Lisa Lowe, M.D., leads the UMKC School of Medicine Department of Radiology into a new era

“Advancing the Health of Our Community”
The University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine has placed an increased emphasis in the past few years on meeting the health needs of our community — local, national, and international — through training the health care workforce, developing biomedical research programs that respond to community health needs, and directing care of the underserved as an economic “anchor” in the urban core. We now have nearly four decades of training physicians and have recently added master’s degree programs to provide training in allied health and clinical research. Our research funding has seen a dramatic increase, and our strategic planning in research will increasingly focus on the genetic, molecular, social and environmental factors related to medical conditions with an impact in our own community, such as trauma, blindness, addictions, and chronic diseases.

Our faculty at our affiliated hospitals provide over $150 million annually in charity care, and our medical students run a safety net clinic for the homeless in downtown Kansas City. The annual revenues of the UMKC health science schools on Hospital Hill are approximately $70 million, and combined with all of our affiliated hospitals, the annual revenues are over $3.2 billion. Thus, academic medical centers serve as the economic anchors for the stability they provide in their communities, including thousands of jobs. During times of economic downturns, this stability, in addition to the other missions of education, research and clinical care, is critical to the communities where academic medical centers are located.

This past February, Congress enacted the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), an economic stimulus package that in part pumped $10 billion into extramural medical research efforts through the National Institutes of Health, bringing both short- and long-term benefits to our economic status and public health. Five UMKC School of Medicine researchers received ARRA awards, totaling nearly $3 million and creating new research jobs. State appropriations also supported efforts to increase jobs and provide additional benefits. One such program is the Caring for Missourians proposal, which provides $40 million to public higher education institutions to increase the training of health care providers for Missouri. The share of funds for the UMKC School of Medicine — $5.5 million — will support recruitment of students in Missouri into medicine, while also creating new jobs in medical education.

We extend our thanks to the president, members of Congress, Missouri elected officials, and the American public for their generous support in funding these endeavors in research and education. Medical research brings hope, and medical education brings new physicians and other providers to care for our citizens. We are proud to be part of a community that brings hope and care to our citizens, our state, our country, and the world.

Betty M. Drees, M.D., F.A.C.P.
Dean and Professor of Medicine
Featuring entertainment by the internationally renowned Bobby Watson Quartet of UMKC’s Conservatory of Music and Dance

Hallbrook Country Club
11200 Overbrook Rd.
Leawood, KS

Saturday
February 27, 2010
7-10 p.m.

Tuxedo optional

Proceeds benefit the UMKC School of Medicine’s Sirridge Office of Medical Humanities and Bioethics

For more information, please contact Marilyn Pesto at 816.235.5882 or PestoM@umkc.edu.

“No winter lasts forever; no spring skips its turn.”
~Hal Borland

UMKC School of Medicine presents Jazz Night 2010

Hallbrook Country Club
11200 Overbrook Rd.
Leawood, KS

Saturday
February 27, 2010
7-10 p.m.

Tuxedo optional
The UMKC School of Medicine offers an innovative, combined B.A./M.D. degree program. A limited number of positions may become available each year for M.D.-only students, who begin their curriculum in the second semester of Year 2 of the program. The School partners with five of the area’s leading health care institutions – Children’s Mercy Hospital, Saint Luke’s Hospital of Kansas City, Truman Medical Centers, Veteran’s Affairs Medical Center and The Center for Behavioral Medicine.
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With words of encouragement from a recent graduate and the reading of the Oath of Physicians, a class of 109 students began the six-year journey to earning their medical degrees on Aug. 21 during the Year One Medical Student InDOCtrination Ceremony at Pierson Auditorium.

InDOCtrination and the annual White Coat Ceremony on Aug. 15 at the White Recital Hall were among the highlights of the first week of activities as students began a new school year. Students were introduced to their respective docent units during the ceremonies.

Two teaching awards were presented during the White Coat Ceremony. Navanshu Arora, M.D., assistant professor of medicine and Blue 2 docent, received the Outstanding Years 3-6 Docent Award, and Thomas Frederickson, M.D., clinical assistant professor of medicine and Year 1 docent, was presented the award for 2009 Outstanding Years 1-2 Docent.

Year 3 students were later presented with white coats by their individual docents.

Matt McLaughlin, M.D., ’09, spoke to the students and their families at the Year 1 ceremony about his experiences and what they have to look forward to during the next six years. McLaughlin said that while their lives as medical students will at times be difficult, those around them will know exactly what they’re going through and that they should support one another through the journey.
The UMKC School of Medicine served for the third year in a row as the title sponsor of the 5K run at the 36th annual Hospital Hill Run on June 6, 2009. The 5K run drew more than 1,150 participants, and a number of SOM students, faculty and staff were among the volunteers who helped in various capacities on race day.

More than 1,150 runners lined up on Grand Boulevard in front of Crown Center just before 7:30 a.m. on June 6, 2009, for the UMKC School of Medicine 5K portion of the 36th Annual Hospital Hill Run. It was the third year in a row the SOM has served as the title sponsor for the 5K run, but the connections go back much further. The School was still in its infant stages in 1974 when SOM founder E. Grey Dimond, M.D., launched the first Hospital Hill Run as an event to coincide with a postgraduate course dealing with health and physical fitness. Today, the Hospital Hill Run is one of Kansas City’s premiere road races.

SOM students, faculty and staff were among the nearly 1,000 volunteers on hand last June to help at various points along the race route including aid stations and the first aid tent. Mild weather on race day helped to lighten the workload for the first aid workers compared to previous years.

Dale Dexter of Olathe, Kan., won the men’s 5K for the second year in a row, and Cindy Cameron of Westwood, Kan., won the women’s race. More than 4,800 athletes completed the races in this year’s Hospital Hill Run, which included a half marathon, a 10K run, and a hand cycle race, in addition to the 5K run.

For the first two years of the race, the event was combined with a School of Medicine picnic. During the early years, the race route took runners by many of the hospitals affiliated with the SOM.

In his biography, “Take Wing! Interesting Things that Happened on my way to School,” Dimond wrote that, “Near the beginning of their route, the runners came up a long slope, immediately by Diastole. For many years, it gave me a surge of happiness to stand on the southwest corner of 25th and Holmes and see the thousands of men and women go by, many calling out a greeting.”

The 37th Annual Hospital Hill run is scheduled for June 5, 2010. For additional information and registration for this event, go to http://www.hospitalhillrun.com.
Chilly weather didn’t deter the runners and volunteers from the School of Medicine who participated in the third annual Dash For Diabetes on Oct. 18, 2009, at Shawnee Mission Park to raise money for the Kansas City Free Health Clinic.

Twenty members of service fraternity Alpha Phi Omega helped with the race that drew nearly 30 runners and raised more than $600 for the free health clinic, which provides service for those without access to basic health care. Members of the Asian Pacific American Medical Student Association (APAMSA) and the Kansas City Free Health Clinic also sponsored a health fair on race day.

Dash for Diabetes is sponsored by the Missouri State Medical Association in conjunction with the American Medical Association. Students from UMKC organized this year’s event with support from those from the University of Missouri-Columbia and the Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences.

Andrew Spencer, MS 3, Adam Fleddermann, MS 3, and Tracy Trupka, MS 5, were awarded a first-place tie in the race. Mariam Nawas, MS 3, was second, and Priya Gujarati, MS 3, was third.

The UMKC School of Medicine co-sponsored the Fourth Annual Critical Mass Gathering, a special networking event for minority medical students, residents, and physicians on Oct. 10, 2009, at the Kauffman Foundation.

Edwin Galan, MA, MSN, ARNP, FNP-C, who served as the Region VII Minority Health Coordinator in the United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, delivered the keynote speech on “Health Care Reform and Disparities in Care.” The event brought minority medical students and residents together with area minority physicians for the purposes of networking, career development and mentorship opportunities.

Gina Porter, MS 5, also spoke about a September 2009 Student National Medical Association-sponsored event, “SNMA March for Health Equity: Selma to Montgomery,” in which concerned individuals from all over the country assembled in Alabama in a march for health equity.

Saint Luke’s Hospital, Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences, the University of Kansas School of Medicine, and the Metropolitan Medical Society of Greater Kansas City also co-sponsored the event.
Thirteen internal medicine residents from the UMKC School of Medicine made poster presentations at the annual Missouri Chapter of the American Chest Physicians Scientific Meeting at Tan-Tar-A Resort at Osage Beach, Mo., Sept. 24-27, 2009. The residents brought home second-place awards for presentations in research and patient safety. Residents practiced their poster presentations in the lobby of Theater A prior to the Missouri-ACP meetings. Gopi Astik, M.D., (top photo) stands in front of her poster during the Missouri-ACP meeting at Tan Tar A Resort. Anwaar Saeed, M.D., discusses her poster with George Riesz, M.D., chairman and professor of internal medicine, (bottom photo) during the practice session at the School of Medicine.
Troy Horine has joined the UMKC School of Medicine as the director of major gifts. He comes from Washington University in St. Louis, where he was the assistant vice chancellor for major gifts. Previously, he served as assistant vice president for development at the Saint Louis University Health Sciences Center after serving 18 years at Creighton University in various roles: director of annual giving, director of major gifts, director of development and assistant vice president for University Relations.

“I came to UMKC because I believe the University and the School of Medicine are poised to move to a new level of engagement with the Kansas City community as it positions itself as a leading center in life sciences research and health care delivery,” Horine said.

The Wichita, Kan., native earned a bachelor’s of science in secondary education and business at Kansas State University, received a master’s of business administration at Creighton University, and was the director of development at Newman University in the beginning of his career.

Horine said, “My main goals at the School of Medicine are to assist in preparing it for the University’s next comprehensive campaign, to expand the School’s base of support and to make it a top priority for philanthropic support among its constituents: particularly alumni, residency program graduates, and the region’s major corporations and foundations.”

On July 7, 2009, the American Red Cross of Greater Kansas City honored three UMKC staff members who helped to save the life of an electrician who suffered cardiac arrest in August 2008 while installing lighting in the UMKC School of Medicine. They are Mary Anne Morgenegg, coordinator of medical school admissions; Mark Hecker, PharmD., director of School of Medicine clinical research; and Officer Boyd Breedlove, UMKC Police Department.

When Morgenegg and Hecker heard someone call 911 for assistance, they ran to the injured man and performed two-person CPR. Breedlove, who received the 911 call, arrived at the scene and administered automated external defibrillator shocks on the man until emergency medical personnel arrived and transported the electrician to the hospital.

Morgenegg received the Red Cross Certificate of Merit, a national-level award recognizing community members who save a life by using Red Cross skills. Hecker received the Certificate of Extraordinary Personal Action, a chapter-level award recognizing someone who saves a life. Breedlove received the Lifesaving Award for the Professional Responder, a national award for individuals who save a life while working in their professional capacity.

Mary Anne Morgenegg, coordinator of medical school admissions; Mark Hecker, PharmD., director of School of Medicine clinical research; and Officer Boyd Breedlove, UMKC Police Department, were honored by the American Red Cross of Greater Kansas City during a special presentation on July 7 at the School of Medicine.

The actions of the three were also recognized in an article that appeared in an article that appeared in the Kansas City Chapter of the American Red Cross newsletter, Response Matters, and its annual report.
Ardinger appointed section chief of genetics in Department of Pediatrics

Holly H. Ardinger, M.D., associate professor of pediatrics, has been appointed section chief of genetics in the Department of Pediatrics at the School of Medicine and Children’s Mercy Hospitals and Clinics. She joined the SOM and CMH in 2004 as a member of the genetics section and has served as section chief and medical director of clinical dysmorphology and metabolism. Ardinger received her medical degree from the University of Iowa College of Medicine and did her residency in pediatrics at the University of Iowa and the University of California-San Diego. She completed a fellowship in medical genetics at the University of Iowa.

Ingram’s Magazine names Sabates 2009 Top Doctor

Nelson Sabates, M.D., F.A.C.S., ’86 – professor and chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology, president of the Vision Research Foundation, co-director of the Vision Research Center, and president and chief executive officer of Sabates Eye Centers – is a member of the 2009 Ingram’s class of Top Doctors. Only 10 doctors were selected in the Kansas City area for their superior credentials and recommendations from their peers.

A national and international lecturer, Sabates has authored numerous presentations, articles and book chapters on ophthalmology and is a scientific reviewer for several national publications. He is active in clinical research and clinical trials dedicated to treatments of retinal diseases. A member of the Alpha Omega Alpha medical honor society, he specializes in surgery of the retina and vitreous. His research interests include surgical and medical treatment of age related macular degeneration and diabetic retinopathy.

Not only is Sabates known throughout the Kansas City community for his dedication to clinical care and research efforts, but also for his generosity to various philanthropies in the area, such as the Sabates Eye Center’s annual Trolley Run to benefit the Children’s Center for the Visually Impaired.

Eve Medlock appointed director of Graduate Medical Education

Eve Robb Medlock, who served for the past two years as a senior education team coordinator at the UMKC School of Medicine, has been selected as the new director of Graduate Medical Education. She replaces Rick Trullinger, Ph.D., who was appointed to the role of assistant dean for allied health programs.

In her previous role, Medlock served as an adviser for the Blue 1-4 teams, oversaw the Oral Surgery/MD, transfer, and international students, and coordinated student electives taken through the School of Medicine’s partner hospitals. She worked as a campus ombudsman for UMKC, serving as a confidential resource for problem solving needs on the Volker Campus before coming to the School of Medicine. Medlock is a graduate of UMKC with a master’s degree in liberal studies with an emphasis on executive leadership and conflict resolution.
School of Medicine leaders attend AAMC meeting

School of Medicine Dean Betty M. Drees, M.D., and Louise Arnold, Ph.D., associate dean for medical education and research, served as speaker and moderator during various sessions of the 2009 Association of American Medical Colleges annual meeting in Boston on Nov. 5-11, 2009.

Drees spoke at a session on “The Ideal Academic Health Center” that explored what future academic medical centers will look like, who will make up the students, faculty and leaders of those centers, and offered insight on organizational leadership and values.

She also served as chair for the AMA Section on Medical Schools Governing Council luncheon meeting, and the AMA Section on Medical Schools Business Meeting/Educational Sessions that provided medical education colleagues the opportunities to network, assist in the development of AMA policy, discuss issues affecting medical education and highlight curricular innovations.

Arnold participated in leading a Research in Medical Education session on professionalism.

Other members of the SOM faculty who attended the annual meetings included Alice Arredondo, associate dean for admissions and recruitment; Paul Cuddy, Pharm.D., senior associate dean; Susan Hathaway, Ph.D., manager of student affairs; Harry Jonas, M.D., special consultant to the dean; Brenda Rodgers, M.D., associate dean for student affairs; and Susan Wilson, Ph.D., M.B.A., associate dean for cultural enhancement and diversity. Two students, Robert Buchmann, M.S. 6, and Mohammed Saif Ahmed, M.S. 5, also attended the student section meetings.

The SOM presented an exhibit on Innovations in Medical Education.
Students from the UMKC School of Medicine and School of Dentistry joined forces on Oct. 31, 2009, to promote healthy lifestyles and encourage life-long healthy habits among elementary school children. Project R.E.C.E.S.S., “Restoring Exercise, Cutting Calories, Emphasizing Hygiene, Stopping Substance Abuse in Kids,” brought together about 40 third, fourth and fifth-graders from Longfellow Elementary School and medical and dental students for a day that included games, activities such as a moon bounce and face painting, and prizes for those who participated. The School of Medicine’s Medical Student Advisory Council (MSAC) organized a hand washing booth, which included a song and dance to help remember when and how to wash your hands. The Family Medicine Interest Group sponsored exercise booths, which included the moon bounce and a karate demonstration. The Student National Medical Association (SNMA) put together substance abuse prevention activities that included experiments simulating lungs affected by tobacco smoke. The School of Dentistry’s Students Take Action (STA) organized an oral health booth that included demonstrations with models on how to floss and brush. Project R.E.C.E.S.S. was a community service day project co-sponsored by the schools of Medicine and Dentistry, Family Health Partners, Children’s Mercy Hospitals and Clinics, Gates Barbecue, and Wild Oats Grocers.
Dean Betty M. Drees, M.D., Barbara Atkinson, M.D., dean of the University of Kansas School of Medicine, and Sandra Willisie, D.O., dean of Heartland Health Sciences University and former docent at the UMKC SOM, lead a discussion panel about women in medicine on Oct. 9, 2009, at the UMKC School of Medicine as part of the national traveling Changing the Face of Medicine exhibit.

Kansas City was host for the national traveling exhibit from Oct. 3 to Nov. 11, 2009. The UMKC Health Sciences Library was part of the collaboration of the three medical schools in the metropolitan area that included the University of Kansas Medical Center’s Dykes Library and the Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences Library. They worked together to coordinate and plan the events during the exhibition that was based at Dykes Library.

The School of Medicine held three events during the exhibit, which tells the story of American women’s two-century struggle to access medical education and celebrates their honors and achievements throughout the years.

In 2000, the National Library of Medicine (NLM) began developing an exhibition about the history of America’s women physicians that would include 340 doctors spanning 160 years. Its goals were to illustrate the larger themes in the history of women in medicine, while inspiring the next generation of physicians, according to the NLM Web site.

Between August 2005 and November 2010, the Changing the Face of Medicine exhibit will have been on display in 61 libraries across the United States. The Exhibition Program developed several strategies to provide on-site and online visitors access. Components of the exhibition included a digital portrait gallery, interpretive videos, artifact interactions and a Web site to experience the stories of the featured women physicians.

The NLM, in Bethesda, Md., and the American Library Association, Chicago, Ill., organized the traveling exhibition with support from the NLM, the National Institutes of Health Office of Research on Women’s Health, and the American Medical Women’s Association. The traveling exhibition is based on a larger exhibit that was displayed at the NLM from 2003 to 2005. The local exhibit received additional support through grants from the National Network of Libraries for Libraries.
Marjorie S. Sirridge, M.D., former dean of the UMKC School of Medicine and co-founder of the UMKC Sirridge Office of Medical Humanities and Bioethics, addresses the audience as the keynote speaker at the opening event of the Changing the Face of Medicine national traveling exhibit on Oct. 3, 2009, at the University of Kansas Medical Center’s Dykes Library. Sirridge was also a featured physician in the exhibit. Photo courtesy of Marvin McInnis

of Medicine exhibit

of Medicine and the Health Sciences Library Network of Kansas City.

A discussion panel at the School of Medicine on Oct. 9, 2009, included Dean Betty Drees, M.D., Barbara Atkinson, M.D., dean of the University of Kansas School of Medicine and vice chancellor of the KU Medical Center, and Sandra Willisie, D.O., dean of Heartland Health Sciences University and former docent at the UMKC SOM. These three influential women shared their stories of triumph, challenges and accomplishments with an audience of mostly women students, residents, faculty and staff. Some strong, similar themes in the women’s stories were the importance of mentors, passion, family support, and management of change.

Drees, who had already started a family before going to medical school, said she was fortunate to grow up with a group of strong women. She started out as an English major at the University of Kansas and later transferred to Wichita State University. She took the advice of her WSU adviser, who suggested she study medicine. “To her it was just another day, but to me, it was a transforming thing,” Drees said. “When people are at a transitional time, mentors can make a huge difference.”

As dean of the SOM, Drees is an example of a role model of a woman in leadership. “I care deeply about the mission of this school,” she said. “It’s about being there to care for people who need you.”

Drees advised future and current women physicians to strike a balance between blaming hardships on their gender and making sure they are treated fairly in the workplace.

Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (ELAM), specifically aimed at women in leadership positions, was co-founded by Atkinson; Drees and Willisie are both alumnae of the program. Drees said the networking opportunity of the group is invaluable, as is a sense of self-awareness.

All three women mentioned the importance of taking time out for oneself and to have some fun. “Don’t let yourself become isolated,” Drees said. “Connect to other people.”
Each year during the annual Association of University Radiologists meeting, teams of radiology residents and their program directors gather from across the country to take part in a vexing competition to diagnose a series of extreme disease cases using only radiology images and little additional patient history.

This past March, Lisa Lowe, M.D., UMKC School of Medicine chair of radiology and director of the radiology residency program, Jeff Kunin, M.D., Saint Luke’s Hospital chair of radiology and UMKC associate program director, along with UMKC chief residents Tim Morgan, D.O., and David Saldana, M.D., formed a combined team with the University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita that attended the meeting in Arlington, Va., and returned as runners up in the competition. It was a major feather in the local radiology team’s cap considering that the winning teams in the competition have historically come from the top radiology programs in the country.
Recent changes have the Department of Radiology receiving attention, respect of the health care profession.
Education comes first for Dr. Rosado de Christenson

Jeff Kunin, M.D., associate program director and Saint Luke’s Hospital chairman of radiology, reviews images with Lisa Lowe, M.D., chair of radiology and director of the radiology residency program, Julia Prescott, M.D., radiology resident, Melissa Rosado de Christenson, M.D., F.A.C.R., clinical professor of radiology.

Melissa L. Rosado de Christenson, M.D., F.A.C.R., clinical professor of radiology, has always had a keen focus on education. Her parents were quick to emphasize the importance of that as she grew up and attended high school in Puerto Rico.

That characteristic helped her become one of the first 100 women to enroll in The Johns Hopkins University. Rosado de Christenson, who comes from a long line of military personnel, later carried that zeal for learning and her military heritage to Bethesda, Md., where she joined the first class to enroll in the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS).

And her passion for education was a major point of emphasis when Rosado de Christenson was recruited just more than a year ago to join the radiology staff at Saint Luke’s Hospital and the UMKC School of Medicine Department of Radiology faculty.

“That was critical in making my decision to come here,” said Rosado de Christenson, who now serves as section chief of thoracic imaging at Saint Luke’s. “It was a real honor to place second ahead of many of the top programs,” Lowe said. “Traditionally, the winners are from the largest, most prestigious institutions, in part because they have the most people on their teams. Not this year.”

Lowe and the UMKC SOM have plenty of reasons to take pride in what is happening within the School’s radiology program.

Throughout the past decade or more, a myriad of forces ranging from economics to politics have made the field of radiology one of the most competitive medical specialties in health care. In the midst of all this, the UMKC SOM radiology residency program is carving a path that has boosted the program’s image and at the same time made it a much more competitive residency program.

An integrated curriculum now incorporates 12 months of internship training — generally required prior to starting most four-year radiology residencies — within a five-year residency program at UMKC. Combine that with training in some of the most advanced imaging technologies from highly skilled faculty members, many of whom are experts in specialized areas of radiology, and you have the makings of a program that is the pick of medical school graduates looking to get into the field.

This year, the SOM radiology program received more than 400 applications.

“The winners are from the largest, most prestigious institutions, in part because they have the most people on their teams. Not this year.” — Melissa L. Rosado de Christenson, M.D., F.A.C.R., clinical professor of radiology

“Some places I explored, they did not have a strong academic interest, yet they were a university. Here, there’s a tremendous emphasis on education.” — Melissa L. Rosado de Christenson, M.D., F.A.C.R., clinical professor of radiology

Continued on Page 19
for six residency positions and filled those openings from its top candidates. The bottom line: a large number of graduating medical students want to get into radiology, and more of the top students — as well as radiology faculty — are showing a growing interest in UMKC’s program.

“The whole model we have here is very progressive,” Lowe said. “It’s been wildly popular with the residents and it’s caused our program to become much more competitive with medical students.”

But it’s not just contest judges and residency applicants who are taking notice. This past February, after examining the SOM radiology residency, the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education cited the program as one of the best it reviewed and awarded its highest accreditation possible — a full five-years with commendation. Much of the credit for the program’s growing stature, said Lawrence Ricci, D.O., assistant professor and clinical chairman of radiology for Truman Medical Centers, goes to Lowe, who joined the UMKC faculty in 2001 and took on the roles of department chair and residency program director in 2007.

“She’s done an exceptional job. We wouldn’t be having this conversation if she weren’t part of this program,” said Ricci, who did his radiology residency at UMKC and has been a member of the UMKC radiology department since 2002. “She has the energy and enthusiasm to make a difference in the program and she’s done that in a short amount of time.”

One of the major changes Lowe made began with a conscious effort to create a synergy throughout the radiology programs at the SOM’s affiliated hospitals: Truman Medical Centers, Saint Luke’s Hospitals, Children’s Mercy Hospitals and Clinics, and the Kansas City Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Medical students and residents spend time at the different institutions during their various rotations as they had in the past, but Lowe has promoted an esprit de corps that pulls all the departments together as members of one cohesive UMKC SOM program.

“We now have a department that has a passion for education and the teaching component,” Kunin said. “They want to be here because of the residency program.”

—— Lisa Lowe, M.D., chair of radiology and director of the radiology residency program

experience, particularly in thoracic imaging, that she obtained in the military. Rosado de Christenson spent more than 13 of her 25-plus years in the military with the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (AFIP) where she was first assigned as chief of pulmonary and mediastinal radiology and in 1995 became the first woman, as well as the first Air Force officer, to serve as chair and registrar of the department of radiologic pathology. Rosado de Christenson estimates that during her tenure, she had a hand in training more than 20,000 radiologists, residents and other physicians who came through the AFIP.

Rosado de Christenson said she found her passion for radiology early in her medical school career, when she was exposed to the field during her second year at the USUHS. Following her residency at George Washington University, Rosado de Christenson, a captain in the Air Force, served in the Philippines at the 13th Air Force Medical Center. Four years later, she became the first woman faculty member at the Department of Radiologic Pathology at the AFIP.

"Part of the reason I’m so passionate about education is that I want to give back that same education that I’ve received to the residents here," Rosado de Christenson said. "I’ve found the best way to learn is to teach."

When both her husband, also a physician and then a Navy captain, and she saw mandatory military retirement bearing down on them, Rosado de Christenson, who by then had risen to the rank of colonel, moved to Ohio State University where she worked for four years. In 2004, she received the Marie Sklodowska-Curie Award from the American Association for Women Radiologists for outstanding contributions to field of radiology. Rosado de Christenson focused

—— Education comes first for Dr. Rosado de Christenson, Continued from Page 18

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Panorama

Fall '09 Winter '09

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Activities such as a mentoring system that pairs faculty members with residents and senior residents with younger residents and students and promoting individual interests among residents and faculty have led to increased scholarly output. Faculty and senior residents serve as mentors on a personal level as well as invest in the younger residents’ and students’ academic interests, offering guidance in areas such as how to prepare a research grant proposal or oral, written or visual presentations of research findings. Outside interests, such as business or art, are strongly encouraged with some residents joining state and national organizations that influence key decisions that affect health care and radiology in particular. Others with a flair for art have produced medical illustrations for research publications. All of this has resulted in more than 80 published articles and research presentations since 2007 from the radiology residency program.

Ricci said those efforts and the acceptance of the radiology faculty at each of the hospitals have paid off. “It’s a very unique operation and we all work very well together,” Ricci said.

The diversity of training environments that residents and students are a part of by rotating through the different hospitals, each with its own unique patient population, is a big selling point for the department. So too, Lowe said, is the diversity of both gender and race among the radiology faculty, nearly one-third of which are women compared to the fewer than 25 percent of the average population of academic radiology faculty across the country.

The department now boasts a faculty of more than 40 radiologists, a number of whom were recently recruited from places such as Washington University, the University of California-San Francisco, Johns Hopkins and Harvard, regarded as some of the leading radiology programs in the country. Beyond that, many of the UMKC radiology faculty bring with them fellowship training and expertise in a wide range of radiological subspecialties.
Basically, (residents are) going to have the opportunity to learn radiology better here than they're going to learn it somewhere else.

— Lowe

ranging from neuroradiology to musculoskeletal and thoracic imaging.

Kunin, who joined the UMKC faculty shortly after Lowe, recruited many of the subspecialists now on staff at Saint Luke's, where residents spend one half of their rotations. Together, he and Lowe made it a point to attract from across the country the best radiologists they could find who also shared a passion for teaching and a willingness to buy into the department’s academic mission.

“Residents are trying to gain expertise in different body sections, so they really need to be taught by specialists,” Kunin said.

Lowe said that while it makes for an even stronger educational experience for residents and medical students to spend time with subspecialists and gain a deeper knowledge of the subject matter, it also has raised the quality of radiology training and service throughout the department.

“It’s elevated the game for everybody,” Lowe said.

For those residents now learning the profession, Lowe said the focus has shifted from training through sheer exposure to a high volume of patients to an extremely strong educational process. A cornerstone of that process is one of the few categorical programs in the country that also incorporates the preliminary year of clinical training throughout a five-year curriculum. Most radiology residency programs require residents to spend a preliminary year of medicine training elsewhere before beginning their residency. Less than 20 percent of the academic radiology programs across the country are categorical, taking residents straight out of medical school, and of those, fewer than 10 offer an integrated curriculum such as UMKC’s. The benefit to residents, Lowe said, is actually two-fold.

By spreading the 12 months of clinical training throughout their radiology training, Lowe said residents get a better understanding of what physicians are looking for when they order an imaging procedure. It also allows them to explore areas of subspecialization in which they may want to pursue a fellowship after their radiology training; for example, someone who finds an interest in musculoskeletal radiology might elect to spend some of their clinical months in orthopedic surgery, Lowe said.

Because of the number of subspecialists among the faculty, the program offers a full breadth of rotations in all areas of radiology, including some areas such as neurointerventional, cardiac and obstetrics imaging that aren’t available at all training programs. As a result, nearly all graduates of the program are electing to continue their education with fellowship training. With increasing frequency, UMKC residents have been accepted into the most prestigious fellowship programs in the country. Recent acceptances include Harvard, Johns Hopkins and Northwestern University.

And the constantly advancing technology continues to push the department to remain on the cutting edge of radiology by offering techniques such as neurointerventional procedures, magnetic resonance spectroscopy, perfusion imaging in the brain, MR enterography, tumor ablation, and coronary CT angiography. All of this, Lowe said, is lifting the UMKC SOM radiology program to new heights and making it more appealing to incoming residents.

“Basically, they’re going to have the opportunity to learn radiology better here than they’re going to learn it somewhere else,” Lowe said.
Departments of Psy
Ob/Gyn address
risk factors
pregnant
women
The best news to some may be traumatic for others. In the summer of 2009, nurses at Truman Medical Center (TMC) Hospital Hill were worried about a young pregnant woman from Mexico who was refusing to eat. They sent her to J. Martin Maldonado-Duran, M.D., UMKC associate professor of psychiatry.

Maldonado interviewed the woman to determine why she would not eat. During the course of his interview, she said, “I feel like I have something stuck in my stomach, like a ball. It is depressing, and it doesn’t go away, so I get filled up quickly and don’t feel like eating.”

Making a connection, Maldonado asked her how she felt about her pregnancy. “Then she started crying and saying she was having a boy,” Maldonado said. “She did not want another boy because she already had two who fought all the time. She felt terribly guilty for being angry at the baby.”

Maldonado explained to her that this baby might be very different from the others and calmed her down. Crying and expressing her feelings eventually helped her to start eating and gaining weight. She was able to understand how the emotions were transferring to a physical sensation, like news she could not swallow.

“Some mothers feel too guilty to voice their negative feelings about their pregnancies because it is supposed to be such a happy time,” Maldonado said. “People have multiple feelings about pregnancy, so sometimes talking to the mothers can help them to free their emotions.”

Maldonado, an internationally renowned and widely published expert in child psychiatry and maternal-infant bonding, joined the UMKC School of Medicine in 2007, drawn by the academic atmosphere and at-risk population at Truman Medical Center (TMC). “Dr. Maldonado’s area of psychiatric expertise fits our needs really well,” said David Mundy, M.D., associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology and maternal/fetal medicine. “The need’s been here, but we have not had consistent resources. We have had fragmented psychiatric care, and our patients need day-to-day interaction. Dr. Maldonado also has a great interest in our patient population. He gives us more information and tools to screen for psychiatric disorders.”
Munday has been at the UMKC School of Medicine and TMC for more than 20 years and has seen the need for psychiatric support of pregnant women. He, Maldonado and Anita Patel, M.D., a UMKC resident in psychiatry, are in the beginning stages of a study at TMC to identify risk factors in pregnant mothers that connect with adverse outcomes for their babies.

“Dr. (Dev) Maulik (chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology) and Dr. Mundy have a very good vision of the importance of the psychosocial factors of pregnancy, which not all physicians in the world do,” Maldonado said. “They realize the importance of the emotional aspects of pregnancy, and that is really crucial.”

The study includes a screening of 60 women between the ages of 18 and 35 in their third trimester of their first or second pregnancy. The women come to their regular appointments to share their thoughts about their pregnancy, their attitude, and how they imagine their baby will be. “We call this the emotional context of pregnancy,” Maldonado said. “We try to explore the relationship between this context and a history of anxiety, depression, or maltreatment in the mother.”

The interview will be conducted by the main investigator, a UMKC psychiatry resident or a practicum candidate for the masters in social work from the UMKC School of Social Work. Mundy said TMC’s population – rich in immigrants, African Americans, Hispanics and those who are poverty stricken – is one prone to pathophysiology, economic deprivation, social isolation and other risk factors. He also pointed out that pregnant women are traditionally excluded from medical studies; therefore, not enough is known about how mental illness affects pregnancy and which interventions best improve outcomes.

“This gives us the opportunity to screen pregnant mothers for things like depression, anxiety, post traumatic stress, and relationship status to see if they have an effect on the outcome of pregnancy and the relationships with her parents, her baby and the health care system,” Mundy said. “If we can identify the risk factors, we can then see if an intervention will improve the outcome.”

Pregnant women with emotional disturbances, especially depression, have children who have higher rates of aggression, hyperactivity, inattention and future academic problems.

Nurses told Patty Rotert she had a dramatic little boy after she gave birth to her first child, Zachary, three years ago. Patty and her husband, Brian, thought this was a cute trait in their newborn, until Patty read more about temperament.

Zachary was not sleeping and was difficult to soothe. With her motherly instinct and 11 years of experience in teaching eighth graders, Patty knew something was not right. During her research, she found sensory integration dysfunction (SID) and said it described her son’s behavior almost perfectly.

“If I would have listened to my intuition, I would have been right every single time,” Patty said. “It’s amazing.”

One patronizing pediatrician, one aloof psychologist – who only spoke to Patty and Brian, not Zachary – and two years later, Patty found J. Martin Maldonado-Duran, M.D., UMKC associate professor of psychiatry.

In November 2008, Zachary began having night terrors that would last an hour at a time five or six times a night. The Roterts

Continued on Page 26
Part of the study will focus on “mind mindedness” – the pregnant mother’s attitude about the baby as an individual and its role in the relationship. This includes the capacity of the mother to think about the emotions and uniqueness of the baby, to “read” his or her internal states and to be sensitive to them in the future. “Ideally, we would like to see what type of relationships and stressors are affecting mother and baby,” Mundy said.

“Innovative studies are not new to Maldonado who, while at the Menninger Clinic in Topeka, studied and conducted research on a range of infant mental health issues. While in Topeka, he opened an infant mental health clinic before coming to UMKC. A consultant to The Children’s Place and Parents as Teachers, Maldonado continues to travel the world to teach about infant and toddler mental health. He said the TMC population presents an exciting opportunity for him. “There is a sad need here,” Maldonado said. “I had the fortune of working with wonderful teachers who exposed us to the plight of infants,” Maldonado said. “It seemed our efforts to help a child at age seven could be transferred to help a child when the brain is still in such a rapid development.”

Maldonado is the editor of Infant and Toddler Mental Health: Models of Clinical Intervention, a book published in 2002 that continues to receive recognition. “It has contributions from very well-known authors from many countries,” Maldonado said. “Its emphasis is on treatment strategies rather than just a description of the disorders, and it includes what the clinicians actually do, as well as recommendations for different models of intervention.”

“The father of two girls has dedicated his career to child and infant psychiatry, yet he said the uniqueness of each baby still amazes him. “Literally, what works with one baby does not work with another,” he said. “I advise mothers and fathers to follow their instincts,” Maldonado said. “The books only go so far. Many mothers are trapped in this advice on where the baby should sleep, what the baby should eat, etc. Mothers should follow their instincts and read their baby. The biological program is set up for you to go to your crying baby and pick him or her up; it’s there for a reason.”
When it comes to CPR, timing is everything. The difference between life and death can often be determined by the speed at which emergency personnel respond to cardiac arrest. "Our approach was to get rescuers to concentrate on the right medical treatment at the right time," said Matthew Gratton, a long-time emergency physician and seasoned combat physician, who knows all too well the critical importance of applying the right medical treatment at the right time. When it comes to sudden cardiac arrest, for example, the timing and the treatment can literally mean the difference between life and death. That's why Gratton, chair of the UMKC Department of Emergency Medicine, and his research colleagues are encouraging emergency response personnel to re-evaluate their protocols for treating cardiac arrest patients.

"We used to routinely stop compressions to ventilate the patient or to insert an IV or to administer multiple shocks," Gratton said. "But, over the last several years, more and more of the scientific literature began to suggest that perhaps that was misguided."

Most notably, Gratton looked at the research of Gordon Ewy, M.D., of the Sarver Heart Center at the University of Arizona. Ewy is a leading proponent of continuous chest compression and a long-time researcher into the pathophysiology of the arrested heart. His research has shown that interruptions in chest compressions significantly decrease coronary and cerebral blood flow.

Others were taking note of this as well, including Alexander Garza, M.D., who is a former medical director of the Kansas City Emergency Medical Services (EMS) System and former faculty member at the School of Medicine. (Garza was recently appointed assistant U.S. secretary of health affairs and chief medical officer in the Department of Homeland Security.)

In 2005, based on Ewy's research and numerous other corroborating studies, Garza felt the science was compelling enough to put a new protocol for responding to sudden cardiac arrest into practice in Kansas City. In determining the protocol for implementation, Garza collaborated with Gratton and Joseph Salomone, M.D., associate professor of emergency medicine at UMKC and the medical director of the Kansas City EMS System.

"Our approach was to get rescuers to concentrate most on giving more rapid, deep and uninterrupted compressions when working with sudden cardiac arrest," Gratton said.

They then studied the results from changes in CPR methods as implemented by the Kansas City EMS System in 2006 and 2007. The Kansas City EMS System prioritized the use of at least 50 chest compressions before administering two breaths. The change...
CPR, timing is everything

When it comes to CPR, timing is everything. UMKC researchers are helping to re-write the book for first responders.

It also meant that EMS personnel focused more on compressions and less on intubating patients, starting IVs and delivering medications. Current American Heart Association recommendations call for a 30/2 ratio of compression to ventilation.

When comparing the previous three years to the year following the change in protocol, Gratton and his colleagues found that there was a marked increase in overall sudden cardiac arrest survival rates (7.5 percent to 13.9 percent). They also found that patients in a shockable rhythm (ventricular fibrillation) who were witnessed to arrest and who were resuscitated with the new protocol improved their hospital discharge rate from 22.4 percent to 43.9 percent. Their findings were published earlier this year in Circulation, the scientific journal of the American Heart Association.

“It really comes down to timing and the physiological changes that are taking place when a person is in cardiac arrest. As what’s going on in a cardiac event changes, what needs to be done changes, too,” Gratton said. “When the patient’s physiology is basically normal, except for heart rhythm, in the first four to five minutes, defibrillation is appropriate. After that, a shock may be ineffective, due to a lack of oxygen in the blood, and actually cause the patient to flatline.”

Gratton and his colleagues are in the process of conducting a follow-up study in which they have further increased the number of uninterrupted compressions from 50 to 200.

“We are still compiling numbers, but the preliminary data looks very promising,” Gratton said. “Emergency medical services around the country are beginning to change their protocols to reflect the recommendations for increased chest compressions. This has the potential to save thousands of lives every year.”

Written by John Austin
Photography by Robert Steckmest
Art Directed & Designed by Suzanne M. Gauch
Crisis Intervention Team improves consumer, law enforcement relationship
In 1986, the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) started a campaign with a clear message: police officers are not adequately trained to deal with mental illness.

Written by Hannah Crippen
Photography by Robert Steckmest
Art Directed & Designed by Suzanne M. Gauch
“UMKC has been a part since the beginning,” Stidmon said. “Dr. Munro and Dr. Sommi (from the UMKC School of Pharmacy) are nationally known speakers, and they volunteer their time because they believe in this program. They bring credibility and the UMKC name to this program.”

The first training in Missouri was in 2001, and since that time, the Mid America CIT Council has trained officers from Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, and Georgia, including officers at UMKC, and has assisted them in starting their own CIT programs. According to the Resource Development Institute, 769 officers, representing 44 departments, have completed the CIT program in the Kansas City area since 2001.

The Kansas City CIT Training week in September 2009 included police officers from around the area and one fire fighter. Part of the training included taking a tour of The Center for Behavioral Medicine. Afterward, officers met in a conference room with Munro to discuss what they learned. Munro asked them a series of questions to gauge their knowledge on the mental health care perspective. It was the consensus that the CIT Training program provides vital understanding between law enforcement and mental health care providers.

Not only do officers learn to deal with consumers in crisis during the weeklong program offered four to five times a year, but also mental health providers have an opportunity to learn about what the officers go through on a daily basis. Munro provides an overview of mental illnesses at the beginning of the CIT program to give a foundation of understanding for the week. He also acknowledges his understanding that law enforcement has to make instantaneous decisions with little information.

“They know a whole lot more than I do about being on the front line and can probably anticipate violence better than I can,” Munro said.

One of the skills Munro shares with the officers is how to approach crisis situations involving consumers.

“We train them a little about raising their voices because officers are taught to do that,” Munro said. “With mentally ill people, it’s probably not going to have the desired effect because, by the very nature of the illness, they do very odd and bizarre things under pressure.”

Instructors of the training courses are mental health professionals, CIT-trained officers, and even the consumers and their families. Officers tour local mental hospitals to discuss ways to improve treatment of consumers and the shifting of police custody to mental health care providers.

“I think the most important thing that happens in the week is the consumers/patients come and talk about what it’s like to have schizophrenia and what it’s like to have a good police response versus a bad one,” Munro said. “And the role play forces them to imagine what it’s like on the other side.”

Because the program is strictly volunteer-based, it ensures that the officers who participate intend to use the skills they learn during the training.

“This is not a law enforcement program, this is a community program,” Cochran said. “It’s a community’s spirit and passion that bring together the foundation.”

Sgt. Linda DeMo from the Blue Springs Police Department went to training a few years ago and now leads the CIT in her department and is a participant of the regional CIT council.
the regional CIT council. She came back to participate in the September training session.

Of the 88 sworn officers in Blue Springs, Mo., 50 are CIT trained. It started with DeMo, and now all of the supervisors are CIT officers. DeMo has seen the impact of CIT training on her department. It has changed the culture, and officers are able to help each other through tough times.

“The actual reason why I came was to hone up my negotiating skills, but by midweek of the training, everything really came together,” DeMo said. “I was thinking, ‘Wow, we have needed something like this for years.’ We didn’t know what to do with people; these are the people that we deal with.”

DeMo is an advocate for the necessity of support from organizations like NAMI and vice versa. After a consumer she was trying to help hung herself, DeMo looked to NAMI-KC and Guyla Stidmon for guidance. Stidmon referred her to Munro to help her understand what happened. This is how the CIT network helps communities, consumers, mental health providers and officers simultaneously.

“Not only is this going to make you a better officer, it’s going to make you a better person,” DeMo said.

Sgt. John Bryant is a division coordinator of CIT, former co-chair of the Mid-America CIT Council and immediate past president of NAMI-KC. Bryant’s son has suffered from psychosis for most of his young adult life. He has channeled his fatherly concern to taking an active role in the CIT program.

“It’s successful in a multi-faceted way,” Bryant said. “We are able to look for warning signs in our own groups, and it’s lowered the number of violent encounters with consumers.”

CIT training has been effective in developing positive perceptions and increased confidence among police officers; providing efficient crisis response times; increasing jail diversion among consumers; improving the likelihood of treatment continuity with community based providers; and significantly decreasing police officer injury rates, according to the Memphis CIT Web site.

The CIT committee is working to help agencies not large enough to have a CIT program.

“We have a lot of rural areas, and we want them to at least learn the collaborative efforts and know whom to call on to get the help they need,” Stidmon said. The program not only teaches about mental illness, but volunteer instructors also address substance abuse, medication side effects, suicide prevention and mental health law. CIT has also expanded to firefighters and correctional staff and now, there is a three-day program for detention officers in jails.

A family member of a consumer, Stidmon stresses the importance of communication among the individuals involved in CIT.

“It’s a two-way street,” Stidmon said. “It puts the face of mental illness out there. Officers can talk with a consumer who is not in crisis. It has also changed the face of law enforcement to those with a mental illness. They have more confidence that these individuals will treat them well, and they know to ask for a CIT officer.”

She, along with Munro and a growing amount of the Kansas City community continue to improve and advocate the CIT program. Stidmon, who has experienced the positives and discouragement of working with those suffering from mental illnesses, said, “I have been in mental health since 1972, and I feel that the CIT program has had the biggest impact on the mental health system in all of my years.”

Results from the June 2009 CIT fact sheets by the Resource Development Institute

- Police departments in Kansas City, Lee’s Summit, Blue Springs, Oak Grove and Independence received 5,603 CIT phone calls from 2004 to 2008. Of those, 2,697 were in the Kansas City city limits. This gives the police the opportunity to be the intervention for consumers.
- Referrals to Mental Health Court have decreased from 12 in 2003 to only one in 2008.
- An overwhelming number of respondents reported that they would like more information once they have completed Basic CIT Training.
- It is strongly recommended that the Education Committee maintain quality, engaging instructors when possible.
- The most powerful and beneficial segments of the training were the Family Panel, by far, the Managing CIT Dynamics, and Accessing Resources & Mental Health Court.

Sgt. John Bryant and Stuart Munro, M.D., participate in a Question and Answer session led by Munro in the summer of 2009 during the fourth annual picnic for Kansas City and surrounding communities’ consumers, family members and law enforcement. This picnic drew a record turnout. Photo courtesy of the Resource Development Institute.
Endowed chair brings innovative research, funding to UMKC Vision Research Center, Department of Ophthalmology
“My primary interest to come here was that this is truly an outstanding place for clinical care. My research was at a point where we needed to have collaborators that will allow us to move it to the next step.”
— Peter Koulen, Ph.D.
Koulen’s research interests focus on the underlying mechanisms of action and development of pharmacological and molecular biological treatments for disorders of the nervous and visual system and for cognitive decline during aging, including macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma, Alzheimer’s disease, and stroke. He often compares these diseases to an old pair of shoes saying, “You don’t notice they get crooked on the side because it’s just shaving off a tiny piece every day. But, when you put on new shoes you notice the difference. The problem with these diseases is the comparison is not there. “Typically – without regular check-ups by highly skilled physicians – this slow decline often takes years to realize. By the time this happens, a lot of damage has occurred at the cellular level. This damage to the smallest elements of the nervous and visual system is what we’re interested in, what our research focuses on, and what we are ultimately trying to prevent or cure.”
Macular degeneration, glaucoma and diabetic retinopathy are the main causes of vision loss in the United States with more than 9 million people over the age of 40 living with age-related macular degeneration (AMD); 4 million with diabetic retinopathy; and 4 million with glaucoma (National Institutes of Health). According to the Kansas City Health Department’s Community Health Assessment 2005, approximately 30,000 people in Kansas City are affected by diabetic retinopathy, or one in every 12 people with diabetes over the age of 40. Approximately 200,000 individuals in Kansas City are affected by age-related macular degeneration, and an expected 300,000 people in the KC area are at risk for glaucoma. These diseases disproportionately affect the medically indigent and underserved.

Koulen’s research program at the Vision Research Center (VRC) aims to identify new therapies to prevent and treat eye disease by boosting the self-defense mechanisms of the retina; preventing or slowing the death of cells in the retina and the resulting loss of vision. Grant funding Koulen brought to the School, and recently obtained, supports this work and more. Koulen was awarded a small business grant in the field of medical imaging and diagnostics from the National Institutes of Health/National Cancer Institute, in collaboration with an optical device company. This collaboration of academia and business will bring about new technology that will help physicians identify disease biomarkers, approach and diagnose diseases, perform early intervention, and monitor therapy for chronic diseases and cancer. Also, one of Koulen’s grants funded by the National Institutes of Health/National Institute on Aging was competitively renewed for another five years of funding, enabling him to continue work on aging of the nervous system and mechanisms of cognitive decline during aging.

This funding is beneficial as Koulen, his team, and other researchers and physicians explore the challenges of an increasing elderly population in our country and worldwide.

“People expect to live life with good health, and everything that’s associated with that, well past their 70s and 80s,” Koulen said. “I think part of the reason for that is both clinical care and medical research have made great advances. With our efforts to increase basic research at the Vision Research Center, we’re trying to enable the physicians to have a direct input for developing new technological strategies through translational research. We are hoping to initiate new clinical studies from within the Vision Research Center and initiate new strategies for therapy development.”

According to Nelson Sabates, M.D., professor and chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology, Koulen is a great fit for the School to achieve these goals.

“There is no doubt that his innovative and exciting work
Koulen said the VRC is an ideal location for his work, citing the fact that research had always been one of the most vital components of the Eye Foundation, in which the VRC had been created. Trained by well-known ophthalmologist, Charles Schepens, M.D., at Harvard Medical School, Felix Sabates, M.D., founder of the Eye Foundation of Kansas City and founding chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology, learned the vital role of research for academic clinicians. This spirit remains the driving force behind activities at the VRC.

“The Department of Ophthalmology and the Vision Research Center have put a strong emphasis on the integration of clinical care, training and research,” Koulen said.

This motivated Koulen to come to Kansas City and the Department of Ophthalmology, as he was looking for a more clinically oriented home for his research. UMKC’s unique health sciences campus on Hospital Hill enables interdisciplinary collaborations; Koulen has laboratories located in and adjacent to the new Health Sciences Building, allowing for a close relationship with the School of Pharmacy, a national go-to place for drug delivery, especially for the eye.

Koulen mentioned another advantage of UMKC is the daily exposure to patients struggling with chronic diseases of the nervous system.

“In our community, there is an urgent need because some of these diseases affect people with less access or ability to obtain high quality healthcare,” Koulen said. “So, this global challenge is also a local challenge, and I think UMKC can definitely be part of bringing solutions to the table.”

To find these solutions, Koulen stresses the importance of conversation and interaction. In training future researchers, Koulen said he aims to instill a teamwork mindset.

“I try to foster the attitude of, ‘I’m not this single fighter. There were people before me, and I can use their insights; and there will be people after me, who I need to watch out for so they can make the best of what I’m producing,’” Koulen said. “This helps them consider themselves as part of a scientific community.”

Koulen said the biggest achievement one can have is to make the reason for starting research of a disease become obsolete.

“The overall attitude that brings one to research, especially as part of health care and medicine, is that we are trying to improve current standards,” Koulen said. “A physician has the chance to treat multiple patients a day and has a weekly or daily impact. In my profession – in research – I don’t see any patients on a daily basis, but I might come up with a solution that could potentially affect a lot of people in one strike after years of research and discovery.”

“*This department has a very strong clinical background that’s based on a long service tradition within the department and through its affiliations with Truman Medical Center and various other medical centers in the Greater Kansas City area.*”

— Koulen
University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine

“Advancing the Health of Our Community.”

Annual Report 2008-2009

Docent Physicians
Scholarship funding at the UMKC School of Medicine is responsible for easing the financial burden of numerous students each year. On Oct. 2, 2009, the SOM recognized its scholarship donors and the students whose educations they helped finance in the past year during its 9th annual Donor and Scholarship Reception. Blake Montgomery, a Year 1 scholarship recipient, spoke briefly about what it means to a young medical student to receive financial support through scholarships. Dean Betty M. Drees, M.D., recognized 38 scholarship recipients and the donors to their scholarships during the event.

2009 UMKC School of Medicine Scholarship Recipients

Arfaa Ali, MS-2: Richard T. Garcia Memorial Scholarship Award
Sadie Alongi, MS-1: School of Medicine Scholarship, Clara Shumway Scholarship, Founding Classes Scholarship
Alexandra Alpough, MS-1: School of Medicine Scholarship, Clara Shumway Scholarship, Founding Classes Scholarship

Sagar Amin, MS-4: Marilyn McGuyre Tournament Scholarship
Lolita Arrey, MS-1: School of Medicine Scholarship, Founders Scholarship Endowment, Edward & Victoria Harris Scholarship

Ashley Deboeuf, MS-2: School of Medicine Scholarship, Class of 1985 Scholarship, UMKC SOM Alumni Matching Scholarship
Kevin Dowlatshahi, MS-1: School of Medicine Scholarship, Ida Bamberger Memorial Matching Scholarship

Morgan Eidson, MS-1: School of Medicine Scholarship, Clara Shumway Scholarship, Rosenthal Family Scholarship

Ehren Ekhouse, MS-2: School of Medicine Scholarship, Russell & Fannie Flake Scholarship Fund
James Gentry, MS-5: C.L. Tung, MD, E. Grey Dimond, MD, Scholarship

Megan Litzau, MS-1: School of Medicine Scholarship, Clara Shumway Scholarship
Aamir Menees, MS-6: Ratilal S. Shah Medical Scholarship
Blake Montgomery, MS-1: School of Medicine Scholarship, St. Louis Friends Scholarship, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas City/Herman & Dorothy Johnson Scholarship

Kayla Scherer, MS-1: School of Medicine Scholarship, Class of 1979 Matching Scholarship
Christopher Smith, MS-4: Victor E. Dominguez, MD, Memorial Scholarship
Sarah Smith, MS-2: School of Medicine Scholarship, School of Medicine General Scholarship
Vanessa Smith, MS-2: School of Medicine Scholarship, Beaty and Deloras Pemberton Scholarship

Ryan Stokes, MS-2: School of Medicine Scholarship, Dr. and Mrs. Bharat Shah Academic Scholarship

Anezi Uzendu, MS-2: School of Medicine Scholarship, Clara Shumway Scholarship, Founders Scholarship Endowment
Joshua Vaughn, MS-5: Drs. Dee Anna and David Glaser Medical Scholarship
Margaret Weissling, MS-4: Missouri State Medical Association Scholarship
Rachel Zamazanuk, MS-1: School of Medicine Scholarship, Bradley L. Bradshaw, MD, JD, Matching Scholarship, Class of 1986 Scholarship
At press time, significant progress had been made in the Ginny’s 1,000 Scholarship Fund. It has nearly reached its initial goal to raise $100,000. This Fund is in memory of Virginia Calkins, one of the original UMKC School of Medicine employees who served as assistant dean for student affairs from 1980 to 1985. She died in March 2009. Dean Betty M. Drees, M.D., E. Grey Dimond, M.D., and the Calkins family are grateful for all the gifts from early alumni and friends who contributed to the support of UMKC medical students through the memorial fund in honor of Calkins. Drees said, “We wish to especially recognize the generous response from early alumni, ‘Ginny’s 1,000,’ who were admitted to the SOM while Ms. Calkins was the assistant dean for selections. Through these gifts, Ginny is still helping UMKC students realize the dream of becoming physicians.”

**Ginny’s 1,000**

At press time, significant progress had been made in the Ginny’s 1,000 Scholarship Fund. It has nearly reached its initial goal to raise $100,000. This Fund is in memory of Virginia Calkins, one of the original UMKC School of Medicine employees who served as assistant dean for student affairs from 1980 to 1985. She died in March 2009. Dean Betty M. Drees, M.D., E. Grey Dimond, M.D., and the Calkins family are grateful for all the gifts from early alumni and friends who contributed to the support of UMKC medical students through the memorial fund in honor of Calkins. Drees said, “We wish to especially recognize the generous response from early alumni, ‘Ginny’s 1,000,’ who were admitted to the SOM while Ms. Calkins was the assistant dean for selections. Through these gifts, Ginny is still helping UMKC students realize the dream of becoming physicians.”

**Gifts Received**

(July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009)

President’s Society $50,000+
- Mr. Muralidhar Bethi
- Ralph R. Coffey Education Fund
- Greater Kansas City Health Care Foundation
- Dr. S. Rao & Dr. Subbu Rayudu

Chancellor’s Society $25,000+
- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas City

Provost’s Society $15,000+
- Dr. Daniel Bruning & Dr. Cynthia Drake
- Dr. James Ho
- Missouri State Medical Association
- John & Ruth Musselman Trust
- Oppensteins Brothers Foundation
- Krishna M. Swamy
- Mr. Ramu Swamy
- Dr. Prasad V. Vasamsetti

Founders Club $5,000+
- Dr. Fernando & Mrs. Anne De Castro
- J.E. Dunn Construction Group, Inc.
- Robert & Cathy Lachky Charitable Fund
- Prime Health Foundation
- Clara L. Shumway Charitable Trust
- Dr. Marjorie S. Sirridge
- Muthusamy V. Swami
- University Physician Associates

Dean’s Club $2,500+
- Dr. Emilio & Mrs. Carlota Dominguez
- Mr. William & Dr. Betty Drees
- Dr. Shanna A. Flanagan
- Dr. James & Mrs. Christine Glenski
- Mr. Henry & Dr. Reaner Shannon
- Dr. Christine Sullivan
- Dr. Steven & Mrs. Kathy Waldman

Docent’s Club $1,000+
- Mr. Louis C. Accurso
- The Accurso Law Firm
- Dr. Samuel T. Ahn
- Dr. Linda Anderson
- Dr. James & Mrs. Rhoda Anthony
- Dr. Ravinder & Mrs. B.K. Aror
- Dr. Mark & Mrs. Renee Bernhardt
- Dr. Richard & Ms. Carol Bowe
- Dr. Bruce E. Brown
- Dr. John & Mrs. Rochelle Buckner
- Burgess & Lamb PC

*’09 School of Medicine Scholarship, St. Louis Friends Scholarship: Blake Montgomery, MS 1, and Megan Litzau, MS 1, with Alice Arredondo, assistant dean for admissions and recruitment, and Susan Hathaway, Ph.D., manager of student affairs. Montgomery was also the winner of the 2009 Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas City/Herman & Dorothy Johnson Scholarship.*
'08 Drs. Beaty and Delorcas Pemberton Scholarship, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas City/Herman and Dorothy Johnson Memorial Scholarship: Vanessa Smith, MS 2, and Susan Wilson, Ph.D., associate dean for cultural enhancement and diversity.

Mr. Kirk & Dr. Laura Doan
Doctors Hospital, LLC
Dr. Jose & Mrs. Jill Dominguez
Dr. Charles & Mrs. Holly Donohoe
Drs. Gerald Early & Shauna Roberts
Dr. Sydney J. English
Enid Pathology Consultants
Family Physicians of Madison County
Dr. Kenneth Fine
Dr. William & Mrs. Mary Beth Fish
Dr. Thomas & Dr. Michelle Franey
Dr. Steven Miller & Dr. Victoria Fraser
Friends of Psychiatry Foundation
Dr. William & Mrs. Janet Goodson
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Dr. Timothy Hickman
William L. Isley Estate
Ms. Janet Isley
Dr. Harry S. & Mrs. Connie Jonas
Joplin Urgent Care, Inc.
Dr. Eric A. Kalhoefer
Shaila M. Karkera
Dr. Lacy A. Knight
R. A. Long Foundation
Dr. Michael Manalo & Dr. Belinda Sun
Dr. Timothy & Dr. Janice Martin
Dr. Vickie L. Massey
Dr. Scott & Dr. Dawna McCulloch
Dr. Robert & Ms. Lea Morrison
Dr. Michael & Dr. Michelle Mulligan
Dr. David Mundy & Dr. Karen Driskell
Dr. Stuart & Mrs. Janis Munro
Dr. Brian P. Murphy
Dr. Srinivas Mutyalu
Dr. Thomas McGinn &
Dr. Annamaria Nagy
Dr. Sameen F. Nasrullah
Mr. Fred S. Neuer
Dr. Richardson & Mrs. Nan Noback
Dr. Clark McKenzie &
Ms. Linda R. Peterson
Mr. Ralph K. Phalen
Mr. Floyd & Dr. Olevia Pitts
Dr. Sanjeev D. Ravipudi
Dr. Gary & Mrs. Michelle Salzman
Dr. Anthony & Mrs. Rayleen Shen
Dr. Christopher & Mrs. Lisa Sirridge
Drs. David & Anne Smid
Dr. David & Ms. Donna Smith
Dr. Joe E. Snodgrass
Dr. James & Mrs. Maura Speiser
Dr. Jeffrey Sugar
Dr. Donna Sullivan
Dr. Tony & Mrs. Diana Sun
Dr. Glenn & Mrs. Edna Talboy
Dr. Robert S. Thomas, Jr.
Dr. Dana M. Thompson
Mr. Michael & Dr. Ann Uhls
Dr. Sunanda R. Vadapalli
Dr. Judith K. Vogelsang
Dr. Gregory & Teresa Walker
Dr. Jining I. Wang

'08 Richard T. Garcia Award: Mariam Nawas, MS 3, and SOM Dean Betty Drees, M.D.

Dr. Brad & Dr. Barbara Warner
Dr. Michael L. Weaver
Dr. William & Dr. Christine Wester
Dr. John & Mrs. Denise Whitfield
Dr. Thomas Whittaker & Dr. Ann Zerr
Dr. Natalie Wong
Dr. Joan Dimond Wu-Chang
Dr. Bruno & Dr. Rose Zwerenz

School Advocates $500+
Dr. Ahmed Aboul-Magd
Arms, Dodge, Robinson, Wilber & Crouch, Inc.
'09 Missouri State Medical Association Scholarship: Margaret Wessling, MS 4, and Erin Burns, MS 4, with Haley Wansing, director of membership for the Missouri State Medical Association.
Dr. Leway Chen
Dr. Jeffery & Mrs. Rebecca Chen
Mr. David Clark & Dr. Lin Wu-Clark
Dr. Donald & Mrs. Lisa Cole
Mr. William & Mrs. Kimberley Coleman
Dr. Charles L. Crist
Dr. Thomas & Mrs. Jennifer Crouch
Dr. John S. Crowley
Dr. Kivan Dalsania

Dr. Brent & Mrs. Cynthia Beasley
Dr. Joelle Biernacki
Dr. Christy Bleckman
Dr. Kevin & Mrs. Patricia Boatright
Boilvar Urology Clinic
Dr. Hesamodin Borhani
Dr. Warren Ong &
Ms. Pamela M. Boylan
Mr. Richard F. Brodsky
Dr. Jay J. Brown
Dr. Randy & Mrs. Twila Brown
Dr. Manuel Camejo
Mr. Richard K. Capling
Dr. Charles F. Carey
Dr. Kathleen L. Carlson

Dr. Yvonne K. Davenport
Dr. Nancy Dawson
Dr. Lynn & Mrs. Dianne DeMarco
Dr. Mark S. Defrancesco
Dr. Jeff Diebner &
Dr. Debra Klearman-Diebner
Dr. Carl D. Dirks
Mr. G. David & Mrs. Carol Dixon
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Mr. William D. Eckert
Ms. Denisse M. Eliza-Rivera
Ms. Georgia K. Erickson
Dr. Russell Fiorella
Dr. Jonathon & Mrs. Kerrye Foley
Dr. Shanon Forseter & Ms. Naomi Landis Dorseter
Ms. Bette J. Friedberg
Dr. Amy Frieman
Dr. Sara Gardner
Mr. Kirk & Mrs. Ann Garmager
Dr. Charles & Mrs. Margaret Garvin
Dr. Gregory & Dr. Johanna Genova
Dr. James J. Greenberg
Mr. Gene & Mrs. Tanya Grodzinsky
Mr. Kirk Groth & Dr. Holly L. Gore-Groth
Mr. Ronald Grothe & Dr. Rayna Maring-Grothe
Dr. Michael & Mrs. Kristine Gruenebaum
Dr. Jack Guccione
Dr. Ganesh & Mrs. Debbie Gupta
Dr. Yoav Han & Dr. Caroline Cheng-Hahn
Dr. Brett & Dr. Rachel Hailey
Mr. Kevin & Dr. Sarah Hampfl
Mr. Robert F. Hartsook
Dr. Beth E. Harvey
Dr. Peter & Dr. Kathryn Havens
Dr. James & Mrs. Betty Heath
Mr. Richard & Dr. Betty LaRue Herndon
Dr. R.S. Hollis
Dr. Craig S. Holzem

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Dr Debra J. Jaffe
Dr. Manoj K. Jain
Dr. Donald L. James
Dr. S.B. Jani
Dr. Michael & Dr. Teresa Jensen
Mr. H. Royden & Ms. Mary Norman Jones
Dr. Gerald & Mrs. Helen Joseph
Padma Kandula
Dr. James & Mrs. Kelly Kaplan
Dr. David & Mrs. Michelle Kapp
Mr. James & Mrs. Deon Karr
Dr. Louis P. Kortonsis
Mr. Jesse & Mrs. Lisa Kartus
Kansas City Center for Family & Organization Systems
Dr. Jared & Mrs. Sharma Keeler
Dr. Cynthia F. Kleppinger
Ms. Ellen Cooper Klyce
Dr. Jason Koreckij & Dr. Renee Sullivan
Dr. Catherine Dent Krawczeski
Mr. Radha R. Kumar
Arun M. Kurntha
Dr. Frederic Leong
Mr. Mark & Mrs. Sara Loganbill
Dr. Ray & Mrs. Lisa Mahoubi
Mr. Paul Malkin & Dr. Joan Warren
Mrs. Ruth L. Margolin
Dr. Bruce A. Marshall
Dr. G.E. Martin
Mr. James & Dr. Stephanie Marx
Dr. Dev Maulik
Ms. Mary K. McCamy
Dr. Timothy Wilson & Dr. Janice McGovney
Dr. David Woolridge & Ms. Erin McGrath
Dr. Matthew K. McNabney
Dr. W. Kendal McNabney
Mercy Accounts Payable Shared Srvs
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Dr. Raymond & Mrs. Anne Meyn
Mid-Missouri Internal Medicine, Inc.
Midwest Medical Group, LLC
Dr. Derek Miles
Mr. Kevin & Mrs. Tammie Miner
Dr. Mark A. Mitchell
Dr. Morio & Mrs. Toshiko Miyamoto
Dr. Michael E. Monaco
Dr. Paul D. Moore, Jr.
Dr. Mary K. Mroz
Dr. Gary D. Mund
Dr. John & Mrs. Sandra Nettles
Mr. Steven Ng & Dr. Grace W. Baysa-Ng
Dr. Raphael Ngengwe

'09 Victor E. Dominguez, M.D., Memorial Scholarship: Christopher Smith, MS 4, and Dean Betty M. Drees, M.D.

'09 Lee Langley Award for Academic Excellence: Wesley Glick, MS 4, with Dean Betty M. Drees, M.D.

'09 School of Medicine Scholarship, Grace Hoelzel Albano, M.D., Matching Scholarship, Bryan Ross Bolden Memorial Scholarship: Sarah Jafari, MS 1, with Grace Hoelzel Albano, M.D., '90, and husband Michael Albano.
Dr. Jordan & Mrs. Stacey Page
Dr. Sareeta R. Parker
Mr. Mahesh & Mrs. Meena Patel
Dr. Jack & Mrs. Patricia Pearson
Dr. Richard Andrews & Ms. Arminda Perez
Dr. John & Dr. Kathy Perryman
Dr. Kirk & Dr. Kelly Philpot
Dr. Diane M. Plantz
Mr. John & Dr. Susan Pollack
K. B. Ramanathan
Ms. Ashok B.R. Rao
Dr. Robert & Mrs. Teresa Rao
Dr. Virkram Rao
Dr. Jebadural Ratnaraj
Dr. Suresh & Mrs. Rupa Reddy
Dr. R. Douglas & Mrs. Sarah Reed
Mr. Michael & Mrs. Jada Reese
Mr. Kevin & Mrs. Leslie Reger
Dr. George & Dr. Colleen Reisz
Resource Center for Gynecologic Oncology
Dr. Norbert & Dr. Donna Richardson
Mr. Michael & Mrs. Kathleen Riordan
Dr. W. Mark Roberts
Dr. Greg Rodriguez
Mr. David & Dr. Brenda Rogers
Dr. Barbara E. Ruddy
Dr. Lawrence & Mrs. Jane Rues
Dr. Robert Sarrazin & Dr. Lori Breidlove
Dr. Mark & Dr. Betty Scarborough
Ms. Cherly A. Schoeneberg
Dr. David & Mrs. Christine Schroot
Dr. Thomas Schroyer
Dr. Stephen & Dr. June Scott
Dr. Veronique Sebastian
Dr. Hillary Hofmann Seematter
Dr. Carolyn L. Siefert
Mr. Ajay & Dr. Saroj Shah
Dr. Vidyas & Dr. J.N. Sharma
Han M. Shih
Dr. Jeffrey S. Shilt
Ms. Shayna Simon-Orova
Dr. Anne K. Sly
Dr. David & Mrs. Suzanne Smith
Dr. Paul & Mrs. Pamela Steele
Dr. G. Ross & Mrs. Delia Stephens
Mr. Kenneth & Dr. Ronelle Stover
Mr. Ronad Swinfard & Dr. Sara Viessman
Mr. Eric Thompson & Dr. Susan Lee
Dr. Daniel & Mrs. Margot Tobias
Dr. Thomas & Mrs. Mary Toth
Dr. Luan Van Tran
Meera Vasu
Dr. P. Vasudevan
Dr. Jorge Vidal
Ms. Margot Walker
Dr. David Weinglass &

‘08 Dwight David Stanford, M.D., and James Hudson, D.D.S., Scholarship: Melissa Thomas, M.D., ‘09, and SOM Dean Betty Drees, M.D.

Ms. Marilyn Carbonell
Dr. Eden Wheeler
Dr. Rachel Wheeler
Ms. Jacqueline R. White-Robinson
Dr. Robert & Dr. Kimberly Wise
Dr. John & Mrs. Virginia Wiley
Dr. Barry Wood
Dr. Melissa Wood
Mr. Kirk Wuiff & Dr. Diana Dark
Dr. Mark & Mrs. Janet Yagan
Dr. Mark & Mrs. Katherine Yates
Dr. Thomas & Mrs. Laurie Zink

Friends up to $100
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Dr. Jeffrey A. Beal
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Bender, Weltman, Thomas Perry & Company
Dr. Jennifer Bequette
Ms. Debbie S. Boin
Dr. Pavan Brahmamdam
Mr. Christopher Brett
Ms. Erlinda B. Burke
Dr. Thomas & Dr. Mary Frances Burke

‘08 Michael L. Weaver, M.D., Scholarship: Nathaniel Hayward, MS 2, and Michael Weaver, M.D., ’77. Howard also received the Roche/Charles Wilkinson, M.D., Memorial Scholarship.

‘08 Gurpreet S. Padda, M.D., Matching Scholarship and Russell and Fannie Flake Scholarship: Gene Kim, MS 2, and SOM Dean Betty Drees, M.D.
Mr. Edmond & Mrs. Rima Cabbabe
Mr. Manuel R. Cajigal
Dr. Juan & Dr. Zendaida Castro
Dr. J. Patrick Chaney
Dr. Amina B. Chapin
Mr. Russell A. Chapin
Dr. Dawn Charles
Ms. Teresita Cheuk
Dr. Sriravan & Mrs. Rukmini Chilakamarri
Dr. G. Chinnadurai
Mr. Robert & Mrs. Linda Chelbowski
Dr. Jonathan Cho
Dr. Neha Chowdhary
Mr. Richard Chung
Mr. William & Mrs. Norma Church
Ms. Libby Creason
Dr. Ryan & Mrs. Allison Davis
Dr. Edwin & Mrs. Nelia De Castro
Dr. Doug Dehning &
   Dr. Cielo Navato-Dehning
Ms. Diane Diamond
Dr. William Dixon
Mr. James & Mrs. Beverly Farrell-Smith
Mr. Mark Fowlkes & Ms. Vera Finney
Mr. Glen & Mrs. Brenda Gordon
Dr. Leland & Dr. Beverly Graves
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   Mrs. Susan Edwards Hanford
Dr. Ellen Hardin
Dr. Richard & Mrs. Susan Harlow
Dr. Thomas & Dr. Mary Hastings

Mr. Steve & Dr. Susan Hathaway
Mr. David & Dr. Lynne Heger
Mr. John P. Heisserer
Ms. Ashley Hoye
Mr. Robert & Mrs. Linda Hoye
Mr. Jungchen & Mrs. Hsinglin Hsu
Mr. Herbert & Mrs. Angela Iles
Mr. Michael & Mrs. Angela Jacobs
Ms. Wanna Janwatanagool
Mr. Mikel & Mrs. Gayle Johnson
Dr. Doreen P. Karoll
Dr. Lisa Kaugman-Suffian
Ms. Donna Kelley
Dr. Arkady Khagi
Dr. Kevin & Mrs. Ada Koch
Dr. J. Joshua & Mrs. Marilyn Kopelman
Ms. Anna Kraxner
Dr. Howard L. Kremer
Mr. Edward & Mrs. Ana Lane
Law Offices of Michelle M. Nguyen
Mrs. Sirpa Lawson
Ms. Kimberly J. Leholz
Mr. Victor & Mrs. Marjorie Lewitt
Dr. Katherine Lim
Dr. Timothy Little & Ms. Ann Hakan
Dr. Warren & Mrs. Marilyn Lovinger
Mr. Richard & Mrs. Sue Ann Magie
Mr. Lars & Mrs. Sonia Malburg
Dr. James N. Martin, Jr.
Ms. Virginia Mashburn
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Dr. Molly McCormic-Uribe
Dr. John D. McEnroe, Jr.

Mr. Mike & Mrs. Patty McMahon
Ms. Mary G. Menousek
Ms. Laura Meyer
Mr. Don Swaggerty &
   Dr. Mary Middleton
Dr. William Miles & Dr. Michele Raible
Mr. Blake & Dr. Danette Miller
Dr. Freeman L. Miller
Ms. Dorothea E. Moore
Dr. Gerge & Mrs. Sylvia Moreng
Mr. Ramasamy &
   Mrs. Nimata Naveethan
Dr. Quang & Mrs. Michelle Nguyen
Northwest Missouri Physical Medicine
Mr. Paul O’Hanlon
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Mr. Mauro Paez
Mr. Asit & Mrs. Rina Parikh
Dr. John & Lynn Parker
Mr. HG & Mrs. Dayamayee Parsa
Ashok V. Patel
Mr. Dilipkumar &
   Mrs. Hinaben Patel
Mr. Natvarbhai &
   Mrs. Jyotsanaben Patel
Rekha Pillai
Ms. M. Vanessa Ragsdale
Mr. J.A. Ransom
Mr. Gordon & Mrs. Mindy Raphael
Mr. Nigam R. Rath
Dr. Anjum & Dr. Naveed Razaque
Mr. Richard & Mrs. Beth Reed

’09 School of Medicine Scholarship, Ida Bamberger Memorial
Matching Scholarship: Jason Hurt, MS 2, and Harris Choudhry, MS 1,
with Albert Bamberger. Hurt was also the winner of the 2009 Class of
1991 Scholarship.
'08 Missouri State Medical Association Student Scholarships: Dr. Frederick W. Hahn, Jr., past president, MSMA; Richard Butin, M.D., Gold 2 docent; Mohammed Paracha, MS 5; Joshua Vaughn, MS 5; Sunpreet Rakhra, MS 5; Fred DeFeo, M.D., former Gold 1 docent. Not pictured: Kaillin Hoover, MS 5.

Research Medical Center
Dr. Michael Richardson
Mr. Kevin & Mrs. Mona Robinson
Dr. Gene & Mrs. Aurora Roxas
Dr. Jennifer Rupert
Dr. Alan R. Schaeffer
Dr. Gregory & Mrs. Denise Schnell
Dr. Rosemary Schrepfer
Dr. Oscar & Mrs. Jean Schwartz
Dr. Wendell & Dr. Jamie Scott
Dr. Assad U. Shaffiey
Mr. Rupesh & Mrs. Nita Shah
Vijay Sharma
Dr. Carla A. Shaw-Grider
Dr. Mark & Mrs. Cheryl Shay
Dr. Vincent S. Shen
Anuradha Singh
Mr. David & Dr. Rebecca Siscel
Mr. J. Roy & Mrs. Joyce Sone
Mr. Douglas & Mrs. Joann Spencer
Dr. Sherri M. Sprehe
Dr. Ronald W. Stahl-Dip
Dr. W. Jack & Mrs. Patricia Stelmach
Dr. Tracy L. Stevens
Mr. Dennis & Mrs. Joan Sullivan
Mr. Kirit & Mrs. Reetha Sutaria
Mr. Sam & Mrs. Cheryl Swartz
Dr. Charles & Dr. Debra Tegeler
Dr. Gilberto Tena-Alarez
Mr. Seth & Mrs. Ann Tilzer
Dr. Laurie A. Truog
Mr. Mohammed & Mrs. Farkhnda Vakassi
Dr. Steven M. Watson
Ms. Margaret Weimer
Mr. David & Mrs. Lori Werth
Ms. Katie L. Westerfield
Dr. David Wild
Mr. Donald B. Williams
Dr. Brian F. Wilson
Mr. Cleveland Woodson
Dr. Douglas & Mrs. Delores Zweig

'08 Grace Hoelzel Albano, M.D., Scholarship: Sarah Smith, MS 2, and Grace Hoelzel Albano, M.D., '90. Smith also received the School of Medicine General Scholarship.
In Memoriam

Frederick G. DeFeo, M.D.

University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine students and faculty remember Frederick G. DeFeo, who spent nearly 27 years as a member of the SOM faculty, as a loving, caring physician who built strong relationships and made the welfare of his patients and students a priority. DeFeo died at his home on Sept. 29, 2009, at age 63.

Joy Wen, MS 6, a member of DeFeo’s Gold 1 docent unit, said DeFeo was never too busy to spend time with someone who had a special concern. “Dr. DeFeo was a warm, loving person who really cared about his patients,” Wen said. “He never turned them away and took the time to comfort them and refer them to specialists. He had great relationships with his patients.”

DeFeo graduated from the University of Kansas School of Medicine in 1978. He completed his residency in internal medicine at Truman Medical Center and joined the UMKC School of Medicine faculty as an assistant professor and docent in 1982 and had served as a senior docent on the Gold unit from October of 2000 until his death. He served as section chief in general internal medicine from 1984 to 1997 and was interim section chief from 2004 to 2005. Eighty students graduated from his docent units during DeFeo’s tenure as a docent and faculty member, and his mentoring touched many more students.

DeFeo was the SOM’s longest serving continuous docent. George Reisz, M.D., chairman of the Department of Medicine, said DeFeo was a strong advocate for patients, students, and residents. “He was known by everyone in the Department of Medicine family, our students, residents, and the faculty, for being a great friend and a great mentor,” Reisz said. “He was always someone you could go talk to about anything, and he had good advice about any situation.”

DeFeo was recognized in the SOM medical humanities publication “Healing Praises, Accolades for Virtuous Doctoring” in 2008 for his humanistic approach with patients. His nomination under the heading, Doctors Who Care, read:

“During rounds, we arrived at the room of a patient with a cocaine addiction, and Dr. Fred DeFeo was especially polite to this patient. When asked why, he said, ‘Why shouldn’t I be polite to my patients? I may talk about this (cocaine addiction) in the conference room, but when I enter the patient’s room, I leave my opinions outside the door, I don’t bring in anything that might interfere with my patient’s care.’ ”

Carol Stanford, M.D., associate professor of medicine and Gold 5 docent, and DeFeo did their internal medicine residency in the same class and served together for years as docents at the School of Medicine.

“Fred was larger than life. He totally dedicated his career to this institution,” Stanford said. “He loved teaching. He was part of the built-in structure of this foundation. I think we all thought he’d always be here.”

DeFeo received the 2009 American College of Physicians, Missouri Chapter, Internist of the Year Award, one of the organization’s top honors. He was inaugurated as president of the Missouri State Medical Association during a ceremony in downtown Kansas City on April 5, 2003, and served a one-year term, after which he continued to remain active in the MSMA. He also served as president of the Metropolitan Medical Society of Greater Kansas City, was a member of the Board of Directors of University Physicians Associates, and served on numerous other professional, University, and hospital committees.

DeFeo was a part the School of Medicine for three of the School’s four decades of existence as a resident and a teaching physician. “He helped the School grow and mature and has touched the lives of hundreds of students, residents, faculty and staff, as well as thousands of patients,” School of Medicine Dean Betty Drees, M.D., said. “He was an exemplary teaching physician in his commitment to medical education and social justice.”
Janelle O’Dell has joined the UMKC School of Medicine as the alumni and constituent relations officer. She brings a career in higher education and advancement work to the School. As the former vice president for advancement and alumni relations at the Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine, she managed $18 million in gifts during her tenure. O’Dell also served as assistant director of development for Central Missouri State University after she was foundation director for both Northern Arizona University and Central Arizona College.

Prior to her advancement career, she was chief operating officer for Arizona’s multi-sector telecommunications cooperative in Phoenix and consultant to the Office of Chief of Staff, Army at the Pentagon. O’Dell holds both a bachelor’s and master’s of business administration from San Diego State University.

“The School of Medicine is unique in its commitment to underserved populations by educating world-class physicians,” O’Dell said. “I was drawn to the School to be a part of that mission as a reflection of my own values to work in the service of others.”

In her new role, O’Dell will collaborate with alumni and constituency groups, such as friends, parents and community partners.

“My goal is to elevate the connectivity among those stakeholders who support our students and the School,” O’Dell said. “With the 40th anniversary of the founding of the School in 2011, it’s a great time to be here!”

CIO magazine features Shroff’s smartphone project

Physicians have 90 minutes after patients suffer from a certain type of heart attack to intervene for best outcomes, said Divya Shroff, M.D., ’00, chief of informatics at the Washington, D.C., Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center. To help with efficiency in treatment, Shroff led planning for the VA Electrocardiogram (EKG) Smartphone Project at the Washington, D.C., VA Medical Center. The project was featured in the Nov. 1, 2009, issue of CIO magazine, which serves chief information officers and other IT leaders around the globe.

With the initiation of this project, smartphones can be used to assist physicians in treating patients. At the VA Medical Center, 11 cardiologists have been using a custom BlackBerry application since January 2009 to diagnose heart attacks and more quickly communicate treatment instructions to medical staff.

This technological advance not only helps physicians but also decreases morbidity and mortality for patients. Shroff said a cardiologist recently told her this program enabled him to turn around and go back to the hospital after receiving information on his smartphone. By the time he returned to the hospital, he was prepared to see the patient in the catheterization lab with his support staff ready.

Shroff said one of the next steps of the VA EKG Smartphone Project is to integrate features from CPRS (the VA’s electronic medical record system), such as showing pertinent lab data for the EKG project and to see if the cardiologists want to start separately viewing echocardiogram images. “We are continuing to look into different mobile features to help empower our physicians,” Shroff said.

She said her training at UMKC School of Medicine prepared her to think innovatively.

“I think the beauty of UMKC is that we’ve all gone on to push the boundaries of health care through different avenues,” Shroff said. “We had such a great patient care foundation that we were, and are, able to think about the next steps in health care and ask more relevant questions.”
Alumna cares for patients around globe

It all began with support from E. Grey Dimond, M.D., when Cindy Chu, M.D., '96, decided to go to China as a student at the UMKC School of Medicine. “It was such a positive influence in my life,” Chu said. “I learned so much, and that’s what started my interest in international health.”

Thirteen years after graduation, she is living and working in Southeast Asia as a result of this encouragement. Chu has lived in Thailand for about a year, working at Shoklo Malaria Research Unit (SMRU), and plans to stay there until the research ends. Living among the less fortunate and those who are ill has allowed Chu to see long-term effects of foreign care.

“I think what I’ve learned the most is that sometimes when we volunteer, we can actually cause harm if we are not careful,” Chu said. “For example, short term visiting surgical teams may bring their own teams and equipment, not using local resources. They may not teach the local surgeons how to do the operations under local conditions or manage the specifics of follow up care. After they leave, the local physician is expected to follow up on the patients. If a child has a complication, they may not be trained how to react utilizing local medical resources.”

From her perspective, Chu has advice for those participating in foreign medical missions.

“We should bring medical expertise and funding to increase teaching and expand existing resources according to the country’s needs,” Chu said. “When you’re here to stay, you see some of the aftereffects. What seems to be important is improving the human resource capacity. We need to use their staff and do things their way, not our way, to be able to have a lasting effect.”

Before heading to Thailand, Chu worked in the United States for six years – in practices in St. Louis and New York – and then lived in Laos for two years. She was the field coordinator for the first pediatric and internal medicine residency programs in the country, started by Health Frontiers – the organization for which Chu volunteered.

Chu completed her medicine/pediatrics residency at Case Western Reserve University where she was part of the school’s international health program. In 1999, she spent five weeks with the International Medical Corp in Albania working with refugees during the Kosovo conflict. She participated in tertiary care referral for patients whose care was interrupted by the war and who were used to a fairly high standard of health care. The peace treaty was signed during her time there. She then worked on medical evacuation for those too ill to travel by road.

Cindy Chu, M.D., ’96, (right) sees a clinic patient — a migrant farmer — with a medic in Thailand. Medics working at Shoklo Malaria Research Unit (SMRU) are mid-level health care workers who do most of the patient care. The migrant farmers make less than one dollar a day and come to Thailand because there is not enough work available in Burma. The increase in food prices last year, migration increased.

“That was a life-altering experience,” Chu said. “It was an intense and emotional experience. I had to face a lot of difficult issues that I could not fix.”

Though Chu has valuable advice and has had the opportunity to share her expertise around the globe, she said her greatest successes are yet to come.

“My biggest achievement so far is getting here and staying here,” Chu said. “I think it is just the beginning. I’m looking forward to the future and seeing what I can accomplish.”
Pediatric gastroenterologist wins Autism Society of America’s 2009 Professional of the Year award

Timothy Buie, M.D., ’84 – pediatrics instructor at Harvard School of Medicine and assistant clinical professor in pediatrics at Tufts University School of Medicine – is a pediatric gastroenterologist at the Massachusetts General Hospital for Children (MGHfC) who has dedicated his work to children with autism. Buie, whose practice has evolved to include a teaching and clinical research component, lectures about the importance of communication and behavioral markers for medical issues around the world. He created an educational program and teaching curricula, which are presented internationally, that serve as tools for families of autistic children. Media outlets, such as the Wall Street Journal and MSNBC, seek his expert advice.

The Autism Society of America (ASA) recognized Buie’s caring, positive and dedicated approach to children with autism with the 2009 Professional of the Year award, which goes to someone who has made an exceptional commitment to the autism community. Buie has cared for children with autism since the early 1990s and was the first gastroenterologist in the country to join LADDERS (Learning And Developmental Disabilities Evaluation and Rehabilitation Services), MGHfC’s team of multi-specialty physicians who provide care and evaluation to children with various developmental problems. Buie is also a founding member of the Autism Treatment Network, an organization establishing a collaboration of major autism research programs to standardize the evaluation and medical care of children with autism spectrum disorders. It includes 15 academic programs and is funded by Autism Speaks.

After training at Yale, Buie headed to Boston in 1990. It was then that a nurse called from a home for adults with autism. “Why are you calling a pediatric gastroenterologist for this?” Buie asked her. She informed him that no one would treat this patient because he could not speak, and since Buie worked with young children who could not talk, he must be perfect for the job. Infuriated by the lack of compassion for this autistic patient, Buie found his calling.

This first autistic patient of his had a treatable gastroenterological problem that was being written off as autistic behavior. After his successful treatment of this man, word spread to the autistic community that there was a pediatrician sympathetic and willing to treat children on the spectrum.

At the age of 33, Buie saw an autistic patient his own age. She had been refusing to eat for six months, and her mother wanted Buie to provide a feeding tube. She said her daughter had been spitting up since she was a young girl, but she figured it must have been normal since she was autistic. Buie discovered this young woman had esophageal cancer.

“This case affected me personally,” Buie said. “I told my wife that night I needed to focus on the kids with autism who might be treatable. People need to understand these kids are acting like this for a reason. We need to get the community of autism caregivers to separate behavior from the diagnosis.”

People have been listening. Buie is a featured speaker on the subject around the world, and patients worldwide seek his care. With autism occurring in one of 150 children and increasing, Buie suggests people concentrate on how to handle the condition instead of focusing on the cause of it. He has participated in research on the cause of the condition but as of yet, there are no answers.

“So many medical diagnoses are based on how a patient describes how they feel. Kids with autism can’t answer these questions. You have to get past the idea of wanting to hear words. Watch them, and be open.”

– Timothy Buie, M.D., ’84

Photos courtesy of Massachusetts General Hospital for Children
The ASA’s recognition of his work is an enormous honor. Buie said accepting the award was an emotional experience because he loves his work and seeing the differences in the children over time and the gratitude of their parents. In his acceptance speech, he told a story that illustrates the impact of his job. “When I was a fellow training in GI at Yale, a child came in from California who had severe developmental challenges,” Buie said. “Donald Trump flew the boy to Boston to see a variety of experts, and we were one of the stops. I discovered he had serious constipation. When I talked to his mother about a month later, she said, ‘We didn’t learn much during our stay, but when we started treating his constipation, his quality of life got a lot better.’ I carry that mindset with me in everything I do.”

In his work with developmentally challenged children, Buie said there is an important skill he carries with him from his days at the UMKC School of Medicine: humanism. This attitude was apparent during his days as a student at the School.

“The humanistic idea of what we’re here for guides you to very good care, regardless of your field,” Buie said. “Dr. Marjorie Sirridge was my docent. She required that you be precise and be careful about the way you say things. She, and so many of the docs there, really imparted that mission.”

“I had a four-year-old girl come in to my office, grab an ice cube out of the freezer and hold an ice cube to her chest. What was wrong with her do you think? Heartburn. This is how they communicate. We need to be there to listen.” – Buie

Twenty-five children come in to Children’s Mercy Hospital each month for new autism evaluations, and 50 percent of them receive an autism diagnosis, according to Michele Kilo, M.D., ’84, developmental pediatrician and chief of the Section of Developmental and Behavioral Sciences at Children’s Mercy Hospital (CMH).

Physicians like Kilo and Timothy Buie, M.D., ’84, strive every day to improve the quality of life for those with Autism Spectrum Disorders. A UMKC School of Medicine classmate and close friend of Buie’s, Kilo said she respects him both as a physician and a person.

“What’s so great about Tim is that he’s such a real human being, and that’s why his patients and their families love him so much,” Kilo said. “This field is such a great match for him. He’s a great guy who happens to have a great brain.”

Kilo said her department at CMH is working with the GI Section at Children’s Mercy on how to work with children with autism. Part of this initiative will include Buie presenting Grand Rounds in January 2010. “GI affects them on a behavioral level, making their autism worse,” Kilo said. “It is hard for autistic kids to communicate when they are experiencing GI pains.”

Like every other disease, autism has a trigger, Kilo said. “We know autism is a genetic disorder,” she said. “We’re still trying to figure out how everything fits together.”

Kilo is a member of the Missouri Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders, The Missouri Autism Guidelines Initiative (MAGI) and its leadership – the Project Initiative Team. The Missouri Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders meets quarterly, and Kilo is a member of its health care committee, which is working to standardize the practices of diagnosis and evaluation of autism.

The leadership of the MAGI is writing a manual, to be published in January, called Best Practice Guidelines for Autism Screening, Diagnosis & Intervention for Assessment. It will also explain the expectations of practitioners. This will make Missouri only the second state to have a written document to guide this kind of care.

CMH is moving forward with genetic research. Kilo’s group is partnering with Zohreh Talebizadeh, Ph.D., to form a database with all children diagnosed with autism to help categorize diagnosis within the spectrum. On the clinical side, Kilo and her team provide access to patient info and use the best standard clinical evaluations.

“In all of the children I have seen, I have never seen them be cured,” Kilo said. “With appropriate therapies, they have made great progress, but they always need to continue the therapy.”
Nicholas Comninellis, M.D., ’82, assistant clinical professor of community and family medicine, has a passion for providing medical service to those around the world who can least afford it. He spent a year in China serving inner city citizens at the Shanghai Charity Hospital. During a two-year period, he initiated a health ministry in the war-torn city of Huambo, Angola, in southern Africa. He has served on medical assignments throughout Central America, Africa, and Asia in areas including Honduras, Haiti, Zimbabwe, Burkina Faso, Niger, and Kuning.

In 2003, Comninellis began the Institute for International Medicine (InMed), an organization devoted to the educational aspects of international medicine. He currently serves as president of InMed. Kansas City Mayor Mark Funkhouser honored Comninellis for his humanitarian efforts by presenting him with the Kansas City World Citizen of the Year award for 2009 at the Mayor’s United Nations Day Dinner on Oct. 29, 2009, in the University of Missouri-Kansas City Pierson Auditorium at the University Center. The award recognizes outstanding contributions to the world community on the part of individual citizens from the greater Kansas City area. It is presented each year at the Mayor’s United Nation’s Day Dinner.

Radhika Coomaraswamy, who currently serves as U.N. Under Secretary-General and special representative for Children and Armed Conflict, delivered the keynote speech at this year’s dinner event, addressing child welfare advocates and the Kansas City community on the responsibilities of protecting children who are caught in armed conflicts around the world. She is the second highest-ranking U.N. official to visit Kansas City.
Ann Karty, M.D., F.A.A.F.P., ’94, is the new medical director for the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) Division of Continuing Medical Education (CME). Karty will help lead efforts to represent the organization in its relationships with other accrediting and educational organizations. Karty has been an active AAFP member since 1989 and brings valuable CME experience to the group.

Prior to her new role at the AAFP, Karty was an associate professor at Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences in the Department of Family Medicine. She was also a member of the Education Commission for the Missouri Academy of Family Physicians, planning CME conferences. Karty attended Harvard in the Harvard Macy Institute Program for Educators in the Health Professions with a small group-learning project she designed. In addition to the coursework, she presented an abstract and poster at Harvard.

“I’ve always been involved in seeing patients, teaching, and research. Then, I had graduate medical education and residency directing experience,” Karty said. “It was time for me to shift again. The position at the AAFP is a great opportunity and at a perfect time.”

Karty also continues to see patients once a week and said, “I don’t want to give up seeing patients. I love family medicine; I just do it differently now.”

The mother of three is a dedicated volunteer for Hadassah, the Women’s Zionist Organization of America. She served on the Hadassah Physicians’ Council as a member of the steering group subcommittee, which coordinated the first Hadassah-sponsored, accredited CME meeting in Israel presented by Israeli physicians. After an exceptional two-year job planning for the first conference (and moderating sessions in Israel) in 2008, she volunteered to co-chair the next international meeting scheduled for March 2010.

A St. Louis native, Karty joined the UMKC School of Medicine’s six-year program at the age of 16. While a student, she was active with the family medicine interest group and lived near the national headquarters of the AAFP and the state headquarters of the Missouri Academy of Family Physicians.

Karty said the opportunity to experience UMKC’s hands-on and team-oriented education at such a young age was influential. “When you’re young, you are influenced by the way you are educated and how you can teach other people,” she said. “That is where the teaching aspect was ingrained in me.”

The Texas Academy of Family Physicians (TAFP) Foundation named Linda Siy, M.D., ’90, Philanthropist of the Year at its 60th Annual Session and Scientific Assembly July 25, 2009, in Arlington, Texas.

This award goes to a physician whose contributions have made a significant impact in fulfillment of the TAFP Foundation mission: to support family medicine research and future family physicians.

A clinical assistant professor at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center and a clinical associate professor at the University of North Texas Health Sciences Center Department of Family and Community Medicine, Siy practices family medicine at the JPS Health Center - Northeast. Siy is a longtime member of the TAFP Foundation Board of Trustees and donor to the TAFP Foundation. She is also starting a Family Medicine Research Fund, which will support the Foundation’s research grants.

Siy serves as Texas’s alternate delegate to the American Academy of Family Physicians Congress of Delegates and is 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.

Over the last decade, Siy has served as TAFP president, vice-president, treasurer and parliamentarian. She has also been on the executive committee and TAFP Board of Directors.

“I am proud to be a supporter of the Foundation and the work they do to encourage student interest in primary care, support family medicine residents, and encourage more practice-based, primary care-focused research,” Siy said. “I’m excited to see how our Foundation has grown over the past decade. We are always looking for ways to broaden our support base and strengthen our Foundation in order to further our goals.”

The TAFP Foundation supports medical students, residents in family medicine and family medicine practice-based research activities.

“I believe supporting our Foundation is supporting our specialty’s future,” Siy said.
Michael S. Ausmus, M.D., ’83, has dedicated his medical career to Missouri, his home state. The son of a teacher and a beautician, Ausmus grew up in Cameron, Mo., watching his three physician neighbors. He is in his fifth year of family medicine with the St. Luke’s medical group in Lee’s Summit, Mo. Ausmus received his undergraduate degree in pre-medicine from William Jewell College in Kansas City, Mo., before joining the UMKC School of Medicine’s M.D.-only program. There were four students in his M.D.-only class.

“I felt well-accepted among those in the six-year program,” Ausmus said.

Ausmus said he is thankful for the exposure to clinic, which was a selling point for him on the School of Medicine. “I liked the clinical curriculum at UMKC right from the start,” he said. “There was more experience there than any other program. I thought we were the best prepared in residency, and the skills have stood the test of time.”

Ausmus utilized his SOM skills from his residency at the Goppert Family Care Center to his five years spent teaching, private practice, 16 years of ob/gyn work, and now in practicing family medicine.

“I tell people the diversity in family medicine never gets old,” Ausmus said. “You don’t see the same thing every day. Also, the relationships you establish with families are significant.”

The father of three, who enjoys shooting sporting clays, playing golf and fishing in his spare time, has a son in his fourth year at the University of Missouri-Columbia School of Medicine, a daughter in her second year at the UMKC School of Pharmacy, and another daughter in her senior year of high school.

Marilyn McGuyre and Frances Nelson’s Retirement Party!

Please join the UMKC School of Medicine and the UMKC School of Medicine’s Alumni Association to celebrate the service of these two women.

Open house, 6-10 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2010
The Sweet Guy
7439 Broadway St.
KCMO
(816) 361-9500 • thesweatguy.com

Please share your news with us! Contact the Panorama editor, Hannah Crippen, at crippenh@umkc.edu or (816) 235-1706.

Take Wing Awards

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 2010 awards is February 3.
- Log on to www.med.umkc.edu/alumni for a description of the awards and nomination instructions.

Michael Munger, M.D., ’83, a family medicine physician at Saint Luke’s South Primary Care, was named the 62nd president of the Kansas Academy of Family Physicians (KAFP) in June. The KAFP is the largest medical specialty society in the state, with a total of 1,530 members. Its mission is to promote access to and excellence in health care for all Kansans through education and advocacy for family physicians and their patients. KAFP is affiliated with the American Academy of Family Physicians.


Dana Thompson, M.D., ’91, a pediatric otolaryngologist at Mayo Clinic, was featured on ABC News Nightline in September 2009 to discuss Mayo Clinic’s health care model.
The holiday season naturally conjures up memories of good times spent with family and friends over the years and should inspire the giving nature in all of us. I recently had the pleasure of attending the Scholarship Awards Reception where many of our top students received scholarships that were, in part, funded through the Alumni Association Scholarship Fund. It was touching to hear their stories and to see the smiles on their faces and the pride in their parents’ eyes. Each award, be it large or small, clearly made an impact on those students, and the alumni who support student scholarships should be proud.

I’m sure many of you have fond memories of Dr. Fred DeFéo, who will be greatly missed. He was a docent and mentor to countless graduates during his more than 20 years of service to the School and shared his kind, caring nature with each person with whom he connected. His legacy will be honored by donations to the UMKC School of Medicine Scholarship Fund, as requested by his family.

Two other icons who have dedicated their lives to the medical school are Marilyn McGuyre and Frances Nelson. As they retire, the Alumni Association plans to honor them with an open house reception on Jan. 19, 2010. There isn’t a single student or alumnus who hasn’t been supported by Marilyn and Frances, and we want to celebrate and honor their work. Marilyn will continue to touch future students with her well-established scholarship fund, and I encourage you all to consider donating as a way of thanking her.

This holiday season, more than ever, provides all of us associated with the School of Medicine with a reason to give, whether we’re honoring the life of a docent, celebrating the years of dedication to the School by a great woman, or just giving out of the goodness of our hearts to help a student in need. Please consider making a difference in the life of a future alumnus of the UMKC School of Medicine.

For alumni information, to provide feedback, or to share ideas for ways alumni can be more effective, you can visit www.umkcalumni.com, email alumni@umkc.edu or jebrown1@cmh.edu, or call the office at (816) 235-1563.

Wishing all of you a happy holiday season,

Julie Brown, M.D., ’00
President, UMKC School of Medicine Alumni Association
UMKC School of Medicine

2010 Events

January 20, 5 p.m.
Annual Faculty Dinner
Hyatt Regency Hotel
Reception: 5-6 p.m.
Dinner: 6 p.m.

February 3
Deadline: nominations for Take Wing Award & all 2009 distinguished alumni awards

(TBD)
Shannon Lectureship
Theatre A

February 27, 7-10 p.m.
Jazz Night
Hallbrook Country Club

March 13, 5 p.m.
Annual Gold Humanism Honor Society induction
Ceremony & reception
Diastole House

March 18, 11 a.m.
Match Day

April 1
Deadline: abstracts for Student Research Day
Submit to Dr. Molteni

April 9, 8 a.m.
Student Research Day
Theatre C

April 24, 9 a.m.- 2 p.m.
UMKC Health Sciences Wellness Fair
Health Sciences Building

May 6, 5:30 p.m.
AOA annual induction dinner
Diastole House

May 7, noon
AOA Noon Conference with Jeff Wiese, M.D.
Theatre A

May 28, 4 p.m.
School of Medicine graduation at the Music Hall

May 29, brunch
Take Wing Award Ceremony

For special event information, please contact Ruth Grimsley at (816) 235-5281.

School of Medicine students created their own costumes for a musical skit they wrote and performed as part of Project R.E.C.E.S.S. on Oct. 31, 2009, at Kansas City’s Longfellow Elementary School. Performing in the top photo with Longfellow students are (left to right) Noor Abu Alnadi, MS 3, Salik Choudhary, MS 3, and Jawaad Hasan, MS 3. Performing for the students in the bottom photo are (left to right) Kush Tripathi, MS 3, Aditi Jani, MS 3, Choudhary, Alnadi, and Hasan. See story on Page 13.