



The Docent Way of Learning

UMKC School of Medicine
graduates carry on the unique
teaching tradition

Jennifer McBride, M.D. '03

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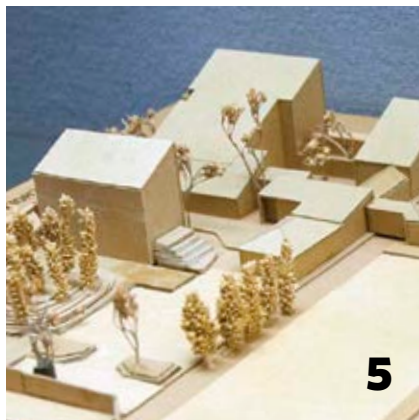
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UMKC Medicine

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Ann Aylward
Joseph Cook

CORRESPONDENCE

Editor, *UMKC Medicine*
2411 Holmes Street, M2-301
Kansas City, MO 64108
medmagazine@umkc.edu



Stories of leadership

ONE OF THE FIRST things I noticed after being appointed dean of this medical school was that our graduates have remarkable achievements to their credit and so many hold major leadership positions across the broad spectrum of health care. Given the relatively young age of our school — we celebrate our 45th anniversary this year — this observation really piqued my curiosity.

Our graduates hold significant leadership roles in some of the country's top hospitals, medical companies, academic institutions, and state and federal

government agencies as administrators, clinicians, researchers and educators.

To me, this impressive display of leadership raises the question: "To what degree might the school — its environment, people and programs — have played a role?" Does our long-standing docent system play a part? What is the contribution of our straight-from-high-school admissions process, or how do the personal characteristics of students influence who selects such a program?

To gain a better understanding of this phenomenon, the school — under the leadership of Dr. Louise Arnold, Dr. Paul Cuddy, Dr. Jennifer Quintance and Dr. Susan Hathaway — has undertaken an institutional review board-approved research project to explore these and related important questions. The research team already has conducted interviews with a large sample of alumni who meet the project's established leadership criteria, and the investigators currently are analyzing the data. I look forward to sharing the results with you and using those results to help the school continue on its path of excellence.

There is no question that the docent system of education is a foundation of UMKC's medical education program. The docent system combines the best of apprenticeship learning with mentoring, peer teaching, small-group instruction and other educational techniques. In this issue of *UMKC Medicine*, we feature our alumni who currently serve as docents. Also, we highlight the stories of medical students who are pursuing research at top-tier programs. And we include two celebrations best captured through photos: the annual Match Day festivities and the 40th anniversary of the Diastole Scholars' Center.

If the success of a school is determined by the success of its graduates, then this school has much to celebrate. I hope you will celebrate with me as you read the stories on the following pages.

Steven L. Kanter, M.D.
Dean, UMKC School of Medicine

Pet therapy

MEDICAL STUDENT APURVA BHATT watched with excitement. For some time now, therapists at the mental health center had been urging the patient to speak to them, with no success. It was always the same story: Alone in his own room, the man would talk to himself. But with others around, nothing.

Now, it was Ozzie's turn.

In his casual, friendly manner, Ozzie sat by the gentleman and waited quietly.

Before long, the man who characteristically remained silent in front of others opened up and began telling Ozzie his story.

Without much effort, it seemed, the four-year-old, black-and-tan coonhound was doing his thing as a pet therapist,

connecting with a patient where others had fallen short.

"There are some things that doctors can do, and some things that nurses can do for patients," says Bhatt, Ozzie's owner and a sixth-year student in the B.A./M.D. program. "But what this patient was doing was something I'd never seen before. That was pretty amazing to see someone respond to an animal in that way."

For the past year, Bhatt and Ozzie have volunteered a portion of their Saturdays to meet patients at the Truman Medical Centers Behavioral Health facility.

"I think animals bring out a certain aspect of expression in people," Bhatt says. "It's different from how we interact with other humans. I think (Ozzie) approaches people in a very non-judgmental way and they feel comfortable around him."

Bhatt had no idea what was in store for them when she and Ozzie met nearly four years ago at a local pet adoption shelter. As they were leaving to go home, volunteers at the shelter suggested to Bhatt that Ozzie, with his outgoing demeanor, would make a good therapy pet.

After doing some research, Bhatt decided to give it a try. While she was busy with medical school, Ozzie began his own citizenship training.

"He was a pretty hyper little guy," Bhatt says. "He had a history of anxiety, but the vet said that would go away in time."

Two years ago, Ozzie began training for pet therapy. Bhatt received her certification as pet therapy handler, and later she and Ozzie passed a team evaluation.

Through their experiences together, Bhatt says she's learned some interesting lessons about medicine and how patients respond to different forms of therapy.

"It's not just medications that work," she says. "A lot of people need different types of support in their life, especially in a behavioral health hospital where there are rules that you can't touch. A dog, you're allowed to touch or hug. You can't measure that as a physician."



B.A./M.D. student Apurva Bhatt and Ozzie, her trained therapy dog, volunteer at Truman Medical Centers Behavioral Health.

Virtual arthroscopy

FUTURE ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEONS training at UMKC now use a high-tech simulator to hone their technique.

The Orthopaedic Basic Surgical Skills Laboratory acquired the Kansas City metropolitan area's first arthroscopic virtual surgery simulator. The VirtaMed ArthroS system creates a realistic operating environment for trainees to learn the fundamentals of knee and shoulder arthroscopy.

Instruments provide tactile feedback as users watch their virtual surgeries on a television monitor. Sound effects provide another layer of operating room authenticity.

The system comes with training modules for users of varying skill levels. Residents can practice basic arthroscopic skills, as well as more advanced procedures, such as shaving cartilage and resecting tissue.

Simulated procedures receive a grade. If the trainee applies too much force on the virtual cartilage, for instance, the score will reflect it. Sessions are recorded, as well, so attending physicians can review them.

"It's kind of like a video game," says James Bogener, M.D. '05, associate director of UMKC's orthopaedic surgery residency program. "You have to pass each stage before you unlock the next stage."

Bogener says the system will enhance the development of future surgeons and ensure that residents are safe in the operating room. "It gives you instant feedback without ever putting a patient at risk," he says.

UMKC's onsite access to the simulator offers a unique opportunity, Bogener adds, as there are fewer than 50 in place at training facilities across the world.

The Orthopaedic Basic Surgical Skills Laboratory is a collaboration between Children's Mercy Kansas City, Truman Medical Centers, St. Luke's Hospital and the UMKC Department of Orthopaedic Surgery.



James Bogener, M.D. '05, performs a knee arthroscopy on the VirtaMed ArthroS system.

Heart failure in young mothers



DANIEL PAULY, M.D., PH.D., professor of biomedical and health informatics and chief of the cardiology section at

Truman Medical Centers, was one of the authors of an article published in *The New England Journal of Medicine*.

Pauly and his colleagues analyzed genes in women who experienced peripartum cardiomyopathy, a deterioration of heart function during the last month of pregnancy and up to six months postpartum. The study showed that a mutation in the TTN gene is the cause of a significant number of peripartum cardiomyopathies, even in women without a family history of the disease.

"Peripartum cardiomyopathy is a poorly understood, life-threatening disorder," Pauly says. "Our hope is that unraveling its molecular causes will lead to more effective treatments for the young mothers it afflicts."

Four percent of heart transplants in the United States among women are for the treatment of peripartum cardiomyopathy.



Study co-authors Douglas Geehan, M.D., left, and Deirdre Hart, M.D. '11.

Clinical skills in motion

TECHNOLOGY USED TO analyze athletes' movements is now making its way into the health care arena.

Mark Hoffman, Ph.D., director of the Center for Health Insights and assistant dean for educational innovation, is part of an interdisciplinary team at UMKC finding research and education applications for motion capture technology.

At the School of Medicine's Clinical Training Facility, Hoffman and his colleagues set up a portable platform of 18 cameras to capture data to assess clinical skills, such as intubating a patient.

"This lets us use motion analysis to understand skills development at a very detailed level by having learners at different skill levels perform simulated procedures at the training facility and then analyze the data," Hoffman says.

Wake-up calls in the ER

INJURIES PRESENT AN opportunity to link patients with primary and preventive care, according to a UMKC School of Medicine study.

In the study, 100 patients treated at Truman Medical Center Hospital Hill for blunt or penetrating trauma were asked if they had a primary care provider and, if not, whether they were interested in establishing such a relationship. Sixty-seven of the 100 patients said they did not have a provider and were interested in a referral.

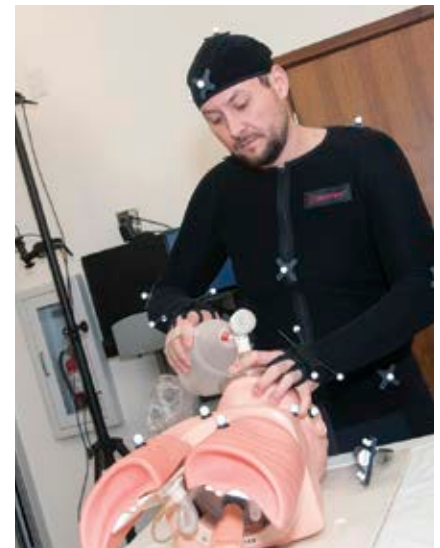
The study, published in *American Surgeon*, suggests that a trauma encounter can serve as a wake-up call for individuals who have put off seeing a doctor.

"People think they're healthy, and they think they're healthy because they don't have a primary care doctor," says Deirdre Hart, M.D. '11, a fifth-year surgery resident and the study's first author. "Really, they've got diabetes, hypertension and other medical problems they've just ignored. Sometimes having a car accident or having an injury can make you go, *Huh, maybe I'm not as unstoppable as I thought I was.*"

Of the 67 patients who said they were interested in a referral, 11 made and kept appointments in Truman's primary care clinics. Roughly half of the 67 patients lacked insurance, and most were below age 40. The follow-through rate is not high but, as the authors note in the study, is "certainly better than it would have been without the attempt at referral."

Says Hart: "The need is there, and the want is there."

Hart's co-authors are Elizabeth Germinder, M.D. '09, a former UMKC surgery resident now in practice in Troy, New York; Douglas Geehan, M.D., professor of surgery; and Mark Friedell, M.D., the Ralph R. Coffey Chair in Surgery.



Anesthesiology resident Sean Gamble, M.D., wears motion capture sensors.

DEAN'S POP QUIZ

Since 1971, the UMKC School of Medicine has been preparing and cultivating tomorrow's health-care leaders. Which of the following leadership positions are held by our graduates? For the answer, see page 26.

- A) Associate provost of institutional diversity and student services at Baylor College of Medicine
- B) Interim and vice chair of the Department of Dermatology at Saint Louis University
- C) Founding director of the in-vitro fertilization unit at Massachusetts General Hospital
- D) Chair of the Department of Radiology at the University of California-San Diego
- E) All of the above

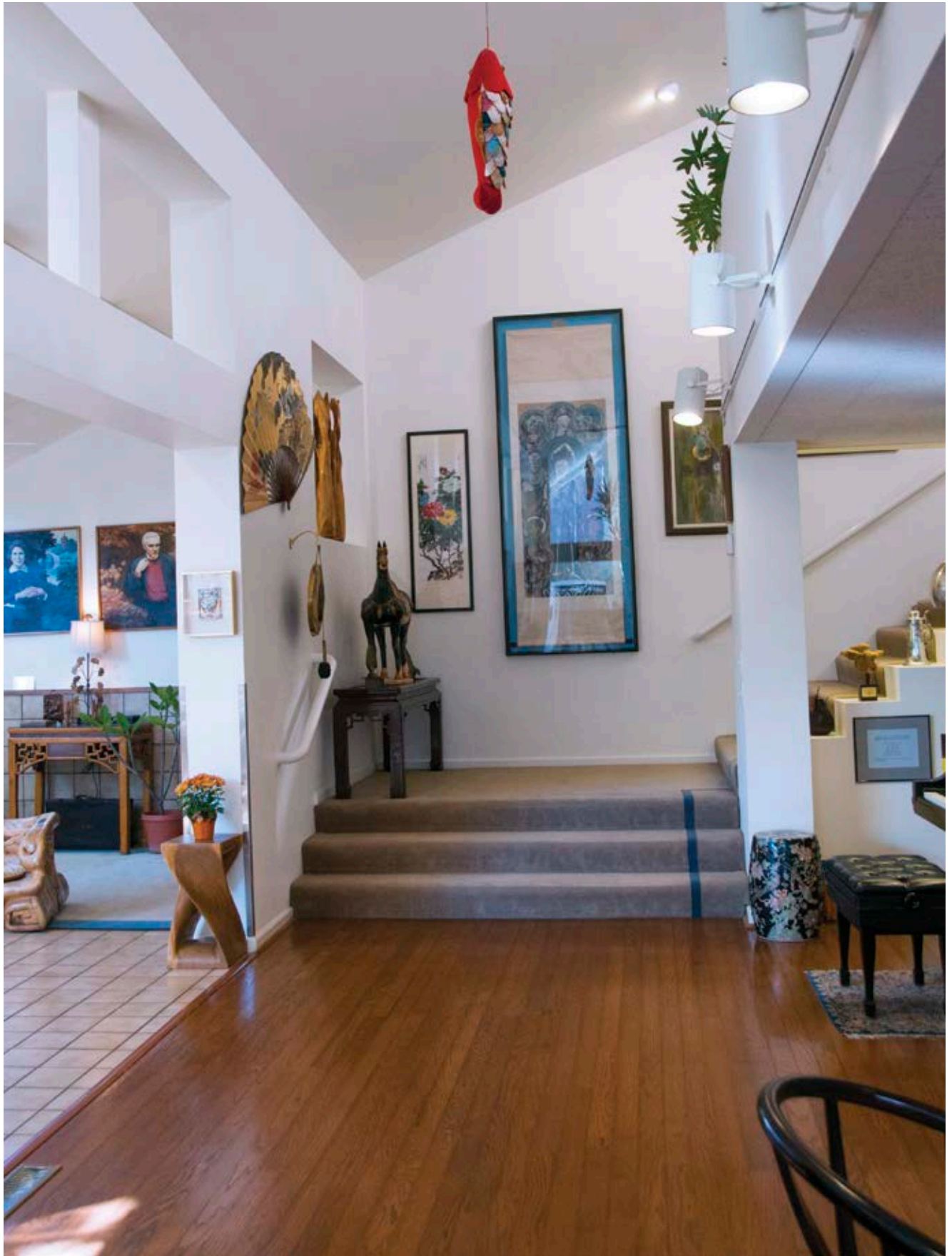


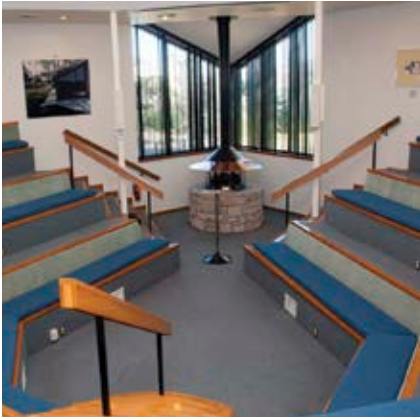
Forty Years of **DIASTOLE**

The home E. Grey Dimond, M.D., built on Hospital Hill endures as an events space and scholars center. 

Above: Construction began on Diastole in 1976. A blue door marks the entrance of the original residence.

By David Martin
Photos by Bob Steckmest





FORM AND FUNCTION

In 1976, UMKC School of Medicine founder E. Grey Dimond, M.D., and his wife, Mary Clark Dimond, decided to build a home on the edge of Hospital Hill.

After living in an 11-room house built by Kansas City political boss Tom Pendergast in the 1920s, the couple wanted something simple and modern. An architect designed a redwood townhouse, with windows on the north face affording a view of the School of Medicine.

A cardiologist, Dimond named the house Diastole, a term for the interim between heartbeats.

The original house was not a private residence for long. In 1980, the Dimonds placed it in the care of a nonprofit corporation. Formally known as the Mary Clark and E. Grey Dimond Scholars' Center, Diastole is a freestanding entity with a mission to further UMKC's progress by providing a stimulating, serene setting for retreats, dinners and other events.



Opposite: A staircase empties into the piano room of Diastole. Clockwise from top: The 70-seat kiva is a popular spot for retreats. Portraits of Mary Clark Dimond and Grey Dimond hang in the sun room. A concert grand Steinway is the focus of the piano room. A view of the courtyard from the piano room.

TRANQUILITY

What began as a private residence just 20 feet in width is now a tranquil compound covering nearly three acres, the equivalent of 21 city lots.

Diastole's ultimate purpose became evident to Dimond while he and Mary were living there. "Our private house gradually was being invaded by university activities," he once wrote

Welcoming the takeover, the Dimonds placed Diastole in the care of a nonprofit corporation and made plans to move to Crown Center. But Mary Dimond died unexpectedly in the midst of the transition. Grey Dimond moved into an existing house on the Diastole grounds and continued to develop the compound. He was living at Diastole until the time of death in 2013, one month shy of his 95th birthday.

Clockwise from right: *Life's Academic Plan* is a sculpture construction by Guinotte Wise. A gargoyle from Kansas City General Hospital found a home on the Diastole grounds. Dimond's dogs included a giant schnauzer named Mama HuHu. Teak benches sit in an area of the garden known as the Great Wall.





ART AND LITERATURE

Several changes have been made to the original house, which the Kansas City chapter of the American Institute of Architects recognized with a design award in 1978. A sunroom and kitchen were added, as well as the kiva, a 70-seat theater in the round with excellent acoustics.

Today, a greatly expanded Diastole is filled with paintings, drawings and sculptures, many of them collected on the international tours made by groups of School of Medicine faculty members and students.

The extensive book collection includes thousands of copies of Persian poet Omar Khayyam's most famous work, *The Rubaiyat*. Dimond was introduced to the book by a colonel he treated while serving as an Army physician in Tokyo.

Clockwise from top left: Copies of *The Rubaiyat* line the shelves of the Omar Khayyam room. A Chinese pottery horse. Diastole administrator Nancy Hill's three sons inspired the gourds with Dimond-sculpted duck heads. Louis Cicotello incorporated the docent unit colors into *Abstract Rendition of UMKC School of Medicine*.



THE MAKING OF A Docent

UMKC School of Medicine alumni bring
a unique perspective to the role of docent.

By Kelly Edwards



A sense of awe swept through Jared Keeler, M.D. '94, as he looked up at the mountain of a man standing before him. A docent at the UMKC School of Medicine for 27 years, Fred DeFeo, M.D., had that effect on people. Tall and stocky, DeFeo could be physically imposing. Then there was his academic acumen piled upon years of accumulated life lessons. His stature on top of all that wisdom made the man seem a tad intimidating at times.

He would be Keeler's docent for his final four years of medical school.

"I was thinking, I was outclassed," Keeler says. "Totally out of my league."

In time, Keeler came to know Dr. DeFeo, the docent, as Fred DeFeo, devoted husband, Boy Scout leader, colleague and one of his dearest friends. That relationship helped Keeler decide

that he, too, wanted to make a difference with young medical students. Merriam-Webster defines docent as teacher, lecturer, guide. Keeler, now finishing his 18th year as a docent, understands that the role of docent entails so much more: mentor, trusted advisor, confidant.

Small-group, team-oriented teaching is the bedrock of the medical school's curriculum. The docent system, as it's known, exposes students to clinical medicine throughout their six years in the B.A./M.D. program. The system is largely a function of building relationships: students mentor one another as junior-senior partners, the physician instructor takes on an almost parental role, and over time, the docent team forms a family-like bond. Unlike traditional

Jared Keeler, M.D. '94, leads students and Kristy Steigerwalt, Pharm.D., M.L.S., second from left, on rounds at Truman Medical Center Hospital Hill.

medical school programs, the docent system of learning connects students with the same docent physician over many years: Years 1 and 2 students work with their docent for two years; students in years 3 to 6 work alongside their docent over four years. The continuity enables docents to help guide their students through the formative periods in their personal lives, as well as their academics.

The docent system was a key feature of the School of Medicine's original academic plan. Today, that system is recognized as a forerunner of the

learning communities that Harvard Medical School and others have established to deliver curriculum and support students.

One of 13 alumni currently carrying on the tradition of the docent physician, Keeler says now that the greatest effect he can have on his own students is to instill in them the qualities of a compassionate, competent physician that his docent fostered in him.

He can pinpoint the moment he realized he had more than a teacher in DeFeo. Many were telling Keeler that he should cut his long hair if he wanted to become a doctor. DeFeo took a different tact, telling Keeler that he didn't mind the long hair: "As long as you keep it clean."

"I felt right then that we had a connection, that he understood me," Keeler said.

Without knowing it, Keeler had just learned an essential element of docenting: the ability to connect in a meaningful way with people who share little in common with you. The ability to ascertain the patients' real needs is one of the most important skills docents can demonstrate to help their young students.

Keeler quickly learned that a docent leads by example.

"A unique thing that I think any of us as docents can do, is the modeling of behaviors over a long period time," he says.

The ultimate payoff

Students in the B.A./M.D. program belong to two docent teams during their six years of medical school. First-year students are assigned to teams of 10 to 15 students and matched with a docent physician who serves as a clinical mentor. Students meet as a group with the docent once or twice a week to learn the basics of clinical medicine. In the



Jennifer McBride, M.D. '03, center, likens being a docent with being a parent.

third year, when students transition to Hospital Hill, they join new docent teams that mix students in years 3 to 6, as well as students entering UMKC's four-year M.D. program.

Jennifer McBride, M.D. '03, is a docent for students in years 3 to 6. She considers herself "very maternal" and says those instincts follow her to work. In her office, she proudly displays a family photo of her husband and their three children.

She also loves to teach, which explains why it didn't her take long to accept the school's offer to be a docent shortly after completing her internal medicine-pediatrics residency. McBride says those two roles — mentor and mother — meld

into one as she teaches and counsels students, many just a few years removed from high school. At that age, she says, they are still learning how to cope with myriad life struggles. "It's very much parental as well as mentoring."

She finds satisfaction as a docent in helping students work through their problems and begin to embrace the effort required to become a physician.



For Amit Patel, M.D. '05, second from left, joining the faculty was a way to give back to his alma mater.

ALUMNI DOCENTS

DOUG COCHRAN, M.D. '88

Specialty: Internal medicine
Years as docent: 16
Docent unit: Purple 2

ALICIA HILLMAN, M.D. '03

Specialty: Physical medicine & rehabilitation
Years as docent: 2
Docent unit: Years 1-2

JARED KEELER, M.D. '94

Specialty: Internal medicine
Years as docent: 18
Docent unit: Blue 6

JENNIFER McBRIDE, M.D. '03

Specialty: Internal medicine-pediatrics
Years as docent: 8
Docent unit: Red 1



Rose Zwerenz, M.D. '82, is a docent for B.A./M.D. students during their first and second years.

The ultimate payoff, she says, is watching them graduate and find success in their residency and fellowship training.

“It’s just like being a mom. It’s your proud mom moment.”

Like McBride, Keeler enjoys helping students develop over the course of four years, from young, wide-eyed pupils to physicians who can make a difference. It is part of what Keeler says has kept him at the school as a docent for nearly two decades.

“You think, ‘Man, this person really can change the world. I’d be crazy not to stay here and see what this kid can do,’” he says.

For Amit Patel, M.D. '05, joining the faculty as a docent was tied to his fondness for the school and desire to give back to his alma mater. And, he adds:

“What good is your knowledge if you can’t share it with somebody?”

Completing his second year in the docent role, Patel was surprised when a member of his first graduating class, now doing his residency in Detroit, sent him a wedding invitation.

“I was so overwhelmed that a student had felt I had such an impact on his life that he invited his docent to his wedding,” Patel says. “Those are the type of things I’ll always take with me.”

McBride agrees, explaining that docents make those close, lasting connections by getting to know their students. They aren’t just faces in a classroom, she says, but individuals relying on her to help them develop their strengths and overcome their weaknesses.

“I think we’d miss what their full potential would be if we focused on them just as students,” she says.

‘A beautiful academic plan’

Six School of Medicine alumni serve as docents for first- and second-year students. Rose Zwerenz, M.D. '82, has been serving that role for 28 years. She says that while her responsibilities may not mirror those of Year 3 to Year 6 docents, it does set the foundation for students learning to become a physician.

“I don’t see my role as just teaching,” Zwerenz says. “It’s mentoring, being a role model of what I want to see in a doctor-patient relationship.”

Communication and basic bedside skills are part her curriculum. But Zwerenz says her mentoring goes beyond teaching students how to take a patient’s medical history. She makes a point to broaden the scope of her students’ education by exposing them to the various local arts and culture outside the medical clinic.

“I want them to feel it was an enrichment to their lives, not just a requirement,” Zwerenz says. “I’m trying to enhance their life skills, help them make good life decisions.”

That doesn’t end when students leave Zwerenz to join a new docent team for their four clinical years.

Like Zwerenz, McBride, who has been a docent for eight years, encourages her students find and experience things that they enjoy doing outside of medicine.

“Their patients need to have a human being as their physician,” she says.

McBride believes her experience as a student in the six-year program helps her recognize when students need help dealing with the challenges of an accelerated medical program.

MIKE MONACO, M.D. '87

Specialty: Internal medicine
Years as a docent: 26
Docent unit: Years 1-2

JESICA NEUHART, M.D. '02

Specialty: Pediatrics
Years as docent: 3
Docent unit: Years 1-2

AMIT PATEL, M.D. '05

Specialty: Internal medicine
Subspecialty: Nephrology
Years as docent: 3
Docent unit: Green 8

VALERIE RADER, M.D. '05

Specialty: Internal medicine
Subspecialty: Cardiology
Years as docent: 5 years
Docent unit: Years 1-2

In the docents' words

Alumni discuss what they find gratifying about serving as a docent physician.

"The highest level of satisfaction is from the lasting friendships created by the docent system. I have tremendous respect for the past and present Purple students."

- **Doug Cochran, M.D. '88**

"Thursday mornings with my students have become the highlight of my week. I find their energy and awe for medicine to be infectious, and they continue to renew my passion for the profession. It is a great honor to be able to guide them through those first formative years."

- **Alicia Hillman, M.D. '03**

"The students come to me with essentially a blank slate. I really enjoy watching as they slowly expand and cultivate their medical knowledge base during their two-year hospital experience with me. It gives me great satisfaction to know that over these many years hundreds of students have had their first exposure to medicine through me and, hopefully, I have fostered a passion for them to pursue excellence in their medical careers."

- **Mike Monaco, M.D. '87**

"It's fun to work with students so early in their medical school journey. During the first two years, they are so appreciative of any clinical experience they obtain, so it's great to see them make connections between what they learn in the classroom to what they're doing in clinic. Their enthusiasm for learning is refreshing and encouraging to me. I enjoy seeing the students

grow and become more confident in their identities and abilities."

- **Jesica Neuhart, M.D. '02**

"Being a docent is one of my favorite parts of being a physician. I enjoy the enthusiasm and eagerness of the students, which reminds me of how exciting it was when I started medical school. This role has been rewarding and is one of the ways I am able to give back. The most gratifying aspect of being a docent is watching the students' progress and knowing that I am able to pass on to them some of what I have learned."

- **Valerie Rader, M.D. '05**

"I enjoy the opportunity to mentor medical students and help them develop the attitudes, knowledge and skills to be outstanding physicians. I believe the most important skill I can teach is how to connect with patients in meaningful ways. As a docent, I am able to influence the care of multitudes of patients, many I have never actually encountered. The students who graduated from my unit and the physicians they have trained carry with them the lessons learned from me in the care of their patients."

- **Gary Salzman, M.D. '80**

"I love watching the personal and academic growth of the students in the two years of evolution. They come in as green high school students and evolve into truly professional-level students!"

- **Susan Storm, M.D. '85**

"If you hadn't gone through this program, you wouldn't know to look for that," she said.

As an alumnus, Patel also has a good idea of what his students are going through. He remembers vividly the anxiety of being a third-year medical student beginning the clinical phase of training and hearing from others, "just don't mess up." Now, Patel says as a docent, he wants to set his students up for success.

"I tell my students, 'You messed this presentation up, but you get an A for effort.' I tell them, 'It's OK. In time, you'll get an A for your presentation skills.'"

Zwerenz was a medical student at a time when the school's founder, E. Grey Dimond, M.D., was still active in the program. Dimond was the lead architect in drafting the school's academic model. Determining that students, while challenged, would also have the support they needed to succeed in the school's rigorous six-year program, Dimond made the docent an integral part of the curriculum.

Says Zwerenz, "Dr. Dimond created a beautiful academic plan."

Zwerenz had earned a nursing degree and was a nursing instructor before she decided to become a doctor. As a wife and a mother with another career when she started medical school, Zwerenz brought a different life perspective to her years on Lynn DeMarco, M.D.'s docent team. She remembers, though, how quickly and warmly she was accepted as a member of her docent team, and that the bond it formed over four years continued beyond medical school.

"That probably had a lot to do with Dr. DeMarco," Zwerenz says.

UMKC's docent system provides unique learning for medical students. And sometimes, it is the unscripted,

GARY SALZMAN, M.D. '80

Specialty: Internal medicine
Subspecialty: Pulmonary and critical care medicine
Years as docent: 31
Docent unit: Green 6

CAROL STANFORD, M.D. '79

Specialty: Internal medicine
Years as docent: 22
Docent unit: Gold 5

JIM STANFORD, M.D. '80

Specialty: Internal medicine
Years as docent: 30
Docent unit: Blue 5

SUSAN STORM, M.D. '85

Specialty: Pediatrics
Years as docent: 8
Docent unit: Years 1-2

ROSE ZWERENZ, M.D. '82

Specialty: Community and family medicine
Years as docent: 28
Docent unit: Years 1-2



Some of the alumni who serve on the faculty gathered for a portrait before the School of Medicine's 2015 White Coat ceremony. Clockwise from left: Amit Patel, M.D. '05, Jim Stanford, M.D. '80, Gary Salzman M.D. '80, Assistant Dean Raymond Cattaneo, M.D. '03, Jared Keeler, M.D. '94, Associate Dean Brenda Rogers, M.D. '90, Carol Stanford, M.D. '79, and Jennifer McBride, M.D. '03.

out-of-the-ordinary event that brings docents and students closer together.

One morning on a hospital rotation, Keeler and his team visited a patient preparing to go home after suffering a heart attack several days earlier. Entering his room, the team learned that the man had just collapsed to the floor, then watched anxiously while doctors and nurses worked unsuccessfully to revive him. Red-eyed and shaken, Keeler's team took a short break and retreated to its medical school office where, he says, "We just sat there and cried and cried and cried and talked about it. It was a good thing to be able to do that as a group."

Seeing the impact

Keeler, McBride and Zwerenz, like many of the school's alumni docents, completed their residency training at UMKC. Patel, on the other hand, left

to do his residency at the University of South Florida.

He says he always planned to move back to Kansas City, but figured he'd do so as a private-practice physician. That

“Their patients need to have a human being as their physician.”

– Jennifer McBride

was the path when he returned in 2010 and joined a local practice. After three years, Patel decided that the grind of seeing 30 to 35 patients a day couldn't match

the excitement and social interaction that could come from teaching. An extrovert at heart, he leaped at the opportunity to join his alma mater as a docent.

Now, he enjoys a part-time nephrology practice where his objective is to provide altruistic and competent care. As a docent, he finds purpose in mentoring his students to do the same. If he's successful, he says, those students stand a good chance of one day becoming "superstar physicians."

Patel's doctoring style is to conclude each patient encounter with a personal touch, always thanking his patients for the opportunity to be their physician and to provide their health care. In time, he noticed his students had picked up the practice and were thanking their patients in a similar manner.

"When I see my students do that," Patel says, "I realize the impact that I have on them as a docent." ■



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8 8

M. A. Koltoni

STENO MELTZER, M.D., PH.D.
FREDERICK
DEPARTMENT OF PATHOLOGY

Medical Student
Amanda Fletcher
FREDERICK DEPARTMENT OF PATHOLOGY

SILK
Staples
Endocytosis
Alze+

ATTEN

SCIENTISTS IN TRAINING

School of Medicine students are finding
and creating more opportunities to pursue research.

By David Martin

Amanda Fletcher will leave the UMKC School of Medicine with three degrees. In between her fifth and sixth years in the B.A./M.D. program, she pursued a master's degree in clinical research.

Fletcher hit the pause button on her combined baccalaureate and medical education to study fat embolism. Specifically, she conducted a study to see if a drug used to treat high blood pressure may be effective in preventing or treating the lung damage often associated with fat embolism syndrome. The tests, in rats, show promise.

Fletcher successfully defended her thesis this spring. She was the first UMKC medical student to complete a training program administered by Frontiers: The Heartland Institute for Clinical and Translational Research, a regional network of academic institutions and health systems. The one-year

Left: Agostino Molteni, M.D., Ph.D., director of student research, mentored Amanda Fletcher while she pursued a master's degree in clinical research.

program is open to students studying medicine, dentistry and pharmacy at UMKC, the University of Kansas and Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences.

By entering the program, Fletcher extended by one year the time it will take for her to complete her medical degree. The decision was made easier by the fact she entered the B.A./M.D. program out of high school. "Since this is an accelerated program, I knew I was kind of ahead of my time, anyway," she says.

Fletcher began thinking about taking time to conduct research during her first years at UMKC. In her third year, she used an elective month to work alongside Agostino Molteni, M.D., Ph.D., professor of pathology and pharmacology and director of student research, and the late Betty Herndon, Ph.D., who was an associate professor in the Department of Basic Medical Science.

Fletcher says she likes the hands-on nature of basic science research and is appreciative of the guidance Molteni provided. "We have formed a really

good mentor-mentee relationship," she says. "I have a lot of respect for him."

In addition to working with Molteni in the lab, Fletcher took courses in statistics, epidemiology, public health and other aspects of research at KU. Completing the degree requirements in one year was difficult, but Fletcher says she is grateful for the experience. "A lot of medical students and even physicians don't get that kind of training," she says.

Fletcher is one of a growing number of UMKC medical students who are pursuing research opportunities, both within and outside the School of Medicine. The activities range from research projects developed by docent units to yearlong residential programs at the National Institutes of Health and other institutions.

In some instances, students are diving into research even before they arrive on campus.

After high school, Kavelin Rumalla worked in the research lab of an otolaryngologist at Washington University in St. Louis. Upon arriving at UMKC, he found mentors in neurosurgery

and neurology at Washington U. and KU Medical Center. Now in just his second year in the B.A./M.D. program, he has presented research at conferences in Chicago, Los Angeles and Orlando, Florida.

Rumalla says research has enriched his experience as a medical student. “There is a stigma that medical students are not yet qualified, nor able, to make contributions to medicine. I believe this is false because there are a lot of medical students in the United States, and at UMKC, who are already making these contributions.”

Building crucial skills

Like Fletcher, Furqaan Sadiq put his medical education on hold to pursue research. In 2014, he applied for and received a grant to take part in a clinical research training program at Washington University.

Mentored by an anesthesiologist and a research statistician, Sadiq studied geriatric syndromes related to surgery patients. He worked on a project to identify frailty and develop a simpler screening tool that clinicians can use to predict adverse outcomes after surgery. He says he enjoyed using data to take an abstract concept, like frailty, and “make it more concrete.”

After completing the requirements of his research program, Sadiq returned to UMKC with a master’s degree in clinical investigation. A student in the four-year M.D. program, he is on pace to graduate this December. He considers his year in St. Louis as a “temporary detour” on his path to becoming a better doctor. “I took it as another opportunity to really build some crucial skills,” he says.

Sadiq noticed a difference when he resumed his medical education. He says he feels more confident when he’s in clinic and a question arises about a medication’s potential side effects. “Learning how to really investigate questions like that, looking through the medical literature, evaluating the evidence that’s out there, I don’t think I would have been able to do that as adequately if I had not taken the time off to really work on those skill sets,” he says.

Since his return, Sadiq has encouraged his fellow students to be open to research opportunities. It’s easy, he says, for students to focus only on coursework, step exams and residency placements. “There’s a vast amount of opportunity outside of the main steps we think of normally in med school that can really help us become better clinicians. Ultimately, that’s the end goal: helping us become better doctors to

Branch at the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke.

At the NIH, Montgomery participated in basic science and clinical research to improve the ability of FDG-PET scans to detect pituitary tumors. He also worked alongside researchers who work in device development. “I was like a kid in a candy store,” he says.

Montgomery entered the enrichment program with research experience. In



Blake Montgomery delayed completing the B.A./M.D. program to participate in a research enrichment program at the National Institutes of Health.

“Once you settle on the fact you want to learn research, you find a way to do it.”

— *Blake Montgomery*

care for our patients better and make people’s lives better.”

Blake Montgomery, a sixth-year B.A./M.D. student, took a year off to participate in an enrichment program at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland. Montgomery worked in the Surgical Neurology

the summer after his third year, he took part in a pediatric oncology education program at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital in Memphis.

“I’ve always been interested in research,” he

says. “Medical school is very busy, mainly learning how to take care of patients, mainly dealing with the clinical aspects. As I was going through medical school, I kind of realized, ‘I’ve always had this interest in research but I’m not getting the research foundation that I want before I finish med school.’”

He adds: “Once you settle on the fact you want to learn research, you find a way to do it.”

‘A heck of an opportunity’

School of Medicine leaders are working to make it easier for students to build a foundation in research.

Earlier this year, Dean Steven L. Kanter named two faculty members — Larry Dall, M.D, a docent and professor

students go through literature,” Dall says. “Then we meet again to develop methodology. Once we develop that, we conduct a protocol.”

Dall sees great innovation within the students. “Once they get a thirst for it, they get going and take care of things,” he says. “I act more as a guide than an implementer.”

And, he adds, students are asking practical questions. A group in the funda-

associate who died last year, was also instrumental.

Students have seized the chance. This year, more than 20 student projects were submitted for the Vijay Babu Rayudu Quality & Patient Safety Day event — up from eight in 2015.

Wacker, meanwhile, helps students who want to explore research opportunities at the NIH and other institutions. He encourages students to think of



Back from his research year at Washington University, Furqaan Sadiq, left, discusses a case with Prem Parajuli, M.D., center, and Kathryn Ottman, M.D.

of medicine, and Michael Wacker, Ph.D., associate teaching professor of physiology — assistant deans for student research. In making the appointments, Kanter said he wanted to ensure that medical students interested in research have the best experience possible.

According to Dall, “What’s going on now is pretty amazing.”

Dall guides students who want to engage in research as an elective. Projects begin as early as the fundamentals of medicine courses B.A./M.D. students take in the first and second years.

When students express interest in researching a subject, Dall works with them to develop a question. The next step is typically a meeting with medical librarian Susan Sanders. “She will help

mentals of medicine course, for instance, reviewed charts to see if patients discharged from Truman Medical Center Hospital Hill were returning for tests the radiology report said should be repeated.

“A lot of this stuff is very helpful to our patients,” Dall says. “It’s not just to do. It is determining different ways that we should do things.”

Dall served as a docent from 1982 to 1998. When he returned to the faculty in 2013, he hoped to create more opportunities for medical students to participate in clinical research. He worked with Sanders and Mark Hecker, Pharm.D., director of research administration, to develop a more robust intramural research program. Tim Quinn, a senior research

EXTERNAL RESEARCH

Medical students who have accepted offers to pursue research opportunities outside of UMKC in 2016-17 include:

Muhammed Alikhan

Class of 2019

National Institutes of Health
Medical Student Summer Research
Training Program in Diabetes and
Obesity Research
-Vanderbilt University-

Yicheng Bao

Class of 2021

National Institute of Diabetes and
Digestive and Kidney Diseases
Medical Student Summer Research
Program
-Washington University-

Omar Karadaghy

Class of 2018

TL1 Clinical Research
Predoctoral Program
-Washington University-

Sachin Nair

Class of 2019

National Institutes of Health
BRAIN Initiative Summer Course
-University of Missouri-Columbia-
and
Medical Research
Scholars Program
-National Institutes of Health-



Medical student Dean Merrill captained the men's golf team at Penn.

FROM U.S. AMATEUR TO NIH

UMKC medical student Dean Merrill is finishing a yearlong residential program at the National Institutes of Health. He is one of 55 students in the current crop of Medical Research Scholars, an NIH program to train the next generation of clinician-scientists and biomedical researchers.

Merrill works in the Mucosal Immunology Section of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease. "I've always been a big immune system fan," he says. "At UMKC, I really enjoyed Dr. [Christopher] Papasian's class. He does a really good job of teaching immunology."

When he returns to Kansas City this summer, Merrill will begin his final year in the School of Medicine's four-year M.D. program. In 2008, he graduated with an economics degree from the University of Pennsylvania, where he was a member of the men's golf team.

Merrill, in fact, was one of the top golfers in the Ivy League. After his junior and senior years, he qualified for the U.S. Amateur, competing in fields that included future stars Rickie Fowler, Dustin Johnson and Patrick Reed. After graduation, Merrill explored the idea of playing golf as a professional. He moved to Florida and played in mini tour events.

He knew he might need to prepare for another career. Medicine was one of the options he considered. "When I was playing golf, it really became apparent that, anytime I would pick up a book, it was always something about biology or science," he says.

A Kansas City native, Merrill enrolled in science courses at UMKC with an eye toward applying to medical school. A torn knee ligament finalized the decision to give up the dream of playing professional golf.

"It was a really good learning experience for me," Merrill says. "I picked up a lot from it. At the same time, I'm glad my career is going in the direction it is now as opposed to continuing to try [to play golf]."

Before being accepted into the Medical Research Scholars Program, Merrill worked with cardiology researchers at Children's Mercy Kansas City and spent three months in the dermatopathology section of the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. He says he likes the wide scope of medical research. "When you come to a place like the NIH, you can start asking much larger questions. I thought taking a year was a small investment to be able to ask some of those bigger questions."

medical school as an ideal moment to get research training.

"It's a heck of an opportunity," he says. "They're not going to get another chance like this during their career, typically. Getting into these research and training programs can really provide the skill set necessary to become physician-scientists."

Wacker says he understands that students may be reluctant to interrupt their education to pursue research. "I realize it's easy to sit here and say, 'Oh, take a year off.' When you're that age, it's like doing a fifth year of college," he says.

Wacker reminds students in the B.A./M.D. program that they're in an accelerated program. "You're still ahead of everybody else," he says.

An alumnus echoes the point.

Christian Hinrichs, M.D. '96, is a clinician-scientist at the Experimental Transplantation and Immunology Branch of the Center for Cancer Research at the National Cancer Institute [see page 30]. Hinrichs says students who have worked in his lab have made meaningful discoveries. One post-baccalaureate student was an author or co-author on two papers with at least one more on the way.

Hinrichs says he did not know about research opportunities when he was in medical school. He encourages UMKC students to look for what's available. "For students graduating from a six-year program, it's particularly a great opportunity because you finish a little bit earlier than other people," he says. "So you're in a good position to take some more time to do basic and clinical research."

For Amanda Fletcher, taking time to do research did not mean taking it easy. "It's been a lot of work cramming a master's into a year," she says.

Turning her attention back to medical school, Fletcher plans to apply to orthopaedic surgery residency programs. She hopes to have a career in academic medicine that will allow her to continue to conduct research.

"There's more to offer other than just patient care," she says. "If you're doing research, you're finding answers to questions that are going in the long run to hopefully help your patients." ■

Program allows alumni to name docent offices

AFTER FINISHING HIS training in emergency medicine at the UMKC School of Medicine, Mark Steele, M.D. '80, accepted an invitation to stick around the department for a few months and shore up a short staff.

What began as part-time work developed into a long and distinguished career at the school and its primary affiliate hospital. Today, Steele is the chief operating officer and chief medical officer at Truman Medical Centers. He is also the School of Medicine's associate dean of TMC programs and the executive medical director of University Physician Associates.

"I never dreamed that I would be doing any of the things that I ended up doing," he says. "I feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity. I think I owe a lot of it, obviously, to having come here and to the education I received."

Steele recently marked his connection to the school by joining the Alumni Mentoring Program. The giving opportunity enables alumni to name a student docent office and provide guidance to the current occupant. Funds raised through the program will support the school's facilities and program improvements.

A plaque with Steele's name and picture now hangs in his former student office in the Red 3 unit. Cameron Myers, a four-year M.D. student from Washington, Missouri, currently holds the office.

On the day Steele met Myers and saw the plaque on display for the first time, he recalled some of the mentors who shaped his career. W. Kendall McNabney, M.D., and Bill Robinson, M.D., were the first two chairs of the emergency medicine department. It was Robinson

who encouraged Steele to get involved with the American Board of Emergency Medicine; Steele eventually became the organization's president.

"I think if it weren't for him," Steele says of Robinson, "I wouldn't have been involved in some of the leadership roles

office in Blue 4. Smith says he hopes he can contribute to her education in the way that he benefitted from Dimond, Noback and his docent, Nathaniel Winer, M.D. "I suppose that this long distance communication and mentoring will be facilitated by modern technology that was not even dreamed of in the 1970s."

E-mail was still a few years away when Gurpreet Padda, M.D. '88, graduated from UMKC. Padda is an interventional pain physician in St. Louis. He is also a restaurateur. Last fall, he hosted a School of Medicine alumni event with Dean Steven L. Kanter at Diablitos Cantina, his Mexican restaurant.

Padda is also participating in the Alumni Mentoring Program — but his commitment included a special request. He asked that the plaque in his old office recognize his docent, Ute Rosa, M.D. "I wanted to give back to the community and name somebody who was one of the critical persons who

helped me understand what I wanted to do for my future," Padda says.

Calling his docent an "absolutely brilliant physician," Padda says Rosa kept students on their toes, quizzing them on blood gas numbers and giving them wide responsibility for patients in the clinic. "She was the mother hen, and we were the baby chicks. She wanted to make sure that we learned everything there was to learn and do it amazingly perfect."

For more information on the Alumni Mentoring Program and other giving opportunities, contact Jay Wilson, assistant vice president for health sciences at the UMKC Foundation, at 816-235-5565 or wilsonjay@umkcfoundation.org.



A plaque recognizing Mark Steele, M.D. '80, left, hangs on the wall of his former docent office, now occupied by Cameron Myers, right.

and some of the scholarly activities that I've gotten engaged in."

Another alumnus, David Lee Smith, M.D. '76, an internist in Anniston, Alabama, is also participating in the Alumni Mentoring Program.

Smith belonged to the first B.A./M.D. class. He remembers E. Grey Dimond, M.D., the founding provost, and Richardson Noback, M.D., the founding dean, taking a hands-on approach. Smith compares his experience as an original student with that of a new car model that's been engineered with care. "The first few off the assembly lines were hand-built," he says.

Smith has been in touch with Leila Sarvestani, a third-year B.A./M.D. student now residing in his former docent



From left: Lakshmi Katta, Sree Balusu and Nilbhi Patel.

Missouri medical students convene at UMKC

UMKC SCHOOL OF MEDICINE hosted for the first time the Missouri 1st Year Medical Student Conference, an annual meeting of students who attend the six medical schools in Missouri.

The daylong conference attracted nearly 100 students from the state's allopathic (M.D.) and osteopathic (D.O.) medical schools. The event, which featured speakers, workshops and breakout sessions, was geared toward medical students in their first year of a four-year program or the third year of UMKC's six-year program.

UMKC fourth-year B.A./M.D. students Sree Balusu, Lakshmi Katta and Nilbhi Patel organized the conference. In 2015, they traveled to the Kirksville campus of A.T. Still University to present the case for UMKC to host the 2016 "MO-M1" event.

"A main goal of this conference is to be able to network with people in Missouri, because these will be our colleagues in the future," Patel said.

The conference took place in UMKC's Health Sciences Building. The speakers included Dean Emerita Betty Drees, M.D., who talked about the evolution of the patient-physician relationship, including the increasing respect for the patient as a person. "People are more than the sum of their lab values and their X-ray studies," she said.

In addition to UMKC and A.T. Still, institutions in Missouri offering medical degrees include Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences, Saint Louis University, University of Missouri-Columbia and Washington University.

Rumalla receives scholar award at spine conference

KAVELIN RUMALLA, a second-year B.A./M.D. student, was recognized at a spine conference sponsored by the Congress of Neurological Surgeons.



Rumalla

Rumalla received the Charlie Kuntz Scholar Award at Spine Summit 2016 in Orlando, Florida. The award was based on an abstract he submitted, "Spinal Fusion for Pediatric Spondylolisthesis: National Trends, Complications, and Short-Term Outcomes." Rumalla presented the research during a platform session for the scholar award winners.

The presentation stems from a research experience Rumalla completed after his first year in the B.A./M.D. program. He worked with a neurosurgeon at Washington University who conducts spine surgery research.

Rumalla became interested in neurological surgery after watching his younger brother, who has epilepsy, benefit from a surgical procedure. "I saw what a difference it made in his life," he says.

The spinal fusion paper was based on a retrospective database study. Rumalla combed the data to determine which spine surgery techniques have the fewest complications. "Surgeons won't change their techniques until there is epidemiological evidence that it's better," he said.

Rumalla would like to become a neurosurgeon and divide his time between clinical practice and research. The clinical practice, he said, will "guide me as to what these patients need, what types of things are deficient right now in the literature, and what can I contribute."

According to Raymond Cattaneo, M.D. '03, M.P.H., assistant dean for years 1 and 2 medicine, "Kavelin has proven himself a successful student and is well on his way to becoming an influential researcher and educator."



Alex Trebek, left, and Kent Buxton on the set of 'Jeopardy!'

M.D. student competes on 'Jeopardy!'

THIRD-YEAR M.D. student Kent Buxton fulfilled a dream and competed on the game show *Jeopardy!*. The episode aired March 28.

In 2008, as an undergraduate at Truman State University, Buxton auditioned in Chicago for the *Jeopardy!* college tournament. That audition did not materialize into an invitation to Los Angeles, so he took his time before applying again, this time to be a contestant on the traditional version.

"I figured it was better to wait until I was older, since many competitors have a lot more life experiences that could help on the show," he said.

Before entering medical school, Buxton taught for several years, and served as a medical scribe in St. Louis hospitals. He took the *Jeopardy!* online test in April 2015 and auditioned a few months later in Kansas City.

"I had to skip one of my classes and write a five-page research paper as a make-up assignment in order to attend, but I was able to walk from school to the audition (at Crown Center)," he said. There, he took a written test and played a practice round.

On the actual *Jeopardy!* set, Buxton provided the correct question to the Final Jeopardy clue and finished with \$22,798. Alas, another contestant amassed \$30,001, becoming the new champion.

Spertus wins lifetime achievement award

THE AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION

honored John Spertus, M.D., M.P.H., professor of medicine and the Daniel J. Lauer, M.D., Chair in Metabolism and Vascular Disease Research, with the Outstanding Lifetime Achievement Award.



Spertus

Spertus has focused on creating practices to measure a patient's health care results and quality of care. Through this research, he has developed technology to help guide medical-decision making using models that measure and predict the risk factors of various procedures. His work led to the development of two tools — the Seattle Angina Questionnaire and the Kansas City Cardiomyopathy Questionnaire — that many experts cite as the gold standards for measuring symptoms, function and quality of life in treating coronary artery disease and heart failure.

"Dr. Spertus has established himself as a trailblazer and renowned leader in the study of cardiovascular treatment and patient outcomes," School of Medicine Dean Steven L. Kanter, M.D., said. "This is a wonderful, well-deserved honor. Dr. Spertus is a shining example of the outstanding leaders of medical research that we are privileged to have as members of our faculty."



From left: Leslie Borsett-Kanter, M.D., Nadine Gracia, M.D., M.S.C.E., and Dean Steven L. Kanter, M.D.

Federal official delivers minority health lecture

DELIVERING REMARKS AT the School of Medicine, a leading government official said the United States has made strides toward narrowing the gap in health equality. However, she said, there is still work to be done.

"Our goal is not only to close the gap, but to make sure that everyone has the opportunity to reach their full potential of health," said Nadine Gracia, M.D., M.S.C.E., director of the Office of Minority Health at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Gracia delivered the 11th annual Dr. Reaner and Mr. Henry Shannon Lecture in Minority Health on Feb. 26.

A pediatrician with a focus in epidemiology, Gracia received her medical degree from the University of Pittsburgh where she was a student of UMKC School of Medicine Dean Steven L. Kanter, M.D., and his wife, Leslie Borsett-Kanter, M.D.

The envelopes, please!

THE LIGHT RAIN that prevented the Match Day celebration from taking place outdoors did not dampen the spirit of the event. Shouts of joy rang out from each of the school's three theaters as 90 medical students began opening their residency match letters. Nearly a fourth of this year's class will be staying in the Kansas City metropolitan area to train, including 14 at UMKC School of Medicine programs and three in the pediatrics program at Children's Mercy Kansas City.





ANESTHESIOLOGY

Roshan Babu U. of Louisville
 Gregory Miller Washington U.
 Anthony Okafor Jackson Memorial Hospital-
 Miami
 Salman Sagarwala Rush U.
 Richa Sutaria U. of Florida
 Vanya Tumati Washington U.
 Brian Weber Washington U.

CHILD NEUROLOGY

Parmpreet Kaur Albert Einstein College of
 Medicine

CLINICAL RESEARCH

Ali Hasnie Mayo Clinic-Rochester, Minn.

DERMATOLOGY

Caroline Doo U. of Mississippi
 Katherine Glaser Cleveland Clinic
 Isadore Tarantino U. of Kansas

DIAGNOSTIC RADIOLOGY

Sean Ghosh UMKC
 Ashwin Jain Boston U.
 Rehan Nizamuddin Washington U.
 Sandeep Reddy U. of Pennsylvania

EMERGENCY MEDICINE

Jacob Arnold Darnall Army Medical Center
 Amanda Augustine UMKC
 Grace Ortman UMKC
 Meryll Pampolina U. of Arkansas
 Jacob Voelkel Mayo Clinic-Rochester, Minn.

FAMILY MEDICINE

Jenny Eichhorn Cox Medical Centers-
 Springfield, Mo.
 Stephanie Lersch U. of Missouri-Columbia

GENERAL SURGERY

Bryan David UMKC
 Irene Israel New Hanover Regional Medical
 Center-Wilmington, N.C.
 Harika Nalluri U. of Minnesota
 Olukemi Oduyero Walter Reed National Military
 Medical Center
 Portia Schmidt Baylor U.-Dallas
 Ankit Verma Creighton U.

INTERNAL MEDICINE

Azka Afzal Baylor College of Medicine-
 Houston
 Hasan Bader U. of Louisville
 Furheen Baig Emory U.
 Joan Chandra Dartmouth U.
 Harris Choudhry Case Western Reserve U.
 Vijit Chouhan Case Western Reserve U.
 Clifton Davis Wright State U.
 Amneet Hans U. of Colorado
 Shilpa Junna U. of Arizona
 Mehdi Khalafi Jackson Memorial Hospital
 U. of Nevada
 Nitasha Khullar U. of Texas-Houston
 Raj Patel U. of Missouri-Columbia
 Tarang Patel UMKC
 John Pham Baylor College of Medicine-
 Houston
 Dilreet Rai U. of Texas-Houston
 Sahar Safavi U. of Texas-Houston
 Jasmine Singh U. of Texas-Dallas

MEDICINE-PEDIATRICS

Deborah Boktor Stony Brook (N.Y.) Teaching
 Hospitals
 Nicholas Gier UMKC
 Olivia Kwan UMKC

MEDICINE-PSYCHIATRY

Tyler Kjorvestad U. of Kansas

OBSTETRICS & GYNECOLOGY

Marina Guirguis Inova Fairfax Hospital-Falls
 Church, Va.

OPHTHALMOLOGY

Setu Patel U. of Alabama
 Loreley Robie Washington U.
 Ananth Sezhayan UMKC

ORAL SURGERY

Jeffrey Crowley UMKC
 John McElveen UMKC

OTOLARYNGOLOGY

Haley Bray Saint Louis U.

OTOLARYNGOLOGY RESEARCH

Chelsea Shapland U. of Kansas

ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY

K.C. Doan U. of Colorado
 Peter Everson Saint Louis U.
 Blake Montgomery Stanford U.

PATHOLOGY

Jordan Colson UMKC

PEDIATRICS

Alexa Altman Washington U.
 Laura Becker San Antonio Military Medical
 Center

Sneha Chintamaneni Kaiser Permanente-Los Angeles
 Mariah Davis Wright-Patterson Air Force
 Medical Center

Morgan Eidson U. of Kansas
 Ayah Elbermawy Blank Children's Hospital-Des
 Moines, Iowa

Sana Habib U. of New Mexico
 Grant Hamill Children's Mercy Kansas City
 Amara Heard Saint Louis U.
 Sabena Hussain Indiana U.
 McKenzie Lutz Children's Mercy Kansas City
 Evan Martin Children's Mercy Kansas City
 Saba Nawazish Baylor College of Medicine-San
 Antonio

Mary Nguyen

Halee Patel U. of Kansas
 Baylor College of Medicine-
 Houston
 Santhi Reddi Indiana U.
 Anisha Rimal U. of Wisconsin

PHYSICAL MEDICINE & REHABILITATION

Faheem Mahomed U. of Texas-San Antonio
 Emily McGhee U. of Missouri-Columbia

PLASTIC SURGERY

Kevin Xiao U. of Kansas

PRELIMINARY/TRANSITIONAL MEDICINE

Saad Ashraf UMKC
 Janessa England Tripler Army Medical Center
 Merrill Thomas UMKC
 Jason Zweig Stony Brook (N.Y.) Teaching
 Hospitals

PSYCHIATRY

Adam Ali U. of South Alabama
 Karishma Patel Albert Einstein College of
 Medicine
 Emily Robinson UMKC
 Rohit Saha U. of Missouri-Columbia

VASCULAR SURGERY

Gautam Anand Hofstra U.





Alumni have opportunities to mentor future physicians

PLEASE PAUSE FOR a moment to think about all the future pathways (personal and professional) arrayed before a medical student — many so appealing, yet one must be selected. Reflect on your own experience in arriving at a selected path and perhaps the greater insight that would have better informed your decision.

The UMKC School of Medicine alumni have the opportunity to help the next generation of physicians by serving as a mentor in two programs: the Alumni Advisor Program and Alumni Mentoring Program.

In my last message, I described the new Alumni Advisor Program. Now registering volunteers, the program matches School of Medicine graduates with current medical students who have expressed an interest in a graduate's specialty area. It's a great way for alumni to provide career advice to students as they consider a specialty and prepare for residency training. Alumni advisors can tailor their level of involvement and opt out of the program at any time. Visit <http://bit.ly/UMKCmedadvisors> to learn more.

The Alumni Mentoring Program, meanwhile, combines a giving opportunity with a mentoring component. Alumni and other friends who invest in the program make a pledge of \$10,000 to name a student office. Students who occupy a named office will be encouraged to reach out to their mentor/sponsor and receive the benefit of his or her advice and experience. The program is featured on page 21 of this issue of *UMKC Medicine*.

Please consider participating in one or both of these programs. The experience and insight you share will help today's medical students pursue their goals and navigate through so many big decisions!

Lt. Gen. Mark Ediger, M.D. '78, M.P.H.
President, National Board of Alumni & Partners

DEAN'S POP QUIZ ANSWER

E) All of the above



A) Toi Blakley Harris, M.D. '92, is associate provost of institutional diversity and student services at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston.



B) Dee Anna Glaser, M.D. '87, is interim and vice chair of the Department of Dermatology at Saint Louis University.



C) Thomas Toth, M.D. '86, is the founding director of the in-vitro fertilization unit at Massachusetts General Hospital.



D) Alexander Norbash, M.D. '86, M.S., joined the University of California-San Diego as chair and professor of radiology in 2015.

Remley honored with Alumni Achievement Award

IN 2015, KAREN REMLEY, M.D. '80, MBA, M.P.H., was named executive director and CEO of the American Academy of Pediatrics — the first woman to serve in that role.

The mission of the academy is to obtain optimal physical, mental and social health and well-being for all children, adolescents and young adults in the United States. It's a huge, important mis-

alumni at the 2016 Alumni Awards Luncheon April 21. The luncheon is one of the university's largest events, and proceeds support student scholarships.

Remley attributes lifelong education to her success and says she believes in going back to school every 10 years. In addition to her M.D. from UMKC, she has received an MBA from Duke and most recently a master's degree

“Having an excellent communication and feedback network allowed us to address problems as they arose and better implement our counter-strategies, resulting in an immunization rate 50 percent better than the national average within the first eight weeks of the immunization campaign,” Remley says. “Ultimately, building relationships and communication before a crisis makes the biggest difference during a crisis like H1N1 and pays the largest ongoing dividends when a crisis is past.”

Remley, who grew up in a family of five girls, knew she wanted to be a doctor by the time she reached high school. UMKC, with its innovative six-year, accelerated medical degree program, provided a goal-focused, affordable opportunity for her to fulfill her dream.

She received a small scholarship geared toward supporting women becoming physicians.

“It meant a lot to me emotionally, as well as financially, to have that support — and the idea that the institution believed in me and wanted me there,” Remley says.

One of her best teachers in medical school was Jenny Ashby, M.D., who became an important mentor for her as she was starting her career. Now Ashby is a treasured, life-long friend.

“She has always shown me how a strong and smart woman who cared deeply about her family and community can succeed,” Remley says. “She is a model of how to overcome personal adversity with a sense of humor.”

Remley received support and encouragement from many other sources. She says her father gave her great advice, telling her she was lucky to be born intelligent and in a loving family, and she should never forget that. She should always work twice as hard to serve others who weren't as lucky as she was.

“Everybody's path is different; I never plotted out mine to turn out the way it has,” she says. “The best thing you can do is keep your head up, work hard and always take care of the team around you. Life is a team sport.”



School of Medicine Dean Steven L. Kanter, M.D., left, and Karen Remley, M.D. '80, MBA, M.P.H., at the UMKC Alumni Awards Celebration.

sion: there are 75 million people younger than 18 in the country, and the academy has about 64,000 members.

“We have to be wise about how we go about achieving our mission,” Remley says.

Her knowledge in serving the health of people nationwide, exemplified by her new role with AAP, led to being awarded the 2016 Alumni Achievement Award from the UMKC School of Medicine.

Each year, the UMKC Alumni Association recognizes 16 alumni and one family with top honors. UMKC honored Remley and other outstanding

in public health from the University of Massachusetts.

Remley also has learned from experience. She was commissioner of health for Virginia when H1N1, also known as the swine flu, reached worldwide pandemic levels in 2009. That meant coordinating a statewide response at all points in the government, hospitals, health care networks, medical examiners, schools and drug stores. In order to do that well, she had to provide thoughtful, timely two-way communication that respected everyone's role.

Alumni weekend

ALUMNI REUNION WEEKEND kicked off with a leadership symposium celebrating the UMKC School of Medicine's 45th anniversary. At the April 8 symposium, Dean Steven L. Kanter introduced faculty members who presented research about the school's role in developing leaders in health care and medicine. A panel discussion with three former deans and alumnus Michael Weaver, M.D. '77, followed. The next night, alumni gathered at Lidia's, a restaurant in Kansas City's Crossroads Arts District.



1.) Michael Mulligan, M.D. '86, and Michelle Perez-Mulligan, M.D. '86. 2.) Brian Smith, M.D. '96, and Christy Smith. 3.) Jana Osborn and Jeffrey Osborn, M.D. '81. 4.) Class of 1986. 5.) Olevia Pitts, M.D. '86, and Sherman Pitts. 6.) Dana Thompson, M.D. '91, Danita Cole-Brown, M.D. '91, and Leway Chen, M.D. '91. 7.) Kenneth Fine, M.D. '86, Alan Miller, M.D. '91, Hashim Raza, M.D. '91, and Murray Sullivan, M.D. '91. 8.) David Schall, M.D. '77. 9.) Ann (Norland) Koehler, M.D. '91. 10.) Dean Steven L. Kanter, M.D., left, with former deans Betty Drees, M.D., Harry Jonas, M.D., and Richardson Noback, M.D., at the alumni leadership symposium held at the School of Medicine the day before the reunion dinner. 11.) Michael Weaver, M.D. '77, represented the alumni on a panel discussion at the leadership symposium.



Hinrichs named NIH clinical research scholar



NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE

CHRISTIAN HINRICHS, M.D. '96,

was named a Lasker Clinical Research Scholar by the National Institutes of Health. The program provides talented, early-stage researchers the opportunity to carry out independent clinical or translational research at the NIH.

Hinrichs works in the Experimental Transplantation and Immunology Branch of the Center for Cancer Research in the National Cancer Institute. He conducts translational research and clinical trials to develop T-cell therapies for cancers caused by human papillomavirus, or HPV. The virus causes virtually all cervical cancers and also throat, anal and genital cancers.

Hinrichs led the first clinical trial to see if a technique involving immune cells can be effective in treating metastatic cervical cancer, which is generally incurable. The technique involves resecting a patient's tumor and isolating the tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes. The cells are grown in a lab and infused back into the patients.

Nine women (median age: 37) enrolled in Hinrichs' study. Two

experienced complete regressions of their tumors. Both patients are cancer-free three years after their treatments.

"These are people with advanced disease that you would expect to have a very poor prognosis, and no other treatment has a reasonable chance of curing them," Hinrichs says. "Now, they're going about their lives like they never had these cancers."

The results of the trial received national attention. Hinrichs and the survivors were featured in *The Washington Post*, *CBS Evening News* and *NBC Nightly News*. (A third woman in the trial had a partial response that lasted three months; the others' cancers continued to advance.)

Hinrichs and his colleagues are working to understand why the therapy worked in some patients but not others. They found that the patients with the best results were treated with the most HPV-reactive blood cells. The team is looking at other factors, as well, such as tumor characteristics and signals the T-cells may be receiving.

Hinrichs is recruiting patients with HPV-associated cancers for another study. Instead of operating to remove tumors as a first step, T-cells will be harvested from the patients' peripheral blood. The T-cells are then genetically engineered to make them able to identify and attack tumor cells. Hinrichs is hopeful the technique will lead to treatments that are less dependent on patients' HPV reactivity. "We think this is the path forward," he says. "It's more off the shelf."

Hinrichs completed a residency in general surgery at UMKC followed by a fellowship in surgical oncology at Roswell Park Cancer Institute in Buffalo, New York. He joined the National Cancer Institute in 2003 and subsequently completed an internal medicine residency at George Washington University and a medical oncology fellowship at the NCI.

Class Updates

1970s

STEVEN WALDMAN, M.D. '77, was appointed the UMKC School of Medicine's associate dean for international programs. He is also interim chair of the Department of Medical Humanities and Bioethics and docent for students in the four-year M.D. program.

1980s

DONNA BOONE, M.D. '85, medical director at Well-spring Resources in Alton, Illinois, received the Nyswander/Dole "Marie" Award from the American Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence.

RANDY BROWN, M.D. '88, joined the staff at Baptist Health Paducah in Paducah, Kentucky. He is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons and is board certified in thoracic surgery.

ROBERT BELL, M.D. '89, joined classmate Jim Burke, M.D. '89, at Orthopedic Associates in St. Louis after 21 years of hand and microvascular practice in Texas.

JOHN GIANINO, M.D. '89, chief of neurosurgery at Truman Medical Centers, was named the system's medical director for patient safety.

ERIC PAPPERT, M.D. '89, was named vice president of global medical affairs by Cynapsus Therapeutics Inc., a specialty central nervous system pharmaceutical company. He was previously a vice president at Merz Pharmaceuticals.

KIMBERLY WIRTHS, M.D. '89, joined Route 66 Health Care in Afton, Missouri. She is a fellow in the American Academy of Family Physicians.

1990s

THOMAS FAERBER, M.D. '90, an oral and maxillofacial surgeon in Overland Park, Kansas, was featured on WDAF-TV after donating an advanced dental procedure to a patient.

JOHN YOUNGER, M.D. '91, is chief technology officer for Akadeum Life Sciences, a biotech startup developing a new product that uses buoyancy-activated cell sorting to acquire target cells from biological samples.

DEVIN DATTA, M.D. '95, an orthopaedic spine surgeon in Melbourne, Florida, discussed his specialty and new treatments methods with the newspaper *Florida Today*.

FELIPE ORELLANA, M.D. '99, was named one of *ACP Hospitalist's* Top Hospitalists. He was recognized for his efforts to help prevent complications in diabetic patients at Barnes Jewish Hospital in St. Peters, Missouri.

2000s

JULIANNA LIPPERT-KECK, M.D. '00, joined the medical staff at SoutheastHEALTH in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. A family physician, she served 15 years as a medical officer in the U.S. Navy, earning the rank of lieutenant commander.

JEFFREY HACKMAN, M.D. '01, was named medical director of quality at Truman Medical Centers. He will continue to serve as the system's chief medical information officer.

SAJID KHAN, M.D. '05, clinical assistant professor of emergency medicine, filmed

a segment for the television show *Untold Stories of the ER* that aired in February.

MICHAEL RICHARDSON, M.D. '05, joined Mercy Clinic Family Medicine in Washington, Missouri. He is a board-certified family physician.

2010s

NATALIE WEBSTER, M.D. '10, joined Mountain States Pathology Group, a practice based at St. Mary-Corwin Medical Center in Pueblo, Colorado. She is board-certified in anatomic and clinical pathology and board eligible for cytopathology.

AMIRA GHAZALI, M.D. '10, joined Surgical Services of Warrensburg in Warrensburg, Missouri. She served as chief resident while training in general surgery at UMKC.

ERICA CARNEY, M.D. '11, (below left) is medical director for the EMS Education Program and assistant professor of emergency medicine at the UMKC School of Medicine. She completed an EMS fellowship at Washington University after training in emergency medicine at UMKC.

In Memoriam



JOHN MICHAEL HOJA, M.D. '78, died in Poplar Bluff, Missouri, on April 22, 2015. He was 60.

Dr. Hoja was born in Louisville, Kentucky. He graduated from Poplar Bluff High School in 1972. After earning his B.A./M.D. at the UMKC School of Medicine, he completed his training in obstetrics and gynecology in Stamford, Connecticut. He returned to Poplar Bluff and served in the community as a physician for almost 30 years.

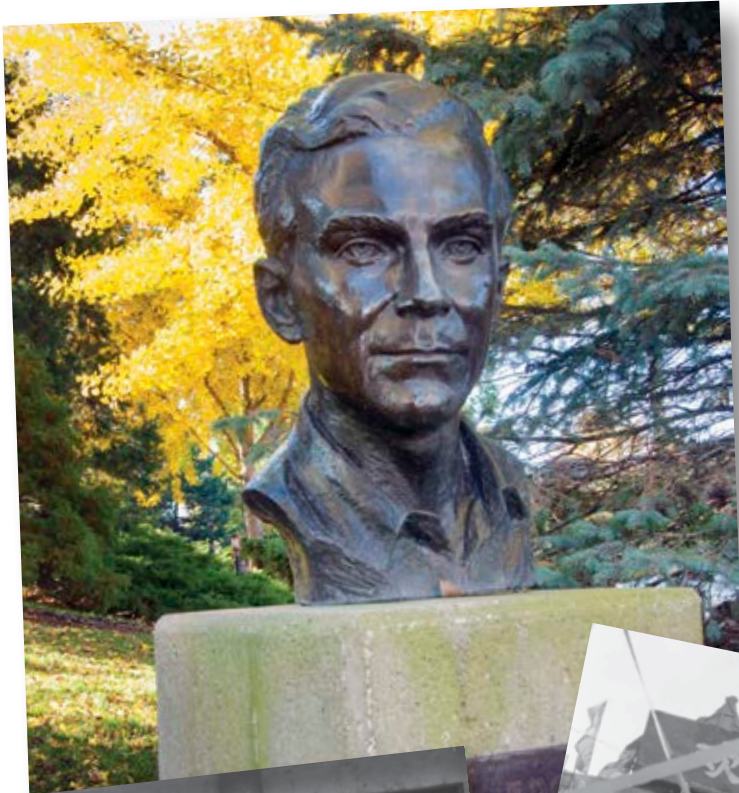
In his free time, he loved hunting, fishing and gardening. He was a member of the Zion Lutheran Church in Poplar Bluff.

Survivors include his parents, a brother, six children and seven grandchildren.



Stay connected!

Class Updates publishes information submitted by alumni, news released by employers of alumni and selected news stories that mention alumni and their affiliation with UMKC. Please send updates to medmagazine@umkc.edu or complete an online form at med.umkc.edu/magazine/submit. Items may be edited for style, length and clarity.



Tour of China

FORTY YEARS AGO, school founder E. Grey Dimond, M.D., led a group of faculty, staff and 21 students on a month-long tour of China. The trip began with a pep rally at the medical school. While in China, the group witnessed acupuncture anesthesia and other aspects of traditional Chinese medicine. Dimond's connection to China ran deep. He first visited in 1971 at the invitation of American journalist Edgar Snow, the first Westerner to meet Mao Tse-tung. Dimond eventually made 40 trips to Asia. There is a bust of Snow at Diastole (top), and his papers are kept at UMKC. For more photos of the tour of China, visit med.umkc.edu/magazine/china.

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Angeline Stanislaus, M.D., forensic psychiatrist and chief medical officer, Missouri Department of Mental Health

Residents go for the gold

UMKC orthopaedic surgery residents, from left, James Barnes, M.D., John Eggers, M.D., Maddy Lauer, M.D., and Sarah Johnson, M.D., claimed the trophy presented at the department's "OrthOlympics." The competition included casting, suturing and racing (safely) with limited mobility and ambulatory aides. The event coincided with the first National Resident/Fellow Appreciation Day, celebrated on Feb. 25. Barnes, the UMKC Housestaff Council president, developed the idea to designate a day for the 120,000 residents and fellows in the United States.

