

THE MAGAZINE OF KANSAS CITY UNIVERSITY OF MEDICINE AND BIOSCIENCES

SUMMER 2012

# KCUMB

C O M M U N I C A T O R

## *From Dawn to Dusk*

*A Day in Pictures: An inside look  
at the people and places  
that make KCUMB special*





# Climbing the Ladder to Success

## Scott Koerber, D.O. (COM '10)

Many prospective students dread the competitive, stressful environment of medical school. Scott Koerber, D.O. (COM '10), had those same worries initially, but said his experience at KCUMB turned out to be exactly the opposite. It was so good, in fact, that he'd do it all again.

"I really enjoyed my time at KCUMB," said Dr. Koerber, who is currently completing a residency in internal medicine at the University of Missouri. "The people were amazing. The environment was more cooperative than competitive. Everyone tried to help one another out. Everyone wants you to succeed, including the staff."

Dr. Koerber initially chose to apply at KCUMB on a friend's recommendation. Shortly thereafter, he learned about a unique partnership between KCUMB and Rockhurst University that could help him get an early start on medical school.

KCUMB's Partners Program allows prospective medical students currently enrolled at Rockhurst University or 10 other participating undergraduate institutions to enter the College of Osteopathic Medicine early, as long as they meet specific academic requirements and successfully complete the interview process. A student accepted for early admission by the end of his or her sophomore year will have a reserved seat in the College of Osteopathic Medicine following completion of their junior year, allowing that student to forgo his or her final year of undergraduate work.

"When I heard about the program during my second year of undergrad, I decided to apply," Dr. Koerber said. "I got accepted, so my senior year of college was my first year of medical school."

During his time at KCUMB, Dr. Koerber served as a student ambassador and a tutor.

"KCUMB does a great job balancing school and social life," Dr. Koerber said.

Dr. Koerber was quick to add that the more laid-back medical school environment shouldn't imply that students from KCUMB are any less capable.

"I feel that KCUMB does a great job preparing students for real-life medical situations," he said. "I feel as though I'm more prepared than nine out of 10 students."

"KCUMB starts us off the right way with a systems-based approach to learning. They teach us how to talk to patients and their



families. We're taught how to handle delicate situations and to work with people from other cultures."

Dr. Koerber said having the opportunity to visit outside hospitals and clinics is also an experience unique to KCUMB. He completed his third- and fourth-year clerkships in Michigan.

"I've noticed a lot of other medical students didn't have the opportunity to do clerkships at other locations," he said. "They have to stay at the hospital or clinic affiliated with their school. At KCUMB, you get to visit other hospitals for your third and fourth year. That experience teaches you how other hospitals and practices operate and gives you a much broader view."

Dr. Koerber's best memory of his time at KCUMB is the White Coating Ceremony at the beginning of his first year.

"My favorite moment was when the curtain was down and we were all standing behind it with our white coats on," he said. "Then, all at once, the curtain went up and we all said the oath. That was amazing. It had all been worth it. We were finally there."

He is now able to reflect on his time at KCUMB and know that he made the right choice for him.

"If you can look back on medical school and have nothing but fond memories, you know you've chosen the right school."

Dr. Koerber plans to stay at MU an extra year to serve as chief resident. Then, he hopes to complete a fellowship in cardiology.



**W**hen you venture out for a family vacation, you map out where you are going so that you don't get lost. When you want to buy something expensive, you often develop a plan for saving the money you will need.

As we get older, we learn that rarely do things go exactly according to plan. In some cases, unforeseen circumstances derail even the best of intentions; in other cases, it's simply a matter of poor execution of the plan.

Faculty, staff and others at KCUMB – an entire committee, in fact – have been working since fall 2010 on developing a five-year Strategic Plan for the University.

The Board of Trustees tentatively approved key initiatives affiliated with KCUMB's Strategic Plan in April. I encourage you to take a look at the goals and recommendations it outlines. (*Read more on pages 4-7.*) See for yourself where KCUMB is going, and at the same time, let us demonstrate our continuing commitment to transparency as an institution.

The Strategic Plan is just the first step toward reaching our goals. We are dedicated to providing our students with the state-of-the-art facilities, knowledgeable faculty, innovative programs and new technology that are expected of high-caliber institutions, such as KCUMB.

We are focused on becoming less dependent on tuition to cover expenses. We are exploring new sources of potential revenue, including growing our research program, expanding fund-raising



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

opportunities, seeking out new community partners and continuing to build our clinical practice, KCUMB Physician Associates.

In addition, we are constantly working to ensure that we are utilizing our current facilities and resources in the most beneficial way. As such, we are also finalizing a Campus Master Plan, which will not only dovetail closely with the Strategic Plan, but also identify places where we could make changes and help us to appropriately prioritize our needs for the future.

The Campus Master Plan will be unveiled later this fall.

KCUMB continues to make great strides in a variety of areas. Our College of Osteopathic Medicine students, for example, achieved some of the highest pass rates on national board examinations in University history during the 2011-2012 academic year. This speaks volumes in regard to the great work our faculty are doing, as well as the talented and dedicated students we have.

Applications to the College of Osteopathic Medicine are also rising. A total of 3,406 people applied for 250 available seats. That equates to approximately 13 applicants per seat.

The College of Biosciences recently celebrated its seventh Commencement, awarding master's degrees to 15 bioethics students and 24 biomedical sciences students.

Thanks to an alumni base now comprised of more than 9,600 graduates in osteopathic medicine and another 330 in biomedical sciences and bioethics, KCUMB is stronger than ever and has a bright future ahead.

Thank you again for all you do for KCUMB. ●

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## Summer 2012

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Cover Photo  
**CORTNEY CHRISTENSEN**

ON THE COVER: THE UNIVERSITY'S CLOCK TOWER, NOW PERCHED ATOP SMITH HALL, HAS BEEN A CAMPUS ICON FOR DECADES.

# KCUMB

## COMMUNICATOR

### A ROADMAP FOR THE FUTURE

KCUMB officials use the University's mission, vision and values as a roadmap during the development phase of a five-year Strategic Plan



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### AN EVERLASTING GIFT

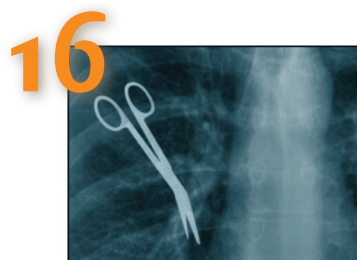
KCUMB's Gift Body Program plays an integral role in the education of future osteopathic physicians

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## letters to the editor

In reference to "Rising from the Rubble: A Small-Town Doc Rebuilds," published in the Spring 2012 magazine

Keith Morrow, D.O. (COM '85), was my best friend during our years at KCUMB, and I always knew that he would make a significant impact in his community. He was always a dedicated and caring student. The communities of Phil Campbell and Hackleburg (both in Alabama) are very blessed to have a doctor and a friend like Keith.

**Jim Dickert, D.O. (COM '85)**

## found on facebook

### We Asked ...

HOW DID YOU FEEL WHEN YOU GRADUATED FROM MEDICAL SCHOOL?

I felt proud of my accomplishment, nervous for what came next and relieved that med school was over.

**f Angie Carrick, D.O.**

Best weekend of my life.

**f Alexander Bobrov, D.O. (COM '08)**

WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT KCUMB?

I love KCUMB's anatomy and pathology departments, in addition to all other faculty members that are dedicated to teaching.

**f Todd Brittain, D.O. (COM '08)**

I love KCUMB because it feels like home. Everyone in the school from the alumni to the faculty to the students have been very welcoming. I love the attitude of welcoming and acceptance as opposed to the elitist attitude seen in other medical schools. I truly feel that the reason that KCUMB is so successful in educating physicians that are compassionate and offer exceptional care is the open-arms policy that we embrace. I am so proud to tell people that I am going to be part of the KCUMB Class of 2016!

**f Julia Fallier, first-year osteopathic medical student**

## Got Something to Say?

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

## Correction

In the Spring 2012 issue of the KCUMB Communicator, Kristen Colyer was mistakenly identified as an osteopathic medical student. She is actually a bioethics student. The KCUMB Communicator staff regrets the error.

I love medicine, but it's not enough just to love it. You need to know it, be the best of the best, never lose that hunger to learn and always be willing to touch your patients. KCUMB took a chance on me – they had the faith in me, offering me a spot in the Class of 2012. Now, I am finished and can honestly say, THANK YOU! My dream came true because of you. I will never forget those that have mentored me. I pray I have the courage and knowledge to support those after me, the way you've supported me. A powerful force behind the D.O. is the family from KCUMB. I love you all.

**f Brandy Conner, D.O. (COM '12)**

I have definitely enjoyed my time at KCUMB. I feel like I am graduating this year with excellent preparation for residency.

**f Laura Kresta, D.O. (COM '12)**

I like the breakfast burritos at KCUMB.

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

Working at KCUMB for the last two years has been amazing. I have made friends all over campus and learned more than I thought possible. The faculty, staff and administration have been incredibly supportive and friendly. Teaching students in the lab has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. As I prepare to leave for grad school in August, I know I will miss this place at my very core. Thank you all for the blessing my time here has been.

**f Derek Logsdon**

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# A ROADMAP FOR THE FUTURE

## *KCUMB Develops New Initiatives in Five-Year Strategic Plan*

Story by Natalie Lutz



**T**he term strategic planning has become a common buzzword in today's companies. Its definition is clear: envision a future and create a roadmap to get there.

Yet, very few organizations successfully execute their plans.

KCUMB is working to become the exception to the rule. In a university environment, decisions to strengthen or improve a campus and its programs are made in the greater context of how they will ultimately impact the school's constituents – alumni, faculty and staff, the community in which it exists, and, most importantly, its students.

As planning for KCUMB's five-year Strategic Plan began in fall 2010 and continued throughout 2011, an understanding of these constituents helped guide a group of committed University faculty, staff, alumni and administrators as they tackled three key questions:

*Where are we going?*

*How will we get there?*

*How do we know when we have arrived?*

"As far back as I could determine, the University developed, but never fully implemented, a Strategic Plan," said H. Danny Weaver, D.O. (COM '84), FACOF, KCUMB president and chief executive officer. "I felt it was important to help drive that process and to get various constituents' input on a strategic vision for the university based on each constituency we represent."

Once the initial plan was developed in late summer 2011 (See "A Closer Look at KCUMB's Five-Year Strategic Plan" on Page 7), the next step was identifying key initiatives that would help KCUMB best reach its strategic goals.

"KCUMB and higher education, in general, are facing significant challenges," Dr. Weaver said. "Whether it be rising tuition and student debt, the health-care needs of our community, or meeting our mission and goals, the initiatives needed to reflect an understanding of what we are facing as an institution."

Dr. Weaver appointed a Strategic Planning Committee to evaluate tactical proposals set forth in the University's



unit plans, which are department-based strategic plans that support the broader institutional roadmap.

Led by Larry Segars, Pharm.D., Dr. P.H., associate professor and chair of pharmacology and microbiology, the committee was tasked with identifying issues facing KCUMB and developing initiatives around them.

“We wanted to give the Leadership Team input on what faculty and administrators felt was needed to advance the University,” Dr. Segars said. “Our ultimate goal was to find the most important action items campus-wide that the Leadership Team and the Board should consider as a part of the Strategic Plan. We wanted initiatives that were global and not tied to individual departments.”

While the Strategic Planning Committee was finalizing its recommendations (See “KCUMB’s Key Initiatives Underway”), the University’s Leadership Team was also developing a series of metrics to help guide effective implementation of the plan. Called “KCUMB Pathways” and based upon the

balanced pathway model, this measurement component of the Strategic Plan identifies four constituent groups and their perspectives, and includes objectives, baseline metrics, measurable goals, accountabilities and timelines.

The key initiatives, which include development of a long-term Campus Master Plan for the physical campus and the KCUMB Pathways plan, were presented in April to KCUMB’s Board of Trustees. The Board tentatively approved the initiatives and provided direction to develop financial feasibility assessments.

“These (recommendations) give us a good barometer by which to assess where we need to allocate our resources,” said Joe Massman, executive vice president for finance and operations, chief financial officer and chief operating officer, who serves as vice chair of the Strategic Planning Committee. “It helps create our vision of where we want to go and gives us direction.”

*Continued on page 6*

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Part of the Strategic Planning process included reviewing and modifying KCUMB’s mission, vision and values. Adopted in 2011, these serve as the guiding principles for the University and its Strategic Plan.

Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences is a community of professionals committed to excellence in the education of highly qualified students in osteopathic medicine, the biosciences, bioethics and the health professions. Through life-long learning, research and service, KCUMB challenges faculty, staff, students and alumni to improve the well being of the diverse community it serves.

MISSION STATEMENT

VISION

CORE VALUES

KCUMB will be recognized as a national leader in education, research, clinical practice and service.

**Integrity:** Demonstrating respect, honesty and professionalism

**Compassion:** Caring for students, patients, colleagues and all humanity

**Excellence:** Achieving quality in all that we do

**Collaboration:** Working with others to achieve mutual goals

**Intellectual Curiosity:** Pursuing personal and professional growth

**Innovation:** Embracing new practices to improve outcomes

**Heritage:** Honoring the legacy of our past



The University enlisted the assistance of Helix Architecture + Design, Inc., a Kansas City firm, to begin the first of the key initiatives and develop a Campus Master Plan.

“The Campus Master Plan effort is going to tell us a lot about our space – where we can better utilize existing space and where we have more extensive needs,” Massman said. “Once we identify short-term space utilization recommendations and more long-term facility improvements or expansions, we’ll also start to prioritize based on need, costs and what fits most closely with the Strategic Plan.”

The University will unveil the Campus Master Plan later this fall.

“As our Strategic Plan evolves over time, it is anticipated that the long-term Campus Master Plan will have the flexibility to accommodate those changes,” Massman said. “Our operations should be improved by the Campus Master Plan, and the Campus Master Plan, in turn, should give us a

framework from which we can move on to execute the various phases of our Strategic Plan.”

While there is much work ahead to achieve the goals set forth in the Strategic Plan, University leaders are excited to have a specific direction that the entire campus community can embrace together.

“I am confident it will be the first time the University – all the way down to the individual departments – really has developed a roadmap for itself, which gives our constituents a better feel and understanding of where their University is headed,” Dr. Weaver said. “With this plan, KCUMB is strategically positioned to be competitive and exemplify positive, sustainable and diverse growth as it enters its second century.” ●

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

## KCUMB'S KEY INITIATIVES UNDERWAY



# A CLOSER LOOK AT KCUMB'S FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN 2011-2016

## Institutional Goals

### Goal 1: Enhance Student Success

#### Objectives:

1. Develop enrollment management strategies that recruit highly qualified prospective students, improving the academic profile of incoming students and increasing potential for student success.
2. Improve overall curricular content, delivery and evaluation as well as assessment processes to increase KCUMB's overall academic reputation.

### Goal 2: Enhance Research Activity

#### Objectives:

1. Increase research quality and productivity among individual faculty, across departments, and within academic programs through investments in infrastructure, the development of additional graduate assistantships and fellowships, and the recruitment of additional successful research faculty.
2. Continue to develop a culture that understands the significant contributions research makes in an academic environment.
3. Work collaboratively with partner institutions and alumni to develop research programs and research centers that result in regional and national recognition for KCUMB.
4. Identify new academic programs that will strengthen research activity and results. Invest in the development of potentially fruitful programs.
5. Expand opportunities for students to be exposed to research and to be more actively engaged in research on campus and in clerkships.

### Goal 3: Promote and Increase Internal and External Service

#### Objectives:

1. Evaluate current clinical practice settings to ensure the University's clinical practice investment best supports the mission of the University and its academic programs.
2. Promote OPP and OMM regionally and nationally.



3. Enhance external service program and develop a communications strategy around it, which, in turn, will improve institutional reputation. External service program to include: OMM/OPP practice, service learning, global health initiative, community service and professional leadership.
4. Develop a nationally recognized global health initiative with substance that includes clerkships, curriculum and service.
5. Define, organize, formalize and recognize service learning.

### Goal 4: Promote Sustainability Across the Institution

#### Objectives:

1. Reduce KCUMB's overall environmental footprint by 5 percent annually.
2. Develop a comprehensive sustainability plan, identifying key areas to focus KCUMB's sustainability efforts.
3. Adhere to national best practices regarding facility maintenance operations, green campus structures, water usage and purchasing.
4. Expand electronic and digital resources and capabilities to eliminate excess waste.
5. Develop processes to evaluate, establish and implement alternative sources of revenue for the University.

### Goal 5: Enhance Institutional Diversity

#### Objectives:

1. Enhance diversity among students and staff.
2. Enhance diversity of revenue to the University.
3. Enhance the diversity of academic programs offered by KCUMB.



*An Everlasting Gift*

# *KCUMB's Gift Body Program Plays an Integral Role in the Education of Future Physicians*

Story by Christopher Ryan  
Illustration by Rachel Mindrup





**H**er name was Mabyn, and she was born to hard-working Kansas dairy farmers in Valley Center, Kan., between the two world wars. She earned a degree in home economics from Kansas State University. In 1944, she married Ken Makalous, a county extension agent. Not long after they married, Mabyn and Ken settled down to raise poultry in Marshall County, Kan. A strong believer in education, Mabyn also taught school. She and Ken had two children, both boys.

In 1952, Ken contracted polio and lost the use of his legs. Mabyn kept on raising poultry, carrying the 50-pound feedbags and tending to the family business until she and her husband retired in 1966.

Ken died in 1991. Mabyn passed away in 2008. But Mabyn's commitment to work and education did not end with her death.

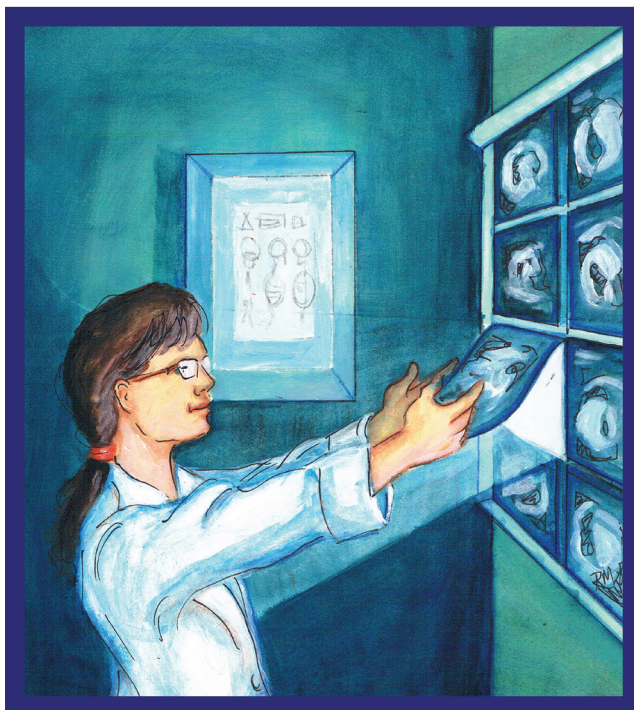
Years before, when Ken was alive, he mentioned that he would like to donate his body for medical education. Circumstances prevented his family from fulfilling that wish, but Mabyn still took it to heart. She decided to honor her husband's wishes by donating her own body through the Gift Body Program at Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences.

Well before Mabyn's death, she and her son, Ray, met and worked with Pam Thomas, Ph.D., associate professor of anatomy and Gift Body Program coordinator, to make the arrangements. There were questions and paperwork but, most important, there was empathy.

"I was with my mom the evening she passed away," Ray said. "I was holding her hand. We knew what had to be done as far as who needed to be called and all that, and I think what really made it so comforting was that we knew Dr. Pam Thomas would be involved in the whole thing, once the body arrived there."

## A "Non-Ending Gift"

Dr. Thomas has led KCUMB's Gift Body Program for 18 years. She and Felicia Harris, the program's administrative assistant, share responsibility for serving as liaison with donors and their families. It is work they both find fulfilling.



For Harris, helping donors and their families is the best part of her job.

"I tend to believe that I'm a people person," she said. "I believe in the program. I do really enjoy the interaction, and it is rewarding when you get the feedback from the family."

The feedback Dr. Thomas and Harris receive is overwhelmingly positive, most of it along the lines of Ray Makalous's endorsement. Dr. Thomas suggests that the reason for the good will has to do with the attitude of the donors, their families, the osteopathic medical students and the program staff, as well as the Gift Body Program's structure.

A donated body is "a non-ending gift," Dr. Thomas said. It benefits not only the students who learn from it, but also the patients those students will treat during their career. People who donate their bodies understand this. Often, donors have some connection to education. They might be teachers, including current and retired staff at KCUMB. Dr. Thomas believes these people want to continue to teach even after their lives are over.

Another prominent group of donors consists of farmers, perhaps because they know about the cycle of life and appreciate its complexity and beauty. However, donors come from all walks of life.

Of course, it is the students who are the initial beneficiaries of donors' generosity, and at KCUMB, they are taught from the beginning how valuable and worthy of respect the donors are. The lesson begins even before the students meet their gift bodies. They attend a class on death and dying, which Dr. Thomas co-teaches.

Dr. Thomas asks her students to write a letter to the donor. This exercise gives the students a chance to voice their own fears and worries about what they will have to do in the gross anatomy lab. The letters are read or posted at a donor memorial service where

*Continued on page 10*

“There are things you just can't depict in a picture, like a layer of tissue in the abdomen. It's like nothing else.”

Pam Thomas, Ph.D.



students are able to meet the donors' families – a moving and meaningful experience for everyone involved.

"That was so well done," said Ray Makalous, referring to the memorial service. "Getting a chance to see the students who had been in the classes was so comforting. They actually put your family member's picture up."

For her part, Kara Hessel, an osteopathic medical student, sees the memorial service as a deeply humanizing moment.

"When you meet the family, you see someone who cared about the person, and you decide you need to be mindful of who this person was," she said.

Hessel, who plans to become a surgeon, is taking a year between her second and third years of medical school to serve as an anatomy fellow. As a fellow, she helps teach anatomy, works further with the bodies and conducts her own research. She firmly believes she owes donors a great debt of gratitude.

"I really appreciate everything the donors have done for us," she said "They have given us the opportunity to learn, and to me there is nothing better in life. If what the donors have done allows me to save other lives, I can't think of any greater gift.

"I wish I could thank each family and each person."

### The Best Way to Learn

The Gift Body Program at KCUMB depends entirely on donations. The University does not purchase bodies or body parts for study. It might be easier to rely on anatomical dummies, textbooks and new computer programs to teach anatomy, but in the opinion of both program administrators and students, the change would remove critical elements of the experience.



*"It's kind of like solving a puzzle. Why is there cancer in this lobe of the lung and not this lobe? Maybe we'll find a muscle that's completely undocumented and we'll ask, 'I wonder if this muscle caused them any problem.' It's like detective work."*

Pam Thomas, Ph.D.

Speaking from a student's perspective, Hessel said, "I know there are computer programs that allow students to see things in 3D, but it's not the same experience because I can't physically touch that. I don't know what that artery or nerve feels like."

Dr. Thomas agrees that adding the sense of touch to an anatomy lesson enhances learning.

"There are things you just can't depict in a picture, like a layer of tissue in the abdomen. It's like nothing else," she said.

Gift bodies also add an element of diversity to gross anatomy. They demonstrate in ways that anatomical dummies – much less textbooks and computer programs –

cannot do, that people are different from each other.

The first person Dr. Thomas worked on had green beans in his lungs, probably as a result of aspiration during a heart attack.

"There's always surprises," she said. "There are always things you wouldn't think about."

The differences and surprises that gift bodies present teach anatomy in ways no other method can. This is one reason the KCUMB program does not shy away from accepting donors who have died of cancer. Not all programs do. The only gift body restriction KCUMB has in place is that donors must be over 18 years old.

"It's really important for students to see that," Dr. Thomas said. "I think they need to see how invasive cancer is. They need to see why it's important to catch it early."

Dr. Thomas views the gross anatomy lab as a place of exploration.

"It's kind of like solving a puzzle," she said. "Why is there cancer in this lobe of the lung and not this lobe? Maybe we'll find a muscle that's completely undocumented and we'll ask, 'I wonder if this muscle caused them any problem.' It's like detective work."

## Making Better Physicians

The so-called “detective work” is an aspect of her experience in the anatomy lab that is particularly significant to Kara Hessel. By earning an anatomy fellowship, she has given herself an advantage in a highly competitive profession.

“It’s a great opportunity because I want to go into surgery, and it gave me something to talk about during interviews,” she said. “It also gave me the opportunity to do research and really learn my anatomy so I can go out and do surgery.”

Hessel is also interested in teaching, and she has a chance to hone her skills. Further, she is able to do original research for publication, something that could be a requirement during her residency.

“We have to submit for publication one research study,” she said. “We design the study. We do the majority of data collection. We do the majority of data analysis.”

Faculty members might help out when they are needed, but students in the anatomy fellowship program are mostly on their own.

For Hessel, doing medical study in the anatomy lab and serving as an anatomy fellow means she will be a better surgeon later on. She believes she will not only be more comfortable and competent doing procedures but also more comfortable talking with the families of people she has treated.

“I know there are computer programs that allow students to see things in 3D, but it’s not the same experience because I can’t physically touch that. I don’t know what that artery or nerve feels like.”

Kara Hessel

## A Focus on Caring and Respect

Conversations about the anatomy lab always seem to come back to how much both staff and students have learned about living people from the bodies they have studied. To Hessel, it is a matter of being both sensitized and desensitized, but in both cases in a positive way.

“There’s always the thought that someone has given their body so that other people can live,” she said.

Dr. Thomas added, “It’s kind of a mix of steeling yourself to the dissection and learning from it and, at the

same time, remembering that this is a human person.”

Not so long ago, bodies were turned over for dissection as a form of punishment. Today, being a gift body donor is simply a way of giving back.

Felicia Harris has worked with donors who have contacted her long before they died to make the arrangements. Other donors have told their relatives about their wishes just before passing away. Still others become part of the Gift Body Program because a close relative or someone with power of attorney has arranged for the donation.

There is only one real challenge to making the donation: time. The body must undergo proper preservation within 24 hours of death, so transportation is critical. The Gift Body Program will pay for transportation of bodies within the Greater Kansas City area.

Gift bodies are normally kept at KCUMB for medical study for about a year. At the end of that time, the remains are cremated and returned to the family, if requested. Otherwise, they are interred in a local cemetery.

Ray Makalous does not have much to say about the paperwork or transportation or the other details of his mother’s donation. What he remembers is the human side of the transaction.

“Having Dr. Pam, who had met my mother, and knowing how much she was tied into teaching anatomy and how she did such a great job of being willing to take the phone calls and make sure everything was handled in the correct way – it was very meaningful,” he said. “I would encourage anyone to attend the memorial service.” ●



Make an impact. Honor those who have donated their bodies to medical science by supporting the Anatomical Donor Fund.

Look for the envelope inside this magazine for more details!



# From Dawn to Dusk

Photography by Cortney Christensen and Scott Summers

**S**ure, KCUMB's primary role is the education of future generations of osteopathic physicians, bioethicists and researchers. But, for approximately 1,100 students, 250 faculty and staff, thousands of alumni and others associated with the University, KCUMB is also so much more.

KCUMB is early-morning breakfasts in the cafeteria and late-night study sessions in Smith Hall; it's the grounds crew tending flowers and the security officers keeping watch; it's prospective students taking tours and current students participating in class discussions; it's alumni and others attending continuing education courses and students relaxing in the Community Garden and Park.

We hope you enjoy our attempt at capturing all that goes into one day – June 4, to be exact – at KCUMB. •

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



At left: Mary Donaldson gets an early start on lunch preparations in the cafeteria.

Above, middle: Students study near Common Grounds, KCUMB's coffee shop, in the Student Activities Center.

Bottom: Mark Butzler makes sure students and staff are safe as they arrive on campus.



At left: A contractor cuts the grass outside the Administration Building.

At right: A student gets in a morning workout in the basement of the Student Activities Center.

Below: Faculty, staff and community members participate in an emergency preparedness workshop on campus.



Above, middle: Prospective students and their families tour the Dybedal Center for Research.

Above: David Moller, Ph.D., professor and chair of bioethics, leads a classroom discussion.

At right: A student takes a practice quiz in a study area on the upper level of the Student Activities Center.







At left: Students take a break on the patio outside the Student Activities Center.

Below: Bob Kress, a second-year osteopathic medical student, plays with his dog, Tucker, in KCUMB's Community Garden and Park.

Below, middle: Students play a game of ping pong during a break from classes.



At right: Troy Johnson secures the front doors to the Administration Building during his regular end-of-day rounds.



Above: Nicholas Kaup, a second-year osteopathic medical student, calls incoming first-year osteopathic medical students.





At left: Taking advantage of good weather, a student reviews her notes outside Smith Hall.

Below: Students make their way back toward Century Towers just before sunset.



Above: Evening light streams into the empty – or, nearly empty – Wheeler Osteopathic Clinic Skills Laboratory in the Strickland Education Pavilion.

Right: A lone student is visible studying through a window in Smith Hall.







## Whoops! Medical Mistakes: How to Make Things Right When They Go Wrong

Story by Christopher Ryan

**M**edical errors are a serious public health problem.

- In 1999, the Institute of Medicine released what was then shocking news: Each year, about 98,000 people in the United States die from “adverse events” caused by hospital errors. Patients suffering injury from these events could number another 1 million.
- In 2011, a study published in *Health Affairs* indicated that when people enter the hospital they face a one-in-three chance of experiencing an adverse event. It also found that some 90 percent of mistakes occurring in hospitals are never reported.

To put all this in perspective, a 2010 survey of institutions registered with the American Hospital Association showed total admissions of about 36,915,331 patients annually. If a third of these patients experience an adverse event, that would be 12,305,110 injuries caused by medical mistakes. The Institute for Healthcare Improvement estimates that more than 40,000 instances of medical harm happen every day.

So what is the solution? Is it better training in the mechanics of medicine to prevent infection or ensure that the right pill goes to the right patient? Is it tougher sanctions for professionals who commit the errors?

Will these approaches or others along the same lines make any difference as long as there is a strong tendency toward leaving errors unreported or even covering them up?

“Physicians have an ethical and moral responsibility to take ownership of their errors,” said David Moller, Ph.D., professor and chair of bioethics.

But too many major medical errors are never revealed because physicians fear damage to their careers or they close ranks to protect each other. It is a situation that is bad for physicians, the medical community as a whole and patients. And it does not have to be this way.

“There’s a natural tendency to curl up in a fetal position

and pray it all goes unnoticed,” said Sarah Parrott, D.O., assistant professor of family medicine at KCUMB and coordinator of the communications component for the osteopathic clinical skills program. “Instead, we need to partner with the patient or family to see to it that it never happens again.”

How can physicians partner with patients who have just suffered physical or psychological injury while in their care? How is it possible to have that kind of relationship under such difficult circumstances?

It might not be possible all the time, but it can be made more likely. There is a growing consensus – at least among the faculty and students at KCUMB – that there is a way to prevent, manage and learn from medical mistakes, and it is more in the “software” of medicine than the “hardware.”

### A Soft Approach to a Hard Problem

The answer to the plague of medical errors is quite straightforward, Dr. Moller said. It can best be related in three words: “Communication, communication, communication.” Whatever else might be part of an attempt to reduce mistakes, it will not advance the cause very far without open communication from beginning to end.

It might sound easy enough, but it is not. Communication is key at every point in the ongoing struggle against preventable mistakes. It must be there when hospitals and doctors’ offices set up plans for preventing and managing errors. It is a fundamental requirement of every interaction with patients. It remains critically important when mistakes happen so they are less likely to happen again.

Communication even has the potential to make the difficult task of informing a patient that an error has occurred less traumatic.

“Patients are the ultimate judges of whether we’re good physicians,” Dr. Parrott said, pointing out that even the smartest physician on the planet cannot do the job well

without communication. “Somehow, we have to communicate all the knowledge we’ve gathered, and continue to gather, to our patients if we’re to do them any good.”

“Empathy and compassion are critically important,” Dr. Moller said. “The more they’re displayed, the more patients will become trusting and compliant with directives, and they’ll be more likely to have a good outcome. In the case of a mistake, patients are more likely to be forgiving.”

Communication is essential to a close relationship between physicians and their patients, but also their patients’ families. So, when the knowledge that must be passed on concerns a medical error, previous successful communication can play a major positive role, even if the error has resulted in a death.

“I think families want to know their loved one wasn’t hurt or permanently injured for nothing and that it will lead to a change in the system so it won’t happen to someone else,” Dr. Parrott said.

If family members have a close bond with the physician and believe a thorough explanation of the error has been made, they are much less likely to take legal action, she said.

### How to Admit an Error

Everyone makes mistakes. Physicians’ mistakes can cause serious harm. Although good communication can mitigate the consequences of error, they still can be severe for physicians, both emotionally and financially. The effect on a physician’s medical career can be devastating.

All that said, it is vital that errors be reported, investigated, resolved and used to learn and improve. The hardest part is reporting the mistake, especially if it has caused injury or death.

Planning for errors can help. Dr. Parrott suggests that both hospitals and physicians’ practices refer to the Institute for Healthcare Improvement’s white paper, “Respectful Management of Serious Clinical Adverse Events,” which is available on the organization’s website, [www.IHI.org](http://www.IHI.org). The paper provides step-by-step assistance in developing a crisis management plan.

Dr. Parrott also has suggestions of her own for physicians who find themselves talking with a family about a medical error that has affected their loved one.

“In case of harmful error, the attending physician needs to meet with the family in a quiet room as soon as possible,” she said.

If desired, a spiritual advisor should be present. The physician should explain exactly what happened and let the family know that all parties involved are sorry the mistake occurred. The physician also should make it clear that the incident will be investigated.

Individual crisis management plans might vary in approach somewhat, but Dr. Parrott believes transparency from the outset is extremely important. She adds that, should the family bring an attorney to the meeting, it is perfectly reasonable for the physician to have representation present.

Once the error has been reported and discussed with the family, follow-up is critical. The incident should be thoroughly investigated – not with the focus on punishing someone, but with an eye toward learning and avoiding the same problem in the future. The goal is continuous improvement in the delivery of care, and it is not possible without ongoing, open communication.

### Little Lapses Can Mean Big Problems

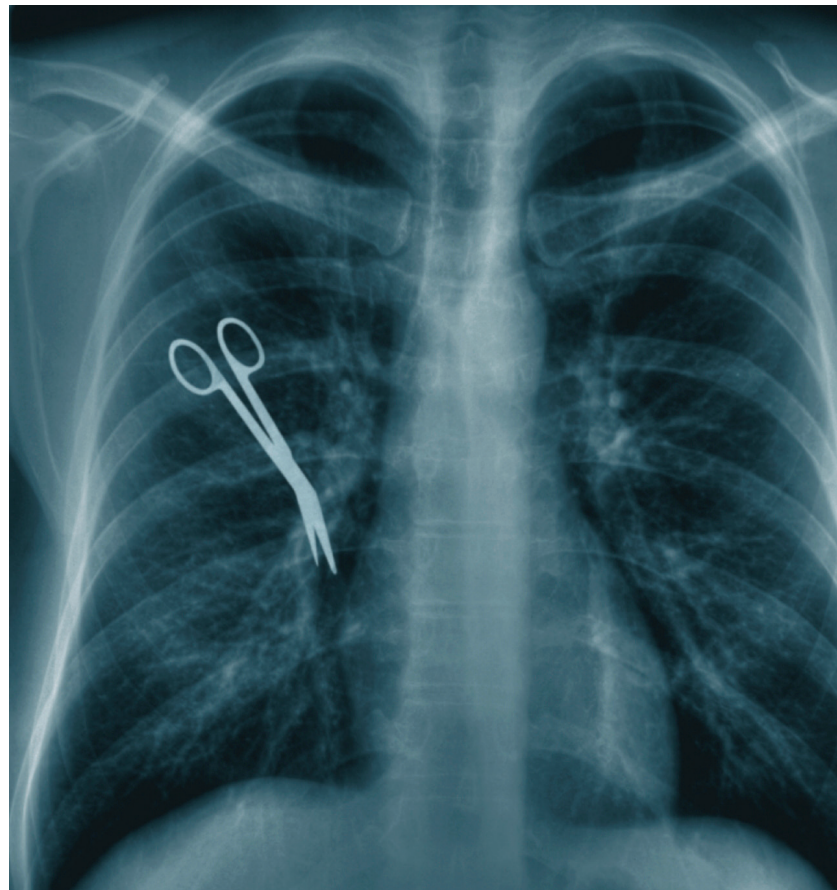
Heidi Denton, D.O. (COM ’12), M.A. (COB ’12), graduated from KCUMB in May. She saw communication failures firsthand during her clerkships, failures she credits her bioethics degree with helping her to recognize more easily.

In one instance, a nurse called a patient advocate to tell him that surgery on his patient, who had mental deficits, had been successful. The advocate had no idea the surgery had been done. He had been waiting to learn when it would be scheduled.

Another time, Dr. Denton was present when a patient who could not speak or read English was asked to sign a form allowing a blood test. There was no translator or anyone else who could help the woman understand what she was agreeing to. She finally gave in and signed.

Neither of these examples would be likely to result in injury or death, but both were psychologically traumatizing.

*Continued on page 18*





Both were avoidable errors, and Dr. Denton saw them as demonstrating a lack of sensitivity and respect. She believes they show medical professionals at something less than their best.

The lack of communication in these two incidents is also a symptom of what could be a larger problem with more serious ramifications. A culture of poor communication breeds mistakes.

"Communication is critical in any area, whether it's doctor-patient, doctor-to-doctor, doctor-to-social services or other administrative people within the hospital," Dr. Denton said. "If you have a lack of communication, things can go awry real quick."

The medical mistakes Blake Heinz, D.O. (COM '12), M.A. (COB '12), has witnessed have primarily dealt with physicians not doing their homework. They failed to check a patient's medical history or gather enough information during the initial encounter.

Dr. Heinz recalls a woman in her 50s who was dying from cancer and, because of acute problems, was admitted to the hospital.

"The push these days is to get an advance directive during the first interview," Dr. Heinz said. "Without it, patients might not have their wishes met."

In this case, there was no advance directive. Because of her condition, the woman could not speak for herself. She underwent surgery and recovered – from the immediate problem, but not from the cancer that was killing her. Only after the costly and painful procedure did the hospital staff learn that the woman had not wanted any kind of intervention.

Again, a lack of communication created an expensive and traumatizing mistake. To avoid such errors, Dr. Denton said, "You have to know you've done everything you can for somebody."

And, a large portion of everything is communication.

### Training Physicians to Communicate

The sensitivity to communication issues that Dr. Denton and Dr. Heinz reveal in their anecdotes seem to say a lot about them and also about their education. In a way, osteopathic medical schools like KCUMB have a head start when it comes to teaching students to communicate well and to be able to form close bonds with their patients. Empathy and communication skills are prominent among the qualities found in students who win admission to the University.

"Even the smartest students from Ivy League schools and with a 32 on their MCATs might not make good osteopathic physicians," Dr. Parrott said. "KCUMB looks for people who can communicate. We look for empathetic,



KCUMB's osteopathic medical students practice their doctor-patient communication skills by interacting with mock patients inside the Kesselheim Center for Clinical Competence.

socially adept people. There's a lot of focus on listening skills."

Just appearing empathetic is not enough, however. Osteopathic medical students at KCUMB have to build on their skills throughout their training.

Dr. Moller points to a pilot project in the bioethics program that pairs students with "patients" who present with sensitive issues, such as end-of-life concerns or domestic violence. Students learn how to communicate information about resources and to help the mock patient feel safe, combining knowledge with compassion during a difficult conversation with a vulnerable person.

Before KCUMB's osteopathic medical students can go on clerkships, they must pass a sort of "communication test." They see three mock patients – volunteers and actors from the community – who present with various health problems. The students must demonstrate both their knowledge and their communication skills as they seek a diagnosis.

Dr. Heinz found the exercise both challenging and satisfying.

"I treated them as though they were real-life patients," he said. "You have to if you're going to get anything out of it and pass the test."

In all probability, there will be many more tests for Dr. Heinz and Dr. Denton as they progress in their young careers. They will make mistakes and be forced to deal with medical errors made by others. For now, they have confidence not only to take on the inherent responsibilities that come with being physicians, but also to work toward the continuous improvement that will reduce medical mistakes and their consequences. ●

## Osteopathic Medical Students Participate in KCUMB's First International Clerkships

The circuitous route that took Cornelius Thiels and Paul Rotert, D.O. (COM '12), to Saudi Arabia and Zambia, respectively, included Springdale, Ark., and the Dominican Republic. It also involved the Kansas City Royals baseball team.

Dr. Rotert, who graduated May 19, and Thiels, a fourth-year osteopathic medical student, are the first of what promises to be many students who will take advantage of KCUMB's new international clerkship offerings. Supervised by INMED (the Institute for International Medicine), the elective clerkships are designed to broaden students' perspectives on the practice of medicine in developing countries.

KCUMB has been active in international medicine for 20 years, first in Guatemala and then in the Dominican

Republic, said John Dougherty, D.O. (COM '92), associate dean for clinical education and medical affairs, and professor and chair of family medicine. However, the school's association with INMED has allowed it to expand its outreach to many more countries.

It all sounds straightforward enough now, but the program's beginnings were a case study in serendipity.

Dr. Dougherty was the physician for the Royals' AA team in Springdale, Ark. Many of the players hoping to make their way into the major leagues are from the Caribbean nations and South America. Their first stop is the Royals Baseball Academy in the Dominican Republic.

Not long ago, one of these players made it to Springdale, but his sports career was derailed by a health issue.

Dr. Dougherty suggested that players be checked for physical problems before being sent on to Springdale. The Royals thought that was a good idea.

The young man who wanted to play professional baseball but found himself stymied by illness was still on Dr. Dougherty's mind when Darin Haug, D.O. (COM '01), executive vice president for academic and medical



Cornelius Thiels chose to participate in one of KCUMB's international clerkship offerings in Saudi Arabia.

affairs, and dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine, asked him to take charge of developing a comprehensive international clerkship program.

Here was a chance to take health care where it was needed. At the same time, it was an opportunity to give KCUMB's osteopathic medical students an educational experience that would expand their horizons.

Rotert returned from Zambia on May 2, after two months working in a small hospital and outpatient clinic.

"The most important thing was probably the realization of the dignity of all humans and that one's place of birth, position in society or wealth should not affect the quality of care that they get," he said.

Thiels left for Saudi Arabia a few days before Rotert returned. He recognized that Saudi culture tends to be very conservative, but felt comfortable.

"I think all physicians must be mindful of other cultures, and I hope that experiencing the culture and traditions in Saudi Arabia firsthand will make me a better physician one day," Thiels said.

Dr. Dougherty hopes to use the new international clerkship offerings to attract more students to KCUMB.

"We want to attract the best and the brightest students we can," he said. "Sometimes, even just the potential for the opportunity is what will make them select or de-select a school. If you don't have it, the people who do are going to get the brighter students." ●



Recent KCUMB graduate Paul Rotert, D.O., checks on a young patient in a clinic in Zambia.



# With New Scholarship, Recent Graduate Pays it Forward

*Gift Marks the First Time a Current KCUMB Student has Established a Scholarship to Benefit Other Students*

Carey Vincent, D.O. (COM '12), first set eyes on the KCUMB campus during a snowstorm. Taking in the whitened buildings and grounds, he thought, "This is just like Hogwarts."

As Dr. Vincent worked his way through medical school, he of course discovered significant differences between KCUMB and Harry Potter's fictional academy for wizards. He decided, however, the two schools do share one thing: There's a certain magic about them.

Before leaving KCUMB to embark on his career, Dr. Vincent left something behind in appreciation of that magic – a gift that could itself work some miracles. He established a \$25,000 Physicians' Hall of Sponsors scholarship to benefit married students with dependent children. It is the first scholarship established by a KCUMB osteopathic medical student before graduation.

## A Gift Born of Experience

During the College of Osteopathic Medicine's commencement ceremonies on May 19, Dr. Vincent was commissioned into the U.S. Navy as a lieutenant. He is currently stationed at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth in Portsmouth, Va., where he is in the midst of his residency in internal medicine. A military scholarship made it possible for him to become a doctor. Now, he is fulfilling his commitment to the military with four years of active-duty service.

Dr. Vincent is familiar with the challenges facing married students with young children. He joined the U.S. Navy after high school, served four years, then started college on the G.I. Bill. That money got him through his first two years. He and his wife, Jamie,



Dr. Vincent accepts congratulations on earning his doctor of osteopathic medicine May 19 during commencement ceremonies.

"If you're worried about how you're going to live tomorrow, you're not paying attention to how to succeed today."

Just as Dr. Vincent points to the excellence of the physicians who come out of KCUMB, he praises the quality of KCUMB's osteopathic medical graduates as human beings. Both factors contribute to the University's

magic. He attributes this bonus to the school's approach to medicine and the faculty who teach it.

He had to pay for another three years themselves. In the meantime, the couple's son, Jaxon, was born. Two years later, another son, Renner, came along. Both Jaxon and Renner were eventually diagnosed with atypical autism. A year later, a daughter, Braiya, arrived. Because the cost of a trained sitter to care for Jaxon and Renner would be about the same as Jamie's salary if she worked outside the home, Jamie became a full-time mom.

Dr. Vincent understood all too well that, without his military scholarship, he could not have stayed in medical school. It covered his tuition and books and provided a modest monthly stipend.

"The financial difficulties of having kids while going to medical school are pretty great," Dr. Vincent said. "So, I was thinking how nice it would be to help other students who are married with kids have one more option."

"All the faculty are good," he said, "but some are just amazing."

## A Gift Given Out of Gratitude

The amazing ones, Dr. Vincent said, are people like Maria Cole, Ph.D., associate professor of anatomy; Diane Karius, Ph.D., associate professor of physiology; and Robert Stephens, Ph.D., professor and chair of anatomy, and associate dean for the College of Biosciences. As a student, he was struck by not only their skill as teachers, but also their love of learning.

He has traded his collection of KCUMB apparel for a different uniform, one he will gratefully don most days for at least the next four years. During that time and well beyond, KCUMB osteopathic medical students will be thankful that they can focus on their studies and worry less about affording necessities.

It is almost as if a wizard now living more than 1,000 miles away from the school where he learned his craft had waved a wand and made some enduring magic happen. ●

## More Focus, Better Doctors

For Dr. Vincent, the premise behind his gift is straightforward.

"You shouldn't have to sacrifice an education to clothe a child," he said.

## UNIVERSITY HONORS AN ALUM AS ITS FACULTY OF THE YEAR

The Dean's Council for Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences recently recognized a 1980 graduate of the College of Osteopathic Medicine as its 2012 Faculty of the Year Award recipient.

Richard Magie, D.O. (COM '80), assistant professor and chair of pediatrics, received the honor June 8 during a faculty appreciation event on campus. In addition to his teaching responsibilities,



Dr. Magie, right, accepts congratulations and a gift from Dr. Haug after being named KCUMB's 2012 Faculty of the Year recipient.

Dr. Magie also serves as medical director for KCUMB Physician Associates and medical director for Score 1 for Health, a KCUMB program that provides free health screenings to more than 13,000 children each year in the Kansas City area.

Dr. Magie regularly participates in KCUMB's annual medical missions to Guatemala with DOCARE International, providing much-needed care to people living in remote and underserved communities. He also served as president of KCUMB's Faculty Senate during the 2011-2012 academic year.

"Dr. Magie is not only outstanding in his field, but he embodies each of our core values," said Darin Haug, D.O. (COM '01), executive vice president for academic and medical affairs, and dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine. "His extraordinary contribution to KCUMB and our mission goes far beyond expectations, even at the expense of personal sacrifice." ●

## International Award Recognizes KCUMB's Community Service Efforts

Communitas Awards recently honored KCUMB for its excellence in community service and corporate social responsibility.

KCUMB received its Communitas Award in the company-sponsored volunteer project category, in recognition of the University's 14<sup>th</sup>-annual Community Service Day. Students, faculty and staff completed more than 1,000 hours of service in a single half-day effort to benefit various individuals and organizations in need throughout the Kansas City metropolitan area.



Communitas Awards is an international effort to recognize exceptional businesses, organizations and individuals for their spirit of communitas – helping people.

"KCUMB clearly exhibits the spirit of communitas, a Latin word that means people coming together for the good of the community," according to a statement on behalf of the Communitas Awards judges.

KCUMB's annual Community Service Day takes place during orientation week for incoming first-year osteopathic medical students. The event serves as an introduction to both the community and to the University's emphasis on serving others.

"Medical school is only the beginning of their commitment to a career of service," said Sara Selkirk, executive director of community and student affairs at KCUMB. "We believe it is important to place emphasis on the aspect of caring for people and community even before students attend their first class." ●



The procession makes its way across campus toward Weaver Auditorium May 19 during the 126<sup>th</sup> Commencement of KCUMB's College of Osteopathic Medicine. During the ceremony, 256 students were awarded doctor of osteopathic medicine degrees and 11 dual-degree students also received master of arts degrees in bioethics. In addition, Rockhurst University awarded master of business administration degrees to 27 KCUMB students through the D.O./MBA dual-degree program.



## KCUMB Names New Provost and Dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine Following National Search

KCUMB recently announced the appointment of Marc Hahn, D.O., as the University's new executive vice president for academic and medical affairs, provost and dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Dr. Hahn will succeed Darin Haug, D.O. (COM '01), who announced in April his plans to leave KCUMB on Sept. 1 to return to patient care in Marshall, Mo., where he, his wife and children have family.

"It will be a privilege to be a part of one of the country's original five osteopathic medical schools – one that has a tremendous reputation, which has been built by world-class faculty, superb students and excellent alumni," Dr. Hahn said. "In the new role of provost, I look forward to working closely with Dr. Weaver in exploring novel health-related programs that can help address the needs of our state, the region and the country."

Dr. Hahn's hiring concludes a national search KCUMB conducted in conjunction with EFL Associates, Inc., an executive search firm. Dr. Hahn was one of two candidates who met with

students, faculty and staff during on-campus visits in June.

Dr. Hahn, who will begin work at KCUMB by Oct. 1, has extensive experience as a senior administrator in higher education. He comes to KCUMB from the University of New England in Biddeford, Maine, where he served as

senior vice president for health affairs and dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine since 2009. He also served on the UNE faculty as a professor of anesthesiology.

Prior to his tenure at UNE, Dr. Hahn worked as senior vice president for health affairs at the University of North Texas Health Science Center at Ft. Worth and dean of the Texas



Dr. Hahn

College of Osteopathic Medicine.

"We chose Dr. Hahn based on his breadth of experience, knowledge and passion," said H. Danny Weaver, D.O. (COM '84), FACOFP, president and chief executive officer. "We feel that he has the skills and background necessary to continue to move KCUMB in a forward direction."

Dr. Weaver said he is grateful for the dedication to KCUMB displayed by Dr. Haug during his four years at the University. Dr. Haug strengthened the school's core functions, resulting in higher student scores on national board examinations, expansion of third- and fourth-year clinical training opportunities, increased emphasis on acquiring important educational resources and enhanced faculty development.

"Dr. Haug has been a tremendous asset to KCUMB, providing key leadership through challenging times for our institution," Dr. Weaver said. "I personally feel indebted to him for his sacrifice and commitment to the University and its constituents." ●

## D'Angelo Library Prepares Historical Artifacts for the University's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

### Library Staff Seeks Unique Pieces

While the new D'Angelo Library only recently celebrated its one-year anniversary, its staff is busy making preparations for KCUMB's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2016. One of the priorities for the staff is collecting, identifying and restoring the numerous medical artifacts given to the University by generous donors over the years.

By 2016, the team plans to have the artifacts displayed throughout the D'Angelo Library and the rest of the campus, so that everyone gets plenty of opportunity to appreciate them.

"It's about preserving the University's heritage," said Lori Fitterling, digital services reference librarian. "The University has a rich history and we have some unique items."

Fitterling said her favorite item is a letter written by Carry Nation, an early osteopathic physician and a fighter for women's rights. In the letter, she invites another couple to come help with a clinic in Medicine Lodge, Kan., saying she has already delivered seven babies and could use some help.

The staff is working to enter each of the items into a database so they can easily be viewed online.

"We've wanted to do this for a long time," said Marilyn De Geus, director of the library. "We wanted to preserve the history of KCUMB and digitize it for all to see. We're not there yet, but hope to be before the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

"Sorting through the artifacts is like a daily treasure hunt," De Geus said. If you have interesting medical



artifacts or items from the University's past that may have historical value that you would like to loan or donate to the KCUMB's collection, contact Marilyn De Geus at 816-654-7262 or [mdegeus@kcumb.edu](mailto:mdegeus@kcumb.edu), or contact a member of the Advancement Office at 816-654-7280 or [alumni@kcumb.edu](mailto:alumni@kcumb.edu). Donations to KCUMB may be tax deductible. ●



# New Website to Showcase All KCUMB Has to Offer

KCUMB is nearing completion of a revamped website for the University that will provide prospective students, alumni and other visitors with a sleek new look, enhanced functionality and a host of new features. The new site is scheduled to launch later this fall.

“Our new site will be more representative of how wonderful our University is,” said Julie Stutterheim, director of online content. “It is designed to showcase what makes KCUMB stand out from the pack – our curriculum, degree programs and outreach initiatives.”

The updated website, which will include a mobile version accessible from users’ smartphones, is a giant leap forward for KCUMB.

“In terms of first impressions, the website is absolutely critical for prospective students, especially prior to visiting campus,” Stutterheim said. “We want to make sure we’ve organized the information in the best possible way, so that it’s intuitive to our users.”

The previous version of the site was launched in 2005, shortly after the University was rebranded as KCUMB.

“The current site is actually fairly old for a website,” Stutterheim explained. “When we started on this project, we wanted to make sure we built something as sustainable as possible, and that we get it right the first time.”

For the project, KCUMB partnered with R2integrated, a digital marketing agency based in Baltimore and Seattle, which has extensive web strategy experience in higher education.

“In a way, I think it’s kind of like building a house,” Stutterheim said.



“Some of the first decisions you make are functionality and architecture, and then you determine the aesthetics. Form follows function.”

“Our website is huge, and we’ve had to make decisions every day – big decisions, like the site architecture, and

of a community for alumni.”

Additionally, the new website is built on a content management system (CMS), which provides several benefits, including enhanced search engine optimization, automatic archival and the ability to have multiple editors. ●

small ones, like icons or the glossiness of the buttons. In the end, it’s a thousand tiny decisions that affect the overall appeal and effectiveness of the site.”

The new website will feature more social media integration, and provide an expanded resource center for alumni.

“We want alumni to be able to easily access all the services that KCUMB is can provide to them, even after graduation,” she said. “Our new site is designed to be more



## Don't Miss KCUMB's Winter CME!

Dec. 5-8 on the KCUMB Campus

Earn Up to 25 AOA Category 1-A Credits!

Take advantage of this opportunity to fulfill your AOA Category 1-A credit requirements before the 2010-2012 cycle ends on Dec. 31. For more information, contact Brenda Chezek, director of continuing medical education, at [bchezek@kcumb.edu](mailto:bchezek@kcumb.edu).



## Faculty Member Relies on Equal Parts Education, Experience and Faith to Chart a Successful Career Path

Many of Larry Segars' friends and colleagues at KCUMB already know there's much more to him than meets the eye.

It's no secret that Dr. Segars, who holds doctorates in both pharmacy and public health, loves to play golf in his time away from work. That one's easy enough.

It's also well-known that the professor who has earned not just one, but three Faculty of the Year awards – one at Southwestern Oklahoma State University, his alma mater, and two at KCUMB – is extremely passionate about his role in teaching the next wave of physicians.

As with many people, Dr. Segars has some hidden talents, which help to paint a more complete portrait of the Raymore, Mo., native and decorated faculty member currently on his second stint at KCUMB.

He loves to juggle. He also has quite an extensive history working as a football and baseball official.

Dr. Segars graduated with a bachelor's degree in 1986 from Southwestern Oklahoma State, and he earned his doctorate in pharmacy three years later from the University of Texas.

He spent 2004 working on elective coursework for his doctorate of public health in epidemiology at the Harvard School of Public Health in Boston.

His stints at KCUMB serve as bookends to five years spent earning his Ph.D. at the University of North Texas Health Science Center.

Dr. Segars worked at KCUMB from 1995 to 2000 as an adjunct clinical associate professor of pharmacy practice, and as an associate professor of pharmacology and family medicine. He returned in 2006 to get back into education, and currently serves as

souri. One of his officiating highlights was being selected in the late 1990s to the crew that worked the Mineral Water Bowl, an annual college football bowl game between teams from the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference and the Mid-America Intercollegiate

Athletic Association at Tiger Stadium in Excelsior Springs, Mo.

He also has experience working baseball games, including small-college and semi-pro contests.

A constant influence throughout Dr. Segars' life and career, he said, has been his Christian faith. While some suggest science and faith cannot coexist, Dr. Segars believes otherwise.

"I believe that ... they actually do

very well together," he said. "This is based on my belief that when treating patients – dealing with the science and medicine of their diseases and conditions – that the faith of the clinician and patient are very important to consider.

"Both should be acknowledged and embraced at the same time. They should not be mutually exclusive. There are some diseases that are beyond our knowledge to cure, but through faith all things are possible."

Why KCUMB? For Dr. Segars, it's obvious.

"I love that KCUMB is student-centered and that, for the most part, faculty are hired to be great educators for our students and to do the best for them," he said. "I see myself as a life-long educator and hope to be at KCUMB until I retire, if they'll have me." ●



associate professor and chair of pharmacology and microbiology.

"When I was little, I recall playing teacher with the neighbor kids," he said. "I believe I've always known that I wanted to be a teacher.

"Once I went into pharmacy, I knew that I would love teaching any type of health-care provider in the area of medications. It's a passion and I hope it comes out in every lecture I give, regardless of the audience."

The Faculty of the Year awards he has earned serve as the highlights of his teaching career thus far, he said.

As for officiating, Dr. Segars worked his way up the ladder and was once selected to work on college football crews in the NAIA and NCAA Division II, as well as several playoff contests in Oklahoma, Texas and Mis-



## Faculty, Staff and Board Members Donate Nearly \$140,000 to KCUMB Through Internal Fund-Raising Campaign

KCUMB means different things to different people.

For students, it means a pathway to a bright future in osteopathic medicine, bioethics or biomedical sciences. For alumni, it's the fond memories and the thought of all they learned.

For employees of the University, it's not only a job – it's so much more.

"Part of why KCUMB is a paradise to work at is that I feel we are indeed a family, myKCUMB and your KCUMB," said Eduardo Garcia, M.D., assistant professor of pathology. "It truly gives me tremendous pride to be a part of the KCUMB family."



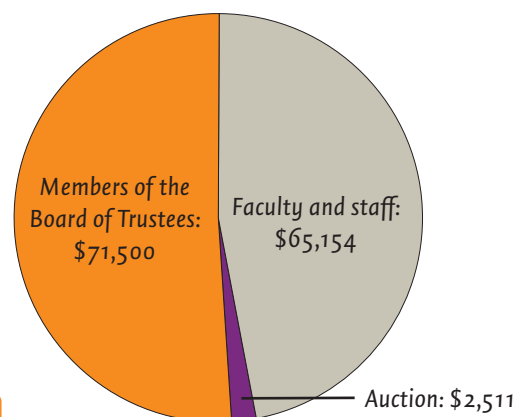
Dollase

Faculty, staff and members of the Board of Trustees recently teamed up to raise nearly \$140,000 for the University during the second-annual myKCUMB internal fund-raising campaign.

In addition to raising money for DOCARE medical missions, student scholarships, Score 1 for Health and many other worthwhile endeavors across campus, the myKCUMB campaign provides employees with a way to support the causes that matter to them and to come together as a team.

"We wouldn't give if we didn't believe in what we are doing," said Beth Dollase, vice president for advancement. "This sends a strong message that those who

Total Donations: \$139,165



put their muscle into the mission also put their heart into it."

Sixty-six percent of the University's employees participated in this year's efforts, up from 57 percent in the previous year. This year's total was approximately \$6,500 more than during the 2011 inaugural campaign.

"For employees, seeing their dollars in action throughout the year is empowering," Dollase said. "They are making a visible difference. Instead of telling the patients in need in Guatemala, 'I'm sorry, we're out of medicine,' when we go on our mission trip this year, we'll be able to say, 'Here's what you need.' That's huge, and our employees will have helped make it happen." ●

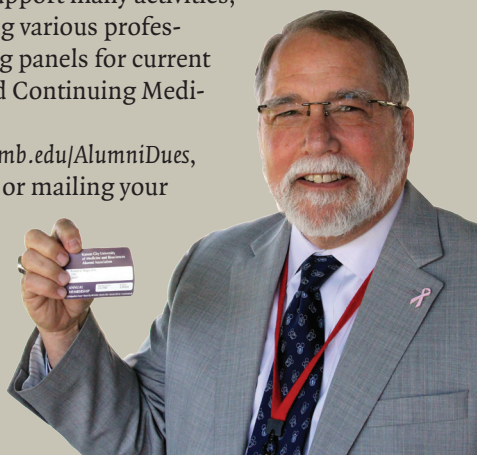
## Join Dr. Magie and Thousands of Fellow Alumni as a Proud Member of the KCUMB Alumni Association

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

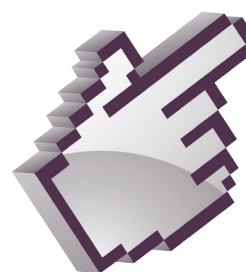
Your \$50 membership dues support many activities, including alumni receptions during various professional meetings, alumni mentoring panels for current students and University-sponsored Continuing Medical Education programs.

Join today by visiting [www.kcumb.edu/AlumniDues](http://www.kcumb.edu/AlumniDues), by calling 800-234-4847 ext. 7284 or mailing your payment to the KCUMB Advancement Office, 1750 Independence Ave., Kansas City, MO 64016.

Richard Magie, D.O. (COM '80), assistant professor and chair of pediatrics, and medical director for KCUMB Physician Associates



## Stay Connected



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# FROM THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

## We Should All Come Together to Build a Bright Future for KCUMB

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

Serving as your Alumni Association president for the past year has been a rewarding and enlightening experience, and an honor I will not soon forget. During Homecoming, Sept. 19-22, I will symbolically pass the gavel to the next Alumni Association president.



As my time in this position draws to a close, I am able to reflect on a year of accomplishment, while also recognizing that there is still much work to be done by the Alumni Association's Board of Directors and its members.

As alumni, we provide an indispensable link to the University's storied past, but most importantly, we are also the guardians of KCUMB's future. We are looked to as mentors, educators and protectors of the University and the osteopathic medical profession. KCUMB-COM's 7,000 living alumni may have each built their own legacies, but all 7,000 of them intersect on Independence Avenue.

Though it may be in different generations or in different facilities, we share experiences and memories forged during our time in medical school. In addition, the history of the University encompasses thousands more faculty, staff and community members, each of whom have worked – and continue to work – tirelessly

for the success and advancement of our alma mater. It is my hope that our accomplishments through the KCUMB Alumni Association during the past year have further strengthened the University, while serving the future.

As members of the KCUMB Alumni Association, it is our charge to serve as an important voice, resource and benefactor for current and future students. The number of applicants to attend KCUMB continues to increase, and with that so does the need to provide those students with the facilities, scholarships and programs that will help them achieve their dreams of becoming successful osteopathic physicians, bioethicists and researchers.

During our Alumni Association board meeting in April, we moved to make available \$2,500 in funds, which were matched by the University to create a \$5,000 scholarship for a deserving student. It is my hope that the KCUMB Alumni Association will continue to partner in this way with the University, so that students may know that alumni will always be there to support them during their journey into our beloved profession.

The future of KCUMB is bright. These are exciting times to be associated with our alma mater. KCUMB was established in 1916, and as the centennial of the University approaches, I would encourage you to please take a few moments to reflect on how the experiences and opportunities afforded you by KCUMB-COM have affected your life and the lives of those you serve. It is my sincere hope that your reflections lead you to engage the University as a mentor, donor and advocate.

Together, we are more than 7,000 strong. KCUMB needs your support. ●

## KCUMB Awards Special Recognition to Two Individuals for Advancing the Osteopathic Medical Profession



Dr. Zaidi

2012 Betty Jo White, D.O. (COM '63),  
FACOS, Prize for Research

Asma Zaidi, Ph.D., professor of biochemistry, was named the 2012 recipient of the Betty Jo White, D.O. (COM '63), FACOS, Prize for Research, for her project, entitled "Disruption of Calcium Homeostasis in Parkinson's Disease," which she

presented during the KCUMB Research Symposium.

The Betty Jo White, D.O., FACOS, Prize for Research was established to encourage research activity at KCUMB. It is awarded annually to researchers whose work significantly advances the osteopathic medical profession and the University's position in the research community.



Boone

2012 Mamie E. Johnston, D.O. (COM '17),  
FACOP, Creative Medical Art  
in Teaching Award

Lynne Boone, a third-year osteopathic medical student, was awarded the 2012 Mamie E. Johnston, D.O. (COM '17), FACOP, Creative Medical Art in Teaching Award. Boone used funding from the

award to attend the Society for the Arts in Healthcare's 23rd Annual International Conference May 2-5 at Children's Hospital of Michigan in Detroit.

The Mamie E. Johnston, D.O., FACOP, Creative Medical Art in Teaching Award was established by Betty Jo White, D.O. (COM '63), FACOS, to encourage the incorporation of medical and scientific art in teaching at KCUMB and to advance the osteopathic medical profession.



## Become a Part of the KCUMB Legacy Fund

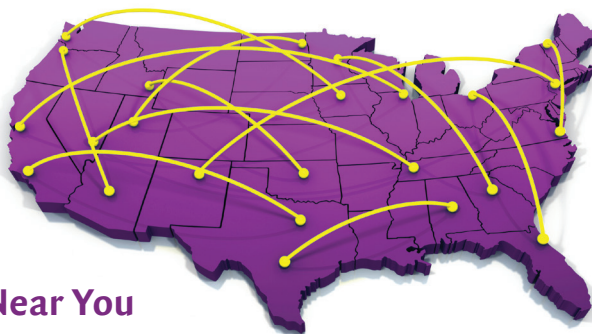
The Legacy Fund honors KCUMB-COM faculty, staff, alumni and physician partners, both past and present, who have left a lasting imprint on student doctors of all generations.

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

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

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

## Lookout! Watch for KCUMB Coming to a City Near You



Make plans now to join KCUMB representatives, including H. Danny Weaver, D.O. (COM '84), president and chief executive officer, for a special regional alumni gathering near in a location near you.

Aug. 21	Kansas City	Oct. 23	Wichita, Kan.
Aug. 27	Cleveland	Oct. 25	St. Joseph, Mo.
Aug. 28	Detroit	Oct. 30	Atlanta
Sept. 12	Denver	Nov. 5	West Palm Beach / Fort Lauderdale
Oct. 2	Houston	Nov. 6	Orlando, Fla.
Oct. 3	Dallas	Nov. 7	Tampa, Fla.
Oct. 4	Tucson, Ariz.		
Oct. 5	Phoenix		
Oct. 6	Las Vegas		Watch your mailbox for a special invitation to an event in your area.
Oct. 8-10	AOA Convention in San Diego		

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



Create a better tomorrow by including KCUMB in your estate plan today.

Your gift can benefit the University as a whole or be directed toward the specific program of your choice. You can make attending KCUMB more affordable for students studying osteopathic medicine, bioethics or biomedical sciences.

Maybe you prefer to support research that improves people's health and changes lives? Your gift can make the difference.

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

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



# class notes

## 1930s

● **Carl Everett, D.O.** (COM '39), was honored during a special reception last summer at the University of North Texas Health Science Center. Dr. Everett was instrumental in founding the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine.

## 1960s

● **David Leopold, D.O.** (COM '62), was honored as the recipient of the Harold H. Finkel, D.O., Pediatrician of the Year Award during the annual spring conference of the American College of Osteopathic Pediatricians, which took place March 22-25 in Memphis, Tenn.

## 1970s

● **Ray Stowers, D.O.** (COM '73), serves as vice president of the Division of Health Sciences and dean of the DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine at Lincoln Memorial University in Harrogate, Tenn. He is also president of the American Osteopathic Association.

**Richard Winder, D.O.** (COM '74), was honored with a District Leadership Award on May 5 during the Missouri Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons' annual convention in Osage Beach, Mo.

● **Leonard Calabrese, D.O.** (COM '75), was honored

May 19 with the Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award, presented by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation. The award, which recognizes a faculty member who demonstrates compassion and sensitivity in patient care, was presented during commencement ceremonies for Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine and the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine. Dr. Calabrese serves as vice chair of rheumatic and immunologic diseases, and professor of medicine at the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine.

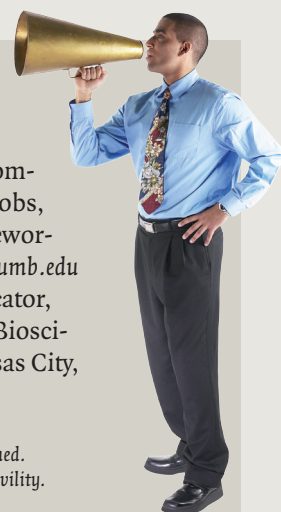
● **Joel Feder, D.O.** (COM '75), testified April 25 before the U.S. House of Representatives' Ways and Means Subcommittee on Oversight. Dr. Feder's testimony urged reversal of a policy placing limitations on the purchase of over-the-counter medications with certain health-care plans. Dr. Feder is a member of the KCUMB Alumni Association's Board of Directors and a member of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians, which also advocates reversing the policy.

● **Rev. Kenneth Bakken, D.O.** (COM '76), Dr.P.H., is president of HealthVision International, a non-profit organization based in Tacoma, Wash., that is devoted to promoting health

## Got News? We Want to Know!

Submit any recent professional accomplishments – awards, fellowships, new jobs, published research articles or other noteworthy achievements – by email to [editor@kcumb.edu](mailto:editor@kcumb.edu) or by mail to Editor, KCUMB Communicator, Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences, 1750 Independence Avenue, Kansas City, Mo., 64106-1453.

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



and healing in the religious and medical communities. Rev. Dr. Bakken works as a physician, pastor and public health scientist, and he has spoken at numerous conferences, seminars and retreats.

● **Frederick Kiehl, D.O.** (COM '77), was named as the MSACOF Family Physician of the Year on May 5 during the Missouri Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons' annual convention in Osage Beach, Mo. His daughter, Elisa Vinyard, D.O. (COM '00), presented him with the award. Dr. Kiehl owns NW Family Health Clinic in Maysville, Mo.

● **Miles Neis, D.O.** (COM '77), recently joined Jefferson City Medical Group. Dr. Neis, a primary care physician, will continue to practice in Osage Beach, Mo., where he has seen patients for more than 25 years.

● **Robert Scanlon, II, D.O.** (COM '79), was installed as president of the Missouri Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons on May 5 during the organiza-

tion's annual convention in Osage Beach, Mo.

## 1980s

● **Elaine Joslyn, D.O.** (COM '84), was honored as a Medallion Award recipient May 5 during the Missouri Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons' annual convention in Osage Beach, Mo.

● **Lee Parks, D.O.** (COM '84), was honored as a Medallion Award recipient May 5 during the Missouri Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons' annual convention in Osage Beach, Mo. Dr. Parks was also installed as first vice president for MAOPS.

● **Michael Janssen, D.O.** (COM '86), was featured in *L•O Profile*, a lifestyle magazine focusing on the Lake of the Ozarks area in Missouri. Dr. Janssen is an orthopedic spine surgeon and extreme hobbyist, who enjoys boat racing, fly fishing, scuba diving, water and snow skiing, snowmobiling and riding motorcycles. His wife, Sharon Kelly, D.O. (COM '86), is also an alumna.





Several groups of KCUMB employees and students recently participated in the Healthy Hands for Hunger program at the Culinary Center of Kansas City, where they made nutritious meals for distribution by charitable organizations in Kansas City's historic Northeast Neighborhood.

● **Dale Chapman, D.O.** (COM '88), was honored with a District Leadership Award on May 5 during the Missouri Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons' annual convention in Osage Beach, Mo.

● **Marc Westle, D.O.** (COM

'89), was recently named senior vice president of innovation for Mission Health in Asheville, N.C. Dr. Westle is an expert on health-care delivery strategies and previously served as president and CEO of Mission Medical Associates, the group practice of Mission Health.

## 1990s

● **Donald Bigwood, D.O.** (COM '92), recently joined the staff at Saint Vincent's in Fall River, Mass., as a child/adolescent psychiatrist and medical director.

● **John Dougherty, D.O.** (COM '92), was honored as a Medallion Award recipient May 5 during the Missouri Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons' annual convention in Osage Beach, Mo. Dr. Dougherty has also been selected for the inaugural American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians' Physician Leadership Institute, which is designed to provide participants with greater awareness of their strengths as leaders and give strategic direction in the ever-changing health-care system. Dr. Dougherty is KCUMB's associate dean for clinical education and medical affairs, and professor and chair of family medicine.

● **Melissa Lemp, D.O.** (COM '92), currently serves as chair of the Department of Pediatrics at Pacific Northwest University's College of Osteopathic Medicine in Yakima, Wash.

● **Renee Walker, D.O.** (COM '92), was honored with a District Leadership Award on May 5 during the Missouri Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons' annual convention in Osage Beach, Mo.

● **Ronald Holt, II, D.O.** (COM '93), was among approximately 150 invited guests who attended a special movie screening of "Bully" April 20 at The White House. Dr. Holt met leaders, including Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, and plans reach out to further discuss efforts to combat bullying in the future.

● **George Kolo, D.O.** (COM '93), and **Jennifer Capra, D.O.** (COM '12), were co-

## Visit KCUMB at the 2012 AOA Convention

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

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

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





authors of an article, "Surgical Interventions to Reduce Cardiometabolic Risks," which was published in the May issue of AOA Health Watch. Dr. Kolo serves as professor of family medicine and assistant curriculum director at KCUMB, and Dr. Capra is currently completing a residency in internal medicine through the University of Kansas School of Medicine.

• **Chris Dougherty, D.O.** (COM '96), serves as head team physician for the Northwest Arkansas Naturals, a minor-league affiliate of the Kansas City Royals. His brother, Dr. John Dougherty, filled in April 12 as team physician during the team's home opener.

• **Timothy Murphy, D.O.** (COM '97), was recently appointed to serve as director of the osteopathic family medicine residency program at Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center in Niagara Falls, N.Y.

• **Jeff Jones, D.O.** (COM '99), was honored March 30 as Lake Regional Health System's 2012 Physician of the Year. Dr. Jones, an orthopedic surgeon in Osage Beach, Mo., joined LRHS in 2005.

• **Carol McIntyre, D.O.** (COM '99), recently joined the staff at St. Francis Family Health Care in Maryville, Mo. Dr. McIntyre is an obstetrician and gynecologist.



## 2000s

• **W. Joshua Cox, D.O.** (COM '00), and **Cassandra Ramar, D.O.** (COM '11), were co-authors of an article, "Medicinal Management of Cardiometabolic Risk," which was published in the May issue of AOA Health Watch. Dr. Cox serves as associate professor and vice chair of family medicine at KCUMB.

• **Bobby Green, D.O.** (COM '00), helped to open GuthrieMD on July 2 in Guthrie, Ky. Dr. Green served as director of the Emergency Department from 2004-2007 at Jennie Stuart Medical Center in Hopkinsville, Ky., and has practiced at several hospitals in the area.

• **Thaddeus Ray, D.O.** (COM '00), was recently named one of "150 Pain Management Physicians to Know" by Becker's ASC Review. Dr. Ray practices with Four Corners Spine and Pain in Farmington, N.M.

• **Matthew Cherry, D.O.** (COM '02), completed a residency in diagnostic radiology and earned board certification in 2011. He

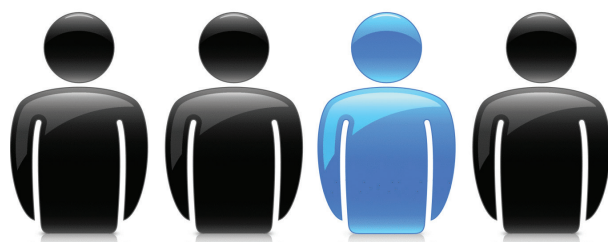
is currently completing a musculoskeletal MRI fellowship, before joining a private practice in Bolivar, Mo.

• **Drew Allen, D.O.** (COM '04), recently joined the Cardiology Department at the Hutchinson Clinic in Hutchinson, Kan. Dr. Allen completed a residency in internal medicine at the Cleveland Clinic, and a fellowship in cardiology and interventional cardiology through the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

• **Damon Cobb, D.O.** (COM '04), joined the staff at Poway Women's Care in Poway, Calif. Dr. Cobb specializes in obstetrics and gynecology, and he previously practiced in Indiana.

• **Neal Gregg, D.O.** (COM '05), wrote an article, "Minocycline-Induced Black Bone Disease Encountered During Total Knee Arthroplasty," which was published in the May issue of *Orthopedics Journal*. Dr. Gregg works at Southern Bone and Joint Specialists in Hattiesburg, Miss.

• **Jeannette Dagam, D.O.** (COM '06), was recently



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

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





More than 100 golfers participated in the 20th annual Deron Cherry Invitational Golf Tournament to benefit KCUMB's Score 1 for Health program, which provides free health screenings for elementary-age children. Proceeds from the tournament make up a large portion of Score 1 for Health's annual operating budget.

appointed as an assistant clinical professor in the Department of Psychiatry at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center, where her duties include psychiatric evaluation and outpatient management of adults, in addition to the supervision and training of residents.

- **Stephen Sparks, D.O.** (COM '06), was recently awarded a fellowship in emergency administration. Dr. Sparks also earned a master of business administration from the University of Tennessee in 2011.

- **Laura Harbison, D.O.** (COM '07), and Molly Harp, D.O. (COM '07), were featured earlier this year in Missouri Family Physician magazine in an article detailing how professional mentoring and shadowing of students is producing homegrown physicians. Dr. Harbison and Dr. Harp both practice in Cameron, Mo.

- **Jill Rice, D.O.** (COM '07), recently joined the staff at Fairfield Medical Center in Lancaster, Ohio. Dr. Rice works with Colonnade Medical Group and specializes in family medicine and geriatrics.

- **David Roshal, D.O.** (COM '07), currently serves as an attending neurohospitalist at Kennedy University Hospital in Turnersville, N.J.

- **Gwynn Antonson, D.O.** (COM '08), was recently named medical director of the bariatric program at Adirondack Health in Saranac Lake, N.Y. Dr. Antonson previously completed a residency in family medicine through the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey.

- **Katie Dias, D.O.** (COM '08), was featured earlier this year on the cover of Missouri Family Physician magazine and in an article detailing how professional mentoring

and shadowing of students is producing homegrown physicians. Dr. Harbison practices in Albany, Mo.

- **Rebecca Smith, D.O.** (COM '08), currently practices at Associates in Family Healthcare in Lansing, Kan.

## 2010s

- **Ghaison Serafini, D.O.** (COM '10), was recently named chief resident in the family medicine program for the 2012-2013 academic year at Bluefield Regional Medical Center in Bluefield, W.Va.

- **Jaclyn Allred, D.O.** (COM '12), M.A. (COB '12), co-authored an article, "Bariatric Surgery: Lindsey G's Story," which was published in the May issue of AOA Health Watch. Her co-author is **Gautam Desai, D.O.**, associate professor of family medicine at KCUMB. Dr. Allred is currently completing a residency in psychiatry through the University of Kansas School of Medicine.

- **Andrea Tufo, D.O.** (COM '12), co-authored an article, "Primary Prevention of Coronary Artery Disease," which was published in

the May issue of AOA Health Watch. Dr. Tufo is currently completing a residency in family medicine through the University of Pikeville-Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine at Fort Wayne Medical Education in Fort Wayne, Ind.

- **Aaron Shaw**, a fourth-year osteopathic medical student, was among the authors of an article, "Establishing the Content Validity of Palpatory Diagnosis for the Assessment of the Lumbar Spine Using Ultrasonography," which has been accepted for publication in the *Journal of the American Osteopathic Association*. Co-authors include **Dr. John Dougherty**; **Kevin Treffer, D.O.** (COM '87), associate professor of family medicine and curriculum director for osteopathic clinical skills; and **Alan Glaros, Ph.D.**, associate dean for basic medical sciences and professor.

- **Christopher Sutton**, a second-year osteopathic medical student, was honored as one of two Wetzel scholars for 2012 by the William Wetzel Osteopathic Education and Research Foundation.

## PASSAGES

- Donald F. Mason, D.O. (COM '50), April 29, 2012

- Robert H. Compton, D.O. (COM '55), May 8, 2012

- Bert M. Indin, D.O. (COM '57), March 7, 2012

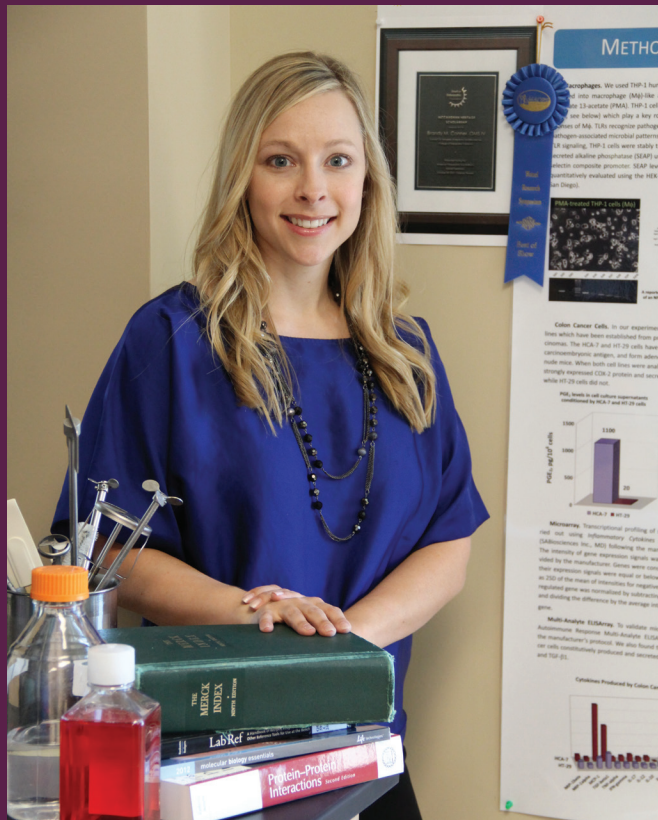
- William "Bill" Mitchell, D.O. (COM '62), June 12, 2012

- Harlan J. Borcharding, D.O. (COM '65), Feb. 18, 2012

- John F. Perez, D.O. (COM '66), Feb. 17, 2012

- David F. Thorne, D.O. (COM '78), March 17, 2011

- Brian M. Edson, D.O. (COM '93), Oct. 4, 2011



## In Her Own Words

### Class of 2012 Graduate Grateful for Life-Changing Research Opportunity

Brandy Conner, D.O. (COM '12)

**A**s I walked off the plane, my legs felt limp and heavy. I had just arrived in Portugal. Not understanding any signs, announcements or security instructions, I had butterflies in my stomach.

Being the first student from KCUMB to receive international recognition for research was a gift. My professor and research mentor, Alex Shnyra, M.D., Ph.D., has held faculty positions in four different countries and earned numerous research grants, including the extraordinary Ro1 grant from the National Institutes of Health – considered the “gold medal” of grants. He has worked in some of the most prestigious labs in the world, even once working under the direction of the past secretary for the Nobel Prize at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden, and in the United Arab Emirates.

Dr. Shnyra came to KCUMB for the students, and I knew I wanted to work with him after only a single lecture. I approached him during my first month of medical school, asking

if he would be willing to help me with a few research ideas I had. Without hesitation, he accepted and I knew at that moment my life was forever changed.

Originally, I wanted to work on Eosinophils. My youngest son had battled with Eosinophilic Gastroenteritis and I was determined to help him. After some discussion of ideas with Dr. Shnyra, we decided that my interest in innate immunity and cancer regulation was more focused. He encouraged me to write a research grant proposal for the Student Summer Research Fellowship (SSRF) that KCUMB funded.

This being my first exposure to basic science research, he provided a great amount of feedback and support. My grant was accepted, and we were funded for eight weeks. I had to overcome a large learning curve and tedious lab techniques, as well as learn not to take failures in the lab to heart.

The summer was a great success. We were able to prove the proliferation metastatic colon cancer was inherently controlled by the Tumor Associated Macrophages (TAMs) of the immune system and one of the control mechanisms was the EP2 and EP4 receptors on the cell surface, which was activated by Prostaglandin E2. We always knew that NSAIDs on a regular basis help lower the risk of colon cancer, but they can't treat it. This explains why.

Once these TAMs are activated, they remain in a phenotype that is geared toward proliferation: Growth factors, angiogenesis and protection from destruction ... It's all there to build a great tumor.

So how do we stop it? First, knock out the surface receptors. This prevents further activation of the TAMs. Second, activate the inflammatory phenotype (“attack mode”) of the TAMs, allowing them to destroy the tumor from within. This is exactly what we did and, after less than 48 hours, we had a Petri dish full of cellular debris.

But here's the best part: Only the cancer cells died! The Macrophages were remarkably intact and the cells were actively engulfing the debris. Amazing. Our results were first presented at KCUMB at the end of the fellowship, then the Society for Leukocyte Biology awarded us the Post-Doctoral Research Award to travel to Lisbon, Portugal.

I am grateful that KCUMB took a chance on me. The University funded my project without my having prior lab experience, changed its policy to allow international travel, funded my trip abroad and, most importantly, opened the door for more students to achieve even greater things in the future. Since my project began, five other students have completed projects on this topic, further expanding our knowledge.

I'd like to thank all of the faculty and staff who facilitated my participation in the fellowship program and supported me by giving their time, including Dr. Shnyra; Darin Haug, D.O.; Maria Cole, Ph.D.; Diane Karius, Ph.D.; Kevin Hubbard, D.O.; Linda Adkison, Ph.D.; Angel Fox, Tracey Taylor, Ph.D., and so many more ... You make a difference in the lives of future physicians. I am indebted to KCUMB for its confidence in me and its support of student research. Thank you for opening my eyes to infinite possibilities and changing my life. ●



# Come Home to



Mark Your Calendar Now!

## Don't Miss KCUMB's Homecoming Celebration

Sept. 19-22

### Schedule of Events\*

*Wednesday, Sept. 19*

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

*Thursday, Sept. 20*

- CME Sessions, KCUMB Campus
- Alumni Reception

*Friday, Sept. 21*

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

*Saturday, Sept. 22*

- CME Sessions, KCUMB Campus

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

### Hotel Accommodations

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

### Questions?

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

### Take the KCUMB Reunion Challenge!

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

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

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

Show everyone that your class is the best!

To make your reunion gift, contact Patty Lathrop by phone at 1-800-234-4847 ext. 7280 or by email at [plathrop@kcumb.edu](mailto:plathrop@kcumb.edu). Reunion gifts can also be made online at [www.kcumb.edu/Give](http://www.kcumb.edu/Give).

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



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## calendar of events

**Sept. 14**

KCUMB Hospital Day at the Sheraton  
Kansas City Hotel at Crown Center

**Sept. 19-22**

KCUMB Homecoming

**Sept. 20**

KCUMB Alumni Association  
Board of Directors Meeting

**Sept. 21**

KCUMB Alumni Association  
Annual Meeting

**Oct. 5**

University Lecture Series: Speaker TBA

**Oct. 7-11**

American Osteopathic Association  
Convention in San Diego

**Oct. 15-16**

KCUMB Board of Trustees Meeting

**Nov. 22-23**

Thanksgiving Holiday Observed,  
KCUMB Closed

**Nov. 30**

University Lecture Series: Speaker TBA

**Dec. 5-8**

KCUMB Winter CME

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

Planning a trip? Let us know in advance and we'll send you a KCUMB banner. Send us a high-resolution photo and we may publish it in a future issue of the Communicator.



### Lofty Achievements

Geoff Comp, a third-year osteopathic medical student, poses for a picture at an elevation of more than 11,000 feet during his third day of climbing on Mt. Rainier. Bad weather prevented Comp and his climbing partners – a group that included both his dad and another KCUMB alum, Kevin Veale, D.O. (COM '88), among others – from reaching the summit.