

Spring 2008

# PERSPECTIVES

UMKC MAGAZINE

## Unbreakable

A study in survival

Passion fuels AIDS research • Hollywood break • Cultural learning curve



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The UMKC Alumni Association invites you to

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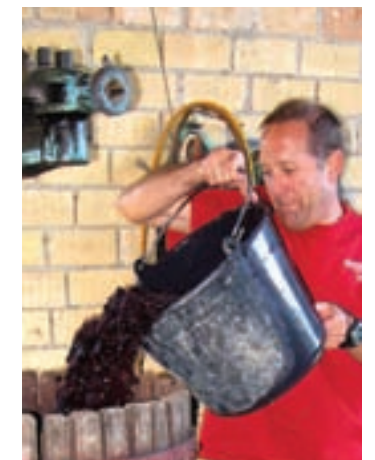
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# Timeless bond

Barbara and Frank were friends before Amelia Earhart disappeared over the Pacific. They were friends before Winston Churchill became prime minister of Great Britain. And they were friends before the invention of instant coffee, ballpoint pens and jet aircraft. Though both are now in their 90s, as they reminisced, I easily escaped to their trouble-making, witty college days when they challenged the world: He, a guy who had beers with Ernest Hemingway, she, a fiesty young lady who once prank called former Kansas City political boss Tom Pendergast. They had both experienced so much, and this day not even all that comes with age could dampen their spirits.

Barbara Middendorf Rosen (UKC '36) and Frank Kelly (UKC '38) met as students in the formative days of the campus.

I started visiting Barbara last year when a UMKC alumnus at Hospice told me about a patient who wanted to share stories about her experience in the first class at the University of Kansas City. She'd written down many of her memories: "It was a wonderful place," she wrote of the campus. "It was a beautiful spot with a small lake, lovely trees and such classrooms! The house had marble floors and velvet banisters in the wide stairway. A large room to the right was the library. The drapes were still in the rooms, classes were small, and I cannot imagine a more pleasant place."

William Volker, one of UKC's founders, had given her a scholarship. Clarence Decker, who would later become UKC president, had been her English professor. "Deck," as she called him, influenced her own writing, including a book of poetry she published in 1939 while working on a master's degree at Columbia University in New York.

In our visits, Barbara also enjoyed talking about her friend Frank Kelly. She told me many stories about Frank, who was a science fiction writer until he came to UKC. Here, the faculty encouraged him in a new direction – "something more serious," Barbara told me. He would eventually become a speechwriter for President Truman. (Read his story on page 36).

Through the years, Barbara and Frank perfected the art of letter writing. Their long friendship was sustained by correspondence and occasional visits and phone calls. And when Frank made the trip from California to Kansas City last November to help launch UMKC's new Truman Center for Governmental Affairs, he wanted to visit Barbara.

Although they hadn't seen each other in perhaps 20 years, they traded jabs and stories like they were young coeds sitting on the lawn of Scofield Hall. It was the kind of easy banter you have when you've been friends for 75 years. Theirs was an alumni reunion unlike any other... a testimony to the power of a college friendship.

—Lisen Tammeus



Barbara Middendorf Rosen

On Jan. 26, I lost my friend Barbara Rosen, but I will always remember and cherish our talks. She made the past come alive in her eyes, from her words and through her wry grin. I am forever grateful that she included me on those journeys of memory in her last months. Toward the end, her body had become frail, but her mind remained that of a spirited coed.

Barbara left a sizeable imprint on the world and an enduring impact on me.

April 29, 2006

Dear Barbara — It was so good to hear from you. I think of you as a glorious being — one of the most beautiful persons I've known in my long life. It's always a joy to hear from you!

All the best, always — Frank Kelly

Perspectives magazine is published twice each year for alumni and friends of the University of Missouri-Kansas City by University Advancement.

### Perspectives staff

#### Executive editors

Curtis J. Crespino  
Sarah L. Morris

#### Content editor

Lisen Tammeus

#### Managing editor

Lindsey V. Corey

#### Art director

Eric Gapsch

#### Writers

Nicholas Barron  
Lindsey V. Corey  
Marjie Knust  
Kara Petrovic  
Suzi Steffen  
Lisen Tammeus  
Alberta T. Weatherspoon

#### Graphic designers

Eric Gapsch  
Jeff Schartz  
Deanna Yesko

#### Photographers

Gary Barber  
Bob Greenspan  
Kristen Hellstrom  
Matthew Hix  
Michael McClure  
Heather Sprigler  
Jim Thomas  
David Lindsey Wade  
of Rushwade2

### Editor's note

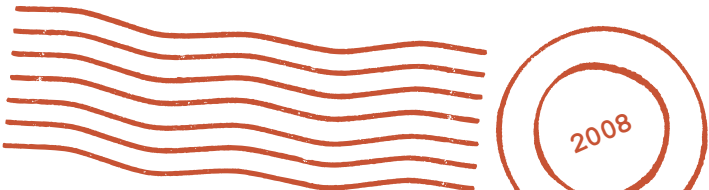
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Letters to the editor may be sent to:

Perspectives Editor  
UMKC University Advancement  
5100 Rockhill Road  
300 Administrative Center  
Kansas City, MO 64110-2499  
or perspectives@umkc.edu

www.perspectives.umkc.edu

# Letters



### Comparison questioned

I appreciate the informative articles you provided regarding alumni who are military veterans or former members of the Peace Corps. The articles humanized the students or alumni involved, and made clear that they are ordinary members of the UMKC community who have done extraordinary things.

However, I must take issue with the attempt to present their service as equivalent. Peace Corps members "serve their country in the cause of peace by living and working in developing countries" (www.peacecorps.gov). They provide useful information and services to communities in developing countries, and live as members of those communities. Peace Corps members can quit at any time with no legal obligation to continue their service.

Soldiers, in contrast, protect and defend their country from all enemies and often live in the field in crude conditions while enemy soldiers or insurgents are actively trying to kill them. Many soldiers return from their service with disabling injuries, and some return in a coffin. All those who serve in combat come back with experiences and memories that stay with them for a lifetime. Soldiers cannot quit; they are obligated for a term of service of up to eight years. I do not recall seeing Peace Corps volunteers in Baghdad in 2003 when I was there.

I do not mean to denigrate the services of Peace Corps volunteers, but I do not see how that service equates to the service of our men and women in the armed forces.

Maj. Douglas A. Dribben (J.D. '90),  
U.S. Army, retired

### Good work

The fall Perspectives magazine was so interesting. The story of the military individuals was well done. Thank you for all you do and keep up the good work.

Lona May Lowell, R.D.H. (B.S.D.H. '56)



### Rockin' story

Absolutely blown away. The story ("Metal Mouth") about our band, The Metal Chapter, was incredible! The picture is the epitome of rock and roll. Marjie (Knust) did an excellent job with the article, and it gives me chills to read somebody else's interpretation of something we enjoy so much.

Thank you for the story. My staff has had a blast making visual sense of the madness I've described. I'd love to be able to blow up a huge copy for the office and for the basement.

Thanks again and excellent work.

Rock 'n' roll,

Eric Johnson (D.D.S. '07)

### Best issue yet

I just wanted to pass along my compliments on the new Perspectives magazine. In my opinion, it is the most content rich and visually appealing edition I have seen. Great job in positioning UMKC as a professional, serious, relevant and connected community.

Thank you for everything you do!

Doranne M. Hudson,  
Bloch School organizational  
leadership and marketing  
executive in residence  
and visiting instructor

### Readers respond

More than 1,100 readers responded to the fall 2007 Perspectives readership survey and provided their feedback, comments and terrific story ideas. Thank you! Congratulations to the following readers who won UMKC gear in a drawing of survey respondents: Beverly Brady, Jeanne Leiter Clark, Paul Coole, Cooper Hedenskog, Julia Hysom, Richard Janssen, Judith Livingston, Lucy Mallya, Jerry Myers and Gregory Porter.

### Fall 2007 issue corrections

Sheetal Agarwal was incorrectly identified in a caption. Agarwal, a pharmaceutical sciences graduate student, was pictured because she received a fellowship award from the Women's Council.

Donald L. Barlett's last name was incorrectly spelled in an article. Barlett is known for his investigative team reporting with alumnus James B. Steele.

Several cities were incorrectly marked on a map indicating where UMKC alumni reside. Perspectives regrets the errors.



# Life 101

UMKC experts share advice on almost anything.



**Lynette Sparkman-Barnes, Psy.D.**  
Psychologist, UMKC Counseling Center

## Stressed out? Calm to your senses

An easy, time-conscious way to de-stress is to rely on your five senses.

For example, your eyes need something pleasant to look at. Maybe it's a picture of your kids on your desk, a sunset photo on your wall or changing your computer's desktop to your favorite color.

You should also give your ears something pleasing to listen to. It can be the trickling of a water fountain, talk radio or your favorite kind of music.

Another way to decompress is to touch a soothing object. Rabbit feet are popular not only because of the good luck factor, but also because they're soft. You can also use stress balls or crystals.



**Chris Brown, Ph.D. '93**  
Associate professor of counseling  
and educational psychology,  
School of Education



## How to break a bad habit

First you must ask yourself, "Am I willing? Am I really ready to change?"

Try substituting the bad habit with a good one. Do something that contradicts the old behavior.

And remember, people rarely get it right the first time so prepare for and expect relapses, and do not allow the slip in behavior to undermine your efforts to change. A re-occurrence is not a total failure; it can be an opportunity to learn more about what triggers the bad habit. Take advantage of your slip-ups, rather than let yourself drown in them.

If you can identify a pattern or a trigger that often leads to the bad habit, then you can attempt to interrupt that cycle. Following a slip-up, consider a new plan for how to get back on track. Just keep trying. Don't give up.



**Jenni Cossey, M.B.A. '06**  
Sommelier and manager,  
JP Wine Bar, Kansas City, Mo.

## Treat your palate to wine variety

A lot of things can influence the wines we enjoy: experience, weather, curiosity, cost, all those things.

Everyone has individual tastes. My palate changes constantly. What I liked when I first started drinking wine and what I like now are very different. I really didn't care for pinot noirs, but now I love them. So I encourage exploring wines.

There are a few ways you can start. At most restaurants with wine lists, the servers are trained, so feel comfortable asking questions. Just try a glass; it's less of a financial commitment than buying a bottle.

Go to places that offer wine tastings or wine flights, where instead of getting a full glass, you get three tastes. It's an

opportunity to sample different wines without committing.

And it's always best to learn about wine where it's made. That doesn't mean you have to fly to France or Italy all the time. Checking out nearby wineries is an amazing opportunity to immerse yourself in the production and culture of wine. Just take a day trip to tour a vineyard and winery.

To really learn about wine and find your favorites, simply taste as much as you possibly can. That's really the best way.

You can get great wines for 10 bucks. Just be careful because you can get turned off by starting with a bad, cheap wine. So if you have the financial means, absolutely go for it.

*My recommendations for any budget:*

Under \$20..... Pio Cesare Barbera d'Alba (Italian red)

Under \$50..... Leon Beyer Gewurztraminer Comtes d'Eguisheim (French white)

Under \$200..... Heitz Cellars Cabernet Sauvignon Martha's Vineyard (California red)



**Ben F. Boyd Jr., B.B.A. '71**  
Financial consultant

## Steps to simplify the tax season

Plan ahead every year. If you don't plan, you are essentially planning on being overwhelmed.

The most important thing is to have all your information readily available. Start early. Then if you get a refund, you can get it a lot sooner. Or if you owe, you will have more time to figure out how to pay.

Create a tax and financial review:

1. Understand how any new tax law changes may affect you.
2. Review your holdings to determine if you could benefit from a repositioning of assets.
3. Seek out additional tax deductions you might be qualified to take.
4. Explore methods to decrease your tax liability and maximize your net income.
5. Re-examine your financial goals to see if your current allocations are consistent with your goals.







# UNBREAKABLE

By Lindsey V. Corey

Relatives were stalling, but Jeanette refused to wait any longer.

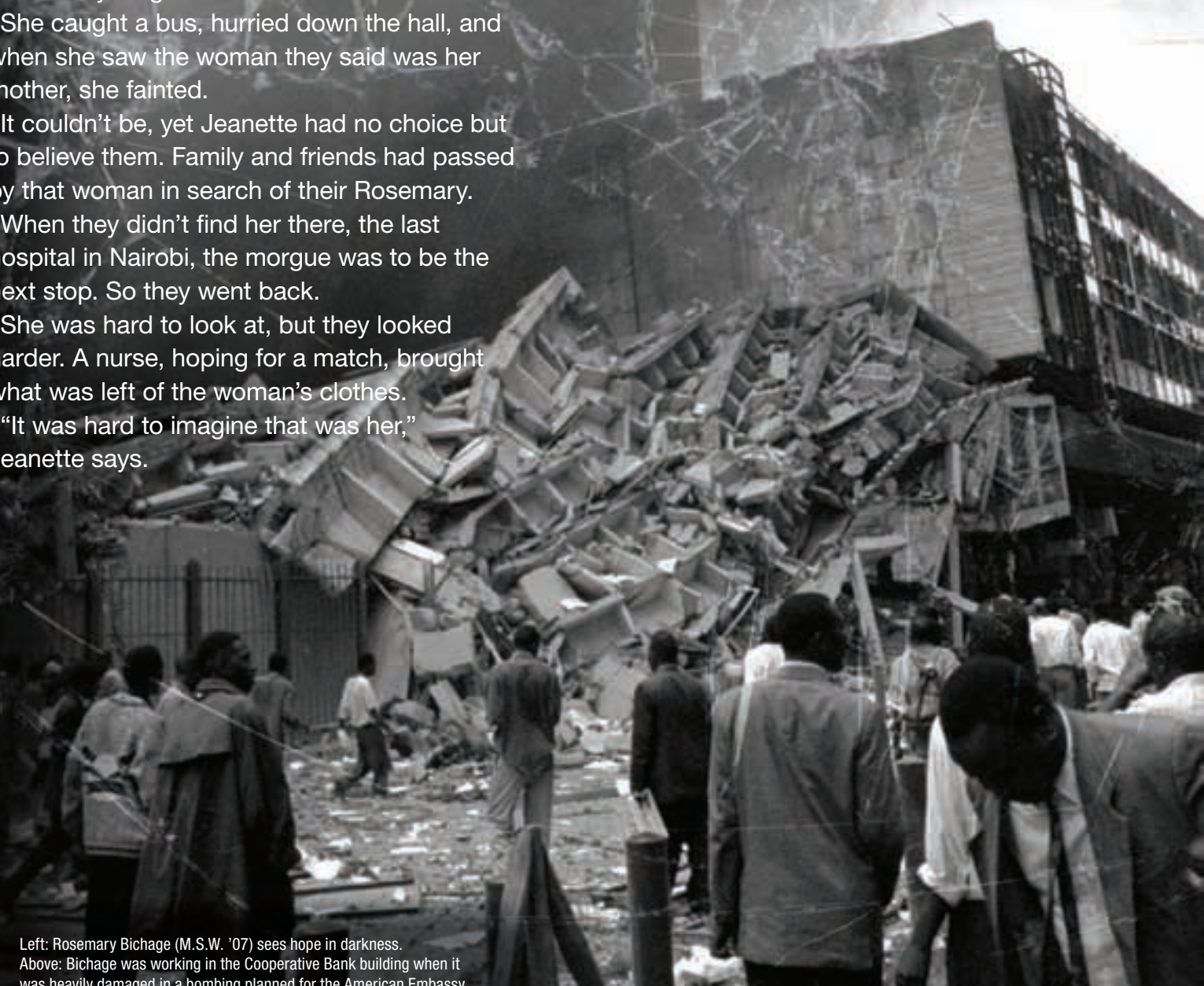
She caught a bus, hurried down the hall, and when she saw the woman they said was her mother, she fainted.

It couldn't be, yet Jeanette had no choice but to believe them. Family and friends had passed by that woman in search of their Rosemary.

When they didn't find her there, the last hospital in Nairobi, the morgue was to be the next stop. So they went back.

She was hard to look at, but they looked harder. A nurse, hoping for a match, brought what was left of the woman's clothes.

"It was hard to imagine that was her," Jeanette says.



Left: Rosemary Bichage (M.S.W. '07) sees hope in darkness.  
Above: Bichage was working in the Cooperative Bank building when it was heavily damaged in a bombing planned for the American Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya, in 1998. (AP Images/Sayyid Azim)



Rosemary Bichage had fallen four stories. Debris seared her skin. Glass invaded her organs. The impact knocked her teeth out.

“Her head was shaved and as big as a watermelon, all lopsided with no facial features,” Jeanette shakes the image from her head. “And the burns... She was just pink. She didn’t have any flesh left.”

Jeanette had seen her mother the day before, Aug. 7, 1998, just hours before terrorist bombs destroyed the American Embassy in Kenya and the adjacent bank where Rosemary worked as a credit manager. Two hundred fifty seven were dead, 5,000 injured.

And now Rosemary was lying there, burnt and broken in a protective bubble. Doctors had done all they could do; they said it was only a matter of time.

“Two days later, I was still not dead,” Rosemary says, shaking her fist and laughing.

Ten days and countless operations later, Rosemary was airlifted to Germany, where hospitals were more advanced and less overwhelmed. There, she was treated for free beginning with a 17-hour surgery to repair internal bleeding and remove the remaining pieces of bombs and buildings.

But she was still in a coma, had been ever since a stranger drove her lifeless body to the first hospital.

“I was in a lot of peace, a lot of peace,” she says.

And then, four months after the bombs hit, Rosemary woke up.

“That’s when my peace ended,” she says. “No more peace, just pain, pain, pain. I hurt everywhere. I didn’t know where I was or why. I just saw all these white people in white robes.”

Her first words were a prayer, the first thing she remembers since her phone went dead at the bank: God, forgive me for all the



Jeanette, Rosemary and Linda Bichage after church in Kansas City.

Rosemary wasn’t so sure.

“I wake up from a coma, and they tell me I’m going to therapy,” she remembers. “Are you kidding me? Where will they start? I don’t look like anything. I am just bits and pieces of a human being.”

At first, of course, there was a lot of “why me” and “what if,” but Rosemary pushed herself past all that and through the pain.

“When they told me what happened, I knew if I’d taken just 30 minutes at home with my kids I would not have been found by that bomb,” she says. “That’s why you cry, when you see how much is lost and how much you’re starting over. Then one day you

“Medicine stops at a particular point in Africa, but I had big hopes for the medical technology in America,” Rosemary says.

But even doctors here couldn’t save the leg she’d been fighting to keep for months.

“It was killing me, but I couldn’t imagine what I would do without it until they brought in amputees who showed me I’d be able to do everything for myself,” Rosemary remembers.

She was in and out of the hospital and an assisted living facility for almost a year. She lost track of how many surgeries but “definitely more than 50 and probably less than 100.”

Somewhere in the midst of her recovery, Rosemary found resolve.

“I remembered my dream from not long after I woke up,” she says. “I had told myself if I ever become whole again, I’m going to school because I was feeling so stupid because my brain was damaged too. Looking at myself, I was wondering am I a dreamer? But let me dream big. Anything can happen.”

As she regained strength, she started looking at universities in the region “to revitalize my brain and reward myself.” Rosemary already had a bachelor’s degree in business but wasn’t sure what she wanted to study when she visited UMKC’s School of Social Work.

“I figured out I wanted to tell people all is possible even when you’ve gone down to the basement of your life,” she says. “This was the place for me.”

She enrolled in the master’s in social work program while still being treated for injuries related to the bombing two years earlier.

“Sometimes I wondered if I was strong enough, but somewhere along the line I really didn’t want to give up,” Rosemary says. “I was working harder than ever to make the grade. From time to time I would be sick but ignore my health because I really wanted my dream to come true.”

She shared the same dream for her daughters, then 18. Linda left Nairobi in 2001 to join her mother at UMKC. Jeanette transferred here the following semester, and the three shared a small apartment just off campus.

“It was weird because since the bombing happened we were kind of on our own so we were feeling pretty grown up and

going well for her. And now we’re back at the hospital, but she’s just smiling and joking about fainting.”

That’s Rosemary’s way.

“I didn’t want them to see me crying,” she says. “These kids have been through enough.”

So Rosemary cried at night, when visitors weren’t allowed.

“Mom always protected us from the hard stuff,” Jeanette says. “She’s so strong that it takes the weight off of you.”

When tests revealed she was bleeding internally, Rosemary was transferred to intensive care, where she was still insistent on chasing her daughters out to go to class.

Scans revealed a tumor in her stomach that had spread to the liver. More tests proved it was cancerous.

“I’ve been surviving every bit of the way and plan to continue surviving.”

—Rosemary Bichage

independent, and then suddenly there was someone to tell you to do your homework,” Jeanette remembers. “But I really enjoyed it. It felt like I had a mom again.

“In spite of everything, she was a mom to us that we could depend on. She denies herself for our sake and supported us through college because that’s just my mom.”

The girls earned bachelor’s degrees in business in 2006 and went straight to work on their M.B.A.s, also at UMKC.

“Mom was beaming the whole day,” Linda recalls. “She was so ecstatic to be able to witness us graduating because there was a chance she might not have made it.”

And then came Rosemary’s turn in 2007. She walked proudly in the procession from the UMKC Administrative Center to the commencement ceremony site in Theis Park.

“I was smiling all the way, thinking my dream has come true,” she says with a triumphant laugh. “You should see the pictures.”

A few months after graduation, Rosemary was hired as a family advocate at Jewish Vocational Service, a nonprofit agency.

“It felt so good to read ‘M.S.W.’ on my card,” she says displaying it with a smile. “This was it, my chance to give back.”

But two days before she could share her new business cards with clients, Rosemary had to be hospitalized. She had passed out while shopping for an outfit for her first day at her first social work job.

“We got a message that Mom was in the emergency room and got this sinking, horrible feeling all over again,” Linda says. “She’d just graduated, gotten a job and finally become a resident of America so things were

“She was finally on her feet again after almost a 10-year ordeal of regaining her life after the bombing, and then this diagnosis,” Jeanette shakes her head. “It just didn’t seem right that my mom could be so sick again.”

But Rosemary has been surviving since the start.

She was born in a cell and raised by relatives until her wrongly imprisoned parents were freed and Kenya was granted independence. Her story of survival was featured on Oprah Winfrey’s show alongside Sept. 11 and land mine victims.

“In Africa, you are born with a struggle,” Rosemary says. “I have to remember how far I’ve come. I’ve been surviving every bit of the way and plan to continue surviving. I’m not going to give in to dying.”

If it weren’t for the pills their mother takes morning and night and the weekly blood tests and scans, Rosemary’s daughters say they could almost forget about the cancer. She manages a full caseload and cooks for them often.

“When the doctors were telling us it was late stage, it didn’t sound very hopeful, but now that there’s no one telling her this is impossible, she’s very positive,” Linda says. “People can’t believe she’s so spirited while battling cancer. I wonder if I’d ever be able to take any of the things the way she does, to be able to survive it all.”

Every day Rosemary endures.

“I just live my dreams and wake up to live another one,” she says. “Sometimes I don’t know how, but I’m here for a purpose. I still need to make a difference for somebody.”

## Saving grace

Rosemary Bichage was just 12 credit hours short of her degree and shorter on tuition money.

“An angel of the Lord talked to someone who knew another lady who was my saving grace,” Rosemary says.

Her donor heard about Rosemary’s struggles and felt called to help.

“To be so close after all she’d been through, it would have been such a shame for her not to finish her degree,” says the donor, who wished to remain anonymous.

The donor provided scholarship funds to help Rosemary complete her final social work courses as she continued to support her daughters, also studying at UMKC. The donor remained anonymous to Rosemary until August 2006.

“Then she called to meet me, and I was shedding tears of joy. I couldn’t believe my eyes, this blessed lady,” Rosemary remembers. “We exchanged experiences. She had been injured in the Hyatt disaster (in 1981) so we had similar circumstances. And she was able to come to my aid when I needed it.”

Rosemary’s donor attended her master’s hooding ceremony, and they remain in touch.

“Too often people look at their circumstances and give up,” the donor says. “But you do what you have to do, and Rosemary has pursued life beyond having a disability. Her e-mail is ‘superrosemary,’ and I think she is.”

Rosemary says she will always be indebted to the woman who helped her fulfill her dream of earning her master’s degree.

“Up to this day, I shake my head and wonder what I’d be doing if she didn’t help me,” she says. “She saved my life and is still my friend to this day. It’s a very precious thing to me. God lined up angels for me when I was in despair.”



Jeanette, Linda, Rosemary and oldest daughter Moraa Bichage celebrate Rosemary’s graduation day.

“We couldn’t understand how they could possibly put her back together.”

—Linda Bichage

things I have done and forgive the people who have done wrong. Please take care of my children.

“They wondered if that was my last breath,” she says.

Her children wondered what was next.

“We couldn’t understand how they could possibly put her back together,” says Jeanette’s twin, Linda. “Things still looked really bad, but I just had this feeling she was going to make it. I was just positive she’d beat this.”

say, ‘OK, it happened,’ and you do your best to reconstruct your life.”

She knew that meant more than learning to walk again, but in Germany she had to focus on physical healing.

When she was discharged in March 1999, she could take two steps. Rosemary was able to rest at home for two weeks while staff of the reorganized embassy coordinated her continued care at Saint Luke’s Hospital in Kansas City. She assumed Kansas City was in Arkansas because she’d heard of that.



# Passport to learning

UMKC is home to more than 700 international students from 62 countries. How they got to Kansas City, their goals after graduation and what their life is like in America is different for each one, but each has a story. Here are three.

## AN ACT OF FAITH

Frankline Musongwe won the lottery. But the jackpot wasn't a cash prize of millions. It was a visa to the United States.

"I was very lucky," Musongwe says. "It was the biggest break I've ever had, and I couldn't ask for more."

The Diversity Visa Lottery, run by the U.S. State Department, awards permanent visas to 55,000 immigrants each year. Recipients are selected from countries with traditionally low rates of immigration to

medicine off the streets. You could walk up to a pharmacy counter and say 'I think I need some amoxicillin,' and they'd give it to you."

When Musongwe graduates from UMKC's School of Pharmacy in 2010, he says he plans to work in the United States for five years in order to pay off his student loans and help his family in Cameroon before returning.

"I'd like to open a pharmacy school there, eventually," he says. "I know other

realize that we don't have to rely on doctors for everything."

“I thought everything was gold and silver, and everything was just handed to you.”

—Frankline Musongwe

the United States. Musongwe is using his to pursue an education he can't get in his home country of Cameroon, Africa.

"There are no pharmacy schools in Cameroon," he says. "Pharmacy is not seen as needed there. People can just buy

people from Cameroon who are working in the United States as pharmacists, and I think if I can convince them that we can help, we can do something, it would really help. If there's a pharmacy school in Cameroon, I think the government would



Frankline Musongwe, a School of Pharmacy student, says he's hoping to use his education to make changes in his home country of Cameroon, Africa.

Because doctors are the only professionals with medical training in Cameroon, diseases that are simple to treat, such as diabetes, are still a large problem there. Musongwe took his diabetic father a test kit on his last visit home.

"Before, he had to make an appointment at the doctor to get his blood sugar checked," he says. "We would wait four to six hours to see the doctor. He'd have to do that every two months to get his blood sugar checked. Now that he has a kit, he's doing much better. He can monitor his disease and keep an eye on it."

Working at Walgreens pharmacy has opened Musongwe's eyes to how pharmacists can assist patients.

"Being able to talk with patients and see how much they rely on a pharmacist for help, it's very rewarding," he says.

Musongwe's passion for pharmacy and helping his home country is obvious, but when he first arrived in the United States, that passion almost wasn't enough to keep him here.

"When you see the ads on TV, you see everything's big," he says. "I thought everything was gold and silver, and everything was just handed to you. The first three weeks here, I was very discouraged. I wanted to go home. I missed my family, and I didn't think I would ever integrate into the culture."

But, his family encouraged him to stick it out and follow his dream. Musongwe was

living with his uncle in Baltimore at the time, and his uncle helped him fit in, little by little.

"He helped me find a job and learn English," Musongwe says. "When I started working, nobody could understand me. I thought Americans spoke too fast. But my uncle showed me how to integrate with the culture."

After working a few years in Baltimore, Musongwe decided to pursue pharmacy. A cousin in Kansas City told him about UMKC, and Musongwe moved before he even knew he was accepted into the program.

"It was an act of faith," he says. "It was the second best thing that happened to me."

## STAYING FOCUSED

In a way, Elisa Wang's son inspired her to pursue a nursing degree.

"When I had my baby, he was sick," Wang says. "I brought him to Children's Mercy, and I saw the nurses do their job there. And they did a very nice job. You can interact with people, and people respect you. I talked with people and learned that nursing always has job opportunities and better pay."

After starting courses at UMKC's School of Nursing, Wang realized that working toward her nursing degree would take all her focus. With her husband working full time and Wang taking a full load of classes, they decided their son should live with Wang's parents in China.

"I didn't have anyone to help me take care of my son, so I brought him back to China so I could go to school," Wang says. "I really have to focus on school. I couldn't understand in class if I did not study hard."

He's 7 now and will return after Wang finishes her master's degree program in December 2009.

"I call him every day, several times a day," Wang says. "No matter what he does, I know right away. Since I'm going for my master's, I decided to let him stay there a little longer because they have a good life there."

Her parents still live in the small village where Wang grew up in southern China. She came to Kansas City eight years ago after marrying her husband, who is Taiwanese, but lived in Kansas City when he met Wang.

"He knew some of my relatives, and we spoke on the phone and wrote letters for two years," Wang says. "Then he came to China, and we decided to get married. That's my story."

When she first arrived in Kansas City, Wang says she felt out of place.

"It's very different," she says. "In my country, you saw so many people walking everywhere around your house. When I first got here, I couldn't find any people walking around. I was scared to go out in the daytime because there were no people walking around the neighborhood. I was really bored."

In China, Wang worked in an office at an international shipping company. She didn't want an office job in the United States, and nursing gives her the chance to interact with people.

"There's a huge difference in health care from my country," Wang says. "Here, it's people first, always, no matter what their background is. In China, it's developing very fast, but their health care is far, far behind. Everything's about money. You have money, then you get care, you get service."

Although Wang has no specific plans after graduation, she's looking forward to putting the education she's received at UMKC to work.

"Looking at the health care system in China, I'm so glad I came here for my education," she says. "Here, doctors care about patients. Nurses get to help people."

“Looking at the health care system in China, I'm so glad I came here for my education.”

—Elisa Wang



Above left: Nursing student Elisa Wang hugs her son, who lives with his grandparents in China while his mother earns her master's degree at UMKC. Above right: Wang practices taking care of a patient during class.





When Khaldoun Ahmad tells people where he's from, there's only one thing that comes to most people's minds. "Sometimes when I introduce myself to someone, I mention I'm from Iraq," Ahmad says. "They react badly because I think they have a bad opinion about people in Iraq. But the advertisements, the TV, that's not all of the facts. People from Iraq can be friendly."

“In my country, I have lots of friends. . . Here, I don't know how to make friends.”  
-Khaldoun Ahmad

Ahmad has been in the United States since September, and the adjustment hasn't been easy. "It's hard to make friends here," he says. "I do not know the traditions or customs for making friends in America. This is a problem. In my country, I have lots of friends. I can't stay silent for five minutes. Here, I don't know how to make friends. I want someone to speak with, to practice English with." Although he's only taking English courses now, Ahmad plans to pursue a master's degree in organic geochemistry. He received a scholarship from Iraq's Ministry of Higher Education to pursue his education in the United States, but getting to UMKC wasn't easy.

Ahmad was awarded the scholarship in April 2006 but didn't arrive in America until 2007 because of difficulties obtaining a visa and admission to the University. "People in my country can't pay by credit card," he says. "This is a problem because universities ask for application fees. Lots of people in my country have scholarships but can't get admission." Ahmad also had trouble getting a visa to the United States. Although Iraq has an American embassy, the

embassy doesn't award visas. Ahmad obtained a three-day visa to Amman, Jordan, to apply for his visa. The application took four months to gain approval, and Ahmad lived as a refugee after his three-day visa expired. "He had a sister living in Jordan," says Caroline Davies, Ph.D, Ahmad's adviser at UMKC and geosciences assistant professor, who helped him get to America. "He lived

there illegally for four months and couldn't leave the house. Jordan is overrun with Iraqi refugees right now, so they're not popular there." Davies had been working with one of Ahmad's advisers in Iraq on research projects when she began helping Ahmad come to Kansas City. "I had to hand-deliver paperwork while I was in Jordan on a research project," she says. "It was a two-year slog getting him here." Although he's still adjusting, Ahmad is glad he chose Kansas City. "I think Kansas City is quiet compared with other cities," he says. "One of the important things is the accent in Kansas City is clear. It's not very slow, but it's not too fast. That is important to me." Ahmad says he thinks UMKC is organized, but compared to Baghdad, where he worked as a lab assistant at the University of Baghdad, most places would seem more together. "Nothing's organized in my country because of the situation," he says. "Because of the dangers when the students and staff go to the university, everything here seems organized. There are rules." Ahmad's scholarship requires him to work in Iraq when he completes his degree, but because of the war, he says he's not sure what his post-graduation plans will be. "If there's still a bad situation in my country, I don't know if I'll be able to go back," he says. "But, I'll work in the Department of Earth Sciences at the University of Baghdad when I go home." Ahmad doesn't have the luxury of forming an opinion on the war in Iraq. For him, it's simply a way of life. "It's the way it is," he says. "When I go back, maybe things will be better."

Above: Khaldoun Ahmad poses with his adviser, Caroline Davies, during a research project in the Middle East. Middle: Ahmad with colleagues during a research project. Bottom: Ahmad will begin his studies in organic geochemistry at UMKC, thanks to a scholarship from the Iraqi government.

EXAMINATION BOOK

Put away your books  
and pull out your pencils;  
we're taking a pop quiz.

We hope you've been paying attention these past 75 years, because this is a test of your Roo knowledge in commemoration of UMKC's diamond anniversary. Take a deep breath, take your time and be sure to check the answer key when you're finished.

Print Name	
75th anniversary quiz	UMKC History
Subject of Examination	
Section	
2008	Alvin Brooks (B.A.'59, M.A.'73) and Jeannette Nichols* Bruce Bubacz and Michelle LaPointe (B.A.'80)**
Date of Examination	Instructor(s)

\*75th anniversary celebration honorary chairs  
\*\*75th anniversary celebration co-chairs



1. **Conservatory alumnus Elmer Dresslar Jr. ('49) provided the voice for what famous character?**

- A. Tony the Tiger
- B. The Jolly Green Giant
- C. The Pink Panther
- D. Daffy Duck

THE  
PINK  
PANTHER

2. **Which of the following academic colleges are older than the University itself?**

- A. School of Law
- B. Conservatory of Music and Dance
- C. School of Pharmacy
- D. School of Dentistry
- E. All of the above



3. **What foreign dignitary spoke on the steps of Scofield Hall in 1947?**

- A. Winston Churchill, British prime minister
- B. Mao Zedong, Chinese Communist Party chairman
- C. Miguel Alemán, Mexican president
- D. Joseph Chifley, Australian prime minister

4. **What do Miller Nichols Library and Royall Hall have in common with Boston City Hall?**

- A. They are examples of brutalist architecture.
- B. All three opened in the same year.
- C. They were built with Missouri granite.
- D. All of the above



5. **The University welcomed three overseas students in 1935. Along with China and the Philippines, from which foreign land did one of these students hail?**

- A. Thailand
- B. Hawaii
- C. U.S.S.R.
- D. Japan



6. **Where was the first library located on campus?**

- A. Swinney Recreation Center
- B. The solarium of Scofield Hall
- C. Where University Center now stands
- D. Epperson House



7. **School of Law alumnus Jesse L. Childers ('35) once debated which of these famous figures while in his undergraduate program at Culver Stockton College?**

- A. Ronald Reagan (Eureka College)
- B. Tennessee Williams (University of Iowa)
- C. Hubert Humphrey (University of Minnesota)
- D. Art Linkletter (San Diego State University)

8. **UKC alumna Ruth Warrick ('37) was known for her role as Phoebe Tyler on the soap opera All My Children, but she gained star status through her role in which film:**

- A. It's a Wonderful Life
- B. Citizen Kane
- C. National Velvet
- D. Annie Get Your Gun

ANNIE GET  
YOUR GUN

9. **Which of the following former Kansas City mayors are UMKC alumni?**

- A. Ilus Davis
- B. Charles Wheeler
- C. Kay Waldo Barnes
- D. All of the above

10. **The first UKC yearbook published in 1936 was called the Crataegus, which:**

- A. was the genus name of the state flower of Missouri, the Wild Hawthorne.
- B. was named by the faculty biologist, Dr. Kenneth Mahony.
- C. is Greek for "strength."
- D. All of the above





11. Which UKC graduate was appointed director of the FBI?

- A. J. Edgar Hoover
- B. Robert Mueller
- C. Louis Freeh
- D. Clarence Kelley

FBI

12. UKC faculty and students were models for the Don Quixote frescoes that grace the walls of Haag Hall. The murals were painted by which 1940-41 artist in residence at UKC?

- A. Diego Rivera
- B. Frida Kahlo
- C. Luis Quintanilla
- D. Salvador Dali



13. Which campus building was once an elementary school?

- A. Scofield Hall
- B. The School of Education building
- C. Grant Hall
- D. None of the above



14. UKC alumnus Shelby Storck ('37) went on to a career in radio, television and movies. He appeared in which of the following films:

- A. The Delinquents
- B. The Cool and the Crazy
- C. The Innocent Party
- D. The Magic Bond
- E. All of the above

15. Which early University supporter was known as "Mr. Anonymous"?

- A. Ernest Newcomb
- B. Walter Dickey
- C. William Volker
- D. J.C. Nichols



16. What famous film's music did Conservatory graduate Leith Stevens ('27) compose?

- A. The War of the Worlds
- B. It's A Wonderful Life
- C. Hairspray
- D. The Sound of Music

hairspray

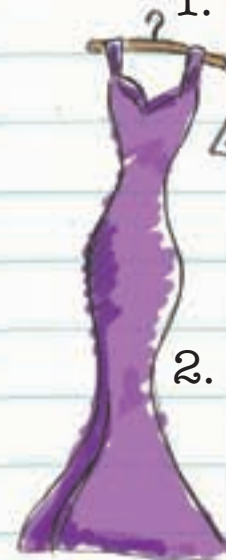
17. Walt Disney is known to UKC and UMKC alumni for:

- A. having been an early UKC student.
- B. having been a candidate for dean of the UKC Liberal Arts College.
- C. being the artist who drew the first UKC kangaroo mascot.
- D. serving as an early artist in residence.

### Extra credit:

1. This fashion item was popular until the War Production Board forced manufacturers to limit their use of fabrics.

- A. Zoot suit
- B. Evening gown
- C. Short skirt
- D. Women's slacks

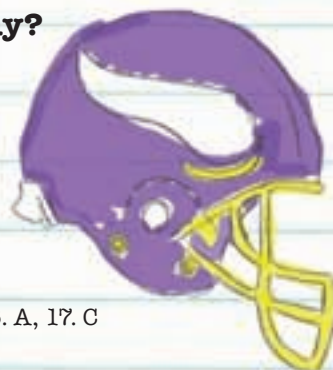


2. Jonas Salk developed the polio vaccine in what year?

- A. 1948
- B. 1961
- C. 1955
- D. None of the above

3. Which team did the Kansas City Chiefs beat in Super Bowl IV, in 1970, to claim their first and only Vince Lombardi Trophy?

- A. Green Bay Packers
- B. Pittsburgh Steelers
- C. Baltimore Colts
- D. Minnesota Vikings



#### Answer key

1. B, 2. E, 3. C, 4. A, 5. B, 6. B, 7. A, 8. B, 9. D, 10. D, 11. D, 12. C, 13. C, 14. E, 15. C, 16. A, 17. C

#### Extra credit answer key

1. A, 2. C, 3. D

Teacher's guide online. Read more about the answers at [www.umkc.edu/75years](http://www.umkc.edu/75years).





First-year theater graduate student Pamela Leung landed a set design internship on ABC's hit drama, *Desperate Housewives*, last summer.

# PRIMETIME

From interning on the set of *Desperate Housewives* to making television appearances, UMKC alumni and students are in the spotlight.

By Kara Petrovic

As little girls do, Pamela Leung's days of make believe involved imagining what she'd be when she grew up.

But it wasn't until an opportunity found her hundreds of miles away from home at age 26 that Leung learned what her future would entail.

"Growing up, I always wanted to be a teacher, lawyer or doctor," says Leung, a first-year graduate student in UMKC's Theatre Department. "I never imagined myself working in L.A., especially working on the set of a popular TV show."

But Leung's quick to admit that the three-week internship she spent amid ABC's most popular housewives from Wisteria Lane and the working relationship she built with *Desperate Housewives* production director

Tom Walsh last summer was a chance of a lifetime.

In the short time she was there, Leung says she had the perfect L.A. experience. She saw celebrities, experienced a mini earthquake and her Universal Studios office window faced across the street toward director Steven Spielberg and actor Harrison Ford, who were filming the *Indiana Jones* movie sequel to premiere in May.

"It was amazing," she says. "I saw [Spielberg] every day, and I tried my hardest to get an autograph but ended up having a nice conversation with his bodyguard instead. I finally decided that I'll have to wait and meet him when I work for him."

Leung took advantage of the internship and conversed daily with as many people in

the industry as she could. Her eagerness paid off, because she quickly went from making copies of technical plans to helping Walsh build a scale model for an upcoming episode.

The crew's welders based their mammoth, metal sculpture off the model. The fountain appeared in episode three of season four, when life partners Bob and Lee tell the gawking housewives that their so-called "eyesore" from Finland cost \$24,000, and that it wouldn't be leaving their front yard.

Still, Leung says she has a lot to learn about the business.

"The experience was amazing," she says. "I learned the most about myself and what I really want to do, and why I really want to do it. I learned that by throwing yourself in the deep waters, you'll learn how you're

really going to swim. And as for a job, I learned what it really takes to be a successful production director and saw where I wanted to be, where I need to go and how much more work I need to do."

Leung's quick to give credit where credit is due. Had it not been for a weeklong workshop at UMKC hosted by Walsh and one particular professor, Leung says her internship would not have been possible.

"None of this would have happened without John Ezell," she says. "I've never met such a selfless, giving teacher in my life. Everything he does is 100 percent for his students. I will be forever grateful to him because none of this would have happened without him, none of it at all."



Welders used Pamela Leung's model to create a large fountain for *Desperate Housewives*.

## Altering circumstances welcomed

Third-year graduate student Toccarra Cash knows firsthand the role faculty play in shaping students' careers. Mid-year into her junior year at Spelman College in Atlanta, Cash made a life-changing decision as her professor droned on about constitutional law. At that moment, Cash decided to toss the political science books and future law career away and turn her attention toward something she knew deep down she'd always wanted.

"The professor kept talking and I didn't even want to pretend I understood what she was saying," says Cash, a third-year graduate student. "I was bored. I knew that I didn't have any passion, fire, desire to pursue this intended degree."

Later that day, Cash met with her academic adviser who pointed out that she had more drama classes on her schedule than her intended major courses. Less than 12 hours later, Cash changed her major.

The magic for Cash began early. She first caught the acting bug at age 13 after appearing on stage as Mrs. Luce in *Little Shop of Horrors*. It was a small role, but a part Cash remembers vividly.

"It didn't matter if I had one line or a thousand, I was just exhilarated to be on stage," Cash says. "And looking back at that experience at 13 all way up until today, I've learned the magic is in the work, the magic is in the craft, the art form, and that the magic is in learning and growing with each

artistic experience, and that's what keeps me coming back for more."

Cash chose to attend graduate school to sharpen her acting techniques. She initially thought she'd study on the East or West Coast, but a mentor advised her to check out UMKC.

"When she said the University of Missouri-Kansas City, I laughed," Cash says. "I kept asking 'why would I want to end up in Kansas City?' It's like Nowhereville, U.S.A. But my audition with UMKC was the best I had ... the faculty made me feel like my audition was about me, unlike the other schools who made it about their school and 'what can you do for us.'"

But the road to success hasn't come easy for Cash. In the fall of 2006, she was cast in the play *Cold Nine* at UMKC. On the way to her second week of rehearsal, Cash received a call that changed everything.

The emotional rush of her role faded after a mind-blowing meeting with the head of acting and the theater department's chair who unexpectedly pulled Cash from the production.

Previously diagnosed with vocal nodes – blisters that form on the vocal cords – Cash was ordered on vocal rest, which meant complete silence for a month and half. The vow of silence worked, and Cash was healed after doctors rechecked her nodes. Cash says

one. "I've grown as an actress, as a woman, an artist and a person, and when I look back at the foundation elements of my career, UMKC will have played a major role."

## Successful training

Alumni Donnie Keshawarz (M.F.A. '98) and Caren Browning (M.F.A. '89) also credit their success to UMKC. He has had television roles on *The Sopranos* and *24*, as well as recent performances on Broadway in the musical *Tarzan* and on FX Network's *Damages*.

Browning also experienced the thrill of television and is best known for playing Capt. Judith Siper on *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit*.

Keshawarz discovered theater his junior year in high school after a soccer injury sidelined him for the season. Needing a hobby, Keshawarz replaced his beloved sport with drama and never looked back.

For Browning, however, theater was a family affair. It was in her blood.

"For the longest time I wasn't allowed to be an actress aside for a couple of things I did as a very young girl since my parents were both so involved with the theater," Browning says. "I never really worked in theater until my sophomore year in college when I first started being in plays. It wasn't until I came to UMKC for graduate school that I seriously started studying the craft of acting and committing my life to it."

The initial interview and the theater facility sealed the deal for Browning, whereas Keshawarz selected UMKC based on professionalism and location.

"As far as I was concerned, I was getting just as good, if not a better education than

“I never imagined myself working in L.A., especially on the set of a popular TV show.”  
—Pamela Leung

she grew not only as a person but as an artist during the experience and is thankful for the lessons she learned.

The faculty took note of her perseverance and nominated Cash for the prestigious \$10,000 Princess Grace Award. On July 3, Cash learned she was one of 24 national scholarship recipients. She received the award at a black-tie gala hosted by CNN's Larry King in October in New York.

"When I got that call, I had fireworks a day early," she says. "It's still so surreal that they chose me, a girl from Dayton, Ohio. And I know I wouldn't be where I am today without the education I've received. My experience at UMKC has been a golden

students who opted for Juilliard, NYU and Yale," he says. "And the fact that I was in the Midwest was better for me because the competitiveness wasn't there. Instead, I was truly learning the nuts and bolts of acting, whereas a lot of these programs are teaching you how to sell yourself."

To sustain an acting career, Keshawarz says performers must focus more on learning how to act than dreams of instant stardom.

"You have to find a way to enjoy the work and figure out through your homework who your character really is," he says. "The easy part comes in front of the camera. The hard stuff comes beforehand." ■



# From lab to market

## The patent process at UMKC

By Nicholas Barron

If Humpty Dumpty falls off a wall, David Eick might help put him back together again. Or, rather, an invention he helped create could.

Eick, Ph.D., a School of Dentistry researcher, is working with other faculty at UMKC and throughout the University of Missouri (UM) system to create a chemical compound that can fuse bones together.

Still in development, the unnamed substance could prove to be safer and more durable than what is currently used to join and heal bones after a traumatic injury.

“The biocompatibility of this material and its ability to be used in the body is very, very superior to current materials,” Eick says.

Eick and his fellow researchers hope to eventually patent and commercially license the material, which could replace the

cement now used in procedures like hip and knee replacements. If this were to happen, Eick’s compound could generate the first significant profit earned by UMKC from research.

Universities making money from research produced by faculty is nothing new.

In the 1940s, Indiana University researchers learned that a chemical compound, called stannous fluoride, prevented tooth decay. The discovery piqued Proctor & Gamble’s interest, which paid to include the compound in its Crest toothpaste.

In 1956, the company launched the “Look, mom, no cavities” ad campaign. The campaign instilled in American parents the belief that Crest was the best way to ensure healthy teeth for their children, securing millions in profits for both Proctor &

Gamble and Indiana University. The school used the royalties it earned from Crest to build its Oral Health Research Institute in Indianapolis.

UMKC, however, is new to the game of technology transfer, which is the way a discovery, or intellectual property, goes from lab to marketplace.

Tech transfer at UMKC and the rest of the UM system used to be handled by system offices in Columbia.

In July 2006, decisions about whether to patent an intellectual property shifted

to each of the four system campuses, so UMKC’s research office switched gears. The office went from helping researchers secure funding for their work to also assisting faculty in patenting and licensing their discoveries, something the office was not expertly trained to do.

The initial results, however, have been promising.

Last year, the UMKC research office received 19 invention disclosures, more than double what it received in 2006 and triple the number it received in 2005, when the UM system maintained the patenting and licensing process. An invention disclosure is how researchers acknowledge they may have research that can be patented. It’s the first step in technology transfer.

“Once (tech transfer) became a campus responsibility, we began getting far more disclosures than had ever been provided before,” says John Baumann, Ph.D., vice provost for research at UMKC and head of the research office.

While the increase in invention disclosures is a positive sign, there is still a lot of work to be done for UMKC to become known as a research university.

“It’s like getting a lot of runners on base, but not scoring,” Baumann says. “It’s very nice that we’re getting on base, but getting on base is not the total goal.”

To be able to take an intellectual property, patent it and commercially license it, the research office needs more resources. Currently much of the office’s work is outsourced to attorneys and others with expertise in the field of the intellectual property.

Lynda Bonewald, Ph.D., a School of Dentistry researcher, commends Baumann and the research office for the progress they’ve made, but adds more is needed in order for UMKC to become more successful at transferring technology.

“He (Baumann) can’t do everything,” Bonewald says. “He’s got some good personnel, but they just can’t do everything.”

Baumann’s office currently consists of himself and one other person working on

patenting and licensing.

The Association of University Technology Managers (AUTM) reports the typical size of a university’s research office is between three and 10 people. However, the schools that profit most from their research are the ones with a large staff dedicated to tech transfer, such as those at the University of Michigan and the University of California system.

Bonewald serves on a committee charged with improving tech transfer throughout the UM system. The message she carries to the committee is that there are successful models for Missouri to follow.

“You don’t have to reinvent the wheel,” Bonewald says. “Just find one that’s been successful and copy what they’ve been doing.”

While tech transfer has existed in some form for some time, the 1980 passage of the federal Bayh-Dole Act gave universities a greater incentive to invest in patenting and licensing intellectual properties. The act allowed universities to profit more greatly from commercially licensed discoveries made by their researchers.

In the years immediately following the act’s passage, the number of university programs dedicated to patenting and licensing intellectual properties increased. Between 1985 and 1995, an average of eight universities started research programs each year, according to the AUTM.

About \$45.5 billion was spent in the United States last year on research at universities.

The AUTM reports that since 1992 the number of invention disclosures annually filed in the United States more than doubled from just under 8,000 in 1992 to nearly 19,000 in 2006. Also in 2006, the latest year for which statistics are available, 16,000 patents were filed in this country, compared with nearly 3,000 in 1992.

On a system level, the University of Missouri, which started its research program in 1987, seems to be doing fairly well in comparison with other Big 12 schools. In 2006, Missouri trailed only the University of Colorado and Iowa State University in invention disclosures, and ranked third in patents filed.

At UMKC, of the 19 invention disclosures filed in 2006, four have been patented and 14 are currently in the process of being patented.

Also in 2006, the University earned its first research dollars, \$50,000 for a half-dozen genetically altered mice. This amount is far from what a university can reap from research.

The University of California system, for example, received \$110 million in 2006 and the University of Colorado system brought in \$20 million.

But UMKC’s first research dollars are a start.

“We just graduated from kindergarten,” Baumann says. “And now we’re ready for first grade.”

The University’s goal is to at least come close to the success other schools have had in commercializing research.

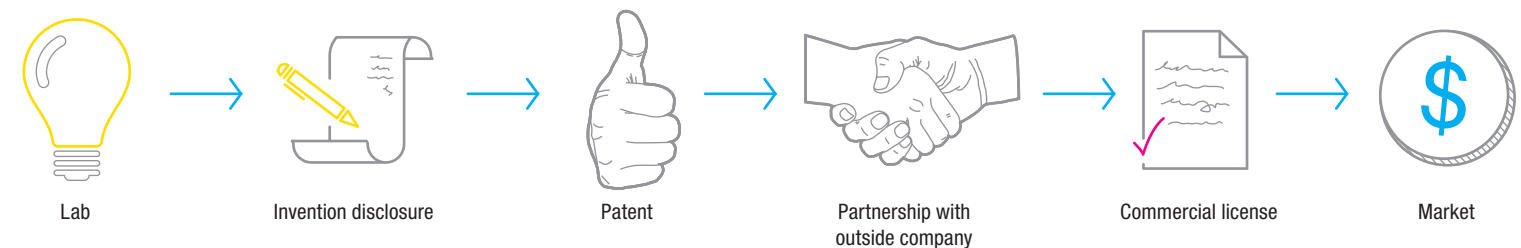
Along with Indiana University, the University of Florida is another textbook example of what academic research turned commercial product can do.

In the 1960s a kidney disease specialist at Florida developed a drink that was proven to increase athletes’ energy levels during competition. Since 1973, the drink has generated more than \$80 million for the University of Florida and has funded such things as a marine laboratory and the Genetics Institute in Gainesville, home of the University of Florida and its beloved mascot, Albert E. Gator.

The sports drink? Gatorade. ■

Last year, the UMKC research office received more than triple the number of invention disclosures it received in 2005.

## Steps to advance an idea







Kathy Goggin

# Medicine woman

By Lindsey V. Corey

Barely 10 inches separated one dying patient from the next.

In the midst of 500 malnourished men and women, each waiting for their time to die, stands a strong, redheaded idealist.

And the inadequacy of idealism alone becomes too real.

The hospital is so overflowing with despair there's no space left for hope. No time for comfort, no room to breathe.

The tears are already forming as she bursts outside to have a good cry in the South African sun.

Not five minutes later, Kathy Goggin dries her eyes and goes back to work.

"I had to or there would be one less person doing something," she says.



**K**athy Goggin has worked with AIDS patients since the disease was regarded as something gay men got.

Most of them she's met at the end of their lives. She'd always been good with death, always had hope. But there, in the hospital outside Pietermaritzburg, South Africa, she felt powerless.

"Here are my colleagues who I respect and care about very much, who I know have the best hearts in the world, but they face so much death every single day that they've become completely comfortable with the fact that nine out of 10 people they treat are going to die, many of them the next day," Goggin says.

and everything I was trained to do doesn't totally apply. What I have to offer is not appropriate to this situation. And what I can best offer is to do the research work and do the integration of care systems to stop the epidemic before they get to those beds."

And the idealism that energizes Goggin is back.

"I was raised to believe it's wrong not to care," she says. "It makes me really angry so instead of being angry all the time, I channel it into action. I never turn off. It's not a good idea, but it works for me."

In between classes, the UMKC associate professor of psychology is leading teams on HIV-related research worth more than

effects after taking capsules containing dried sutherlandia. The next phase will test the plant's safety in 124 HIV-positive Zulu patients with early infection.

Goggin partnered with University of Missouri-Columbia biochemistry professor Bill Folk, Ph.D., and UMKC researchers Karen Williams, Ph.D., and Mary Gerkovich, Ph.D., on the study. But it took some convincing to get the busy clinical psychologist on board.

"I don't lie people on couches; I impact health," Goggin says. "It's about the interface between psychology and medicine where you really focus on the patient. You can take all the drugs in the world, but you have to learn

sometimes discover cures by reading patterns in chicken bones thrown in the dirt. Healers also are to blame for some HIV cases because they often administer muthi, a blend of herbs, barks and animal products, with knives that haven't been sterilized.

"But the healers are the closest to the patients," Goggin says. "The doctors have long since left their rural villages. They've educated themselves out of being an average Zulu person."

But these African doctors still speak the tribal language so Goggin gave them a task – translating patient quality of life measures to be used in the clinical trials – they couldn't do it without the healers, who had never recorded

“People are dying. It’s not that important that you order textbooks on time.”  
—Kathy Goggin

change them. We will have to meet them."

"And right then, I knew we'd done it," she says. "He'd realized that the healers will help if you just put your hand out."

The process has never been tested with these groups, but Goggin employs it often.

"If you show respect and try, people will give you anything if they believe you're there to help," she says. "People tell me things they

"But he raised me to be strong willed like that," she says. "And I think I got off on the idea that it bothered my parents' friends.

I still like that it wakes people up because it makes them confront their own biases. I guess it's my way of being a rebel."

No one close to her age was volunteering at the Long Beach, Calif., AIDS hospice, not many volunteers there period. Goggin



A muthi (indigenous medicine) market in Durban, South Africa

People are born dying there. And Goggin wonders how her African colleagues live with that.

"I'm just not there yet," she says. "It's not my reality, and I don't want to accept that reality."

“I couldn’t care less if people know me, but what I’ve done has to give voice to these people.”  
—Kathy Goggin

A Ph.D. in clinical psychology doesn't cut it half a world away from where she usually practices, and that's agonizing for Goggin.

"What I want to do is unrealistic," she says. "It's that moment of culture clash, feeling I'm a privileged white American standing in a place where everything I know

\$7 million with five more grant proposals pending approval.

The study that took Goggin to that South African hospital is part of a \$4.4 million, four-year National Institutes of Health grant, the first to bring together Zulu traditional

healers and Western-trained doctors. The American and African team has set out to examine the safety and efficacy of sutherlandia, an indigenous plant commonly used by the healers to treat cancer and AIDS patients.

During the study's safety trial, healthy participants exhibited no negative side



Grinding herbs at muthi market

to cope. I'm most interested in changing the system to make life better. So studying some bush really wasn't a priority... until I learned traditional healers would be involved."

Goggin's husband from South Africa had talked about how the sick will save their money to pay twice as much to be treated by a healer than to see a medical doctor.

"It's not about me; it's about the people I want to work with, and they trust the healers," she says. "I knew that if I could figure out how to get the healers and the allopathic doctors to play together, we would build a better health care system."

She also knew it wasn't going to be easy.

The healers, known as witch doctors in other parts of the world, are wary about sharing their secrets because pharmaceutical companies have created supplements from their herbal remedies, and they've never seen any of the money.

Western-trained doctors often don't value their counterparts in the villages, who



A traditional healer's practice in Edendale, South Africa

their experiences with any plant or patient.

"You have to understand that this was scary for the doctors," she says. "They're the first high school and college graduates in their families because apartheid just ended, and here we are asking them to go back to the village and learn from what they worked to escape. But patients report sutherlandia makes them feel better, so we needed to measure 'feel better.'"

By forcing the status switch from white coats to traditional tribal dress, Goggin carefully created an environment of mutual respect.

"We set up a situation where people didn't roll their eyes," she says. "They realized they could learn from each other, and they have to. My God, if the country with the highest incidences of HIV had a plant growing all over the place that they could use to help, that would be huge."

After the series of long meetings, one of the doctors told Goggin, "We will not



Traditional healers dancing

shouldn't have to tell anyone – sex partners, positions, you name it – because they know I'm only trying to make the world a better place."

She's been at it since she was 16.

Goggin grew up in a "terribly geeky family" in southern California. Her father assigned debate topics during dinner. The kids were expected to read the paper, ask questions, give back.

It was the early '80s when Goggin saw an article about patients being neglected because they had a mysterious, misunderstood disease.

"They were dying with food trays stacked outside their rooms because no one would go near them," she remembers. "You don't let people die in a bed full of crap. This wasn't a reality I was raised with. The more outcast you were, the more we should care."

When family friends expressed concern, she recalls her father saying "you try to stop her."

remembers a good long talk about hand washing somewhere between basketball practice and chatting with one of the indigent men, but she wasn't afraid of being infected.

"I chalk it up to being 16 and on a righteous mission to make the world a better place," she says. "It was a pretty naïve, arrogant point of view that I've never outgrown. People are dying. It's not that important that you order textbooks on time."

What matters to Goggin is being there, whether it's with a newly diagnosed woman in Kansas City or in a hospital trying to save the village with the highest rate of HIV infection in the world.

"Of course it's overwhelming," she says. "And this study is only a drop in the bucket, but it still makes a difference. I couldn't care less if people know me, but what I've done has to give voice to these people." ■





# Not just horsing around

To harness the lesson, just go for a ride. That's what students do in UMKC's Introduction to Equestrian course.

"I've been wanting to do this all my life," says senior and beginning rider Jennifer Scott. "I am a girl, after all."

Students choose when they want their weekly riding lesson with instructor and stable owner Janet Green.

Though it's listed as an introductory class, students with any level of experience can register. Janet Green Stables in Liberty, Mo., has six training horses used in the program.

"The beauty of this course is that you can take it no matter what level you're at," Green says. "We pick the horse depending on what you are capable of."

Fourth-year pharmacy student Hannah Glass is one of the more experienced students. She has been riding since she was 7, but her horse is several hours away at her family's stable in Sturgeon, Mo.

"I decided to take the class because I love horses," Glass says. "I basically grew up on a farm, so loving horses came pretty naturally. I'm so glad they have created this. It is nice to get to ride and be around horses."

Students are allowed to take the one-credit course as many times as they would like. Glass has enrolled three times.

"Janet is a good instructor," Glass says. "She lets you know what to do in order to have the horse look and ride his very best. It's such a nice break from my pharmacy classes to get to go and spend an hour with my favorite animals."

Program coordinator Mary Phyl Dwight checks in at the stables periodically. She requires students keep a journal of what they learn and commit one additional hour of physical activity each week.

"It's harder than you think," Scott says. "It really gives you a work out, but it's a really fun class. I told my husband, 'when I'm done, I want my own horse.'"

—Alberta T. Weatherspoon, UMKC student



Top: Hannah Glass receives instruction from Janet Green as part of UMKC's Introduction to Equestrian class. Above: Glass cools down a horse after a lesson.

## Historic recordings to be cataloged

Any recording featuring Charlie Christian is a rare find because the jazz guitarist and blues singer died in his mid-20s.

"It's always wonderful to discover anything from Christian because it's part of his legacy," says Chuck Haddix, Marr Sound Archives director at UMKC's Miller Nichols Library. "This one is a real treasure because he plays live with Benny Goodman. It's one of my favorites from the collection."

The J. David Goldin Collection includes more than 10,000 one-of-a-kind recordings. Goldin, a leading authority on historic radio programs, donated the 16-inch, instantaneous-cut acetate discs and pressed recordings to the archives at UMKC, which house more than 290,000 items. Goldin's original recordings date from 1935 to 1950 and are not preserved in any other form.

"These old-time radio programs are really unique because many were recorded during the war years," Haddix says. "It was common for this stuff to be recycled for the metal content, so it really is a miracle they survived."

Currently, the contents of the Goldin Collection are only listed on paper so staff and researchers must search through hundreds of pages to see if what they are looking for is available.

But the library received a \$502,000 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to help maintain and share the collection, which features interviews with Marlon Brando to news bulletins announcing the Pearl Harbor attack. The funds will allow for the cataloging of all 10,000 radio recordings so they can be easily searched online.



Chuck Haddix

"This helps us make this treasure trove available to researchers internationally," Haddix says. "There's all kinds of wild and cool stuff that's sparked a lot of interest from people all over the world."

Marr Sound Archives staff received more than 7,500 telephone and e-mail inquiries in 2007. UMKC faculty and students accessed the materials for history and choreography projects.

The upcoming expansion and renovation of the library will allow for sustained growth of collections, including the Marr Sound Archives. The University's recording collection, established in 1987, is known for its focus on American popular culture and its jazz, operatic and classical recordings. It is open to the public.

—Lindsey V. Corey

## Researcher receives \$5 million grant

School of Medicine researcher Hong-Wen Deng, Ph.D., will expand his investigation of the genetic causes of osteoporosis after receiving a \$5.6 million grant from the National Institutes of Health Office of Research on Women's Health.

Announced in September, the grant lasts for five years and allows Deng to continue his search for genes that increase the risk of females developing osteoporosis. Along with identifying the female genes, Deng hopes to understand the genes' functions, as well as their relation to similar genes in males.

Potential outcomes of the research include discovering new ways to treat and cure osteoporosis, identifying people likely to develop the disease and targeting individuals with certain genetic compositions for specific steps to prevent the disease from occurring.

Fifty-five percent of the U.S. population over 50 years old – or 44 million people – are susceptible to osteoporosis, according to the National Osteoporosis Foundation. Of the 10 million people currently living with osteoporosis, 8 million are women.



Hong-Wen Deng



# University rethinks campus safety after Virginia Tech tragedy



In the wake of tragedy at Virginia Tech University, UMKC launched a new emergency notification system in December. The system, called UMKC Alert, allows students, faculty and staff to optionally receive a voice mail or text message if there is a security threat on campus, if the campus is closed in an emergency situation or if classes are cancelled due to inclement weather. UMKC Alert grew out of a partnership between the University of Missouri system and 3n, a mass message notification service. UMKC Alert is expected to complement UMKC's emergency response plan. The plan lays out everything from what first responders are responsible for in an emergency situation to who makes campus-wide decisions. The plan also covers how and when information is communicated to the campus and surrounding community, one part of Virginia Tech's response that was criticized.

When a situation meets the criteria in the emergency plan for disseminating information to the campus community, UMKC Alert will be activated and voice mails and text messages will go out to those who have opted to use the service. Almost immediately after the Virginia Tech tragedy in April 2007, UMKC Chancellor Guy Bailey asked UMKC Police Chief Scott Shelton and others to see what, if any, weaknesses there were with the University's response plan. The re-evaluation showed the current plan is thorough, but that there was room for improvement to ensure people across campus are aware of what to do in an emergency. "And that's what we're trying to do, is get more people informed as to what our plan is and what their role is in the event of a critical emergency," Shelton says. A case management team comprising several campus organizations, including

the UMKC Police Department, counseling services, the Student Life Office and Residential Life work to keep UMKC safe. The team routinely meets to discuss potential threats to safety, including at-risk students. This is another area in which Virginia Tech was criticized for not identifying student Cho Seung-Hui, the campus shooter, as a potentially violent person. While confidentiality rules prevent details from being revealed, especially as it applies to counseling services, the team is able to assess possible dangerous situations and plan accordingly. "Not that we would have prevented what happened at Virginia Tech, but that's exactly what we're set up to do, is look at an individual like the Virginia Tech shooter," Shelton says. —Nicholas Barron

# Scholarship offers a lot of dough

Bologna sandwiches minus the bread were all too often part of Ken Clark's college diet. So a few years after graduation, Clark (B.S. '01) set out to satisfy a student's hunger pains. "There are two things all college kids want: money and food," he recalls. "Pizza is perfect because everybody likes it. They can share it during a study session or eat for a week off it. It's the most versatile food you can get." Jared Bayne can't argue with that. He's this year's recipient of the Ken Clark Pizza n' Lunch Scholarship awarded annually to a School of Computing and Engineering student.

A sense of humor is a requirement for consideration for the coveted scholarship, which offers one large Minsky's pizza a week and \$500. This isn't your typical scholarship, so traditional essays won't do. Bayne cracked Clark up with his application essay about a prank he pulled on his mom. Clark, now a senior project manager for a hotel construction and consulting firm in Florida and the Caribbean, could relate. "When I first brought up the idea of having a pizza scholarship, they thought I was joking because I was known as a prankster there, and

who's ever heard of a pizza scholarship?" he says. "But when I sent the check, they knew I was serious about giving back." Among others, Clark received the Kristin J. Loeffelholz Memorial Engineering Scholarship while at UMKC.

“I’m practically making a kid an instant celebrity.” —Ken Clark

"I really appreciated what people did for me so when I got out it was my intention to help too, even though I'm not the stereotypical old rich guy donor," the 30-year-old says. "It sort of started out as a whim, and I'm kind of surprised at how meaningful it's become to me." He's most proud of helping one recipient land a job after meeting him at the scholarship reception.

"I could use 500 bucks for a lot of things, but I just have to budget \$50 a month to do this," Clark says. "I can go without an evening out and get a lot more value than I would from a steak dinner. I'm practically making a kid an instant celebrity. It's like being a lottery winner because you've got something everybody wants." The celebrity hasn't gone to Bayne's head yet, but he says he does get plenty of requests for free pizza, especially from his roommate and twin brother Justin, who's working toward his master's in saxophone performance at UMKC. After months of pizza taste testing, Bayne recommends "the one with bacon strips on top, deep dish. The box is really heavy so you know it's good." —Lindsey V. Corey

## Appointments

**Frances Connelly**, Ph.D., was promoted to professor at the College of Arts and Sciences' Department of Art and Art History, where she also serves as chair. Her research area is modern European art history with a special interest in 19th century art.

**Curt Crespino** was appointed interim vice chancellor for University Advancement. He has served 17 years in the Advancement Division in a variety of positions including his previous role as associate vice chancellor. He is a member of the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education's International Board, which sets standards for alumni relations, development and communications.

**Gail Hackett**, Ph.D., was appointed provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs. Most recently, she served as Arizona State University's vice provost and dean of its University College. Hackett was also a faculty member at Ohio State University and the University of California-Santa Barbara.

**Tom Mardikes** (M.F.A. '97) was promoted to professor at the College of Arts and Sciences Department of Theatre, where he also serves as chair. He worked for nearly 10 years as the resident sound designer for the Kansas City Repertory Theatre, the professional theater in residence at UMKC.

**James Mobberley**, D.M.A., was named interim dean at the Conservatory of Music and Dance. Mobberley has been a faculty member of the Conservatory since 1983. He will also continue in his role as a Curators' Professor of Music.

**Arthur Louis Odom**, Ph.D., was promoted to professor at the UMKC School of Education. In the past 10 years, he has been awarded more than \$2 million in grants, including two current National Science Foundation grants. Odom's ongoing work involves improving urban science education through an established, collaborative partnership with the Kansas City, Mo., School District.

**Eric Rosen**, Ph.D., was appointed artistic director for the Kansas City Repertory Theatre, UMKC's professional theater in residence. An award-winning playwright, Rosen was a co-founder and artistic director for About Face Theatre in Chicago. He has taught at Northwestern University, University of Chicago, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and Brooklyn College.

**Walter J. Rychlewski III**, Ph.D., was appointed interim dean at the School of Computing and Engineering. He is one of six Kauffman Foundation Technology Fellows and has joint faculty appointments in the Bloch School's Institute for Entrepreneurship and Innovation and the School for Computing and Engineering.

**Michael L. Smith**, Ph.D., was appointed chair of the Master of Social Work program in the College of Arts and Sciences. Smith came to UMKC from Newman University where he was professor, director of the M.S.W. program and founding dean of the School of Applied Social Sciences.



Jared Bayne



## Center created to teach real estate development

UMKC students can study the ins and outs of commercial real estate thanks to a \$1.5 million gift from the White Family Foundation to create the Lewis White Center for Real Estate.

Part of the Henry W. Bloch School of Business and Public Administration, the center covers all aspects of commercial real estate development, including appraisal, urban development, asset management and real estate finance.

Initially the program focuses on the business aspects of real estate, but future course offerings will reach across disciplines at UMKC to give students an extensive education in real estate development. Plans are also in the works to partner with the Bloch School's Institute for Entrepreneurship and Innovation to grow entrepreneurial initiatives in commercial real estate.

Coursework began in August with 30 students. The program's courses are available to undergraduate and graduate students as well as real estate professionals.

## Grant trains teachers to overcome language barriers

Students in North Kansas City's school district speak 46 languages.

Susan Adler, Ph.D., curriculum and instruction chair and professor, recognized the growing need to provide additional training to teachers to work with students whose first language is not English.

She partnered with district representatives to develop Project EXCELL (Exceptional Collaboration for English Language Learning), and the University was awarded a \$1.47 million U.S. Department of Education grant to enhance professional development for School of Education faculty and North Kansas City teachers.

UMKC faculty will research and incorporate strategies into their instruction to better prepare future teachers.

"The teachers from the trenches will help us better understand the challenges they are confronted with, and we'll help train their entire teaching staff," Adler says. "We're all learning together."

Architecture, urban planning and design students constructed birdhouses to be auctioned as a fundraiser for Children's Mercy Hospital's Cardiology Fund.

## LGBT office earns national award



Gay rights activist Judy Shepard spoke to a standing-room-only crowd about hate crimes Sept. 6 at UMKC.

Acceptance matters.

And thanks to new initiatives, hard work and expanded community outreach for people of all sexual orientations, members of UMKC's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) organization have something to celebrate.

Shane L. Windmeyer's book, *The Advocate College Guide for LGBT Students*, recognized

UMKC as one of the top 100 friendliest universities for LGBT students. The book is the first comprehensive campus guide to highlight LGBT-friendly campuses throughout the country. Universities were selected based on institutional policies, academic life, housing, student life, counseling, health services and campus safety.

"Being accepted as a friendly LGBT campus shows that we are working hard to reach all students," says David Greene, student services coordinator for the UMKC LGBT office. "We're not quite at the top 20 yet; there's a few things we'd like to see happen and see changed to get us moving that way."

Launched in 2003 as part of the Women's Center, the LGBT office evolved to establish a physical presence for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals at UMKC, and became part of the Student Life office two years later. Since the move, LGBT has increased its membership to 250 students and community members and brought speakers like hate crime activist Judy Shepard and author Keith Boykin to campus.

UMKC is the only university in the University of Missouri system that appeared in the top 100 ranking. UMKC is also one of just two universities in the listing with an LGBT coordinator on staff, which Greene says speaks volumes for a Midwest university.

The office is working to create an LGBT association as a way for alumni, friends and allies to stay connected to the University and LGBT initiatives.

"If you've been here and been affected by discrimination or if you've had a friend affected by discrimination, putting that voice back for the students who are here now is really important," Greene says, "because it's our job as a diverse office to affect as many students wherever they are."

—Kara Petrovic

## Performing Arts Center to be renamed in honor of Olson

The UMKC Performing Arts Center will be renamed in honor of James C. Olson, Ph.D., the late UMKC chancellor and University of Missouri system president.

The announcement was made in November at Crescendo, the Conservatory of Music and Dance's annual fundraising event, after approval from the Board of Curators. An unveiling will take place this year.

Olson helped secure funding for the center's construction in the 1970s. Since then it has been home to numerous Conservatory and Kansas City Repertory Theatre performances, and will be known as the James C. Olson Performing Arts Center.

Olson served as chancellor from 1968 to 1976 and system president from 1976 to 1984. He passed away in 2005.



Vera Olson with James C. Olson (middle)





Kylee Stephenson makes a save for the Roos.

# Roo fans nationwide can watch and listen live

Kangaroo fans can watch men's and women's basketball games live online. The video streaming is part of UMKC Athletics new Web site launched in the fall. In addition to live video streaming, the site includes live audio of volleyball games, stats and highlight reels. Volleyball captain Kylee Stephenson's father is able to check in on the volleyball team when he's on the road in Des Moines, Iowa. "It's been really nice for my parents," says Stephenson. "When they haven't been able to come to the games, they can still see how we're doing."

## Passings

**Russell C. Doll**, 72, School of Education professor emeritus, died Oct. 11. After attending the Chicago Teachers College and the University of Chicago where he received his master's and Ph.D. in education and sociology, Doll served in the Army for two years and then in the Illinois National Guard. He taught at UMKC for 32 years, during which he taught a year in China.

**William Isley**, M.D., 56, former professor at the School of Medicine, died Sept. 27. He received a B.A. in physics and a M.D. from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. He served on the faculty of the UMKC School of Medicine for 19 years with staff service at Truman Medical Center and

Saint Luke's Hospital. Since 2003, he served as a consultant at the Mayo Clinic and as associate professor of medicine at the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine.

**Solomon E. Levy**, 86, College of Arts and Sciences professor emeritus of philosophy, died Sept. 21. After earning a degree in physics at the University of Southern California, he worked for Philco in California as a radar technician. He enlisted in the service during World War II and served in the Office of Strategic Services. Following the war, he earned a Ph.D. in philosophy at the University of Southern California then studied in India on a Fulbright scholarship. Levy spent his

academic career teaching philosophy at UMKC.

**John M. Specca**, 90, School of Law professor emeritus, died Sept. 10. Specca earned bachelor's and juris doctor degrees from the University of Notre Dame. In 1942, he was admitted to practice before the bar in Indiana and practiced there until he joined the faculty of the School of Law of the University of Kansas City, UMKC's predecessor institution, in 1947. He remained on the faculty until he retired in 1985, serving the School of Law not only as a professor but as associate dean and acting dean.

## KCSourceLink wins economic award

KCSourceLink, an Institute for Entrepreneurship and Innovation program at the UMKC Bloch School, was awarded the U.S. Department of Commerce's 2007 Excellence in Economic Development Award for Enhancing Regional Competitiveness in August.

The award recognizes KCSourceLink's economic development strategy and results. The program works to connect more than 140 small businesses in the 18-county Kansas City region to grow and succeed within the local economy.

Founded by the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, the U.S. Small Business Administration and the Henry W. Bloch School of Business and Public Administration, the program's networks and collaborative partnerships have been recognized as a model for other cities, regions and states. U.S.SourceLink, which developed from KCSourceLink's success, has expanded across the country.



## class notes

### 50s

**John C. Dods III** (J.D. '57, School of Law), of Gladstone, Mo., received the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association's Lifetime Achievement Award at its annual meeting in November. Dods began working for Shook, Hardy and Bacon in 1958.

### 60s

**Duana Dralus** (M.A. '69, School of Education), of Kansas City, Mo., was named the Greater Missouri Leadership Challenge's 2007 Woman of the Year. She is president of the UMKC Alumni Association and of the Girl Scouts of Mid-Continent Council. Dralus also serves on the Kansas City Women's Intersport Network board of directors and the KCUR-FM advisory board.

### 70s

**Sheila Greenbaum** (J.D. '74, School of Law), of St. Louis, Mo., was elected president of the Jewish Federation for her region. She was formerly the vice president of campaign, planning and allocations for the federation. An attorney, director and shareholder at the law firm Goodman and Sarachan P.C., she is also a member of the national board of United Jewish Communities.

**Jerry L. Bauman** (Pharm.D. '77, School of Pharmacy), of Chicago, was named dean of the College of Pharmacy at the University of Illinois-Chicago. He is the only pharmacist elected as an American College of Cardiology fellow.

**Michael L. Weaver** (M.D. '77, School of Medicine), 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 Saint Luke's Health System.

### 80s

**Brad Warner** (M.D. '82, School of Medicine), of St. Louis, Mo., was appointed professor of surgery at Appoline Blair St. Louis Children's Hospital and chairman of the American Academy of Pediatrics' surgical section.

**Matthew Hahn** (M.F.A. '84, College of Arts and Sciences), of Severn, Md., writes, directs and acts in machinima, movies made with video game engines.

**James Schwartz** (B.B.A. '86, Bloch School of Business and Public Administration), of

Kansas City, Mo., was promoted to shipping supervisor at the Kansas City Brock Grain System facility.

### 90s

**Lisa G. Klein** (Ph.D. '90, College of Arts and Sciences), of Overland Park, Kan., was named director of early childhood initiatives for the Kansas Health Institute. She leads a new unit that conducts research and policy analysis on early childhood issues.

**Linda Siy** (M.D. '90, School of Medicine), of Fort Worth, Texas, 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.

**Greg Weber** (M.F.A. '92, College of Arts and Sciences), of Rochester, N.Y., was appointed managing director of Geva Theatre Center Inc.

**Laura Sims** (M.F.A. '93, College of Arts and Sciences), of Knoxville, Tenn., was named inaugural director of Francis Marion University Performing Arts Center.

**Marsha Chappelow** (Ph.D. '95, School of Education), of St. Louis, Mo., was named president of the National School Public Relations Association.

**Jeffrey T. Cavanaugh** (D.D.S. '96, School of Dentistry), of Chesterfield, Mo., was elected president of the American Association of Orthodontists Foundation. He has been a member of the board since 2003, representing the Midwestern Society of Orthodontists.

**Paul M. Rutherford** (Ph.D. '99, School of Education), of Lee's Summit, Mo., is an adjunct professor at UMKC and is working with the Kansas City, Mo., School District.

### 00s

**Dee Denver** (Ph.D. '02, School of Biological Sciences), of Corvallis, Ore., was featured in the October issue of *The Scientist*. Denver is an assistant professor of zoology at Oregon State University. His mutation-accumulation experiments have made fundamental achievements in the field.

**Amy Dunker** (D.M.A. '00, Conservatory of Music and Dance), of Dubuque, Iowa, has published *Music Scholarship Money! The College Music Scholarship Audition – An Insider's Guide and Strings Around the World* through Alliance Publications Inc. An associate professor of music at Clarke College, she also has published works for band, choir and chamber ensembles.

**Debbie Bishop** (M.P.A. '02, Bloch School of Business and Public Administration), of Roeland Park, Kan., has been awarded the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's silver medal for superior service. She is an environmental protection specialist.

**Ramin Cherfat** (M.B.A. '02, Bloch School of Business and Public Administration), of Kansas City, Mo., was named partner and vice president of operations for McCownGordon Construction. Cherfat is also on the executive committee and board of CommunityLinc and president of the Mid-America chapter of the Design-Build Institute of America.

**Jeremy Bauer** (M.B.A. '03, Bloch School of Business and Public Administration), of Springfield, Mo., was promoted to regional finance manager for Essilor International, a manufacturing firm.

## Home for the holidays



The UMKC Alumni Association initiated a program to bring international students into American homes during the holiday season. Partnering with the UMKC Retirees Association, 17 volunteer alumni and retirees hosted dinners for nearly 30 international students during the Home for the Holidays initiative. Above, Jana Boschert (B.A. '87) presents a gift to Xin Zhao, a student from China in UMKC's M.P.A. program.

Let us know about your accomplishments. Send your news to the UMKC Alumni and Constituent Relations office via e-mail at alumni@umkc.edu, via fax to 816-235-5189 or via mail to Attn: Class Notes, 300B Administrative Center, 5100 Rockhill Road, Kansas City, Mo., 64110.



noteworthy

Chris Bolender

# The show must go on



Chris Bolender

One night, in the middle of a set change at the Bowmer Theatre in Ashland, Ore., a chain snapped. The two turntables that made *Jekyll and Hyde's* quick transitions possible no longer rotated. The cast and crew of the 2006 Oregon Shakespeare Festival production had to figure out what to do.

Most of that responsibility lay on stage manager Chris Bolender (M.F.A. '93).

"We had to stop the show, and we took a small break and tried to fix it," he says. But the chain wasn't fixable that night. "So we rallied everybody from the scene shop and rehearsal rooms around the three theaters, and we brought them in and continued the show."

That required hordes of extra people backstage, carrying furniture on and off as the scenes demanded.

"I was orchestrating who was carrying what, when, where they were coming from – just trying to make the show work," he says. "We were pretty successful."

That didn't surprise Risa Brainin. She often worked with Bolender when she served as the associate artistic director for the Kansas City Repertory Theatre from 2000 to 2003.

"He is so efficient, with such a gentle way about him," says Brainin, now a professor in the University of California at Santa Barbara theater department.

If the broken chain was an extreme example of ensuring the show could go on, the life of a stage manager even in normal times couldn't be called easy.

"The director comes to the stage manager and says, 'Why can't we do this?' and the

actors come to the stage manager and say, 'Why can't we do this instead?' and the designers come to the stage manager and ask for something else," Brainin says. "Chris takes your worry away and makes you feel like you're being taken care of – everybody feels like they're being treated specially. That's the gift of great stage management."

In Ashland, a college town of 20,000 nestled into the foothills of the Siskiyou and Cascade mountain ranges about 10 miles north of the California border, the Oregon Shakespeare Festival dominates the scene. With 11 plays running in rotating repertory in three theaters over eight months, the festival draws in hundreds of thousands of visitors from the Bay Area, Los Angeles, Seattle and beyond to what *Time* magazine called one of the country's top five regional theater companies.

And stage managing at the festival? "That's Chris' dream job," says Brainin.

Bolender moved all over the country as a kid, made a choice after college in Michigan to abandon a medical degree for the theater and spent years working everywhere from Cedar City, Utah, to Las Vegas, where he worked for Cirque de Soleil. Three years ago, it was time to find a more permanent base.

Bolender remembers Kansas City as a place with great support for the arts.

"I love the Plaza," he says, and a little barbecue place on Main Street with a name he can't quite dredge up. But, he admits, "I'm a Broncos fan, so I liked to go to Chiefs games and cheer against them."

Somehow, he made it out of Arrowhead alive to continue his work.

"I love interacting with people, and that's what this job is all about," he says. "There's nothing like seeing the project from conception through the building process, all realized on stage with a giant production."

Bolender says the best part of being a stage manager, as in the *Jekyll and Hyde* experience, is that "you are the glue and strings that tie it all together."

Sometimes, when a chain breaks, that's quite literal.

In 2008, Bolender will stage manage two Shakespeare productions. For more information, visit [www.osfashland.org](http://www.osfashland.org).

—Suzi Steffen

noteworthy

Dwight Stanford

# A cure of a different kind

After 18 hours of picking olives in the hot Italian sun, Dwight Stanford and his business partner, Raffaele Paolini, were about to see their hard work pay off.

Stanford and Paolini watched as their olives were pressed at the frantoio, or olive-pressing facility, to make olive oil. The end result was 13 liters, or nearly three and a half gallons, of their own olive oil.

"This is pure gold, precious stuff," Stanford says. "We will have to put it in tiny perfume bottles and charge the same as Dolce & Gabbana to break even."

The former doctor is pouring his blood, sweat and tears into Nascondiglio di Bacco, the bed and breakfast he owns with Paolini in Offida, a small town in east central Italy. The name means hideout of Bacchus, the Greek god of wine. In addition to the property's olive trees, the bed and breakfast sits on 20 acres of land that Stanford plans to make into a vineyard.

Planting vines, cooking gourmet meals and picking olives is a far cry from how Stanford began his career. After graduating from UMKC's School of Medicine in 1981, Stanford practiced general surgery for 25 years and loved every minute of it.

"I never wanted to do anything but medicine growing up," he says. "But, we're all talented people, and we all have more than one talent. I'd always planned to do something else, I just didn't know it would be this soon. It's one of those things that I didn't realize I was unhappy until I quit."

Stanford first arrived in Italy in 2006 after receiving an e-mail from Slow Food, an organization dedicated to educating people about the food they eat and how to take the time to enjoy it, about its University of Gastronomic Sciences. Stanford decided to take a year sabbatical to get his master of gastronomic sciences at the school.

"It took me about two weeks in class to decide I was never going to go back to medicine again," he says.

The high stress of the medical field, plus the \$1,000 a week he was paying in malpractice insurance suddenly seemed unnecessary in the slower pace of Italy, Stanford says.

"I fell in love with the culture," he says. "It's not as stressful. Even driving isn't as stressful. If I'm driving down the road and see someone coming at me, I know he's going to get over."

After Stanford completed his degree, he and Paolini, an Italian classmate, began to look for a vineyard they could purchase together. Soil problems, combined with Italy's worst draught year in history, made finding a suitable vineyard difficult. After the fourth vineyard fell through, they stumbled upon Nascondiglio di Bacco.

"Instead of taking over someone else's vines, we get to start from scratch and put in whatever we want," Stanford says.

Part of Stanford's coursework at the University of Gastronomic Sciences covered the technology of food, how to make wine and cure meats. His chemistry background has served him well in starting the vineyard. His surgical skills, on the other hand, have only come in handy in home repair.

"A few weeks after I got here, one of the lawn chairs broke," he says. "I like to say that was my only patient in Italy."

But the reason Stanford got into medicine in the first place is the same reason he's so happy in Italy.

"I like to help people," he says. "And just because I'm not helping them as a doctor doesn't mean I'm not still helping people. Helping people discover good wine and good food and the culture here is just as rewarding."

—Marjie Knust



Top: Dwight Stanford presses raisins to make a dessert wine. Above: Nascondiglio di Bacco, the bed and breakfast Stanford owns and runs in Italy, is surrounded by vineyards, which produce the grapes he uses to make wine.



noteworthy Frank Kelly

# Better than fiction



Frank Kelly speaks at the launch of the UMKC Truman Center for Governmental Affairs in November.

A young man sits in a small, dark pub chatting with 'Papa' Hemingway. An aspiring writer, he seeks the sage advice of the legend over cold beers.

This isn't the opening scene of a screenplay – it was real...just one episode in a life filled with astounding stories better than fiction.

Frank K. Kelly (UKC '38) was a cub reporter at *The Kansas City Star* when Ernest Hemingway paid the newsroom a visit and invited pals to join him at the bar across the street. Hemingway had just finished *For Whom the Bell Tolls*.

Kelly had been writing and publishing science fiction even before he entered college at the University of Kansas City.

"One of my professors said, 'Frank, what are you going to do when you graduate? You can't make a living writing science fiction,'" he laughs.

His UKC professors encouraged him to try other kinds of writing, and one even helped him land the job at *The Star*. Now Kelly was struggling to expand from being a story writer to writing his first novel, so he sought some advice from Hemingway.

"Quit when you're going good" he told me," Kelly remembers. "I said, 'What does

that mean?' Hemingway said when you start typing and it finally starts to flow, quit. Don't keep trying to pound it out. Just quit so when you pick it up the next day, you'll see some stuff that's pretty good and you can keep going. And it works."

Kelly's prolific writing career would lead him to New York covering the early days of the United Nations for the Associated Press, a Nieman Fellowship at Harvard and a position with *Stars and Stripes* during World War II. His first novel, *The Edge of Light*, was published in 1949.

His career meant his path crossed with some of history's towering figures such as Walter Lippmann, Arthur Schlesinger and Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt. And his most high-profile assignment was as a speechwriter for President Truman during his presidential campaign of 1948.

"Most of my friends urged me not to work for Truman," he recalls with a smile. "One of them told me that whatever happens, I'd get a book out of it."

Kelly speaks passionately about Truman, his down-to-earth approach to the presidency and also of his decision to use the atomic bomb against Japan.

"It was a decision made in hell," Truman

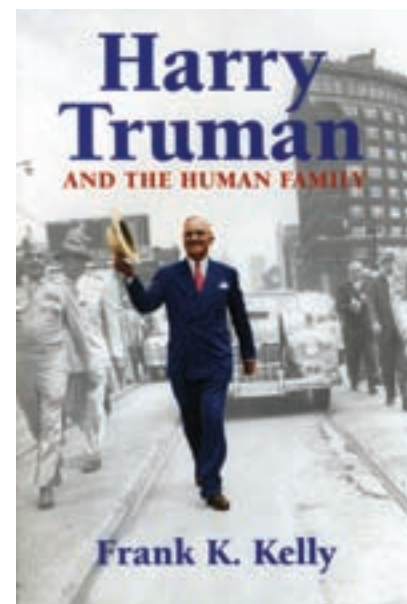
told me," Kelly says. "He said 'Frank, you remember what old Gen. Sherman said, war is hell. I wanted to get everybody out of hell. War is a great enemy we must vanquish. War is hell. Never forget that.'"

His conversations with Truman about that decision and Kelly's own experience as a soldier during World War II helped shape his commitment to peace and disarmament. Kelly says he is proud to have helped create the Democratic Platform of 1948, which advocated control of weapons such as the atomic bomb.

After Truman's surprise election, Kelly accepted a position as special assistant to the majority leader of the U.S. Senate from 1949 to 1952.

Former Ford Foundation president Robert Hutchins asked Kelly to be part of a new organization he was founding, the Fund for the Republic; Kelly worked for 16 years at the Fund and served as vice president of the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions, also founded by Hutchins.

Today at 93, Kelly serves as senior vice president of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation in Santa Barbara, Calif. His forthcoming book, *Kissing Joy as it Flies: Living in Eternity's Sunrise*, is an oral history of his life.



One of Frank Kelly's books, published in 1998.

“Most of my friends urged me not to work for Truman. One of them told me that whatever happens, I'd get a book out of it.”

–Frank Kelly

More than 100 people came to hear Kelly speak when he returned to Kansas City in November to launch UMKC's new Truman Center for Governmental Affairs. A non-partisan governmental affairs center housed at the College of Arts and Sciences, the center supports programs and research that illuminate public policy issues dating from the Truman era to the present.

After the event, an audience member presented Kelly with an original copy of one of his earliest science fiction stories, *Light Benders*, published by Wonder Stories in 1931. Kelly, an inductee of the Science Fiction Hall of Fame, recalled the story's plotline of scientists who'd discovered 'light benders' that allowed them to see parallel universes.

Kelly, born during a 1914 Kansas City thunderstorm and whose writing has carried themes of light's power, had returned home to his alma mater to help open a center honoring the president he'd worked to elect. It is a better-than-fiction life that has come full circle.

"I hope the Truman Center will become a center for humanity's future, recognizing humanity's greatness...a place of light," Kelly says.

–Lisen Tammeus

Read Frank Kelly's speech from the inaugural event of the UMKC Truman Center online at <http://cas.umkc.edu/trumancenter>.



## Alumni asked to share their memories about college

What professor had the most influence on you? Did you experience a life-changing moment in college? In honor of the 75th anniversary of the founding of the University of Kansas City, *Perspectives* is asking alumni to send in "legacy letters."

Send us old-fashioned mail or an e-mail to tell us about your best student memory or about the class or professor you will always remember. We'll print as many "Legacy Letters" from alumni as we can in the fall 2008 issue. So join us in celebrating UMKC's 75th anniversary by sending your memories to:

Alumni Legacy Letters  
UMKC *Perspectives*  
5100 Rockhill Road  
300 Administrative Center  
Kansas City, MO 64110-2499  
or [perspectives@umkc.edu](mailto:perspectives@umkc.edu)



Class of 1941 alumna Winifred "Sugar" Woods (second from left) stops by Haag Hall with family members in September to view the Luis Quintanilla mural for which she modeled as a student.



# LESSONS LEARNED

I wish I had known how much fun I was having.

*-Matt Hartwig*

I wish I'd known that there is no permanent record.

*-Peggy Ward-Smith*

Alumni Award winners share what they wish they'd known in college

A success is nothing more than someone who has gotten up one time more than they've been knocked down.

*-Alan Weber*

Anxiety does not make it work any better, and it makes the process much less pleasant.

*-Robert M. Arnold*

With age, maturity and having an inherently dynamic profession... I've become a little more patient, more understanding, more open to other viewpoints and perspectives.

*-Keith Cutler*

## Find joy in simple things

**Karen Williams**

**M.S. '85**

**Division of Dental Hygiene Alumni Achievement Award**

The greatest lesson I have learned in my life is that the trappings of material society bring little in the way of joy or contentment. Simple things – time with family and friends, relishing an autumn sunset or spring sunrise, sharing the enthusiasm of learning with a student discovering something new, celebrating others' moments of success – these are the things that matter ultimately. Bessie Stanley summed it up aptly in her quote from the *Lincoln (Kansas) Sentinel* published in 1905:

"He has achieved success who has lived well, laughed often and loved much; who has gained the respect of intelligent men and the love of little children; who has filled his niche and accomplished his task; who has left the world better than he found it, whether by an improved poppy, a perfect poem or a rescued soul; who has never lacked appreciation of earth's beauty or failed to express it; who has always looked for the best in others and given them the best he had; whose life was an inspiration; whose memory a benediction."

The words of this author resonate in me and convey better than I ever could what I have learned during my life so far.

My goal is to make a difference right where I am.

*-David Bates*

## Break stereotypes

**Freda Mendez Smith**

**B.A. '80**

**Bill French Alumni Service Award**

I have wanted to make a difference, to make life better for Hispanics and to increase the knowledge and acceptance of the Hispanic community by the general community. I believe that increased understanding and communication between communities is essential, and that education is the key for Latino youth.

Hispanics live with so many stereotypes. We go back and forth between the two worlds we live in. We are the only community that covers the whole spectrum of people, from black to white, from Spanish speaking to non-Spanish speaking, from coming yesterday to being here for eight to 10 generations.

Because I don't look "Hispanic" like the stereotype, I seem to be able to make people become aware that maybe the stereotypes are not realistic.

My father taught me to treat everyone the same, no matter what their station in life. My mother taught me perseverance. My aunt is why I am active in the community.

My life lessons have been: Be willing to take chances. Believe in myself, because one person can make a difference. Go with the flow; everything will turn out for the best. Always look at the big picture and think positively.

I always try to treat people the way I want to be treated.

## Make a difference

**David Bates**

**B.S.P. '93**

**Spotlight Award**

Life is extremely short and uncertain. This became a reality to me when I was deployed as the chief pharmacist of New York City during the World Trade Center disaster.

I remember going down to Ground Zero and seeing many cars still in the parking lots around the area. It was evident that the cars had been there since the destruction of the towers as they were covered with all kinds of debris. Then it hit me; the owners never came home that day. A few days later, I witnessed a flatbed truck hauling the cars away and a horrible hollow feeling came over me.

There were so many emergency workers and firemen who worked the pile trying to find trapped people, and there were daily reports of losing one to two volunteers due to accidents or falls on the pile. We were treating up to 300 people a day due to injuries or illnesses and these were volunteer workers, not survivors.

My goal is to make a difference right where I am and to challenge our fellow students to make a difference in life.

## Enjoy the journey

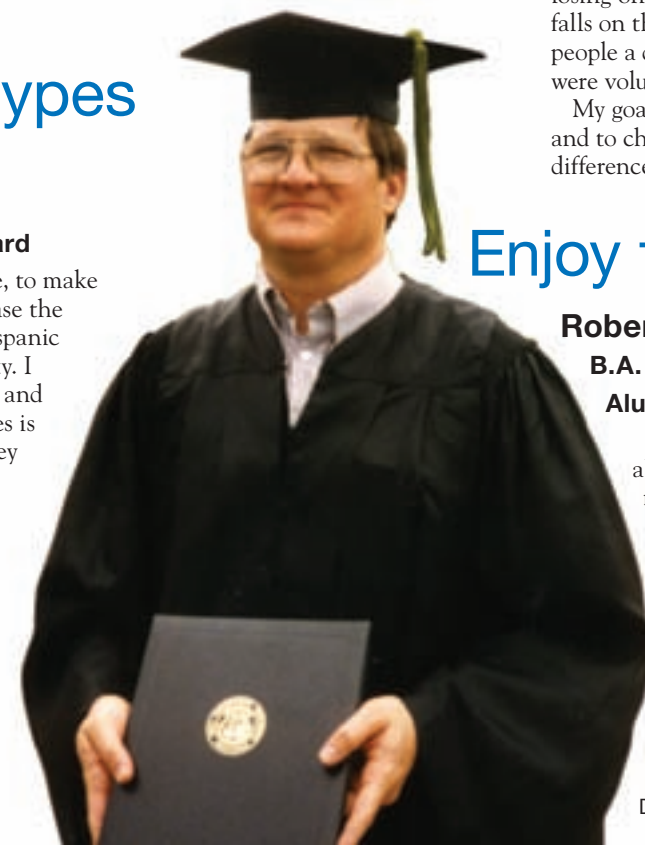
**Robert M. Arnold**

**B.A. '83, M.D. '83**

**Alumnus of the Year**

I wish I had had more trust that it will all work out. In college and for much of my adult life, I often let myself get too anxious about the future. The problem is that the anxiety does not make it work any better, and it makes the process much less pleasant. Moreover, it always seems to work out in the end.

Given the importance of the journey of life (as well as outcome), I wish I would be more trusting of the process. Enjoy the trip.



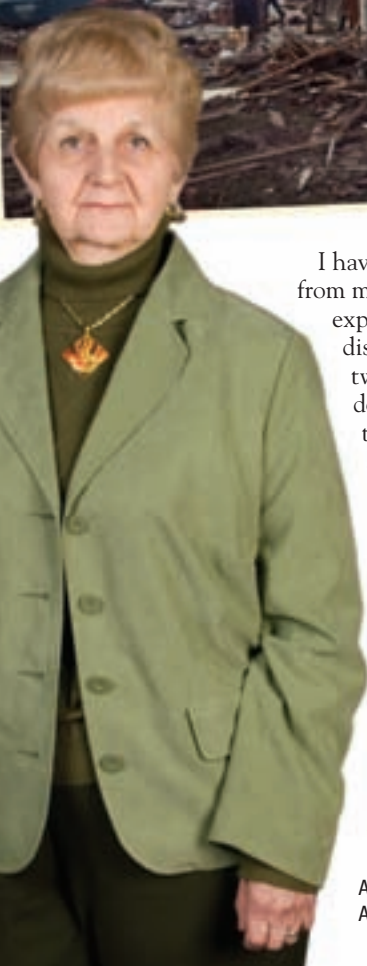
David Bates



In a matter of minutes,  
our home was completely  
destroyed... In those few  
minutes, we grew up.  
-Mary Louise Jones

## Find hope in disaster

**Mary Louise Jones**  
**M.M.E. '85, D.M.A. '92**  
**Conservatory of Music and Dance**  
**Alumni Achievement Award**



I have had the opportunity to learn from many life lessons. The greatest was experiencing and surviving a natural disaster when I was in my mid-twenties. On June 8, 1966, a tornado devastated Topeka, Kan. This large tornado was one mile wide and swept across the city from the southwest corner to the northeast corner before lifting.

My husband and I had purchased our first home less than a year before this event, and we were expecting our first child. In a matter of minutes, our home was completely destroyed.

Like many young people, we had assumed that we were invincible, that tragedies would always strike somewhere else. In those few minutes, we grew up.

Above: Tornado damage to Mary Louise Jones' home  
At left: Mary Louise Jones

While we lost nearly every possession except the clothes we were wearing, we learned that material possessions really were unimportant. We were grateful just to be alive and safe. We were spared the loss of our expected child.

We learned just how kind, caring and giving others would be as they came to our assistance. We learned how to find the strength and endurance to start over.

The lessons learned from this unforgettable experience remain fresh and indelible although more than 40 years have passed.

## Learn to learn

**Karen Foss**  
**B.A. '76**  
**College of Arts and Sciences**  
**Alumni Achievement Award**

Dream big. I grew up in a family of extremely limited means and little regard for education, so I didn't really understand all the benefits I would eventually realize from my education at UMKC.

I never dreamed I would one day be the primary news anchor for the highest-rated local newscast in the country. I wouldn't have dared dream that my work would allow me to meet and interview as well as learn from presidents, first ladies and some of the finest thinkers and pioneers of our time.

Thanks to my university education in liberal arts, visual arts, as well as my major in the Communications Department, I was prepared to do that. At UMKC, I had at least some exposure to most of the critical arenas of modern life and, most importantly, I learned to learn.

During my news career, when I encountered a topic or a person I didn't know about, I knew how to do the research and prepare myself. And when that career came to an end in my 60s, I felt bold enough and empowered enough to take on a whole new career in corporate life.



Karen Foss during her UMKC days

## Cherish relationships

**David Donovan**  
**B.A. '78, M.A. '82, Ph.D. '89**  
**School of Education Alumni Achievement Award**

My greatest life lesson has been making and valuing relationships of all kinds and at all times as much as possible.

As a psychologist and psychoanalyst in private practice, I see over and over again how much everyone wishes for and denies themselves the satisfaction of relationships. The meaning of life and the significance of human existence is only relevant when it is understood relationally. In other words, relationships are the most important thing in any of our lives.

The relationships I have nurtured and cherished throughout my life are the ones that have given me the greatest joy. I have had the joy and the privilege of making many relationships in my life, not the least of them the many made during my academic journey at UMKC from 1974 to 1989. I continue to cherish these relationships and am able to continue to make new ones in my alumni involvements. These formative and developmentally valuable relationships have helped to shape the person I am today and all my personal, community and professional involvements.

## Be flexible

**Keith Cutler**  
**J.D. '89**  
**School of Law Alumni Achievement Award**

I would say my greatest life lesson, which I hope is a lesson I am continuing to learn, has been to try to meet people where they are and to be more flexible. My background is in math and science; my undergraduate degree is in physics. So, my world as a young pup was pretty black and white.

At each stage of my life, though, from high school to college to law school to the practice of law, the number and variety of people I have met continued to expand from what I previously knew. This variety of people came with a variety of experiences, positive and negative, with which I had to deal.

Many of these experiences did not fit into my preconceived "physicist's idea" of what is and what should be. So, with age, maturity and having an inherently dynamic profession as a career choice, I've become a little more patient, more understanding, more open to other viewpoints and perspectives.

I'm a lot less rigid in my approach to things now. Still pretty strict, but a lot less rigid.

## Never give up

**Stanley Banks**  
**B.A. '79, M.A. '91**  
**Defying the Odds Award**

My greatest life lesson came when I was forced by the death of my grandmother to realize fully the intangible gifts she had given me. My grandmother, who was a bootlegger on 10th and Vine streets in Kansas City, Mo., from the 1930s to 1960s, left me with a knowledge of life and an uncanny will to never give up on a righteous dream and the discipline and strength to stand with conviction and humility in the face of failure or success.

My grandmother saved my life literally and figuratively, and even after her death on April 22, 1979, (two weeks before I graduated from UMKC with a B.A. in English), she was and is my constant inspiration and creative muse.

My grandmother saved my  
life literally and figuratively...  
She was and is my constant  
inspiration and creative muse.  
-Stanley Banks



Stanley Banks with his grandmother



# Change is good

**Lynn Mouden**  
**D.D.S. '75**  
**School of Dentistry Alumni Achievement Award**

Be open to change and new opportunities. Upon graduation from dental school at UMKC, I was confident that the private practice of dentistry was my career goal. And, having been raised in Prairie Village, Kan., I also assumed that I would practice somewhere in Kansas City.

However, during my final semester, I was tired of rush hour traffic and city parking problems, so I decided that a large-city practice was not to my liking. We would take a drive each weekend to explore the countryside.

One sunny day in 1975, we were driving from Leavenworth, Kan., headed to Smithville, Mo. I saw the sign for Weston, Mo. I'd heard of Weston because of the old homes tours, so we turned off the highway and investigated. We drove around Weston for three hours, which as the locals will tell you, means that we saw a lot of things two and three times. I didn't know if there was a dentist in Weston, and the only phone booth in town was missing its phone book. Having later attended church on several Sundays (and on that first summer Sunday we chose the church

Be open to change and new opportunities.  
-Lynn Mouden

that we could see was air-conditioned), we decided to make historic Weston our home. I set up practice and became the only dentist in that wonderful community.

Sixteen years later, I was attending a dental association meeting in Jefferson City, and was staying with a former dental school classmate. Having been friends for many years, the idea came to us that maybe we could work together, and my next transition was to enter public health working for the Missouri Department of Health. Shortly after entering public health, a fortuitous call from Delta Dental of Missouri changed my life once again.

Because they knew of my passion for family violence prevention, I worked closely with Delta Dental on what became the Prevent Abuse and Neglect through Dental Awareness (PANDA) program. PANDA was quickly a success, and I traveled the state of Missouri, all across the United States and also to Europe, Asia, Central and South America, spreading the message of family violence prevention.

At the height of my work in Missouri and with PANDA, I got a call asking me to apply for the state dental director position in Arkansas. Arkansas? I'd never even been to Arkansas. I had no intention of leaving Missouri. However, an offer I couldn't refuse, and the challenge of building a state oral health program from scratch, led me to take the job and move to Little Rock.

I thought I'd practice in Kansas City. I was sure I would never leave private practice. I was confident that I would never move from Missouri. Now I'm "positive" I'll never leave Arkansas. But, I've learned to be open to change and new opportunities.

# Take chances

**Alan Weber**  
**M.B.A. '93**  
**Bloch School Alumni Achievement Award**

Risk is risk. If you take a chance, things can go either way. Hard work, education and integrity can help. But risk is still risk. Success is something that occurs over time. It is a matter of determination, a willingness to keep trying and a willingness to keep taking chances.

Every once in a while I meet someone who succeeded quickly. When I hear their success story, which is typically based on a series of fortuitous events, I often wonder "what were the odds against that happening?" They will often tell me all someone needs to succeed is a good education. That certainly helps. But some careers don't work out. Businesses often fail. Technology, regulation and markets can wipe out entire industries.

A success is nothing more than someone who has gotten up one time more than they've been knocked down.



Lynn Mouden (second from right) with a Rotary team in Brazil to promote family violence prevention.

# Let actions define you

**Peggy Ward-Smith**  
**Ph.D. '98**  
**School of Nursing Alumni Achievement Award**

I wish I'd known that there is no permanent record. What you do becomes what you are, and it's more important than your GPA.

My greatest life lesson is that I know nothing! My patients continue to amaze me. What I think is true is not.



Peggy Ward-Smith as a new nurse

# Don't wish it away

**Matt Hartwig**  
**B.S.P. '92**  
**School of Pharmacy Alumni Achievement Award**

I wish I had known how much fun I was having and how important the contacts I was making in college were. When I was at UMKC, I was a member of both social and professional fraternities, I was also an officer on Interfraternity Council, participated in intramural sports, and served on a committee for Academy of Student Pharmacists. I worried a lot about tests and passing boards and how much money I would make after graduating.

The day I graduated was a tremendous sense of accomplishment for me, but I also realized that I had spent most of my college career wishing it away. The people I met at UMKC and the education I received are the most valuable assets I possess. Foster those relationships and enjoy the learning, it will be over far too quickly, and then you will have to try to fit it into a busy lifestyle.

# Trust your gut

**Wendell Clarkston**  
**B.A. '82, M.D. '84**  
**School of Medicine Alumni Achievement Award**

My greatest life lesson is that a combination of knowledge and vigilance can alter the course of one's life.

My wife and I are physicians who graduated from the UMKC six-year B.A./M.D. program. While visiting family in rural southern Missouri we awakened to find that our 18-month-old son, who had awakened and appeared to be fine earlier that morning, had fallen unconscious and would not respond to us. We took him to a local emergency department and were told "everything will be OK, and that he should just be observed in the emergency department for a while."

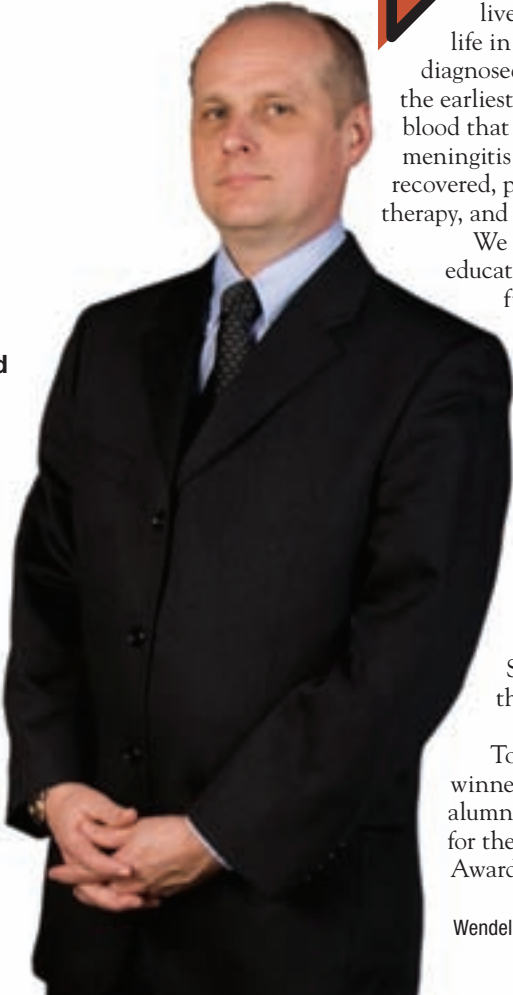
The vigilance we learned from our physician mentors in patient care significantly and positively impacted our lives.  
-Wendell Clarkston

Based on our training at UMKC, this course of action did not seem prudent, and we insisted on immediate intravenous antibiotics and transfer by helicopter to the closest regional pediatric hospital. While the helicopter whisked him away, we followed by car, not knowing if he would live or die or have any quality of life in the future. He was subsequently diagnosed with meningococcal sepsis, the earliest stage of an infection in the blood that often causes rapid deterioration, meningitis and death within hours. He fully recovered, probably due to the early antibiotic therapy, and excels in academics and sports.

We believe that without our educational background at UMKC, the future of our son and well-being of our family would be very different today. Thus, the knowledge gained at UMKC, and the vigilance we learned from our physician mentors in patient care significantly and positively impacted our lives.

**Ravi Chandra** (M.S. '93), School of Computing and Engineering, and **Pinghui Feng** (Ph.D. '01), School of Biological Sciences, will also be honored at this year's awards dinner.

To learn more about the 2008 winners, visit [www.umkcalumni.com/alumniawards](http://www.umkcalumni.com/alumniawards), and mark your calendar for the Celebration 2008 Alumni Awards dinner on April 17.



Wendell Clarkston





Life at **UMKC**

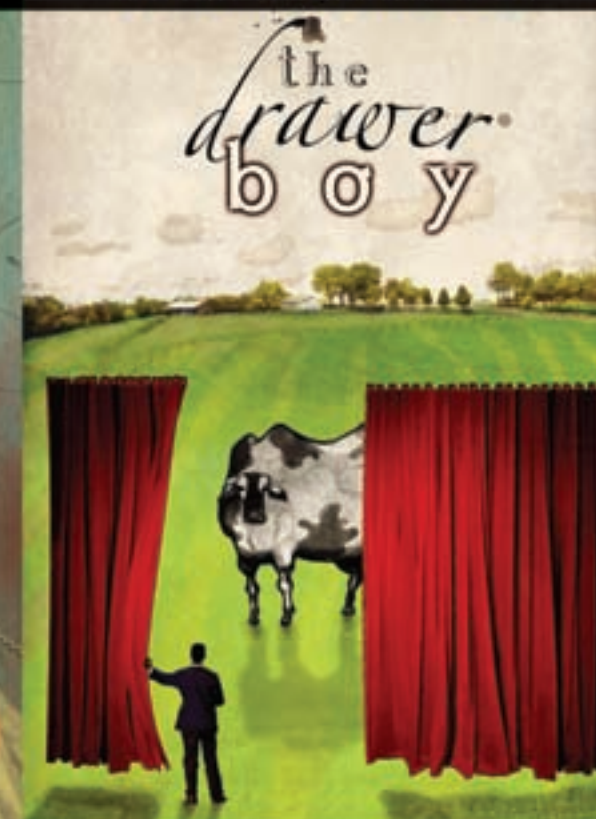
Brandon Flippo shows his school spirit at the homecoming game.

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This charming new play is based on the true story of the women of Gee's Bend, Alabama and the magnificent quilts they create. Infused with hauntingly beautiful gospel melodies and spanning more than fifty years, we watch as Sadie Pettway grows from an innocent young girl into a talented, respected American artist.

**Mar 28 - Apr 27, 2008**

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by Michael Healey  
Directed by Jeff Church

In this amusing and sensitive look at a slice of Canadian farm life, Morgan and Angus, two aging WWII veterans, are living a quiet, secluded existence. Their carefully-crafted routine takes a dramatic turn when Miles, a young actor, shows up on their doorstep. Thus begins a journey filled with humor and tenderness that explores the true meaning of friendship and the power of art.

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*Perspectives* celebrates UMKC's **75<sup>th</sup>** anniversary with a look back at some of the University's yearbooks.

