

Panorama

Adventures in Global Health

Students share their
international experiences



 *Kansas City,
Missouri*



Also in this issue:
Health 4 Kids
Alumni Checkup
Beauty for a cause

From the dean

Two of the major purposes of the School of Medicine are to train tomorrow's doctors and to better our community, at home and abroad.

More often than not, these objectives come together and allow us to provide our students with expert skills and knowledge, while providing a service to the public.

In this issue we showcase some of our students and faculty who are helping abroad, by including some of their stories and photos from trips to places all over the globe.

We also focus on students like Melody Burns and Bereket Haileselesie who are finding time to learn and to give back.

Melody is a beauty pageant contestant and medical student who uses her positions to educate about diabetes and HIV. Bereket joins with other students from our school to volunteer with the John Locke Society's Health 4 Kids program, which teaches school children about good health.

In this issue we also take a close look at the new Master of Science in anesthesiology degree now being offered at our school. Some of our academic programs have recently been updated, and we cover these changes.

We also highlight four of our faculty who are making a major difference in their students' lives and education.

Also in this issue, for the first time, we unveil a new section dedicated to our alumni.



In one feature, we spend a few minutes with four alumni, each representing a different decade in our school's history, and figure out what they've been up to since they graduated. We cover Brad Warner, our Take Wing Award winner, and Wendell Clarkston, our Alumni Achievement Award winner.

Whether it's focusing on students past or present, or on the programs and people educating our students, this issue gives you a great understanding of how we're training physicians, and improving our communities.

Betty M. Drees, M.D., F.A.C.P.
dean and professor of medicine

Panorama

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Corrections: The article "Into the void" from last issue contained the following errors:
PRIMO stands for the Primary Care Resource Initiative of Missouri, not the Primary Care Resource Initiative Program.
Family medicine is also one of the areas in which PRIMO students can specialize.
Oversight for PRIMO rests with the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, not local agencies such as the West Central Missouri Area Health Education Center.
While PRIMO students agree to practice in underserved areas for as many years as they receive funds, there is a five-year maximum, so students are not asked to serve more than five years, even if they received funding for their education for greater than five years.
PRIMO encourages students to practice in all underserved parts of Missouri, including rural and urban areas.

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Student volunteers for the Health 4 Kids program (left to right): Stephen Hiatt, Bereket Haileselesie, Stephen Reintjes, Mark Winston and Paul Tran.



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ROUNDS



Grace Lim, Heather Cha and Fannie Lau celebrate successful matches.

The results are in: Students learn their fate at Match Day 2008

The shouts and smiles that filled the room told the story of March 20, or Match Day 2008.

"It's a great relief," Neil Gheewala says, after reading the news that he would be heading for Boston to do an internal medicine residency at Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital.

"That was my first choice so I really happy with the way it worked out. It was a little hard to fall asleep last night. I stayed up thinking about it."

Altogether, 86 students from the School of Medicine received a first-year residency position. Ten received second-year residency appointments after they complete a preliminary year.

"I want to congratulate all of our senior students," Betty Drees, M.D., School of Medicine dean, says. "This is an excellent match list."

Twenty-four percent matched in internal medicine, followed by pediatrics with 13 percent and family medicine with eight percent of students matching.

Thirty-seven students will be completing residencies in Missouri, with 20 matches being in the Kansas City area, including 19 at the School of Medicine. Ohio had the second-largest number of matches with eight and Illinois came in third with six.

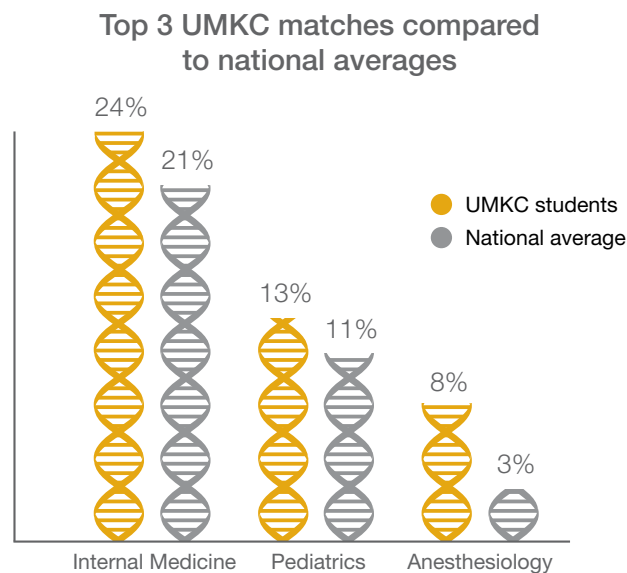
UMKC's numbers in internal medicine and pediatrics followed the national trend, which showed 21 percent and 11 percent matching in these areas, respectively. Twelve percent of seniors across the country matched in family medicine.

Eight percent of UMKC students matched in anesthesiology, compared with three percent of matches nationally.

The numbers prove there's a growing need for anesthesiologists. Since 2004, the number of anesthesiology residencies offered grew by .9 percent, or 223 positions. Read on page 23 what the School of Medicine is doing to ease the anesthesiology shortage.

For more information on this year's National Match, log onto www.nrmp.org.

—Nicholas Barron and Kelly Edwards



Funds granted to finish building on Hospital Hill



Missouri Lt. Gov. Peter Kinder signs legislation that will pay for the completion of the HSB.

Missouri Lt. Gov. Peter Kinder, acting in Gov. Matt Blunt's absence, signed legislation that will fund the completion of UMKC's Health Sciences Building (HSB).

The facility, located on Hospital Hill, opened in fall 2007, even as parts of the

building remained unfinished. The HSB is home to the Schools of Pharmacy and Nursing.

With passage of this year's legislation, the unfinished portion of the HSB should be completed by fall 2009. A completed HSB will enable UMKC to alleviate workforce shortages through increased capacity both for health care professionals and research scientists.

The pharmacy school is expected to increase its enrollment of 345 students by more than 100 students, while the nursing school's annual enrollment should nearly double to 600 students.

The HSB will also provide needed lab space, allowing the pharmacy school to rank in the top pharmacy schools nationwide in federal funds, and will triple the amount of extramural research annually secured by the nursing school.

New System president visits Hospital Hill



UM System President, Gary Forsee

Former Sprint Nextel CEO and University of Missouri-Rolla graduate Gary Forsee became University of Missouri System President on Feb. 18.

Forsee replaces interim president Gordon Lamb, who filled in after former president Elson Floyd departed for Washington State University last year. Lamb is now serving as executive vice president of the System.

Forsee hopes to increase the partnership between organizations such as the Stowers Institute for Medical Research and the University in order to increase innovation and research at UMKC, and the rest of the System.

Forsee visited UMKC's Hospital Hill and Volker campuses in February.

Hackett becomes UMKC provost



Gail Hackett

Gail Hackett, Ph.D., has been chosen as Provost and Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs at UMKC. She began serving

in this capacity on Feb. 15.

Hackett's appointment allowed Dean Betty Drees, M.D., to return full time to her duties at the School of Medicine. Drees served as interim provost for the University since May 2007.

Previously Hackett was University Vice Provost and Dean of University College, Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost of the University at Arizona State University (ASU).

As part of her duties, Hackett oversaw units located on all four ASU campuses. Her research and teaching focus is centered on social cognitive theory, academic achievement, vocational development and gender and ethnicity in counseling.

Hackett is a graduate of The Pennsylvania State University, where she earned her Ph.D., Master of Education and bachelor's in psychology.



It was the best of times and the worst of times for bowlers at this year's tournament.

Bowling for McGuyre Scholarship

Despite his inexperience, Bob Yang, M.D., assistant dean for evaluation, did pretty well as a waiter at the Marilyn McGuyre Annual Tournament, where participants bowled the night away.

The highlight of Yang's service as a waiter for hire at the event was earning a \$50 tip.

"Faculty, staff and students alike were quite supportive of my effort," Yang says. "They tipped me rather generously."

All of Yang's tips, as well as other proceeds from the tournament, benefit the Marilyn McGuyre Student Scholarship Fund. The event was held in April at Park Lane Recreation Center in Shawnee, Kansas.

Eighty-five students, faculty, alumni and staff participated,

creating teams that bowled in honor of McGuyre, who continues to connect students with their residencies.

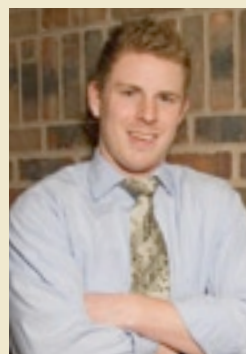
"Marilyn has assisted every medical student in the history of the school," Mary McCamy, the school's alumni director, says.

This year's tournament marked a decade since the Medical School Alumni Association established the scholarship and the annual event that funds it.

With \$620, Gary Salzman's, M.D., Green-6 Docent Unit raised the most money, followed by George Reisz's, M.D., Red-8 unit at \$240. Salzman, McGuyre and David Wooldridge, M.D. '94, each donated \$400 to sponsor bowling lanes.



Eighty-five people participated in the tournament.



George Lewitt

Alumni couple creates scholarship for fifth years

George Lewitt has been named the first recipient of the Drs. Dee Anna and David Glaser Scholarship. The scholarship is awarded to a fifth-year student based on academic achievement.

"I am grateful, and humbled, to be the initial recipient of this award," says Lewitt of the Green-5 Docent Unit. "I look forward to one day being able to give back in a similar fashion because I know first-hand what a difference a gift can make."

In 2007, Dee Anna Glaser, M.D. '87, was named the recipient of the E. Grey Dimond, M.D., Take Wing Award. To commemorate this distinction, Dee Anna and her husband, David, M.D. '87, established an endowed scholarship at the School of Medicine.

Wang awarded \$1.6 million for research



John Wang

John Wang, M.D., Ph.D., the School of Medicine's Westport Anesthesia/Missouri Endowed Chair of Basic Medical Science, has received a \$1.6 million grant from the National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA) to continue his lab's investigation of brain mechanisms involved in drug abuse and addiction.

Addiction to substances such as cocaine, heroin and nicotine represents a major medical and social problem across the globe.

Basic neuroscience research that uncovers brain mechanisms for addiction is the first step toward the development of effective pharmacotherapy for these types of neurological disorders, Wang said.

"We hope that our research results will help us to better understand the basic causes of addiction and will pave the way for developing more tools for prevention and treatment," Wang says.

"Dr. Wang's research is a perfect example of translational research, that is basic laboratory research that can be applied to human conditions," says Betty Drees, M.D., F.A.C.P., and Dean, UMKC School of Medicine.

Wang's lab is part of the departments of Anesthesiology and Basic Medical Sciences. The research has been supported by NIDA, a unit of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, throughout the last decade.

Health sciences crowd turns out for Roo basketball game



Andrew Moore, M.D. '07, sings the national anthem.

About 272 UMKC health science staff, faculty and students enjoyed a UMKC men's basketball game in February at Kemper Arena in Kansas City for UMKC Health Sciences Night.

UMKC assistant professor and student affairs associate dean Brenda Rogers, M.D., '90, took part in the game's opening ceremony. School of Medicine alumnus Andrew Moore, M.D. '07, belted "The Star Spangled Banner" before tip-off and David Munro, psychiatry chair Stuart Munro's, M.D., son, represented the school in the halftime free-throw contest.

In the game, the Roos defeated South Dakota State 78-73.

Rathje appointed to raise money, build relationships



Lonelle Rathje

Lonelle Rathje has been named director of development for the School of Medicine.

Rathje is responsible for enhancing

partnerships between the school and its constituents, as well as overseeing major and planned gifts.

"I'm excited to be at the University," Rathje says. "We have impressive strengths that we can celebrate as we work to create meaningful partnerships to influence the students and professions."

A Nebraska native, Rathje received a master's degree in English and her bachelor's degree in journalism from Northwest Missouri State University. She is currently completing her doctorate in educational leadership and policy analysis at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Rathje most recently served as director of development and marketing for the College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture at The University of Arizona in Tucson.

Rathje may be contacted at rathjel@umkc.edu or 816-235-5283.



Student volunteers assess kids' musculoskeletal development by playing a game of Simon Says.



Five stations were set up at the event, including an abdominal exam.

PITCHING IN

Students hit a 'Homerun for Health' at spring Community Service Day

Eighty-four School of Medicine students pitched in to provide free sports physicals at the spring Community Service Day.

With the day's theme being "Homerun for Health," the students provided about 300 Kansas City-area children with the free exams. The children are part of the

Year 2, says. "To put our knowledge and expertise to work to make a difference is really what being a doctor is all about."

The Medical Student Advisory Council, MSAC, sponsored the event.

To provide the physicals, five stations were set up at Friendship Baptist Church

A resident or attending physician also checked each child.

Students started setting up at 7:15 a.m., began giving exams at 10 a.m. and had finished the last physical by 2 p.m.

"Getting the opportunity to talk to these young baseball players and really make a difference in their lives is something we all cherish," Neha Dhingra, Year 3, says.

Dhingra says the MSAC is always looking for more volunteers, especially physicians in the Kansas City area.

Community Service Day is a biannual event, taking place in the fall and spring. "Homerun for Health" has been the spring Community Service Day theme for three years.

—Nicholas Barron

“To put our knowledge and expertise to work to make a difference is really what being a doctor is all about.”

—Kathleen Doo, Year 2

Boys and Girls Club of Greater Kansas City's RBI (Reviving Baseball in Inner Cities) program.

"It was great being able to help the kids in the local community," Kathleen Doo,

in Kansas City. The stations checked the kids' vital signs, provided a head, ear, eyes, nose and throat exam, as well as a musculoskeletal, abdominal, heart/lung, back and male/female sensitive exam.

END OF AN ERA

Reaner Shannon retires after 34 years at UMKC



Shannon addresses the crowd at her retirement reception.

After a work life of over 40 years, most of it at the UMKC School of Medicine, Reaner Shannon, Ph.D. '83, has interviewed hundreds of students seeking admission to the medical school.

Now, as she prepares for retirement, it is that sea of faces, young and expectant, that she recalls.

When she began at the medical school as the main research lab technologist, Shannon encountered few minority students,

While serving in the research lab, Shannon worked alongside Marjorie Sirridge, M.D.

"When I first came to UMKC, I worked with Reaner," Sirridge says. "We studied bleeding and clotting disorders, a whole new area of research, and coauthored a book."

"She needed something challenging, and I supported her decision to go back for her Ph.D.," Sirridge says. "It was the right decision for her, but the lab was never the same."

“Dr. Shannon's passion and dedication will continue to inspire us all.”

—Betty Drees, M.D.

and she noticed that their completion rate was low. She began participating in the selection process and became a member of the Minority Recruitment and Retention Committee. In 1990, she left the lab to become director of the minority affairs office at the school, becoming associate dean in 1998.

As Shannon's competence and confidence grew, she helped create pathways to medical school for interested area minority students with academic potential. Her name remains inexorably linked to two such programs.

Saturday Academy offers students extra preparation in subjects they need

for college. Shannon is co-director of the academy, jointly sponsored by the UMKC School of Medicine and the University of Kansas Medical School. She describes it as a no-frills, no-nonsense project for students in grades nine through 11. Juniors and seniors interested in health sciences can apply to UMKC School of Medicine's Summer Scholars Program.

Not surprisingly, students from Saturday Academy and Summer Scholars regularly show up at the medical school, applications in hand.

Since 1993, she and her husband, Henry, B.S. '70, have supported a speaker series, the Dr. Reaner and Mr. Henry Shannon Endowed Lectureship on Health Disparities.

Joycelyn Elders, M.D., former United States Surgeon General, was the first speaker. Popularity of the lecture series has grown, and so have expenses, so the Shannons set up an endowment for the annual lecture.

—Sandy Beaty



Gloria WilderBrathwaite, M.D., speaks at the Gem Theater for this year's Shannon lecture series.



Ron Youmans, M.D., shows kids at St. Monica's Catholic School how a doctor checks ocular reflexes during a Health 4 Kids session. Berekete Haileselassie, Year 4, looks on.

TEACHING FOR A HEALTHY FUTURE

Since its beginning, the School of Medicine has made sure its students are more than just future physicians. This tradition continues today.

By Kelly Edwards

As a medical student talking to elementary school children about healthy habits, Paul Tran, Year 4, recently fielded a query that caught him off guard.

Is it true, a group of fifth-graders from Kansas City's James Elementary School asked, that if you stretch out the human intestines they would circle the world four or five times?

The program is called Health 4 Kids. Currently, five students from the school join students from the University of Kansas School of Medicine in visiting five Kansas City area schools.

The John Locke Society, an offshoot of Kansas City's Metropolitan Medical Society, is one of numerous local and national organizations with which

“When you're talking to kids about being a doctor, you learn to give good answers that are understandable to kids and that can transfer to patients in the clinic.”

—Paul Tran, Year 4

“That's something they don't teach you in medical school,” Tran says. “Those types of questions are fun, but sometimes they're kind of tricky at the same time.”

Tran is one of five students from the School of Medicine who have recently partnered with a group of retired physicians who make up Kansas City's John Locke Society and visit local elementary schools to talk to children about how to live healthy lifestyles.

students from the School of Medicine are active in community service and leadership activities.

Such involvement in community service is important for medical students because it emphasizes one of the mantras of being a physician, says Brenda Rogers, M.D., assistant dean for student affairs.

“We want physicians who ultimately understand that they need to give back to the community,” Rogers says. “It's

important for them to interact with their community through different activities and groups.”

Through his involvement in the program, Berekete Haileselassie, Year 4, has become impressed with the kids’ intellect.

“I am actually amazed by how much they know,” Haileselassie says.

Health 4 Kids pairs a medical student with a physician as a team that spends an hour a week in an elementary classroom and follows a 14-week curriculum discussing medicine and health-related topics, says Sherman Steinzeig, M.D., a retired cardiologist who heads the society.

Six physicians currently volunteer with

the program. The physicians have been going into local elementary schools already for the past 10 years, but Steinzeig says the group thought it was important to provide the children a point of view closer to their own age.

“We’re physicians who are retired. We’re above 65, some above 75 and some are above 85 years old,” Steinzeig says. “We bring our perspective of what’s important, but there’s a generation gap between what we want to give them and what they need to know. The medical students who are coming along are closer to the generation of these kids and know what they’re thinking.”

Largely through the efforts of former School of Medicine Dean Marjorie Sirridge, M.D., a member of the society who proposed the idea to students at the School of Medicine last fall, the John Locke Society added medical students to their teaching team in the past year.

“When we first approached the doctors of the John Locke Society, they were very kind and welcoming,” Haileselassie says. “They assigned us mentors that were teaching at different schools around the Kansas City area, and we have been working with them ever since.”

Led by the medical students and their partnering physicians, discussion topics range from good nutritional habits to the workings of the cardiovascular system, says Mark Winston, Year 4.

“We talked about not only the anatomy and physiology of the cardiovascular system but what they can do to make sure they’re living a healthy lifestyle,” Winston says. “We talked about how the heart works, how kids can start at a young age doing things to have a healthy heart, such as watching their nutrition and getting exercise.”

Each lesson builds on the previous week’s topic, which Haileselassie thinks helps students remember what they’re being taught.

“I think repetition is very important,” Haileselassie says, adding that the use of anatomical models helps students visualize the subject matter.

For Winston, his time volunteering with the program gives him a greater appreciation for what he’s learning in medical school.

“It’s already taught me how far I’ve come with my education, but at the same time how little I know about medicine,” Winston says. “To have something to offer these kids after working hard in med school, it feels like my education has paid off.”

Winston’s partner, Alan Forker, M.D., a cardiologist who served as a docent and chief of cardiovascular disease at the school and is still active in teaching and research, says that physicians should learn early on the importance of giving back to their community.

“For the medical students, it’s good to get out of the medical books and do some fun work,” Forker says. “I’ve always pushed young doctors to do volunteer work. I want Mark to feel involved, but also have fun with it. As a physician, giving back to society is something you want to do for the rest of your life.”

And while giving something back to the community, Tran said he is also becoming a better doctor.

“When you’re talking to kids about being a doctor, you learn to give good answers that are understandable to kids and that can transfer to patients in the clinic,” Tran says. “You have that information that’s good for everybody to know. Sometimes, I feel like I’m learning more than the kids are.”

That, says Steinzeig, makes the program a good fit for everyone involved.

“The students are delighted, the doctors are delighted and the med students are delighted,” Steinzeig said. “It’s a win-win situation for everyone.”

For more on the John Locke Society, visit studymed.com/johnlocksociety/home.htm.

Student volunteers lead the way

School of Medicine students benefit from numerous leadership and volunteering opportunities.

Sandeep Krishnan, Year 4, currently serves as one of three student representatives on the National Residency Matching Program’s (NRMP) national board of directors. Krishnan represents the American Medical Association Medical Student Section on the NRMP board. The NRMP is a non-profit corporation that oversees the process of matching graduating medical students with post-graduate residency programs.

Beverly Chen, Year 5, is currently a national vice president for membership of the Asian Pacific American Medical Student Association (APAMSA). Always active with the organization, the medical school has had as many as five members on APAMSA’s national board at one time.

Brenda Rogers, M.D., assistant professor and student affairs associate dean says leadership roles are important for students as they go through medical school.

“It involves them in the policy making and gives them some responsibility for their own future,” Rogers says.

Other ways students get experience outside the classroom include:

The Sojourner Clinic at the Grand Avenue United Methodist Temple in downtown Kansas City. For more than three years students at the School of Medicine have volunteered their time and efforts to staff the clinic. The free clinic was developed and is currently managed by students from the school under the supervision of medical school faculty, providing care for the inner-city homeless. In one year alone, more than 270 students provided more than 1,430 hours of medical attention to a population desperately needing their help.

GlobeMed is a student led non-profit organization acting across the globe to improve the health of those in need. Grace

Lim, Year 6, took on the task of establishing a School of Medicine chapter in 2003 following the death of an uncle who lacked adequate medical care in a rural province of the Philippines. Since then, GlobeMed UMKC has made successful shipments of medical and general supplies to Haiti, Liberia and Grenada, and has raised thousands of dollars to support the Hope for African Children Initiative in Ghana, as well as tsunامي victims in Indonesia.

The School of Medicine has been an active part of the **Alpha Omega Alpha** honor medical society since 1985.

AOA chapters work with medical schools and communities through various programs such as the Medical Student Service Projects fund, which serves to establish or expand student service projects. Students, faculty and alumni are inducted into the society each year.

Annually since 2004 the school has named students, residents and faculty to the **Gold Humanism Honor Society**. Members are selected based on their exemplary care for patients and their humanistic approach to clinical practice. Additionally, one student and one faculty member are selected to receive the Leonard Tow Humanism Award.



Top: Students study a neuron’s components.

Bottom: Youmens and Berekete Haileselassie, Year 4, teach students about the nervous system.



2008 Leonard Tow award winner Joanna Martires



Melody Burns, Year 4

B

EAUTY FOR A CAUSE

Melody Burns is not your regular pageant contestant.

By Sandy Beaty

You can't control everything, but getting an education and keeping yourself from contracting HIV are two things you can have power over.

Melody Burns, Year 6, knows this, but she also knows not everyone else is so empowered.

This is why she and other Kansas City-area medical students are involved with the Coterie Theater's Dramatic AIDS Education Project.

In this free outreach program, Burns and other Kansas City-area medical student pair-up with a local actor. Both portray HIV-positive teenagers, presenting a monologue aimed at educating their young audience.

So far the program has taught more than 100,000 students in grades eight-12 throughout the Kansas City area.

Julie Wright, Pharm.D., a professor at the medical school who also is involved with the Coterie program, says, "One of the things I really admire about Melody is her ability to see the value of maintaining a long-term commitment to service activities and the community, despite keeping up with the rigorous requirements of medical school."

After each presentation, the student-actor duo explains they are playing parts, and are not actually infected with HIV. They talk about STD prevention and take questions. Audience members may approach the medical students without the pressure of exposing their questions or thoughts to judgment by their peers. In one such moment following a presentation, a girl approached Burns.

"(She) asked me, 'Are you really a medical student,'" Burns says. "The girl had talked to her friends about wanting to

be a nurse or a lawyer, but they said that was impossible and she should forget about it. I said her friends were wrong, that I knew women who were nurses and lawyers and she could be one, too."

Come June, Burns may have a broader platform that she can use to educate people about HIV, as well as other health concerns.

Burns is a contestant in the Miss Black USA pageant, which has as its core mission an awareness campaign for African-Americans about the risks of diabetes. The American Diabetes Association supplies pageant officials and candidates with materials they need to educate others about causes, prevention and treatment.

As a contestant, Burns has pledged to spread the word about this problem, a pernicious one among African-Americans. She must find community resources – perhaps churches, schools or community centers – where she can disseminate this information.

Another element of the competition requires Burns to choose a statewide platform of her own. She has selected sex education for African-American girls; a group she believes is particularly vulnerable to HIV and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).

Education is an important part of Burns' life, she says, whether it's teaching others or learning herself. For her, it was never a question of if she would go to college, but when. Both of Melody's parents hold master's degrees and her brother is studying aerospace engineering.

Her grandfather, with little education of his own, saw to it that every one of his five children attended college. He never missed



Melody Burns performing for the Coterie Theater's Dramatic AIDS Education Project. To view the performance, visit www.med.umkc.edu/news.

an opportunity to tell someone about his granddaughter attending medical school.

Burns plans to continue her medical training with a residency in neurology, in particular studying the neurological disorders that accompany HIV.

Along with instilling in Burns a need for education, her grandfather's life played a major role in her decision to become a doctor.

When her grandfather was diagnosed with cancer, family members spoke of his illness infrequently or not at all. Burns witnessed first-hand the problems that arise when no one asks the attending physician the right questions, and the problems that grow from a family's silence.

Now that she's in medical school, training to become a physician herself, Burns realizes doctors are just as normal as she is.

"You grow up thinking (doctors) are perfect and more reserved, but in medical school you find out that they are like everyone else," Burns says. "They laugh and have fun, they have moments of doubt and they care deeply about their patients." 🇺🇸



Global travel has always been an important part of the School of Medicine's curriculum.

Students and faculty have been visiting overseas health facilities since E. Grey Dimond, M.D., led the first trip to China in 1976.

Today the E. Grey Dimond, M.D., Program in International Medicine helps send between 20 and 30 students overseas each year, according to program director Ravi Kallur, Ph.D.

As the following pages show, students are positively changed through their cultural experiences and by learning how medical treatment is provided in other countries.

Financial assistance is available to students wanting to add an international component to their medical experience, but more money is needed. Kallur is working to expand existing scholarships that make international medical trips like these possible.

Contact Lonelle Rathje, the school's development director, at rathjel@umkc.edu to fund students' international experiences.

-Nicholas Barron



SWEDEN

Christina Naumovich

"This is me pictured next to a royal guard in Stockholm, Sweden. My trip, intended to fulfill my bachelor of liberal arts hour requirement, was more of an indulgence in the humanities, a study of people and culture. Aside from traveling to Estonia, Holland and Denmark, classes focused on Swedish history, language and culture. Swedes have a delicate understanding of balance. They have a sense of what is 'just enough,' or lagom. My month concluded with an exploration into the life of Carl Linnaeus, a Swedish botanist and physician regarded by many as the father of Taxonomy."



PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Dawn Davis

"Here, I am dressed for the operating room. I bucked tradition by not wearing a scrub 'dress,' and decided on wearing the galoshes instead of going barefoot. I am using cheap sunglasses I picked up at a market as eye protection because they didn't have any kind of face shield available. This was quite amusing to the staff.

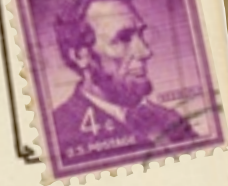
"Dr. Damien is in the OR (top right). He and most of the staff preferred going barefoot over using the community galoshes."



POST CARD

FOR CORRESPONDENCE

FOR ADDRESS ONLY



Through exchange agreements the School of Medicine has with three universities in other countries, students from both UMKC and abroad can participate in the international experience.

The partnerships are with the Monterrey Institute of Technology and Medicine in Mexico, Harbin Medical University in China and the Medical University of Graz, Austria.

Each year, students from these schools come to Kansas City to learn how medicine is practiced in America. Most recently, Oscar Calvillo, a student from

Monterrey in his final year of medical school, studied at UMKC. Calvillo spent the first month of his time at UMKC completing an elective in cardiology, a specialty he is interested in pursuing as a career. In doing so, he was able to learn first-hand about diseases he had previously only read about.

"There's a wide variety of disease that you can see (here)," Calvillo says. After his elective finished, Calvillo completed his docent rotation on Red-3, focusing on internal medicine.

"I think this is a good place for learning," Calvillo says.

TAIWAN

Linda Lee

"Despite being a small ENT clinic, the doctor had his own pharmacist. The pharmacist had a bulk supply of common antibiotics and analgesics that are prescribed. She would pre-package all daily medicines. This idea is actually inspiring. With so many patients taking multiple medications a day, it would really help with medicine compliance if all their medicines were pre-packaged.

"It is hard to believe that not all countries have an electronic medical record. The stacks of papers are actually patient charts. It is amazing how they are able to keep track of all their patients in that manner. Even though there are some clinics that don't have an electronic medical record, they are advanced in other ways."



GUATEMALA

Angela Garner, M.D.

"I'm proud to say that there was an official eye glass station (established) because of one of my student's efforts in collecting eye glass donations. When I went last year we just took a few pairs, and I became so passionate about it because there was an elderly lady who I had try on several pairs till she found a pair she could see, and her whole face lit up and she said, 'I can see.' She had some knitting and she held it up and said, 'Look I can knit now.' It really affected me and I said, 'OK, next year we're going to get lots of eye glasses.' So we took almost 3,000 pair and so we had an official eye glass station set up just for that reason. When you give someone the gift of sight, that's a permanent difference that we made."



GHANA

Matthew Parker

"Meeting with the chief of Pram Pram (top). The village outreach clinic team was asked to meet with the chief as a sign of respect and to ask permission to set up the clinic in his village.

"Doug Weber, Year 5 working in the Pram Pram outreach clinic (right). The trip was an amazing experience and I would recommend that everyone that is able should go on a trip like this."



Program Updates

Mongan Fellowship

Most medical students don't have a chance to see the business and political side of medicine, but a fellowship at the School of Medicine allows students to do just that.

Arnold, Ph.D., associate dean for medical education, who helped establish the Fellowship.

Mongan was recently named the most influential physician executive in the country by *Modern Physician*.

Each year a student in their final year of medical school is chosen for the fellowship, which equals a one-month credit elective. The student is able to

interested in politics, Omurtag felt the Fellowship was a great idea.

As a fellow, he researched the cost effectiveness of in vitro fertilization and some states' reimbursement of the procedure. The experience as a fellow confirmed for him the path he was headed down.

Another Mongan Fellow was Marissa DeCastro, M.D. '06, who's now married to Omurtag.

“This is an opportunity to study with one of the major experts in health policy in the United States.”

—Louise Arnold, Ph.D.

choose an area of health policy that interests them, and then uses a large portion of their time as a fellow to research and further their education in this particular topic.

The student is asked to write a paper about their experience as a Mongan Fellow, as well as make a presentation as part of Student Research Day.

Kenan Omurtag, M.D. '05, is a former Mongan Fellow. With a plan to go into obstetrics and gynecology, and being

Along with shadowing Mongan as he met with leaders in health care policy from across New England, DeCastro was able to better understand hospitals' reimbursements to physicians who perform surgeries.

For DeCastro, who will start her anesthesiology residency next year, the chance to be a Mongan Fellow was one she won't soon forget.

“It was an incredible experience and an incredible opportunity,” DeCastro says.



Former Mongan Fellows DeCastro and Omurtag.

The James J. Mongan Fellowship in Health Policy gives one student a year an opportunity to shadow Mongan, M.D., in his capacity as one of the country's leaders in health care policy.

A former dean of the school, Mongan is currently CEO of Partners Health Care Systems, Inc., in Boston.

“This is an opportunity to study with one of the major experts in health policy in the United States,” says Louise

Learning from the master

James Mongan, M.D., for whom the Mongan Fellowship at the School of Medicine is named, is no lightweight in U.S. health care policy.

As dean of the school and executive director of Truman Medical Center, from 1987-1995, he brought an eager First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton to tour Hospital Hill in 1993 as she worked on a nationally comprehensive health care plan. That same year he was offered the job of assistant secretary in the Department of Health and Human Services, but turned it down.

In 1995 he left Kansas City for Massachusetts General Hospital, where he served as president and chief operating officer until 2002. He became CEO of Partners HealthCare, Inc., in Boston, a post that put him in position in 2006 to make universal health care a reality in Massachusetts.

Modern Physician also recently named Mongan the most influential physician executive in the country.

This fellowship pairs a UMKC student with one of the most powerful leaders in health care policy.



James Mongan

Photo courtesy of Massachusetts General Hospital

Residents and Fellows

Much is happening with the school's residencies and fellowships.

The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) has officially recognized the combined medicine and pediatrics specialty, and a sports medicine fellowship has been added within the family medicine department.

Also, two new fellowships are in the works, one in pediatric critical care and the other in maternal and fetal medicine.

The pediatric critical care fellowship may be in place as early as July of this year, while the maternal and fetal medicine fellowship will require a little more preparation.

The latter fellowship is a direct result of the school hiring Dev Maulik, M.D., as chair of the obstetrics and gynecology. Maulik's expertise is in maternal and fetal medicine.

“It just made sense to expand (maternal and fetal medicine), and to develop advanced training in that area,” Jill Moormeier, M.D., associate dean for graduate medical education, says.

Expansion of the school's residencies and fellowships is continuous, a benefit of the school's ongoing partnership with five Kansas City hospitals.

“We're very lucky to have hospitals that continue to strongly support our residency

and fellowship programs,” Moormeier says.

In other news, the internal medicine program has been chosen to participate in an experimental ACGME portfolio project in which residents document their training and medical experiences throughout their medical careers.

Emergency medicine has also been identified by the ACGME as one of the top emergency medicine residencies in the country. As a result, the department received seven years of accreditation, as opposed to the normal two to five years.



Sports Medicine Fellows Christopher Adams, M.D., (middle) and Darrin Ashbrooks, M.D., (right) work on patient Ben Shiley.

Bioinformatics

A new interdisciplinary graduate program at UMKC is already gaining attention.

The program, a master's degree in bioinformatics and clinical research, is a collaboration of the Schools of Medicine, Computing and Engineering and Biological Sciences.

While the official launch of the program is not scheduled until September, prospective students have already shown an interest in the program, even without the program promoting its existence.

"The few who have heard about it have come to us," says Stan Edlavitch, Ph.D., informatics professor and director of the new program.

This excitement justifies what many at UMKC have felt for some time. Faculty and administrators across the University have been working to establish a graduate-level bioinformatics program for five years.

Students in the program will have three areas of emphasis to choose from: computational bioinformatics, genomic and clinical research.

The program will consist of 36 total credit hours, 12 of which are required core courses.

Along with prospective students, local Kansas City organizations have expressed interest in the program. The program is a potential recruiting source for employers.

Students in this program will have the opportunity to take up to six credits of electives at University of Kansas Medical Center, under an exchange agreement that allows students from both schools to take elective courses at each other's campuses.

It's not yet known how many students the program will enroll, but Edlavitch says similar programs have begun conservatively.

"Typically, programs like this start out with a small group of students and they try to grow," Edlavitch says.

Judging by early reaction to the program, growth may not be a problem.

Docents

On the docent front, some changes have been implemented to the school's continuously successful way of training physicians.

One popular change is that docents now hood their students each year at graduation.



Neeta Soorya being hooded by her docent, Emron Rouf, M.D.

Another adjustment is students have the same docent for Years 1 and 2.

"(This provides) continuity in mentorship over those two years," David Wooldridge, M.D. '94, chair of the Docent Council, says.

Also modified is the clinic experience for Years 4 through 6. While on docent rotation (DoRo) students now meet with their docent only one of the two months they are on DoRo and a different docent during the second month.

Other DoRo changes include two lecture series that ensure students receive a standardized internal medicine curriculum. The first series is for Year 4 and 5 students, split over two years. Roughly a dozen faculty take part in the series and students are tested on the subject matter.

The second series is for Year 6 students and focuses mostly on treatment.

Wooldridge worked with Eyad Al-Hihi, M.D., vice-chair of the council, to implement the lecture series, as well as

an addition to the ambulatory medicine continuing care clinic.

This monthly clinic morning report series consists of presentations made by students. Student teams are assigned cases with specific questions they need to address, and each month teams present their cases.

"The idea was to enhance students' abilities to search for evidence-based medicine, provide their responses to the cases and to improve presentation skills for the students, as well as teach students the need for a systematic approach to reading chest x-rays and EKGs," Al-Hihi says.

The morning reports seem to be working. Seventy-five percent of students said the reports enhanced their experience in the clinic and about 80 percent said the reports improved their presentation skills and their ability to interpret chest x-rays and EKGs.

ANSWERING THE CALL

New program trains anesthesiology assistants

By Kelly Edwards



By training anesthesiology assistants, UMKC is filling a need for more anesthesiology professionals.

A new program at the School of Medicine is one of only a handful across the country designed to help address a nation-wide shortage of anesthesia services.

The 27-month long anesthesiologist assistants program welcomed its first class of four students in January. Students graduate from the program with a master of science in anesthesiology.

Melanie Guthrie, an anesthesiologist assistant at Liberty (Mo.) Hospital, is director of the new MSA program. Anesthesiologist assistants (AA's) work as part of an anesthesiology care team, performing the work of an anesthesiologist.

"We work under the direct supervision of an anesthesiologist, usually in an operating room setting," Guthrie says.

The school's AA program is only the fifth such program in the United States. It is the only program west of the Mississippi and the only AA program offered at a public university.

James Piontek, M.D., an anesthesiologist at Liberty is medical director for the MSA program.

He says the school's program will help meet a need in anesthesia that is growing as the current work force heads toward retirement, and as the general population ages, leading to additional needs for anesthetists to support a growing number of surgeries and pain management needs.

"This is a chance to make a difference in health care for citizens of Missouri, to train more providers," Piontek says.

Missouri began addressing a growing need for AA's in 2003 when the state legislature passed House Bill 390, which opened the door for AA's to be licensed in the state. A major supporter of that bill was Sam Page, M.D. '92, a member of the Missouri House of Representatives and a current candidate for lieutenant governor in the Show-Me State.

Rick Trullinger, Ph.D., director of the school's graduate medical education programs, said the school's goal is to grow the program to about 20 students.

Students in the MSA program experience didactic classes taught by basic medical science faculty, as well as clinical training at various hospitals throughout the Kansas City area.

Students graduating from the program will have more than 2,000 hours of hands-on clinical training with patients, exceeding the standards of other non-physician anesthesia providers, according to Guthrie.

In addition, she says the program will provide students with cutting-edge training through the use of patient simulators in a laboratory-type setting.

"It is my goal to integrate clinical training early into the curriculum," Guthrie says. "But knowing the importance of patient safety, we are also going to start by letting students become familiar with the practice of anesthesia in a simulation type setting, which is becoming the trend in medicine."

Prerequisites for entering the program include a bachelor's degree with pre-medical sciences classes, as well as taking the Medical College Admission Test.

There are currently about 1,000 AA's practicing in 17 states. AA's also work in the Veteran's Affairs health system nationwide. They have been licensed to practice in Missouri since September of 2006.

Missouri Medicine, a publication produced by the Missouri State Medical Association, featured the MSA program in its January/February issue. According to the article, accredited AA programs have doubled in the past five years. 🌐

Faculty at a glance

A series of profiles on four faculty members who are advancing the medical school and helping make Kansas City a place of note in academic medicine.

By Nicholas Barron

Mentoring student success

As George Reisz, M.D., points out, the School of Medicine's docent system is more than just faculty to student mentoring.

Along with training under the watchful eye of faculty, students at the school learn

to work together and to pass on their skills and knowledge to other, younger students. This occurs particularly when senior students are paired with a junior partner.

"The students develop wonderful bonds amongst themselves," Reisz says. "By the time they are a Year 6, the students typically are good mentors, leaders and teachers."

As chairman of the department of medicine since 2000, managing the docent system is a primary responsibility for Reisz.

An Indiana University School of Medicine grad, Reisz came to UMKC to complete his residency in internal medicine. Although he did not stand to directly benefit from the docent system, Reisz was attracted to UMKC because of the creativity and originality that went into developing the system.

"That spirit of innovation and looking at things with a fresh perspective, and being willing to try new plans is part of what makes UMKC who it is," Reisz says.

After his residency, Reisz remained at UMKC to finish a fellowship in pulmonary medicine. When the fellowship ended in 1982, he became a docent.

Over time Reisz's appreciation for the docent system has only grown.

"It's just a wonderful system," Reisz says.

"By Year 6, the students typically are good mentors, leaders and teachers."

—George Reisz, M.D.

"There's no other system that provides every student with a mentor for four years like our system does."

While the system is a great way to educate, Reisz has been able to make some improvements during his time as chairman.

Reisz has worked to make sure the school chooses new docents based on that faculty member's ability to commit themselves to the system and to their students.

Selecting docents is done on an individual basis, Reisz says, adding that there is no specific formula to follow when making this decision. The thing he most looks for in a docent is a desire to teach.

"You have to pick individuals who enjoy teaching and want to make teaching a priority of their academic careers," Reisz says.

Docents not only illustrate how to be good physicians in a clinical setting, but they're able to witness and contribute to students' growth as both doctors and adults. Reisz notes that most medical schools provide faculty one-month rotations with students, giving them just a "snapshot" of students' abilities and challenges.

It's the day-to-day interaction between mentor and student that sets the school apart.

A passion for teaching

Sometimes you meet someone and instantly you know they love their life.

Carol Stanford is one such person.

Carol Stanford, M.D. '79, and the 2008 Leonard Tow Humanism Award winner, serves as docent and mentor on the Gold-5 Unit, a role she relishes.

"I like to be surrounded by things I love," Stanford says.

Students are one of these things, and it shows. From her dedication to teaching medicine to her efforts to teach the importance of living a balanced life, Stanford gives her students the tools they need to succeed as physicians, as well as people.

lab coat, to learn more about a particular disease," Stanford says. "It's just the whole gambit of mentoring."

Along with her memory of being in school, Stanford relies on her experience as a mom to teenage boys.

"I think my kids made me a much better doctor," Stanford says.

An added benefit to mothering kids close to her students' age is the ability to stay current on the latest styles and musical genres.

"I'll ask them, 'Well, what is this,'" Stanford says of her sons. "And they say, 'Oh, that's called emo, for emotional.'"

Stanford also points out she is "on" Facebook, the social networking site popularly used by college and high school students. Her membership on the site

and, two years ago, she learned to knit.

Juggling her personal life and work was not always easy. When her kids were younger Stanford would question if she should be at home with her children. Her oldest put those doubts to rest, however, when he told her he hoped to someday have a job he loved as much as his mother loved hers.

It's this joyful zeal that's obvious to anyone who knows Carol Stanford.

"I really try and stress taking care of themselves and then they take care of others."

—Carol Stanford, M.D.

"One thing I really try and stress is taking care of themselves and then they take care of others," Stanford says.

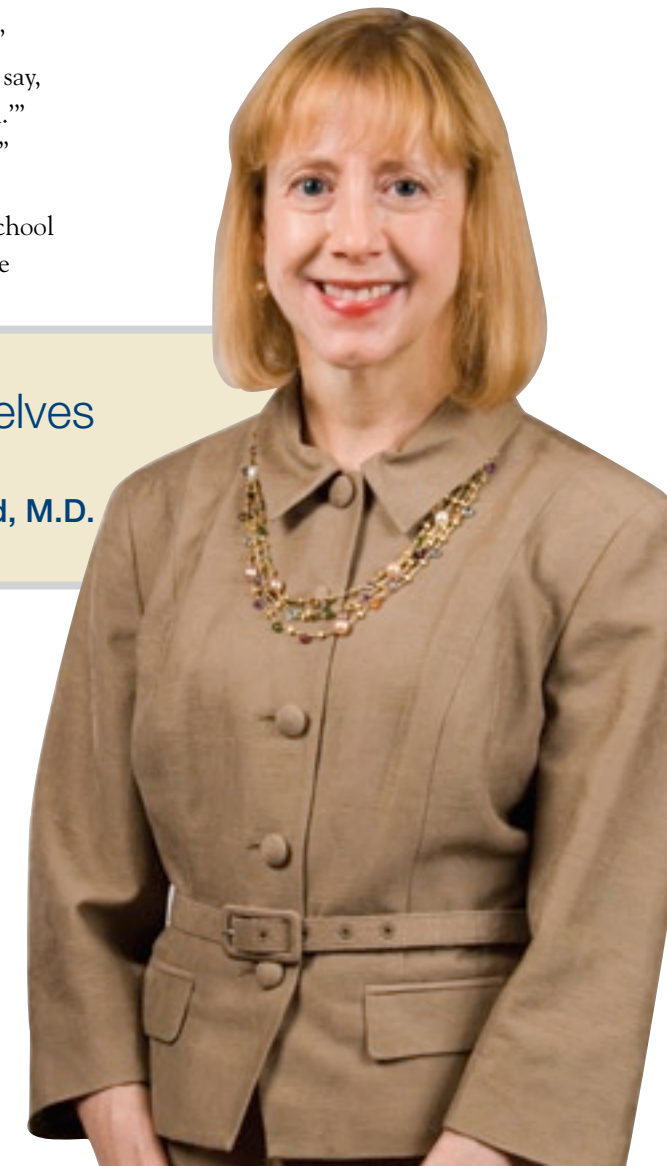
Stanford is able to empathize with students. After all, she once was a student attending the School of Medicine, learning to manage adulthood and medical school.

It's her time as a medical student that allows Stanford to advise students, "from telling them not to mumble, to wash their

allows her to stay in touch with current, as well as past students.

The best way Stanford knows to teach her students how they can balance work and play is to show them it can be done.

Along with being a mom and wife (to fellow School of Medicine faculty member Jim Stanford, M.D. '80), Carol enjoys the opera, reading



Developing human connections

It's not just about teaching students in the classroom. It's also about working with them in a clinical setting.

This is what Julie Wright, Pharm.D., enjoys most about her role as a clinical pharmacology professor.

"One of the cool things we do in our program is we get to teach the students, when they see patients in the hospitals," Wright says.

It's in a clinical situation when Wright is able to help fully develop students' capabilities as physicians. She puts a large

emphasis on not only guiding students in using their knowledge, but in developing their skills in communicating with patients.

"Book smart is OK, but how do you really do this, how do you apply it," Wright says.

Wright's work with students in clinics is similar to her role with the Dramatic AIDS Education Project, an AIDS prevention program coordinated by The Coterie Theatre in Kansas City, in cooperation with the School of Medicine and the University of Kansas School of Medicine.

About 15 UMKC students participate in the program, which pairs a medical student with an actor to portray an adolescent infected with HIV. Presentations are made to local Kansas City students ages 13-18.

The goal of the program is to educate these students, which means a large emphasis is placed on the medical students' abilities to communicate their knowledge to teenagers.

"We go, 'OK, say that again in English, now say that again like you would to your 13-year-old sister,'" Wright says.

The program's coordinators prepare the medical students by asking them questions they're likely to hear from the audience and then critiquing their answers.

"During my training, Dr. Wright really helped me in the delivery of information to students," says Vineet Jassal, a Year 4 student participating in the AIDS Education Project. "She specifically helped in simplifying complicated topics like HIV

testing protocol so I can effectively share the information."

Adding to Wright's experience in doctor-patient communication is her research in health literacy.

She worked on a Centers for Disease Control-funded study on keeping HIV-positive people from infecting others. The study looked at CDC/Infectious Diseases Society of America guidelines for prevention to see if they were being communicated effectively to those who have tested positive for the disease.

Wright is also working with UMKC psychology professor and researcher Kathy Goggin on a National Institutes of Health study that seeks to find out whether HIV-positive people are more likely to stick to their antiretroviral therapy based on their understanding of the counseling they receive.

Wright is able to combine her research experience and her knowledge of health literacy as an adviser to student researchers at the School of Medicine.

As a member of the panel that determines the Student Sarah Morrison Research Award winners, Wright is able to help student researchers communicate their work, which is presented at Student Research Day, and possibly on a national stage as well.

This allows Wright to show students the power of integrating medical knowledge with their ability to communicate.

"And I think that's a good thing for students," Wright says.

Labor of love

The secret to being a successful docent may not be much of a secret after all, according to Angela Garner.

"When you love what you do, you're just good at it," Garner says.

Garner is docent for Blue-3, Gold-7 and Year 1 students, and she takes students on an annual medical mission to Guatemala. She also has eight students assisting on her latest research, studying a new medication that may prevent acute chest syndrome in patients with sickle cell disease.

These duties put Garner in a strong position to influence tomorrow's doctors.

"That's important to me," Garner says. "To know that I'm making a difference and helping educate the bright and upcoming future physicians."

As the mother of four boys, and as a former UMKC resident, Garner has personal experience serving as both a role

This May, Garner's first group of students graduated from UMKC. While it was an emotional moment, she is excited to see what they will become.

"I always tell them to follow their gut feeling and their heart, then you'll do the right thing," Garner says.

With all that's required of Garner, from docent to teacher to mom to researcher, it's a wonder she has any time to relax, but she makes a point of spending time with her students outside of the normal medical setting.

Whether it's celebrating a passed test or a birthday, Garner places importance on showing students there's more to life than just work.

"I think you have to have a well-balanced life, and that's something I try and teach them," Garner says.

Even in work, though, it's easy to see that Garner is doing what she loves.

"I think you have to have a well-balanced life, and that's something I try and teach them."

—Angela Garner, M.D.

model and someone learning the ropes. This experience allows her to empathize with her students.

"I think compassion is very important," Garner says.

For example, Garner does her best to understand what factors may be affecting a troubled student's path to becoming a doctor, whether it be a situation in their personal life or a problem in their education.

Garner became a docent in 2005, immediately after completing her residency.

"I left here June 30 as a resident and entered July 1 as a docent," Garner says.

"I think I have the greatest job in the world," Garner says. "I'm very happy here."

Along with mentoring students, Garner loves the variety her job provides. She goes from accompanying students on rounds to research to teaching proper bedside manner to Year 1 students.

"I absolutely have a different job every single day."

"Book smart is O.K., but how do you really do this, how do you apply it?"

—Julie Wright, Pharm.D.

1976

David Hayes, M.D.



1980

Karen Remly, M.D.



Alumni Checkup

You may remember them as naïve young first-years or as goofy upperclassmen, but today these alumni are all grown up and working in the medical profession.

We at *Panorama* thought it would be interesting to visit with four alumni, each representing a different decade in the School of Medicine's existence. We asked each of them the same questions, and following are some of their answers.



Tammy Neblock, M.D.

1991



Raman Malhotra, M.D.

2000

What have you been up to since you graduated?

DH: I went from UMKC to the Mayo Clinic to do my residency in internal medicine and stayed for a fellowship in cardiology. I left Mayo for my last year of fellowship and then returned. I've been at Mayo ever since.

TN: I have been very fortunate in my career opportunities. I just landed in the right place at the right time. General surgery residency at St. Lukes/UMKC for five years. I continued my learning and became a skilled surgeon with a focus on breast cancer, which is my primary interest.

RM: I am currently faculty and director of the Sleep Disorders Clinic in the Department of Neurology at the University of Michigan School of Medicine.

KR: (Recently appointed health commissioner for the Commonwealth of Virginia by Gov. Tim Kaine, a Kansas City native. Was previously vice president of medical affairs at Sentara Leigh Hospital in Norfolk.)

How do you spend your leisure time?

DH: I have two children, currently ages 17 and 12, and most leisure time revolves around them. When time allows, I love playing the piano, and I am part of a vocal ensemble. We're a 'loose' group of eight vocalists that have a tough time making it to rehearsals but love performing when we have the chance.

TN: I have a wonderful, fun and supportive family with my husband, Paul, and children, Katie and Matt. The kids are involved in sports, so I am a very good cheerleader.

RM: I am a huge sports fan, and love attending sporting events with my wife and son. We go to most University of Michigan football games, and several hockey, baseball and basketball games throughout the year. We also make it back to Kansas City for a handful of Chiefs games every season.

KR: I spend every spare minute I can with my family. Unfortunately, my girls are now away at college and my husband and I are doing the commuting marriage thing with this new position. I love to garden and read when time allows.



Left: Raman Malhotra with his son at a Kansas City Chiefs game. Bottom left: Tammy Neblock with daughter Katie on a mission trip. Bottom right: David Hayes with singing group Miles to Go.





Are you involved in any volunteer or nonprofit work?

RM: I speak to different community groups regarding sleep disorders and the importance of getting a good night's sleep. I have spoken to groups of senior citizens, nurses, and truck drivers.

KR: I have had leadership roles in two medical nonprofits, Operation Smile and Physicians for Peace. I have volunteered at our local free clinic and have participated on the state board for the Association of Free Clinics, Virginians Improving Patient Care and Safety, Virginia Health Information and our local Community Mediation Center. My husband and I teach internationally, and I am committed to sustainable, medical education programs that share skills and knowledge that are appropriate for a country's development level. I have had the opportunity to teach Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) in Nigeria, Eritrea, Morocco, Egypt and Nepal.



What's the biggest thing about you that has changed since you graduated from UMKC?

DH: I no longer complain, at least not much, about sub-zero weather. I know what ice fishing is, but after 30-plus years in Minnesota, have never done it. And in occasional unguarded moments, I may eek out an accent reminiscent of the movie "Fargo."

TN: I like to think I haven't changed much; older and hopefully wiser, but still very happy that I went to med school. I am very happy and have a fulfilling career.

KR: Besides my BMI and hair color? My family; my husband is my best friend and



my daughters are too. We have traveled the world together.

What's your best memory from medical school?

DH: Many great memories, but the trip to China with Dr. and Mrs. (Grey) Dimond, the Drs. Sarridge, and other great staff and fellow students is definitely the best memory. The trip to China was an amazing opportunity for many reasons, but to have had the chance to go in 1976 before the country was open to Westerners was unbelievable.

TN: I received a great education and had good exposure to all aspects of medicine during med school.

RM: My best memory from medical school is meeting my future wife. My second best memory would be the great times I had with my friends in Westport after a big test.

KR: Anything having to do with hanging out with Joe Goldenberg – he made every day fun. What an incredible love of life and humor he brought to our class. One of those people that you wish you could bottle and pull out on a bad day.

What advice would you impart to incoming freshmen?

DH: Enjoy the experience. You're in a nurturing place with a very unique curriculum in a great city. Take advantage of what's being offered and many opportunities will open up to you at the end of the journey.

TN: Medicine is still a great career. Find something that you are passionate about and strive to become one of the best in your field.

RM: It's hard work, but worth it in the end, so be patient.

KR: Work hard, play hard and remember, life is a long road, full of unexpected changes. If you learn from each, both good and bad, you will continue to grow and never want to retire.

If you could go back to medical school, what would you do differently?

DH: Honestly, I don't think I would do much, if anything, differently.

TN: Start earlier? My experience as a nurse has been invaluable to me as a surgeon.

RM: Nothing.

KR: Not much, worry less about the future and enjoy the present.

What job would you most want if you hadn't become a doctor?

DH: I would have been a performer of some sort – correction, I would have been a struggling performer of some sort. The dream job would be to host "Jeopardy." Although I've given up on Alex Trebek retiring in time for me to be competitive as a replacement.

TN: If I hadn't gone to med school I would have stayed in medicine in an advanced nursing role.

RM: A professional athlete, or more realistic, a coach, given my athletic skills.

KR: I am living it now, being involved in population-based preventive health and in establishing health care policy.



Clockwise from top right: Karen Remly while on a trip teaching PALS in Nepal in 1997. David Hayes with the Docent Red Unit on top of the Great Wall of China in 1976. Karen Remly as a Year 5 student on a UMKC trip to Isreal. Tammy Neblock teaching laproscopic surgery in Romania.

AWARD WINNING ALUMNI



The students of UMKC Gold-6 Docent Unit enjoy a hayride at Benjamin Stables in the fall of 1983. First row, left to right: Mary Jo Middleton ('87), Rebecca Turner ('86), Stuart Chen, MD (Docent). Second row, left to right: John Ritter ('87, deceased), Natalie Wong ('85), Cindy Chang ('86), Wendell Clarkston ('84). Third Row: Dale Broom ('87), William Schwartz ('86).

Alumni Award



Wendell Clarkston

Wendell Clarkston (M.D., '84) couldn't help but notice the attractive young woman doing her wash in the dorm's laundry room. But two busy students, one with a military obligation waiting at the end of medical school, put romance aside for the moment.

Later, he and Cindy Chia-Yu Chang (M.D., '86) wed, juggling married life and parenthood with academic schedules. When Dr. Chang reported for Air Force training in Illinois, to fulfill her promise of service for tuition, Clarkston stayed in Kansas City, finishing his studies and

caring for their infant son.

Clarkston now devotes time to his gastroenterology practice and to UMKC's School of Medicine as professor of internal medicine, gastrointestinal section chair and fellowship program director of Graduate Medical Education (GME).

Dean Betty Drees, M.D., encouraged him to take the associate deanship of the school and GME. During his eight years in this position, Clarkston has strengthened the residency programs and institutional sponsorships.

Reflecting on the turns his life has taken, Clarkston does not have to look far to identify the person who shaped and inspired him most.

His maternal grandfather, Roscoe Carter, grew up in the Ozarks. At age six, ill with the influenza raging across America in 1918, Carter watched

helplessly as his father succumbed to the same disease.

Carter's mother found work as a maid, providing for her son and saving for his education. With her support, Roscoe Carter became a teacher and later superintendent of schools. When he retired, Carter went back to the country and farmed for the next 30 years.

"My grandfather loved life, worked hard and had concern for others," Clarkston says.

Clarkston absorbed these ideals from his grandfather's life, and those influences have steered Clarkston to rural communities where he feels a natural kinship with people. Both Clarkston and Chang care for patients in rural and needy areas. Clarkston has treated patients through UMKC's outreach program in Butler, Mo., and sees patients at a clinic in rural Atchison, Kansas.

-Sandy Beaty

Take Wing Award



Brad Warner

Little did Brad Warner the medical student know that one day he would return to his alma mater an award winner.

But that's just what happened this year when

Warner, M.D. '82, received the 2008 E. Grey Dimond, M.D., Take Wing Award. He will receive the award and deliver the Take Wing Lecture at commencement ceremonies on May 29.

Warner's trip back to Hospital Hill was only his second since graduating. This time, however, Warner's visit may serve a larger purpose. His oldest daughter,

Lauren, a high school senior, is thinking about applying to the School of Medicine.

Having one of his children take the same tour he once did as a high school student is something Warner never dreamed experiencing.

"You never know where you're going to end up," Warner says.

Where Warner's ended up is Washington University (Wash-U) as surgeon-in-chief and director of pediatric surgery at the St. Louis Children's Hospital. He is also the Apolline Blair St. Louis Children's Hospital Professor of Surgery at the Wash-U School of Medicine. He came to Wash-U by way of the University of Cincinnati, where he had been since graduating from UMKC.

While at Cincinnati, Warner's NIH-funded research took shape. The research focuses on helping patients recover from massive intestinal loss.

"It developed having seen a few patients who suffered a catastrophic loss of their intestine and how their lifestyle was impacted," Warner says.

Along with serving as a researcher and surgeon, Warner is a member of numerous professional organizations, was a former president of the Society of University Surgeons, has served on several editorial boards and NIH study sections, and has been widely published.

He lives in St. Louis County with his wife and neonatologist Barbara Warner, M.D., and two daughters, the before-mentioned Lauren and Emily.

-Nicholas Barron

Alumni Updates

1977

Michael Weaver, M.D., of Kansas City, Mo., was appointed to the State Board of Health by Gov. Matt Blunt. He is the vice president of clinical diversity at St. Luke's Health System.

1982

William Sullivan, M.D., pediatric physician with the Ft. Collins Youth Clinic, passed away on March 28 after a year long battle with cancer. A graduate of University City (Mo.) High School, Sullivan attended UMKC and served in the Air Force until 1990. At that time he moved with his family to Ft. Collins, Colorado. He is survived by wife Donna Lippert Sullivan, M.D. '82, and four children, daughter Erin Sullivan-Ortiz and her husband, Israel, of Greeley, Colo., son Curtis Sullivan of Indianapolis, Ind., daughters Kathryn and Megan Sullivan of the home, and his mother, Jean Sullivan, of University City.

Brad Warner, M.D. was appointed professor of surgery, surgeon-in-chief and director of pediatric surgery at Apolline Blair St. Louis Children's Hospital, as well as chairman of the American Academy of Pediatrics' surgical section.

1986

Darryl Nelson, M.D., was named a top doctor in Kansas City by *Ingram's Magazine* in its October 2007 issue. Nelson is medical director for HCA Midwest Health System and practices in Lee's Summit, Mo. He is a past president of the Missouri Academy of Family Physicians.

1990

Linda Siy, M.D., was named president of the Texas Academy of Family Physicians. She is the vice chair for JPS Hospital Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee, an associate professor at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas and the University of North Texas Health Sciences Center in Fort Worth.

2002

Janna Ver Miller, M.D., and Matthew Ver Miller, Psy.D., celebrated the birth of their son, Jazer Madison, in September 2006. Janna is a private practice geriatrician who also serves as a clinical instructor at the University of Colorado Health Science Center in Denver.

Amy Hackmann, M.D., is continuing with her general surgery residency in Tampa after completing two years of research at Washington University in St. Louis. She is currently working toward a cardiothoracic surgery fellowship.

2004

Asma Moheet, M.D., has completed his residency in neurology at the Cleveland Clinic and is now completing his fellowship in neurologic intensive care at the University of California in San Francisco.

To submit an Alumni Update, visit the Panorama Web site at www.med.umkc.edu/news, or send an e-mail to barronn@umkc.edu.

Stand up and be counted.

“I know that every contribution makes a difference and can change a student’s life because the generosity of others has changed mine.”

—Lauren Fairbairn (center)
School of Medicine

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A Note From Alumni Association President

In recently talking with an attorney friend from New York, I learned he’s developed a sudden disdain for doctors.

I was taken back because we’ve discussed our respective careers before and he’s never expressed contempt for the medical profession. I’m guessing what set it off was a series of articles in the New York papers about some shady business by a few physicians in that area.

My friend’s new feelings toward doctors set me to thinking about what has happened to the public’s perception of physicians. It’s easy to blame the media and say that all they

want to write about is the sensational bad news, but is it more than that?

Nowadays we are bombarded by local radio and TV stations airing daily health segments about what to ask your doctor, what to tell your doctor and what to look for in your doctor. People see these and rush to their physician and question them about the latest health news as if their doctor knows less than the pretty health reporter on TV.

There are also law offices constantly advertising about protecting patients’ rights against the evil empire of medicine.

And I’m constantly updated by my nursing staff on the latest in cheesy TV medical soaps, learning who Dr. McDreamy is involved with and what resident will be romantically linked to which attending, and so on and so on.

I think what we do as physicians in helping people is much more important than some seamy backstory.

Recently, I stumbled upon a small article buried in the back of a newspaper about one state that set up free health clinics to provide care for the underserved.

In order to staff these clinics, the state provided liability protection to any physician who volunteered. The article said the clinics were a huge success, with plenty of physicians available to provide free quality health care to thousands of people.

Why was this not a big front-page story? I guarantee a doctor caught defrauding the health care system is a front-page headline.

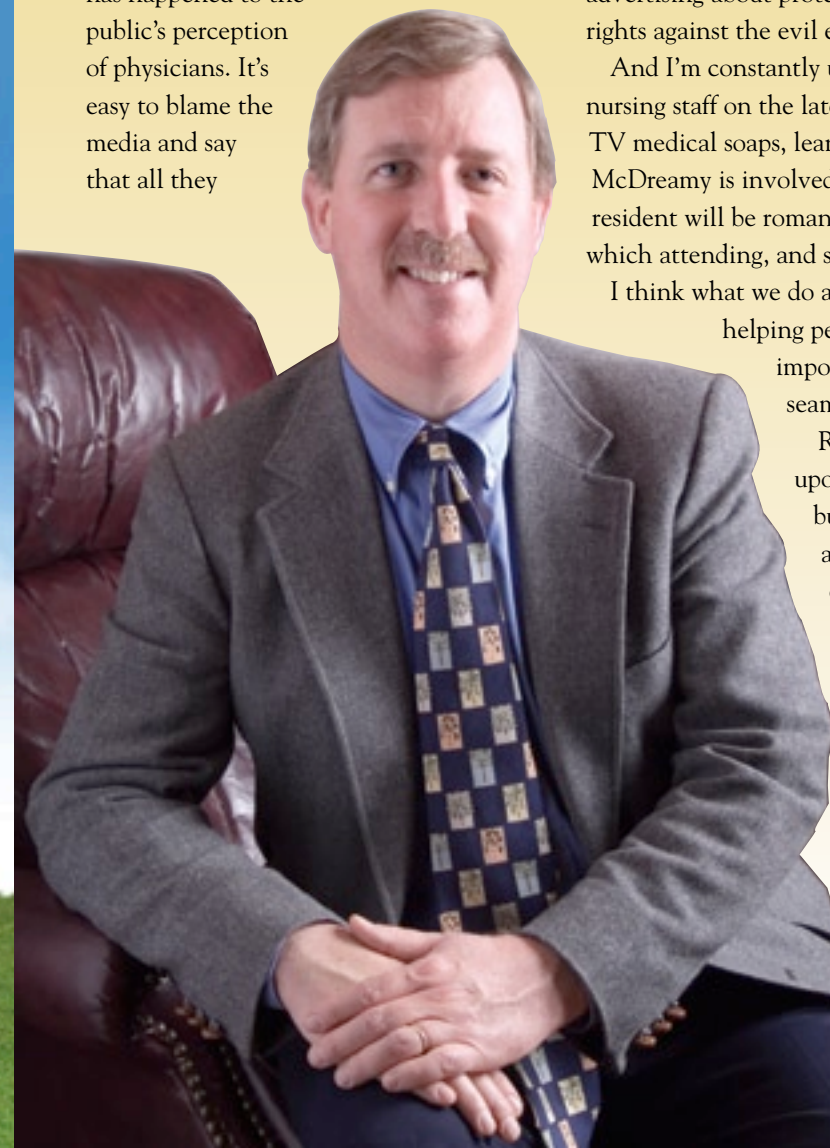
I was recently surprised to learn that U.S. medical schools are now competing for the best and brightest students. In my day, it was the other way around, with the best and brightest competing for admission to medical school.

In today’s high-profile, celebrity-obsessed, me-first generation, the practice of helping people gets lost in the shuffle and hype. We need to take a stand as a medical profession, get out there, take the high ground, and tout what we do and what we mean to a community.

Grab that high school, college or elementary school student, and say look at this: You too can do something special and make a difference.

We need to be our own publicists and drive the best and the brightest to want to be a physician. That is how you provide quality health care, by attracting quality people.

Thomas Franey, M.D., '85
President, UMKC School of Medicine
Alumni Association



New signage at the School of Medicine



Spring 2008

Panorama

Upcoming Events

May 29

School of Medicine Commencement

May 30

E. Grey Dimond, M.D. Take Wing Award Lectureship

June 7

Hospital Hill 5K run

Aug. 15

Year 1 Convocation

Aug. 16

Year III White Coat Ceremony

Sept. 19

Marjorie S. Sirridge, M.D., Annual Outstanding Women in Medicine Lecture

Check us out **online**

To find out what else is happening at the School of Medicine, or to get more info about the events above, log onto the school's events calendar at www.med.umkc.edu/calendar. E-mail Mary McCamy at mccamym@umkc.edu to add your event to the calendar.



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-KANSAS CITY

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