Mental Health: Banking on Brain Research
Even in today’s uncertain economy, there are some things that remain consistent: the need for competent, altruistic physicians to serve our communities, and the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine’s commitment to educating and providing those physicians.

Today, the UMKC School of Medicine stands out as a model of medical education, one emulated by other universities. Since our beginning in 1971, almost half of our nearly 2,700 graduates have chosen to stay in the region to serve Missouri citizens. As Missouri faces an aging physician workforce and an anticipated future shortage of primary care health professionals, we have a strategy in place to help address the need. We are committed to attracting and retaining students who will make a difference.

But we can’t do it alone.

An ongoing challenge, especially at a time when state budgets are being tightened, is to sustain adequate financial support, particularly in the form of student scholarships. As a relatively young medical school, we still don’t have the luxury of substantial scholarship endowments from which other schools benefit. Yet, without some form of scholarship assistance, many of our current alumni could not have attended the UMKC School of Medicine.

In order to continue attracting students to our program and help them achieve their dreams of becoming physicians, we must be able to increase our scholarship funding. Not only does this support benefit our students, it is also an investment in the lives of those patients who deserve quality health care delivered with competency and compassion. In this issue of Panorama, you will find our “Roster of Honor,” which recognizes those who have contributed to our students’ success.

The cost of excellence is great, but the rewards are far greater. Thank you for helping us make those rewards possible.

Betty M. Drees, M.D., F.A.C.P.
Dean and Professor of Medicine
On the Cover

Larry Carver, M.D., the new UMKC School of Medicine associate dean for Western Missouri Mental Health Center Programs and medical director for WMMHC, also oversees the UMKC School of Medicine Brain Tissue Bank.

Features

Michele Kilo, M.D., ’84, assistant professor of pediatrics, is appointed to a statewide commission on autism.

Students’ Findings
Look at Child Health Risks in a New Way.

Jazz Night is back
Black & White Ball with the Bobby Watson Quartet

The School of Medicine announces four new endowed chairs and professorships.
Several members of the School of Medicine faculty made presentations and served on discussion panels at the Association of American Colleges’ annual national meeting Oct. 31-Nov. 1 in San Antonio, Texas. This year’s theme was “Creating a Better Tomorrow.”

School of Medicine Dean Betty M. Drees, M.D., served as the moderator for a general session on “Recruiting for Tomorrow: Case Studies in Search Practices.” The session used an interactive theater for participants to observe a search committee interact and to explore how factors, including bias, can impact institutional goals.

Brenda Rogers, M.D., associate dean of student affairs, was a speaker at a general session for the group on baccalaureate-M.D. programs that focused on the efficiency of streamlining the continuum between undergraduate pre-medical education and undergraduate medical education.

Louise Arnold, Ph.D., associate dean for medical education and research, was a member of several small group discussion panels. They focused on transforming the medical education learning environment; professional behavior lapses among faculty and how to address them; and faculty development for teaching professionalism in the university, community teaching hospitals, and academic societies.

Dr. Arnold, Jennifer Quaintance, Ph.D., and George Thomson, M.D., also presented a research paper on “Development of an Instrument to Measure the Climate of Professionalism in a Clinical Teaching Environment.”

E. Grey Dimond, M.D., provost emeritus and founder of the UMKC School of Medicine, was honored by the American Heart Association for his long-standing work and contributions to health care as a recipient of the 2008 Missourian Award.

The award recognizes selected individuals, either native Missourians or those who have spent at least 15 years of their adult life in the state, who have made outstanding contributions to the state or the nation in civics, business, arts or politics. Dr. Dimond joins a long list of distinguished Missourians who have received the award since 1994.

A cardiologist whose career in medicine and public service has stretched from California to Washington, D.C., and included diplomatic and educational ventures overseas, Dr. Dimond was the first provost for health sciences at UMKC, where he implemented his innovative concept for medical education in 1971.
School of Medicine Appoints Dr. Harris as Assistant Dean

George Harris, M.D., professor of family and community medicine, is the new assistant dean for Years 1 and 2 medicine.

In his new role, Dr. Harris will work to build an atmosphere that helps first and second-year medical students build a solid foundation for succeeding in the School of Medicine’s combined degree program.

The assistant dean works with Years 1 and 2 staff to make students aware of the existing support resources at the medical school and on the Volker Campus. He will also participate as a member of the student retention committee and assume oversight for the Years 1 and 2 ambulatory care docent series and hospital team course.

Dr. Harris joined the School of Medicine in 2003 and serves as an advisor and preceptor in the Family Medicine Residency Program.

Oncology Group Committee Includes Dr. Hetherington

Maxine Hetherington, M.D., associate professor of pediatrics, was recently appointed as chair of the Children’s Oncology Group (COG) Membership Committee. The COG is the world’s largest childhood cancer research organization.

In her new role, Dr. Hetherington chairs a critical committee that oversees all aspects of institutional compliance for COG participation in order to maintain the rigor and credibility of the research it conducts.

COG is made up of more than 5,000 researchers at more than 200 leading children’s hospitals, university hospitals, and cancer centers throughout North America working together to identify cancer causes and pioneer new treatment and cures.

He was previously a faculty member of the family practice residency program at Bayfront Medical Center in St. Petersburg, Fla., and worked in a solo medical practice in Palm Harbor, Fla.

He is a graduate of the University of Mississippi School of Medicine and completed his residency at St. Vincent’s Family Medicine Residency Program in Jacksonville, Fla.

Pesto Selected as Medical Humanities Director

Marilyn Pesto, J.D., has been appointed Director of the Sirridge Office of Medical Humanities. Pesto has served as a clinical assistant professor of humanities at the School of Medicine since 1995. She has taught Medicine and Law; Medicine, Law and Literature; and has participated in Medicine and Body Image, Medical Bioethics, and Conflict, Resolution and Health Care.

She was formerly the executive director of the Hospital Hill Health Services Corporation, now University Physician Associates, and also served as defense counsel for the Truman Medical Center/Hospital Hill Health Services Corporation. The focus of her legal work is physician representation and health care law. She is also a certified mediator in the state of Missouri, specializing in health care disputes/litigation.

Pesto helped to develop a master’s curriculum in Conflict Management and Dispute Resolution at Baker University and taught the first class in the CMDR master’s program.

She has been a practicing nurse since 1975 and a trial lawyer since 1981. She earned her law degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia as well as a master’s of science degree in psychiatric nursing. She earned her undergraduate degree at the University of Alabama and was an instructor at the University of San Diego before coming to Kansas City.

She brings a rich background of experience in the humanities, jurisprudence and health care to the program.
Dr. Pettett

Gary Pettett, M.D., professor of pediatrics and neonatology, is the new medical director of the E. Grey Dimond, M.D., Office of International Medicine at the UMKC School of Medicine.

He served as associate dean of academic affairs at the School of Medicine from 2001 to 2003, during which time he helped rekindle the school’s activities in international medicine. The international medicine program was created in 2003 in conjunction with UMKC’s International Academic Programs Office to provide support for students and faculty who are interested in study abroad opportunities.

Dr. Pettett also serves on the advisory board of the Edgar Snow Memorial Fund, a primary affiliate of UMKC that was created to foster and enhance friendship and understanding between China and the United States.

Dr. Pettett is a member of numerous professional organizations, including the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Missouri State Medical Association. He serves as director of the Office for Research Integrity and chairman of the Health Sciences Pediatric Institutional Review Board at Children’s Mercy Hospital, and is a Fellow at the Center for Practical Bioethics in Kansas City.

Simon Appointed Development Director

Shayna Simon, who has a broad background in fundraising for health services and higher education, has joined the School of Medicine as director of development.

Simon has served clients nationwide working in capital campaign organization and execution, annual fund development, and strategic planning. With a strong background in marketing, communications and finance, she has worked with donors and volunteers in developing fundraising materials, ranging from case statements to direct mail appeals and campaign newsletters.

“As the School of Medicine approaches its 40th anniversary in 2011, we are poised not only to celebrate the accomplishments but define how we will approach the next 40 years,” Simon said.

A top priority will be the continued efforts to increase scholarship support for students at the UMKC School of Medicine, Simon said.

Simon received her a bachelor’s degree in management from Robert Morris University in Pittsburgh. She is a member of the Greater Kansas City Council on Philanthropy and the Association of Fundraising Professionals. She can be reached at the School of Medicine at 235-5283 or by e-mail at simonki@umkc.edu.

Foundation Awards $77K Grant to Sojourner Clinic

UMKC School of Medicine students contribute thousands of volunteer hours to provide medical care for the needy at the Sojourner Clinic. Their community service hasn’t gone unnoticed.

Sojourner Clinic, the School of Medicine’s student-run health clinic for Kansas City’s inner-city homeless population, this summer received a $77,528 grant from the REACH Healthcare Foundation in Kansas City to help defray the cost of a half-time administrator to oversee the business side of the operation.

This is the second time that REACH Healthcare Foundation, a community organization that supports safety net clinics and projects for the poor and underserved in the Kansas City area, has funded a grant to Sojourner Clinic. Funds from the current grant will provide a small pay incentive for faculty members who would perform supervisory duties, in addition to providing office equipment, additional office and medical supplies, as well as paying for lab core fees and additional medications.

Another goal is to create a comprehensive strategic plan for the continued growth and development of the Sojourner Clinic for the next five to 10 years.

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Ingram’s Women Executives of Kansas City
Class of 2008

The UMKC School of Medicine faculty, staff and students congratulate Dean Betty Drees on her accomplishments and being among Ingram’s Magazine’s WeKC Class of 2008.

Congratulations
Dean Betty Drees

Betty M. Drees, M.D., F.A.C.P., Dean & Professor of Medicine
University of Missouri — Kansas City School of Medicine

Ingram’s Women Executives of Kansas City
Class of 2008
The brain bank is one of only three located in middle America.
Larry Carver, M.D., the new University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine Associate Dean for Western Missouri Mental Health Center Programs and medical director for WMMHC, was fresh off a military stint in Operation Desert Storm when he was looking for the neurological factors that lead to schizophrenia. First he had to locate some actual human brain tissue in order to conduct his study.

When he sought out donations for his research and began building up a supply of postmortem brain tissues, other researchers exploring neurological and psychiatric disorders caught wind of his work and began to call, seeking samples for their own studies. Thus began what is now the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine Brain Tissue Bank.

Dr. Carver, director of the brain bank, brought his work — currently a supply of nearly 150 brain specimens — to the UMKC School of Medicine just more than a year ago after spending about three years in the department of psychiatry at the University of Kansas School of Medicine. The brain bank serves as a collection and distribution resource for brain tissues of patients who suffered any number of conditions such as Alzheimer’s disease and age-related dementia, neurodegenerative diseases such as Parkinson’s and Huntington’s, mental disorders, drug and alcohol addictions, as well as stroke, cerebrovascular diseases and traumatic brain injuries.

The brain bank is one of only three located in middle America. The other two are both in St. Louis, and one of those is limited to brain tissues from Alzheimer’s patients, Dr. Carver said.

“I see the brain bank as a core facility for people who want to do research on the human brain to help advance neuroscience and help us discover the mysteries of the human brain,” Dr. Carver said.

Dr. Carver was an associate professor of psychiatry and researcher at the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in New Orleans when he first started his brain bank. He and his team had launched a study that ultimately discovered unusually high levels of the chemical

Continued on page 10

(Clockwise from bottom left) Nevin Arora, MS 6, and Casey Willmann, MS 6, work with Larry Carver, M.D., clinical professor of psychiatry and director of the UMKC School of Medicine Brain Tissue Bank, and third-year psychiatry resident Jamilia Fields, M.D., Ph.D. Dr. Carver examines a brain model. Dr. Carver and Willmann look over a specific section of brain tissue that researchers may request for study.
SOM Appoints Larry Carver as Associate Dean for WMMHC Programs

Larry Carver, M.D., clinical professor of psychiatry, was appointed as the UMKC School of Medicine’s new associate dean from Western Missouri Mental Health Center and medical director for WMMHC effective Nov. 1.

With more than 35 years of experience in public, private and military settings, Dr. Carver has worked in clinical, academic training, research and hospital management positions in Kansas and Louisiana.

“We are excited to have someone with Dr. Carver’s rich background and experience in this key role at the School of Medicine,” said School of Medicine Dean Betty M. Drees, M.D., F.A.C.P. “We are confident the department of psychiatry will continue to work on the cutting edge of medical education and research under his leadership.”

Dr. Carver joined the UMKC School of Medicine in June of 2007 and took the role of senior psychiatrist at WMMHC after serving more than three years in a similar role at the Kansas University School of Medicine. Prior to that, Dr. Carver served as an associate professor of psychiatry and assistant director of the neuroscience center at the Louisiana State University Health Science Center in New Orleans.

Dr. Carver earned his medical degree from the University of Kansas School of Medicine and completed his residency at the Karl Menninger School of Psychiatry in Topeka. He also completed a fellowship in psychiatry at the Topeka Institute of Psychoanalysis and completed his post-doctorate work in neurochemistry at the University of Kansas.

Above: Dr. Carver and Arora discuss a section of brain tissue that is packaged and catalogued along with the condition that particular donor suffered ranging from Alzheimer’s disease to drug or alcohol addiction.

Dr. Munro and Dr. Carver said they hope the UMKC brain bank will connect with the ongoing Kansas City Life Sciences Initiative to become a facility that helps spur additional interest in neuroscience research in Kansas City and draw neuroscientists to the region.

Brain Bank, Continued from page 9

dopamine in the thalamus region of the brains of schizophrenia patients. The thalamus is the region through which all sensory information passes in transmission to other specific areas of the brain.

By using three-dimensional grid mapping procedures to examine small sections of the thalamus, Dr. Carver found as much as three times the normal concentration of dopamine in schizophrenic brains as in the normal brain. The next question, obviously, was how did it get there?

“In our own studies, it definitely seems to us that the problem with schizophrenia comes from some kind of lesion in the thalamus,” Dr. Carver said. “Now, the cure for that is another step.”

For scientists currently working to unravel such neurological mysteries, that’s where the UMKC Brain Tissue Bank becomes an important ally. A scientist exploring why nerve cells become impaired or die in the substantia nigra region of the brain of Parkinson’s patients, for example, can contact Dr. Carver at the UMKC Brain Tissue Bank and request tissue samples from that particular section of a Parkinson’s victim’s brain. Dr. Carver said that while operating the brain bank at LSU, he supplied brain tissues to researchers from as far away as Japan.

But while small steps have been made in neurological science using tissues supplied by Dr. Carver’s brain bank, he said the ultimate goal of finding treatments and cures for these diseases is still a long ways away.

Stuart Munro, M.D., chairman of psychiatry at the UMKC School of Medicine, said what makes the supply of brains from these patients so critical is that it takes an entire human lifetime to grow the tissue.

“You can’t just recreate the brain,” Dr. Munro said.

Dr. Munro and Dr. Carver said they hope the UMKC brain bank will also connect with the ongoing Kansas City Life Sciences Initiative to become a facility that helps spur additional interest in neuroscience research in Kansas City and draw neuroscientists to the region.

“It’s important to know that there is a network of brain banks across the United States that share and exchange tissues, and that this brings us into the nation-wide
research community,” Dr. Munro said.

The majority of early brain studies were conducted on laboratory animals. And while those early studies were effective and provided some answers, Dr. Carver said, they still left researchers facing a dilemma. That is the fact that the human brain is simply different and much more complex than the brain of laboratory animals.

It is believed that the human brain contains as many as a trillion different neurons or cells, and that each may have at least 1,000 different connections — Dr. Carver said some have estimated the number of connections to be somewhere in the area of 10 to the 15th power. Whatever the figure, scientists are just scratching the surface in developing an understanding of the disease processes of the human brain.

Dr. Carver points out that there are also some much less obvious, subtle differences between human and animal brains, such as the tracks through which chemicals travel from one part of the brain to another. For years it was believed that a heavy track of dopamine existed from the subcortical area of the brain to the frontal lobe, which is what animal studies showed. The reality is that more recent studies of the human brain show a very small track of dopamine. Which leads back to Dr. Carver’s original question concerning the unusually high concentration levels of dopamine found in the brains of schizophrenia patients.

How does it get there and what can be done about it?

It’s just one of the many questions about the human brain still to be explored. But now, there are resources with the help of the UMKC School of Medicine Brain Tissue Bank.

“In brain science, we’re in the stage where we just know enough to get excited and think we know everything,” Dr. Carver said. “But in reality, we’re just one step beyond a hand-waving theory.”

*Michele Kilo, M.D., ’84, assistant professor of pediatrics, is part of a 24-member statewide commission appointed to develop a comprehensive standard of care for children with autism.*

**Dr. Kilo Appointed to Statewide Commission on Autism**

Nobody knows just how autism affects the human brain, but millions of parents must watch as their young children battle the impaired social interaction and communication that results, usually beginning before the child’s third birthday.

Michele Kilo, M.D., ’84, assistant professor of pediatrics and chief of the Section of Developmental and Behavioral Sciences at The Children’s Mercy Hospital, was appointed in August by Missouri Gov. Matt Blunt to a new 24-member Missouri Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders.

The commission will serve as a driving force throughout the state in determining the best practice standards in developing a comprehensive and coordinated statewide system of care for children with autism, Dr. Kilo said.

“We want to make certain that we are comprehensive not only in our screening, assessment and diagnoses of children with autism, but that we have appropriate services for these children that are readily accessible throughout the state,” she said.

The Missouri General Assembly passed a bill earlier in the year to create the commission that includes people from a wide range of backgrounds, from parents to special educators and mental health providers, as well as members from the General Assembly and state services.

Continued on page 12
Medical researchers all over the world are searching daily for treatments and cures for killer diseases. Meanwhile, more than 87 Americans a day or nearly one every 16 minutes take their own lives. Each year across the United States, nearly 32,000 people die of suicide, making it the 11th leading cause of death.

Suicide is one of our nation’s major health issues, but unlike diseases such as cancer or diabetes, it is preventable with the proper help.

That was the major focus of the acting United States Surgeon General, Rear Admiral Steven K. Galson, M.D., M.P.H., when he spoke on Sept. 4 at a symposium co-sponsored by the UMKC School of Medicine at the Kauffman Foundation Conference Center.

“Suicide is a threat not being adequately covered,” Rear Adm. Galson said. “We need all of us to keep pushing to get the word out that suicide is preventable. That there is hope.”

The one-day session, “Addressing the Suicide Epidemic: Galvanizing Community Leaders and the Media,” included a panel discussion and breakout workshops following the surgeon general’s keynote address. Susan Wilson, Ph.D., associate dean for cultural enhancement and diversity, participated as a member of the expert panel during a question and answer panel discussion with the audience. Bill Geis, Ph.D., assistant professor of psychiatry, also spoke briefly on media implications as they relate to suicide prevention. Stanley Edlavitch, Ph.D., clinical professor of informatic medicine, served as emcee.

School of Medicine Dean Betty M. Drees, M.D., introduced Rear Adm. Galson as the symposium’s keynote speaker.

Med School Co-sponsors Surgeon General’s Visit

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Dr Kilo, Continued from page 11

Autism is the second most common developmental disability among children, affecting about one in every 152 children across Missouri and a slightly higher rate nationwide. Autism has a strong genetic basis and is known to be of neurobehavioral origins. Researchers, however, are still unsure of the specific complexities of these genetic defects.

While there is no known cure for autism, many children can learn to live with the disorder as independent adults with proper early diagnosis and intervention, Dr. Kilo said.

“There are many kids whose behavior and mannerisms, following early diagnosis and the best early interventions, will not be readily noticeable as autistic,” Dr. Kilo said.

Dr. Kilo was appointed to the commission as a developmental pediatrician who spends a great deal of her clinical time working with this population of children and families. Her appointment will continue through September of 2010.
Students’ Findings Look at Child Health Risks in a New Way

Spencer Menees and Joseph Le, medical students at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine, isolated themselves for a month in the summer of 2007 from the outside world. Huddled behind computer screens at Children’s Mercy Hospital, they scoured thousands of ultrasound images of children’s carotid arteries. With the aid of sophisticated computer software, Menees and Le took delicate measurements of the arteries from each image and painstakingly recorded each into spreadsheets for comparison.

What started as a one-month rotation became a more than yearlong research study that has received worldwide attention by underscoring the dangers of childhood obesity and could change the way we measure and look at that and other related health issues facing children today.

Le and Menees, current Year 5 students, worked together using the same patient population — approximately 100 children ranging in ages from six to 18 — and much of the same information to complete two related but different studies. After measuring and comparing the thickness of the inner walls of the carotid arteries, Le discovered a correlation between the size of a child’s carotid artery with issues such as...
Students Present Research at International Meeting

Each year renowned scientists from all over the world gather for the International Colloquium on Lung and Airway Fibrosis. This year when Agostino Molteni, M.D., Ph.D., professor of pathology and pharmacology, was invited to attend the meetings in Sunset Beach, N.C., to present research his group had done on Fat Embolism Syndrome in collaboration with the University of Kansas, three students from the School of Medicine went with him to support the work.

The students, Sapna Patel, MS 6, Bereketeb HaileSelassie, MS 5, and Afrin Kamal, MS 4, presented posters of research on Fat Embolism Syndrome that they conducted with Dr. Molteni, who also serves as director of student research at the School of Medicine, and Betty Herndon, Ph.D., research associate professor.

Fat Embolism Syndrome can be fatal and occurs when fat tissues in bone marrow are released into the body following a major bone fracture leading to an adverse affect on heart or lung function. It occurs most often when one is injured in a major traumatic event such as an automobile accident and can easily be misdiagnosed as a less significant complication.

Nearly 150 research scientists attend the annual “by invitation only” sessions. “Very few students will get the chance to present at an international meeting,” Patel said. “I am honored to have been a part of this exclusive meeting.”

Three students, Colleen Brennan, MS 4, Ian Malburg, MS 4, and Shahab Shaffiey, MS 4, also participated in the research and co-authored posters presenting the work.

Students’ Findings, Continued from page 13

high cholesterol, obesity, or high blood pressure, all risk factors for future heart attack or stroke as a child ages. Beyond that, Le explored a relatively novel concept of advanced vascular aging by comparing the size of the children’s carotid arteries to those of a 45-year-old counterpart. Children with higher vascular ages tended to have higher triglyceride levels and other risk factors for illnesses such as stroke or heart attack.

“When you talk about a child with a vascular age of a 45-year-old adult, that’s significant,” Le said.

Menees, meanwhile, used the measurements to confirm the hypothesis that the size of the carotid artery actually varies during a cardiac cycle (a heartbeat). That would mean that for researchers to obtain consistent and applicable measurements among their subjects, they would have to take those measurements at the same moment within a heartbeat, preferably during diastole, or that point at which the heart relaxes and fills with blood.

“It’s important if you’re going to be consistent in your measurements to take that into account,” Menees said.

Their research presented important new information, said Geetha Raghuveer, M.D., M.P.H., a cardiologist and associate professor of pediatrics at the School of Medicine and Children’s Mercy Hospital, who oversaw the research. As a result, the American Heart Association invited Menees and Le to present their findings this past November at its annual scientific sessions. The results of the study presented in New Orleans, received worldwide media attention as it focused on the growing epidemic of childhood obesity and the dangers it presents.

“Both of these projects have importance. They’re not just medical student projects for them to have something to do,” Dr. Raghuveer said. “That’s why they were selected to present at a very prestigious meeting.”

As many as 25 to 30 students from the School of Medicine can be found conducting various research projects with School of Medicine faculty members.

Agostino Molteni, M.D., Ph.D., professor of pathology and pharmacology and director of student research at the School of Medicine, said nearly 90 percent of those students who successfully complete a research project are invited to present their findings at a scientific meeting on a national or international level. And nearly half of those, he said, take their work a step further to become the lead or co-author of manuscripts published in medical or scientific journals.

Most of the students’ research activities at the School of Medicine are backed by Sarah Morrison Student Research Awards that are given quarterly by the school’s Student Research Program. And even if they aren’t invited to present their research to a national scientific audience, students still present their work in front of medical school faculty at the School of Medicine’s annual Student Research Day. All of which provides an experience beyond writing a typical research paper, Dr. Molteni said.

“It gives students the experience of working in a different environment and learning how to defend their work,” Dr. Molteni said. “This helps them learn how to practice medicine.”

The American Heart Association invited Menees and Le to present their findings this past November at its annual scientific sessions. The results of the study presented in New Orleans, received worldwide media attention as it focused on the growing epidemic of childhood obesity and the dangers it presents.
UMKC School of Medicine presents Jazz Night
Black & White Ball ~ Tuxedo Optional ~

Saturday
February 21, 2009
7-10 p.m.

Hallbrook Country Club
11200 Overbrook Rd.
Leawood, KS

Wherever the art of medicine is loved, there is also a love of humanity.”
– Hippocrates

Featuring entertainment by the internationally known Bobby Watson Quartet of UMKC’s Conservatory of Music and Dance.

Proceeds benefit the UMKC School of Medicine’s Sirridge Office of Medical Humanities & Ethics.

Marilyn Pesto • Director of the Sirridge Office • 816.235.5882 • PestoM@umkc.edu
Representing the largest donations to a university, endowed appointments increase educational and research opportunities while garnering national recognition for the university and its affiliated hospitals. Christopher Papasian, Ph.D., the interim director of research administration for the School of Medicine and professor of basic medical science, stressed their importance.

“The School of Medicine has used endowed chair recruitments to attract leaders in the field who will help build our research enterprise,” Dr. Papasian said.

The School of Medicine has announced four appointments: Charles W. Van Way, III, M.D., Sosland/Missouri Endowed Chair in Trauma Services; Lynda Payne, Ph.D., R.N., Sirridge/Missouri Professorship of Medical Humanities and Bioethics; William Ernest Lafferty, M.D., Merl & Muriel Hicklin/Missouri Endowed Chair; and Peter Koulen, Ph.D., Felix and Carmen Sabates/Missouri Endowed Chair in Vision Research.

Charles W. Van Way, III, M.D. — appointed the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine Sosland/Missouri Endowed Chair in Shock Trauma — joined the School of Medicine faculty in 1988 and previously served as Ralph Ringo Coffey professor and chair of the department of surgery.

“Our research group focuses on information and shock,” Dr. Van Way said. “Our goal is to recruit new scientists to increase our number of research grants and studies. We are also looking for collaboration with people in the Kansas City area doing similar research.”

After receiving his undergraduate degree from Yale University, Dr. Van Way earned his medical degree from The Johns Hopkins University. Postgraduate training included residencies in general and thoracic surgery and a fellowship in clinical pharmacology at Vanderbilt University. Dr. Van Way joined the U.S. Army Reserve in 1972 and retired as a colonel in 2003. He holds clinical appointments at Truman Medical Center and St. Luke’s Hospital of Kansas City and brings a wealth of shock and trauma clinical and research experience to this position.

“The Sosland family is delighted with the appointment of Dr. Van Way to this chair,” said Morton Sosland, chairman of the Sosland Foundation. “We are confident his appointment will strengthen the pioneering work at UMKC-Truman Medical Center in trauma treatment and research and look forward to great progress under his leadership.”

Written by Hannah Crippen and Melissa K. Streeter
photography by Robert Steckmest
Our goal is to recruit new scientists to increase our number of research grants and studies. We are also looking for collaboration with people in the Kansas City area doing similar research.

—Dr. Van Way

Charles W. Van Way, III, M.D., Sosland/Missouri Endowed Chair in Trauma Services
New Endowed Chairs & Professorships, Continued from page 16

Lynda S. Payne, Ph.D., RN, was appointed the Sirridge/Missouri Professor of Medical Humanities and Bioethics based on her clinical and academic background in medical humanities.

Dr. Payne, an associate professor of history in the College of Arts and Sciences, holds a B.A./M.A. in medieval history from the University of Edinburgh, an M.S.W. from the University of Surrey and a Ph.D. in the history of medicine from the University of California at Davis. For many years, she practiced as a registered nurse and certified respiratory therapist in California. Dr. Payne was a visiting scholar in the history of science at Oberlin College before coming to UMKC in 1999. Her publications include a scholarly monograph, “With Words and Knives: Learning Medical Dispassion in Early Modern England,” Ashgate Press, 2007.

The Sirridge Professor is responsible for developing and delivering a curriculum that provides humanities courses for pre-med students and those in the six-year B.A./M.D. program.

“The foremost goal is to infuse medical humanities and bioethics throughout all six years of the School of Medicine curriculum,” Dr. Payne said. “I am working on setting up a stimulating rotation of medical humanities and bioethics classes that will be co-taught by M.D.s and scholars from the humanities. The Sirridge office wants to provide the best possible experience for our student physicians.”

William Ernest Lafferty, M.D., was appointed the Merl & Muriel Hicklin/Missouri Endowed Chair at the University of Missouri–Kansas City School of Medicine for his passion for teaching, health care delivery, outcomes research, and a demonstrated ability to foster collaboration with other academic divisions and sister institutions within UMKC and local public health organizations.

A specialist in internal medicine with subspecialty training in infectious disease, his research interests include assessment of sexually transmitted disease services provided by Medicaid and the private sector. He works on projects that seek to balance cost, access, and quality of health care in new areas of public interest, such as complementary and alternative medicine. From 1985 to 1993, he was office director for the Washington State HIV/AIDS epidemiology office.

Peter Koulen, Ph.D., appointed the Felix and Carmen Sabates/Missouri Endowed Chair in Vision Research, has made great strides in researching the action and development of pharmacological and molecular biological treatments for renal and visual systems disorders and cognitive decline during aging and Alzheimer’s disease. The author of numerous publications, he regularly presents at scientific meetings.

Dr. Koulen has an M.S. and Ph.D. from Johannes Gutenberg University in Mainz, Germany, followed by postdoctoral fellowships at the Max-Planck Institute for Brain Research in Frankfurt and Yale University School of Medicine.

“We are honored for the recognition of the Chair in Vision Research, and extremely pleased Dr. Peter Koulen will be the first in this position,” said Felix Sabates, M.D., professor and founding chairman of the UMKC department of ophthalmology and president of the Eye Foundation of Kansas City. “The Vision Research Center will become a world-class research facility under the leadership of Dr. Koulen and his team, bringing recognition to Kansas City as part of the international network of centers working to find causes and prevention of blindness.”

Dr. Papasian explained the structure and expectations of Dr. Koulen’s and the others’ appointments.

“In order to establish a sustainable research focus in an endowed chair’s field of expertise, we often recruit several junior faculty as part of the package, and the endowed chair serves as a mentor to these individuals and helps them develop their independent research careers,” Dr. Papasian said. This model has been tremendously successful regarding the Quantitative Genetics Program we built around Dr. Hong-Wen Deng, the endowed chair in orthopaedic research. We expect our new endowed chairs to make similar contributions to Shock Trauma, Humanities and Outcomes research, and Vision at UMKC.”
Because of you, the UMKC School of Medicine is able to fulfill its mission. With your support, students can attend a medical school that provides an outstanding medical education as well as quality health care to the underserved population of our community. We can attract necessary faculty and staff, and our researchers are making discoveries that translate to improved patient care. Thank you for your generosity.

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**Alumni Updates**

**Megan Sneed, M.D., OB/GYN, ’97**, finished her residency at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Chicago and is practicing with Midwest Women’s Health Care in multiple facilities in Cass County. The goal of the Midwest Women’s Health Care is to provide health care for women along U.S. Highway 71, especially those who have difficulty accessing health care. Sneed married her high school sweetheart, Ryan, executive chef for PB&J. They have two sons, Jacob, 5, and Ethan, 1.

**Linda Siy, M.D., ’90**, concluded her year term as president of the Texas Academy of Family Physicians on July 19. She was honored for her service during the 59th Annual Session and Scientific Assembly in Houston. During her year as TAFP president, Siy promoted advocacy for the voice of family medicine in Texas for physicians and their patients. She continues to practice at the JPS Health Center – Northeast in Bedford, and is a clinical associate professor at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas and the assistant professor of the department of family and community medicine at the University of North Texas Health Sciences Center in Fort Worth. Dr. Siy is also a member of the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine, the Texas Medical Association, the Tarrant County Medical Society and the Association of Clinicians for the Underserved.

**John Owen, M.D., ’81**, was promoted from colonel to brigadier general in the Missouri Air National Guard July 12. His 31 years of service began with his admission into the Health Profession Scholarship Program for prospective military health care providers at UMKC. After six years as state air surgeon, he was recently reassigned to the chief of staff. He serves as the primary advisor to the commander on all operational issues. During those six years, Owen assumed leadership of the Center for Sustainment of Trauma and Readiness Skills program and has developed it into a best-in-class program. He served four years as flight surgeon at Little Rock Air Force Base and 14 years with the Kansas Air National Guard where he became state air surgeon. He also maintains a full-time medical practice at the Liberty Clinic in Liberty, Mo., which he helped found in 1990.

**Recently Deceased Alumnus**

**Dr. Bruce A. Feldman, M.D., ’85**, died Aug. 3 of multiple sclerosis at home in Springfield, Ill., at the age of 49. He was in private practice at Psychiatric Associates in Springfield.

**Administration visits St. Louis Friends**

Accompanied by Shayna Simon, development director, and Connie Beachler, senior education team coordinator, School of Medicine Dean Betty Drees, M.D., was the guest of honor at the St. Louis Friends – an organization of parents in the St. Louis area with students enrolled at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine – gathering on Nov. 13, where everyone met the dean and could participate in a question-and-answer session with her. The St. Louis Friends promotes the best interests of the School of Medicine by “cooperating with the administration and students, aiding the school and its students financially” and “cultivating social relations among members of the St. Louis Friends, administration, faculty, alumni and students.”

**Outgoing Alumni President**

This is my last column as your alumni president. It has been an honor and a privilege. The reins of presidential duties are being taken over by the extremely capable Dr. Julie Brown. I wish her well in her new duties and pledge my full support.

We, as physicians and alumni, have an important duty to encourage and support medical education. The future of healthcare in this country is at a crossroads, and it will need a new breed of exceptionally motivated and dedicated physicians to guide it through these tough times.

Your alumni board has done an outstanding job of supporting the mission of the medical school. I would encourage anyone with any interest in the alumni association board to contact a board member or the alumni office.

I want to thank Dean Betty Drees for her exceptional job in leading the school and the tremendous support and attention she gives to the alumni association. This school is lucky to have her, and I hope I can continue to be of assistance to her.

Finally, it is with a heavy heart that we will be saying goodbye to the true heart and soul of the medical school alumni association, Mary McCamy. Mary, after her thirty years of hard work, dedication and support of the medical school, will be retiring this year. She will be truly missed, but I know, speaking for all those with any association with the medical school, we wish her all the best.

*Thomas Franey, M.D., ’85*
It is an honor to serve as the School of Medicine Alumni Association president. I want to thank our past president, Dr. Thomas Franey ('85) for his service both as leader of the alumni board and as a personal mentor. I know he will remain an invaluable resource.

Speaking of invaluable resources, few alumni, faculty, staff, or student lives have not been touched in some way by the remarkable work of Mary McCamy. After 30 years of dedicated service as director of alumni affairs, constituent relations, and special events, Mary is retiring. I know she is looking forward to relaxing and spending more time with family. I hope she knows how indebted to her so many are for all she has done. Personally, it is difficult to imagine doing this job without her guidance. I am not taking you off my speed dial just yet, Mary.

Who are we, alumni, that someone would dedicate 30 years to our service? It will come as no surprise that the definition of alumnus is “a person who has attended or graduated from a particular school.” That seems pretty cut and dried. However, the etymology of the word gives it considerably more richness. Its Latin root is alere, to nourish. Alere is also root of the Middle English word auld or old, former. Thus, we are the “formerly nourished” (sounds so much better than old, don’t you think?) but by whom?

Alma Mater is Latin for nourishing mother. It was used in ancient Rome as a title for the mother goddess and later in Medieval Christianity for the Virgin Mary. Its modern use is derived from the motto of the world’s oldest, continually operating, degree-granting university: the University of Bologna founded in 1088 in Italy in the same city for which it was named. Their motto, “Alma Mater Studiorum,” means Nourishing Mother of Studies.

We graduated from an institution that nourished us academically, which fed us until we could stand on our own. Staff, professors, docents and alumni were some of the instruments of that nourishment. They still are. This and every issue of Panorama demonstrates a variety of ways in which that “nourishment” continues.

As an alumnus, you are more than the “past” of the School of Medicine. You are part of an unbroken chain to the future. Getting more involved in the present life of the School of Medicine would give you a clear sense of that. As the new Alumni Association president, I challenge you to do just that.

In the year ahead we will explore some concrete ways you can meet that challenge. With your help, connecting the past with the future in the present will be a goal we can achieve.

Julie Brown, M.D., '00
President, UMKC School of Medicine Alumni Association
Students and faculty have enjoyed the first semester of the renovations of all three School of Medicine lecture theatres. Construction took place during the summer, and the improved rooms were available by Aug. 18, the first day of classes. New seating, ideal learning environment technology, media screens, tabletops with electrical outlets, and better lighting are among the new furnishings in the theatres. Theatre A now seats 150, and Theatres B and C can now seat 60-68. The theatres will be equipped with Tegrity systems, which will allow Webcasting and downloading recorded lectures for podcasting.

Take Wing Award Nominations!

Nominations are being accepted for the E. Grey Dimond, M.D., Take Wing Award, the School of Medicine Alumni Achievement Award and other distinguished alumni awards. Direct any questions to Ruth Grimsley at (816) 235-5281. Nominations are accepted year-round; however, the deadline for the 2009 awards is Feb. 2. Visit www.med.umkc.edu/alumni for descriptions of the awards and instructions for nominations.