophy emphasized at KCUMB of caring for an entire person, not just on a focused problem, is something I try to practice with each patient encounter," she said. "When I see a patient's skin condition, I see only a small cross section of that patient's life. When they leave my office, they live with it. Acknowledging their pain and suffering helps me deliver better care that they will feel good about."



"I can recall the moment I opened a letter to find I had been chosen to receive a Physicians' Hall of Sponsors scholarship. Receiving a scholarship was not just a helpful financial sum, but also a token of encouragement in an uphill walk – the encouragement that someone thought you were doing a good job."



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calendar of events

Monday, Aug. 1-Friday, Aug. 5

Orientation Week for Incoming
College of Osteopathic Medicine
Students

Wednesday, Aug. 3

KCUMB Community Service Day

Thursday, Aug. 4

White Coating Ceremony

Monday, Sept. 5

Labor Day Holiday, KCUMB Closed

Wednesday, Sept. 21-

Saturday, Sept. 24

Homecoming

Thursday, Nov. 24-

Friday, Nov. 25

Thanksgiving Holiday Observed,
KCUMB Closed

Thursday, Dec. 8-

Saturday, Dec. 10

KCUMB Winter Holiday CME

