

Perspectives

FALL 2017

The University of Missouri-Kansas City alumni magazine



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look like?

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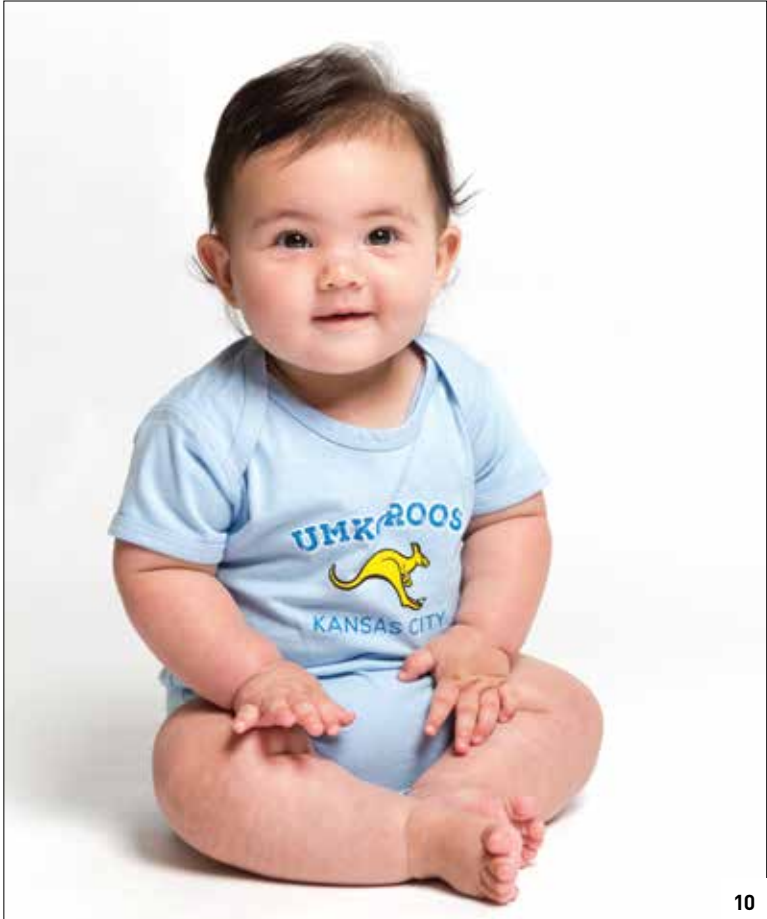
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INSIDE



The Pouch

- 4 **UMKC Health Sciences District unlike any other in the nation**
Kansas City's leading health-care institutions team up
- 5 **Close to completion**
Brookside 51 project to open over next 18 months
- 6 **Lasting impact**
Leo E. Morton retiring after nine years as UMKC chancellor
- 8 **Inspired Beginnings. Great Journeys.**
Alumni storytelling project highlights recent graduates excelling in their fields

Features

- 10 **Welcome to the Future**
Alumni and faculty experts respond to your predictions about what the world will look like in 2050
- 12 **The Future of Health**
How technology is changing the way medicine is practiced, from diagnoses to cures
- 14 **The Future of Money**
No matter what your situation, these experts have strategies for keeping your financial future looking bright
- 16 **The Future of Homes**
Alumni and faculty weigh in on tiny homes, smart homes and why your future house might come in a box
- 18 **The Future of Food**
How mega-farms and urban farms are changing the way food is grown across the country
- 20 **The Future of Education**
Why higher education is in a transformational moment

Roo Roundup

- 22 **2017 Alumni Award winners**
- 25 **Class Notes**
- 38 **Spotted**
Actress and alumna receives honorary doctorate



Mark (MBA '12) and Shannee (M.P.A. '12) Steinmeier with their daughters, including their seven-month-old, who is featured on the cover of this magazine.



Web extras

Any time you spot the arrow, visit perspectives.umkc.edu for additional content, photos and more.

Perspectives

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The Best Wipe Out

As we were finishing this issue and thanking all the alumni and faculty who helped us put it together, I began to think back on my favorite alumni story from this past year. And while there were so many, the best story is one that still makes me tear up, and it's happening as I type this. It's a story of this alumni family and the powerful partnerships you all have.

As the UMKC Alumni Association planned its annual alumni awards luncheon, a fundraiser for student scholarships and immediate aid, our student affairs office told us about an urgent problem: the hundreds of outstanding students who had a financial hold on their accounts. The holds — often \$500 or less — were preventing them from being able to re-enroll or obtain transcripts at graduation. For many students, the hold meant stepping out of school to earn more money, which statistically means they are less likely to return.

The Alumni Association quickly agreed to tackle the issue for as many students as possible. On each table at the luncheon was a chalkboard with one student's monetary need. Raymond Cattaneo (M.D. '03, pictured), then-president of the Alumni Association, challenged each table to literally wipe out that student's hold.

"Just imagine the look on our students' faces when they are informed that UMKC alumni and friends had enough faith in them and their dream to pay off their holds — sight unseen, no questions asked, nothing needed in return," he said.

You should have seen the more than 500 people in that room take up the challenge. Further, alumnus Leo Sweeney (B.A. '51) partnered with the Alumni Association to establish the Sweeney Family Support Fund, which will aid worthy students with holds going forward. Other alumni offered to match gifts on the floor.

The result? Enough money was raised to wipe out the holds for the students represented in the room that April day and more. I'll close by letting one of the recipients share what that gesture meant to her:

Dear UMKC Alumni Association,

First of all, thank you for your generosity in paying off my balances owed to the university. I cried when I saw the email! You see, I recently graduated with my master's in social work. I have passed my state licensure exams but needed my transcript to actually obtain my license. I have an incredible opportunity for promotion at my job ... it is contingent on my having a license in both states. In addition to the cost of the licensing exam, paying for a license in both states is very costly. I was planning to go to the bank today to apply for a small personal loan to pay off my UMKC debt and be able to pay for my two licenses. Imagine my surprise when I opened my email to the news that you all were covering my balance due.

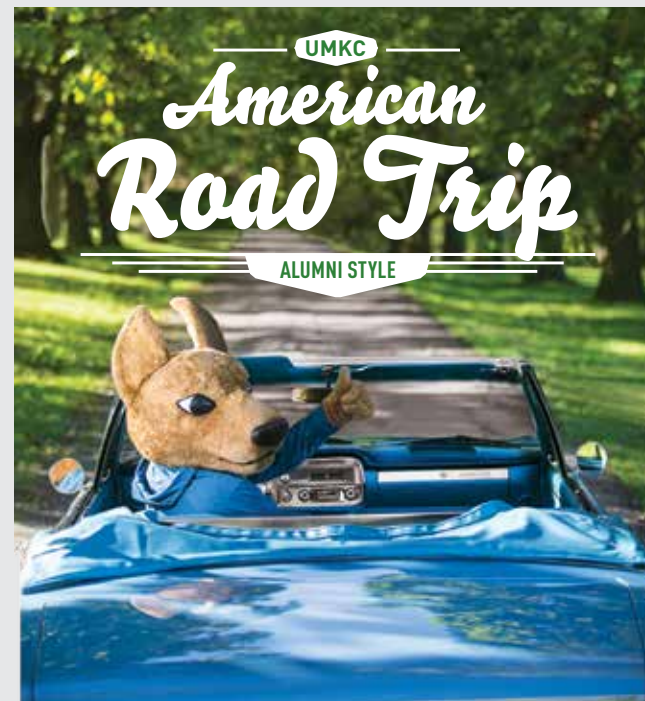
I am a social worker; it's my life's mission and my husband is a firefighter. Thank you for helping us in our mission to serve the vulnerable citizens of our amazing city. You will never know what a blessing this was for us. We promise to pay it forward!

Thank you for the many ways you make a difference in the lives of our students!

Lisen Tammeus Mann,
Assistant Vice Chancellor, Alumni and Constituent Relations



OVERHEARD.



Thank you for all the great feedback on the Fall 2016 special issue, "American Road Trip." It was such a pleasure telling the stories of alumni across the country. While the response was overwhelmingly positive, several of our Washington, D.C.-based alumni wrote to ask why the District of Columbia had been left out. Here's the answer: From when we began planning the magazine until nearly press time, our working title for the special issue was "50 states, 50 stories." As we finalized the cover art with Kasey Kangaroo in his convertible, we changed the title to "American Road Trip." We have nearly 1,000 graduates living and working in the greater D.C. area. In fact, they are some of our most active alumni, and we knew many we'd profile would be working in D.C. but perhaps living in a surrounding state. That said, the feedback of our D.C.-living and working alumni was well-taken, and we look forward to sharing your unique stories in a future issue. Go Roos!

"We are products of UMKC with a long history of excellence. We don't arrive at this support without those who've helped us along the way. Thanks to UMKC for its part in my development."

—Esther George (EMBA '00), UMKC 2017 Alumna of the Year

"As I look at the graduates here today, I know in my heart you can be anything you want to be. A degree from UMKC can take you anywhere."

—Edie McClurg (B.A. '67)
Actress, comedian and 2017 honorary doctorate recipient (pictured on page 32)

"Don't listen to people who tell you not to reinvent the wheel. I would encourage you to try anyway. You'll be better for the experience, and that's how we get better wheels."

—John Carmack, video-gaming and technology pioneer and 2017 honorary doctorate recipient

Write us
We want to hear from you! Send us your comments at perspectives.umkc.edu.



@treysmall
Amazing - @emmajcoburn for Gold, and fellow **@UMKansasCity** alum @courtfrerichs8 for Silver in steeple #IAAFWorldChampionships

@ADEAGoDental
Dr. Grant Snider began cartooning shortly before **@UMKansasCity** dental school & now gets paid for it!

@bankbv
We helped students with financial relief at the **@umkcalumni** Awards Luncheon today! What a great feeling #BBVsupports **@UMKansasCity**

@UMKCCcons
@UMKCCcons dance alum John Swapshire is on tour with "Dirty Dancing"!

@nash_troy
Thank you **UMKC**. You have forever changed my life.

@GKCMAPA
Congrats to our GKC board member Dave Sharp, Principal at LSW who was selected to receive the 2017 alumni achievement award from **UMKC**.

@SolissaFMckay
Proud of my alma mater **@UMKCSOE** for their Straight A report card from @MOEducation #UMKCalumni #KansasCity

@UMKCSCE
#SCEAlumna Victoria Wu takes her robotic skills from **@UMKansasCity** to NASA! #UMKCProud **@umkcalumni**



University and community leaders take part in the unveiling of the UMKC Health Sciences District.

UMKC Health Sciences District unlike any other in the nation

Kansas City’s leading health-care institutions team up to support education, entrepreneurship

BY STACY DOWNS

The newly created UMKC Health Sciences District combines the unique expertise and services of 10 partners to spur research and community outreach in service of the Kansas City region and beyond. The district includes UMKC and its:

- School of Medicine
- School of Nursing and Health Studies
- School of Pharmacy
- School of Dentistry

And also:

- Truman Medical Centers
- Children’s Mercy Hospital
- Kansas City, Missouri, Health Department
- Missouri Department of Mental Health
- Center for Behavioral Medicine
- Jackson County Medical Examiner

Representatives from each organization gathered in May to sign a memorandum of understanding. The district will be governed by a board of approximately 20 members, including two from each institution.

By including agencies of the city, county and state, the UMKC Health Sciences District is one of a kind.

“We have all worked together already for a long time, and worked very well together, but this opens a new chapter,” said then-Chancellor Leo E. Morton.

Drawing on these institutions’ efforts, the district has the potential to enhance collaboration on education, research and grant requests; combine efforts on community engagement; improve faculty recruitment; coordinate area parking, safety and transportation; and create shared opportunities in wellness for more than 16,000 health professionals, faculty members and students.



Brookside 51:
Close to completion

BY KELSEY HAYNES

Drivers on Brookside Boulevard will notice the west side of the Volker campus growing every day as the Brookside 51 project inches closer to completion.

The project at 51st and Oak Streets will feature luxury apartments, a Whole Foods Market and a new home for UMKC Student Health Services. It is set to open in stages over the next 18 months.

Apartments will be open to residents later this fall. A satellite leasing office will open at 51st and Main Street for those interested in renting apartment space. So far, nearly 170 people have expressed interest in moving in.

Robert Simmons, associate vice chancellor for administration at UMKC, says Student Health Services is expected to move into its space by January 2018.

Whole Foods Market is scheduled to open its doors in spring 2018.



Construction continues on the Brookside 51 project, seen here from the corner of 51st and Oak Streets.



- December 2008
Morton appointed chancellor of UMKC.
- August 2009
New Herman and Dorothy Johnson Residence Hall opens.
- August 2010
New Student Union opens.
- October 2012
Atterbury Student Success Center renovation completed.
- August 2013
Bloch Executive Hall for Entrepreneurship and Innovation opens, as well as the Miller Nichols Learning Center.
- April 2014
Morton unveils the UMKC Strategic Plan for Diversity.
- November 2014
Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce names Morton Kansas Citian of the Year.
- January 2015
UMKC earns Carnegie Classification for Community Engagement.
- July 2015
New UMKC Honors College launched.
- September 2016
The Campaign for UMKC concludes with \$302,534,370 raised, more than 20 percent above its original goal.
- May 2017
Morton announces retirement as chancellor.

Chancellor Leo E. Morton retiring after nine years of victories

BY JOHN MARTELLARO

What is the best measure of an individual’s impact on a university and a community? Is it in dollars and cents raised? Square footage of new buildings? Increases in enrollment? Honors and accolades for yourself, the team you have built and the institution you have led? What about examples set, and lives changed? In all these ways and many more, the impact of now-Chancellor Emeritus Leo E. Morton has been singular and dramatic since he was named chancellor in 2008. Morton retires from his nine-year stint as chancellor this October. He has taken the position of chief operating officer at DeBruce Companies, a Kansas City company with strong philanthropic roots. At UMKC, many will remember him as one of the longest-serving and most successful chancellors in university history.

Building success from the ground up

During his tenure as chancellor, UMKC opened two new residence halls, a major learning center with more than 1,000 classroom seats, a 1,500-space parking structure, a new Student Union and a new state-of-the-art home for the Henry W. Bloch School of Management. The university also launched a \$21.5 million renovation and modernization project for the university’s primary biology and chemistry teaching laboratories. Brookside 51, a major on-campus development featuring a Whole Foods Market, a new UMKC Student Health and Counseling Center, 170 market-rate apartments and a six-story parking garage with 445 spaces, is nearing completion. One of Morton’s most public campaigns was for a new downtown home for the Conservatory of Music and Dance. With new support from the University of Missouri Board of Curators and System, that fundraising project is moving forward — a vital piece of Kansas City’s future and a fitting capstone for Morton’s legacy. In terms of bricks and mortar alone, Morton’s legacy is immense, but there is far more to his impact than physical structures.

Raising the bar in programming, fundraising

The Morton years will also be known for the launch of programs vital to UMKC’s urban mission and strategic plan: the Atterbury Student Success Center, the Honors College, the Latinx Studies program, the Urban Education Research Center, the UMKC Health Sciences District, University College, the Center for

Neighborhoods and a new Strategic Plan for Diversity. During his tenure as chancellor of Kansas City’s premier urban-serving research university, Morton presided over a period of significant growth in enrollment and the university’s most successful capital campaign in its history. The Campaign for UMKC, a seven-year effort to raise \$250 million in capital funding for the university, concluded in September 2016 with a total of \$302,534,370 raised, more than 20 percent above its original goal of \$250 million. More than \$60 million of that total has been dedicated to scholarships, and another \$20 million to endowed chairs and other forms of faculty support.

Connecting the campus to the community

UMKC support for entrepreneurship in Kansas City flourished under Morton, through support of both the Bloch School and the UMKC Innovation Center. In 2013, the Innovation Center launched Digital Sandbox KC, a highly successful proof-of-concept program providing guidance and support for entrepreneurs and early-stage companies in the tech sector. Digital Sandbox has performed so well, then-U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker called it “the single best investment the federal Economic Development Administration has ever made.” Community engagement has been a hallmark of the Morton years. UMKC established an Entrepreneur Hall of Fame through the Bloch School, as well as the Starr Women’s Hall of Fame, which honors extraordinary women who have made their mark on the greater Kansas City community. In 2015, UMKC was selected by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching for the foundation’s coveted Community Engagement Classification. The program recognizes campuses that are improving teaching and learning, producing research that makes a difference in communities and revitalizing their civic and academic missions. Morton’s immense contributions have not gone unnoticed by Greater Kansas City. In 2014, Morton was named “Kansas Citian of the Year” by the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce. The honor, presented annually since 1960, recognizes “those persons whose civic contributions and achievements have reflected the insight, creativity and consciousness necessary to build and maintain a quality urban community.” Provost Barbara A. Bichelmeyer will serve as interim chancellor until a permanent chancellor is named. Though Morton will be deeply missed, she says, his impact will be felt on the UMKC campus — and throughout Kansas City — for decades to come.

Inspired Beginnings. Great Journeys.

Alumni storytelling project highlights recent graduates excelling in their fields

UMKC alumni are pursuing their passions in Kansas City and beyond. Their stories debuted this spring with the new storytelling series, "Inspired Beginnings. Great Journeys."

Featured graduates include Chloe David (B.M.E. '16), a teacher inspiring students to explore music; George White Jr. (B.S. '13), an engineer who makes time for mentoring and volunteering; Klassie Alcine (B.A. '09, M.P.A. '11), a political junkie who uses her skills to pursue social justice for all; and more.

To browse inspiring alumni stories, visit go.umkc.edu/alumni-stories.

Know someone who should be featured? Let us know! Contact us at mcom@umkc.edu.



Klassie Alcine

(B.A. '09, M.P.A. '11)
Political Science,
Criminal Justice
and Criminology



Dylan Burd

(B.A. '14, M.A. '16)
Education, English



Tiffany Tran

(B.B.A. '14) Marketing



Alvin Liow

(MBA '15)
Entrepreneurship



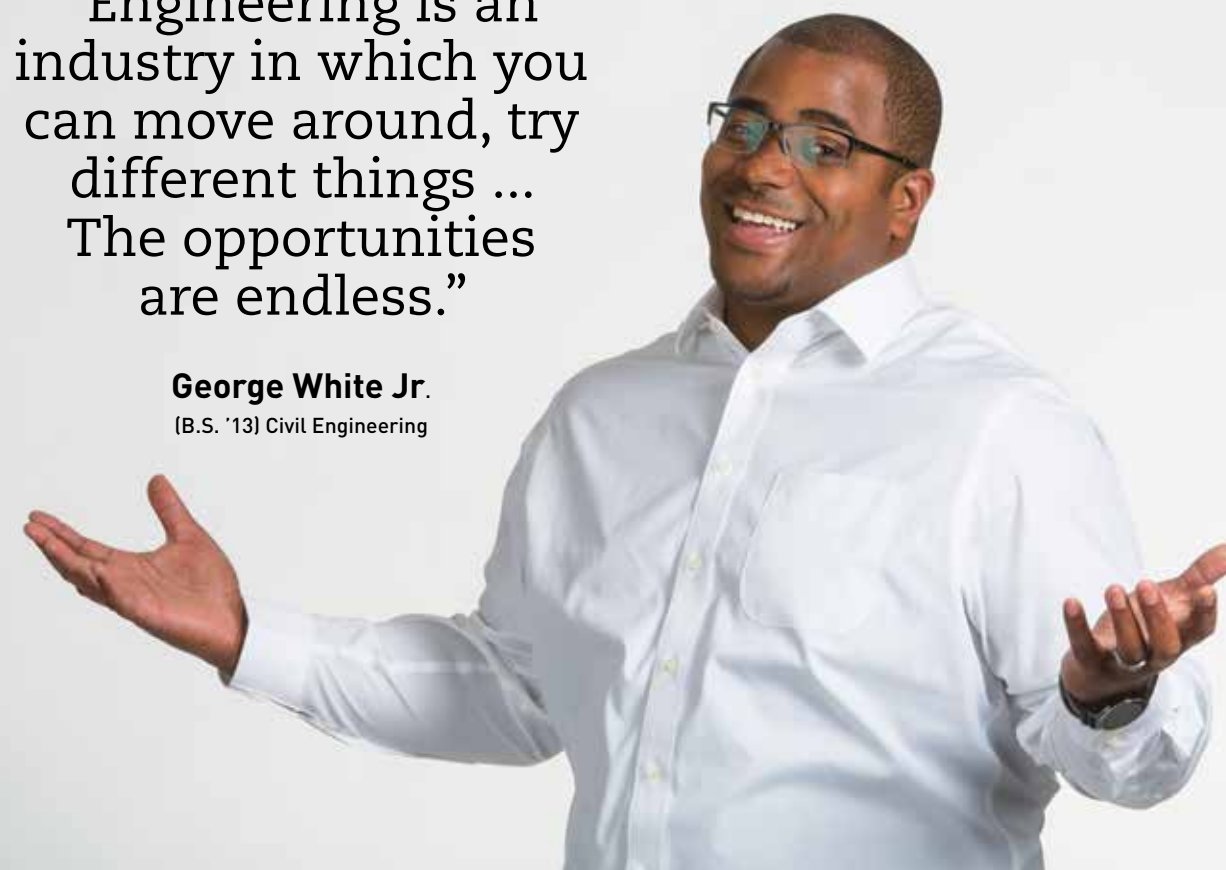
Chloe David

(B.M.E. '16)
Music Education

"Engineering is an
industry in which you
can move around, try
different things ...
The opportunities
are endless."

George White Jr.

(B.S. '13) Civil Engineering



WELCOME TO THE FUTURE

BY LINDSEY MAYFIELD

This year's issue of *Perspectives* begins and ends with a simple question: What does the future hold?

The answer affects everyone, but especially children. When they grow up, what kind of world will they inherit? What will they see when they step out their front door?

Alumni shared their predictions through a survey that tackled topics including health, money, food, leisure and more.

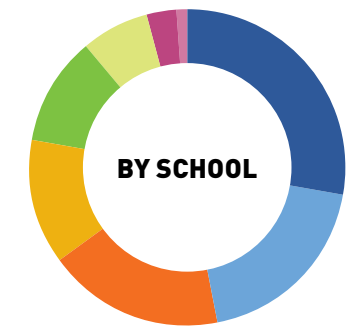
Many think the world will be a better place. In 2050, people will live longer, homes will be more energy-efficient, even politics will be more respectful. Others were less optimistic: more technology but less human connection, greater wealth but only for an elite minority, longer lives but lower quality of life.

Expert UMKC alumni and faculty also weighed in. Their predictions ranged from the practical — better health technology, smaller homes and more home-grown food — to the fantastical — robots that perform surgery, mobile apps that detect disease, homes that are delivered in kits and much, much more.

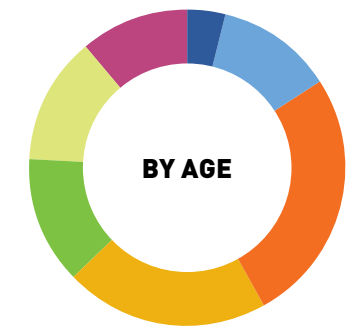
In all those responses, one theme became quite clear: The future will bring advances and changes that few can imagine.

SURVEY SAYS

More than 800 alumni responded to our survey about the future. Here's how those numbers break down.



- 28% College of Arts and Sciences
- 19% Health Sciences (Medicine, Pharmacy, Dentistry, Nursing and Health Studies)
- 18% Henry W. Bloch School of Management
- 13% School of Education
- 11% School of Law
- 7% Conservatory of Music and Dance
- 3% School of Computing and Engineering
- 1% School of Biological Sciences



- 26% 60-69 years
- 21% 50-59 years
- 13% 40-49 years
- 13% 30-39 years
- 12% 70-79 years
- 11% 29 or younger
- 4% 80 or older



In 2050, this baby — the seven-month-old daughter of Shannee (M.P.A. '12) and Mark (MBA '12) Steinmeier — will be 33 years old. What will her future hold? UMKC alumni and faculty have some of the answers.

More survey results

Find more alumni predictions at perspectives.umkc.edu/survey.



A cure for Alzheimer's

its infancy, when a patient is 50, 40 or even 30 years old.

"When it comes to Alzheimer's, I really believe that the future is now," Isaacson says.

Isaacson's oldest patient is 91 and his youngest is 25. So when is the best time to talk to your doctor? The earlier the better, he says, especially if you have a family member with Alzheimer's.

"What we can do is recognize the people at the highest risk, and make very specific, targeted changes in their life to reduce their risk," Isaacson says. "That's really the way things are going."

Another reason to get tested early: Research suggests one in three cases of Alzheimer's may be preventable. And new technology is making it easier than ever to diagnose.

Technology and Alzheimer's

Most patients are diagnosed with Alzheimer's through a series of questions and tests in their doctor's office. Isaacson hopes that eventually, doctors will be able to raise the alarm about their patients' cognitive function long before that person notices it themselves.

"I hope that one day we can give somebody an iPhone app and say, oh, this person is texting more slowly than they used to, or they're taking longer to answer the phone, or they're making more errors," Isaacson says.

"What more to life is there than your mind?"

—Dr. Richard Isaacson, director of the Alzheimer's Prevention Clinic, New York City

Some of this tech-enhanced testing is already in use. Alzheimer's Universe, for instance, is a free website focusing on prevention. Visitors can use a webcam to track eye movements and determine the health of their visual memory. Another application allows users to play a matching game, but with a twist.

"You think it's like the memory game for kids, but it's way more sophisticated than that," Isaacson says. "We're tracking how quickly the

SURVEY SAYS

More than a third of alumni polled said a cure for Alzheimer's is one of the top breakthroughs we will see by 2050.

person is tapping the button, if it's accurate, where they're tapping the button — we're doing all these fancy things on the back end."

The earlier people can be identified as being at risk for Alzheimer's, the earlier experts like Isaacson can create a prevention plan tailored to their exact needs.

Finding "the cure"

The cure for Alzheimer's won't be a singular solution, Isaacson says. Instead, it will be a combination of drugs, vitamins, supplements and lifestyle changes.

In other words, says Isaacson, "There's never going to be a magic pill or potion."

Doctors like Isaacson look at factors like body fat, genetics and scores on memory tests to determine the best treatment for each individual.

Isaacson's personalized plans go much further than advice like "eat healthier" or "do more puzzles." He and his team hone in on what specific types of foods should be added or subtracted from a diet; whether cardio or strength exercises will be more effective; which brain teasers will target the specific cognitive function that is faltering, etc.

The key is to make the treatments as individual as the patients themselves. And those strategies are getting more advanced every day.

"The textbook on Alzheimer's prevention hasn't fully been written yet. There's maybe the first chapter or two, and then hopefully we can help write the rest," Isaacson says.

It's not a cure, but it's a start.

Technology and our bodies

In the late 1990s, Faisal Khan, Ph.D., and Masud Chowdhury, Ph.D., competed against each other in Bangladesh's televised national debate championship. Khan's team won, but only, Chowdhury says, because he didn't compete in the final round.

More than two decades and 8,000 miles later, the two are still competing — not against each other, but against illnesses like cancer, heart disease and organ failure.

Khan and Chowdhury, both associate professors in the UMKC School of Computing and Engineering, form a biotechnology duo — with Khan specializing in energy harvesting, and Chowdhury in nanotechnology.

In simpler terms, the friends study how technology could save millions of lives.

Powering positive results

Picture this: Your blood pressure spikes unexpectedly. You feel nothing, but across town or across the country, your doctor gets a notification. Five minutes later, you're scheduling an appointment.

That's the vision Khan wants to make a reality, through a system of wires running from your brain to your chest. This radio network would monitor everything from your heart rate to your chance of developing cancer.

Chowdhury's research could produce similar results: A nano-sized sensor placed inside the body could alert your doctor to a clogged artery, a low-battery pacemaker or a growing tumor. Then, a microscopic device would deliver drugs directly to the affected part of the body.

How would these devices be powered, you ask? Researchers are exploring several charging methods, but there's one idea patients would especially enjoy — a massage.

"I came up with an idea to send energy through vibration, in the form of a neck

massage or a foot massage," Khan says. "The vibration energy could be transferred to electronics inside the body."

Another hurdle: Making the devices MRI-compatible. If those two challenges can be overcome, Khan says, the possibilities are infinite.

Doctor robotics

Another breakthrough both Khan and Chowdhury predict: surgery performed via robotics.

Chowdhury imagines a future in which a doctor in Kansas City could perform surgery on a patient in Bangladesh using robotic arms. Another scenario would allow a machine to make a razor-straight cut on a patient, removing the possibility for human error.

But will doctors be out of the job? Not likely.

"Robotics will make it efficient and smooth for the doctor, but the doctor will never be replaced," Chowdhury says. "The level and mode of involvement will change, but ultimately, human involvement will be there."

Life-saving technology

The research Khan and Chowdhury are working on has the potential to reach every corner of the medical field — from treating cancer to diagnosing simple infections. One of the lives saved could very well be another member of that Bangladeshi debate team: a friend of Khan and Chowdhury's in Houston who needs a kidney transplant.

"What if we could come up with an artificial kidney that can run without external support for 10 years?" Chowdhury says. "So he doesn't need to suffer for more than a year waiting for a donor?"

Outcomes like this, both researchers agree, are getting likelier every day.

"The future is endless," Khan says. "There is no limit."



Faisal Khan, Ph.D.



Masud Chowdhury, Ph.D.

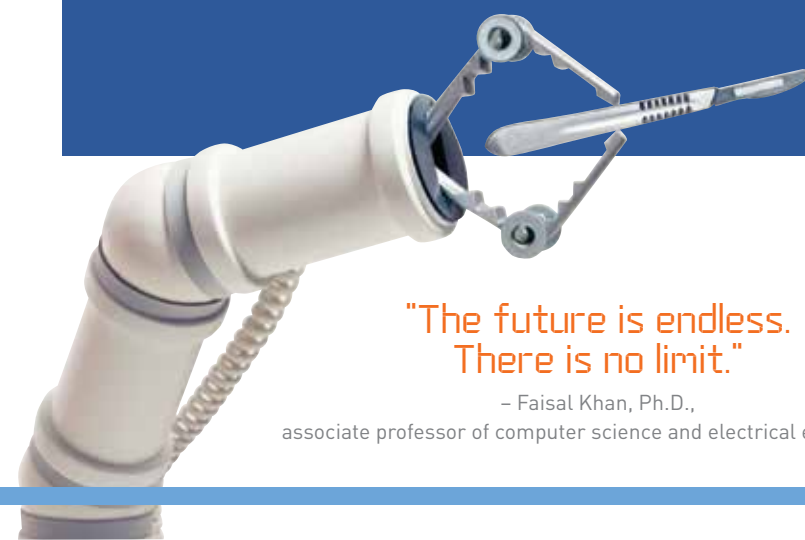
SURVEY SAYS

When asked whether most surgeries will be performed by computers in 2050, most medical school graduates said no, while most computing and engineering graduates said yes.

"The future is endless. There is no limit."

— Faisal Khan, Ph.D.,

associate professor of computer science and electrical engineering



More financial advice
For Chris and Latoya's number one budgeting tool, head to perspectives.umkc.edu/money.

Chris Longly (EMBA '13), a financial advisor at Merrill Lynch, and Latoya Goree, director of the UMKC Office of Financial Literacy, serve as our financial gurus.

Your financial future begins today

Financial experts Chris Longly (EMBA '13) and Latoya Goree had never met before this interview. But when asked about the future of money, their answers were largely the same: There's no way to predict the future of finance, but there are plenty of ways you can prepare today.

"Budgeting and savings and planning effectively is so important, because you don't know what will happen," says Goree, director of the UMKC Office of Financial Literacy. "Markets change, and you have to be ready for it."

Longly, a financial advisor at Merrill Lynch Wealth Management and president of the Bloch Alumni Association, advocates a simple way to build wealth: Save more, spend less.

"Don't fall into the mindset of being consumed with the day-to-day gyrations of markets. Investing is long-term," he says. "Remember that if you're continually saving, you'll benefit in the end."

"It's going to be hard at first, but if you create healthy habits now, it will change your life."

—Chris Longly (EMBA '13), financial advisor and president of the Bloch School Alumni Association

Though each financial situation is different, Longly and Goree agree on two strategies everyone should use to build their financial future:

- Establish a budget. Aim to spend 50 percent on necessities (rent, utilities, etc.), 30 percent on discretionary expenses (entertainment, clothing, etc.) and 20 percent on savings.
- Build an emergency fund. A good rule of thumb is 3-6 months of income or 6-9 months of living expenses.

The key to success, Longly says, is all about creating healthy habits. "It's not how much you make, it's how much you keep," he says. "If you do a good job keeping more and managing your expenses, at the end of the day — no matter what — you will have more money in your pocket."

For Goree, it's all about discipline.

"It's going to be difficult if you've not had the experience of doing it," she says. "If you can stick with it, you'll be better off in the long run."

For more specific advice, Longly and Goree created personalized plans for three alumni: A young educator who wants to buy a home, a couple thinking about having children, and a father of two preparing for retirement.

SURVEY SAYS

Even our youngest respondents believe physical money will still be around in 2050, so don't get rid of the piggy bank just yet.

Expert advice for every stage of life



Kirsten Brown (B.A. '12)

Occupation: High school principal
Financial Goals: Save as much as possible, purchase a condo in 18-24 months

THE "BIG THING" FOR KIRSTEN

LG: A budget is critical for her. She's going to have to start somewhere with her savings.
CL: She's young and time is on her side. Creating better money habits now will significantly change her life in the years to come.

ON FILING TAXES

LG: She needs to work with a tax professional to make sure she is claiming the right exemptions and deductions. That way, she can understand her refund and use it for the rest of the year.

CL: Contributing to tax-deferred accounts (like a 403(b), 401(k), IRA, etc.) will allow her to reduce her taxable income while saving for retirement. She should also consider contributing to a Health Savings Account (HSA).

ON BUYING A CONDO

LG: In the long-term, you're building equity if you purchase a home. Although renting gives you flexibility to move whenever you want, at the end of the day, you don't own anything.

CL: Start saving money now for a down payment. Putting down 20 percent or more will eliminate costly Private Mortgage Insurance (PMI) and likely provide access to more attractive loan rates.



Karen Miazga-Blackwood (B.A. '09) and Steve Blackwood

Occupations: Instructional coach in schools (Karen) and sales professional (Steve)
Financial Goals: Think ahead to retirement, pay off mortgage, plan for children

THE "BIG THING" FOR KAREN AND STEVE

LG: Budgeting is key for them, especially if Steve is in sales, because that means his income could fluctuate. If he has a base salary that doesn't change, I would budget off of that. Then, the commission is gravy.

CL: Interest can be your best friend or your worst enemy. When you're young and you put away money, it grows. Debt works the same way. If you don't pay it off, your interest gets out of control.

ON STARTING A FAMILY

LG: If they eventually want to have a child, they should start saving today. Or yesterday. Start an emergency fund first, then an additional baby fund later. Their budget has to be re-evaluated all the time.

CL: If they decide to have children, they should consider starting a 529 college saving plan after the child is born. These plans allow earnings to grow tax-free if used for qualified education expenses in the future.

ON PAYING OFF DEBT

LG: They should start saving toward all their goals, but they should also prioritize one — the house.

CL: Most people aren't aware of this simple trick, but if you make one extra mortgage payment every year, you'll reduce your 30-year mortgage to a 23-year mortgage.



Leo Hirner (M.S. '89)

Occupation: IT and academic administrator
Financial Goals: Retire and have the house paid off within the next 10 years

THE "BIG THING" FOR LEO

LG: It seems that he has a lot he wants to accomplish in about 10 years, so if he doesn't have a financial planner, it's critical for him to work with someone now.

CL: Health care is one of the biggest expenses in retirement. Maximizing a Health Savings Account (HSA) now will allow his contributions to grow tax-free for use with future medical expenses. Consider long-term care insurance, as this is another major expense in retirement.

ON PAYING OFF A MORTGAGE

LG: If he prioritized early-on, it won't be hard for him to catch up. It really depends how much effort he put in in his earlier days.

CL: He should definitely increase his mortgage payments or make extra payments. It would be unwise to go into retirement with a mortgage when you no longer have regular income.

ON PREPARING FOR RETIREMENT

LG: If he hasn't put anything into an HSA, he should look into it now. The older you get, the more health expenses you'll have, so he should prioritize that.

CL: He'll soon be an empty nester, and it's the perfect time to focus purely on saving for retirement. Contribute maximum amount to retirement accounts and invest excess cash in a diversified brokerage portfolio.

Meet the experts

Jerad Foster
Studio Build



Ryan Deveney
Studio Build



Chris Penland
Studio Build



Joy Swallow
Chair, UMKC Department
of Architecture, Urban
Planning and Design



BOB GREENSPAN PHOTOGRAPHY

The Studio Build headquarters in the Crossroads Arts District.

ON SMALLER, CITY LIVING

Jerad Foster: A lot of people — specifically younger people — are trying to stay close to the city. We get very few people wanting to build houses outside of the I-435 loop.

Chris Penland: I think the millennial generation is going to change housing a lot. People are moving downtown, and that trend is pushing a lot of construction. Smaller, more dense housing is becoming more popular. It's making our job more fun — we get to do a lot of creative spaces.

Joy Swallow: Smaller means, perhaps, less expensive. Cell phones have made everything shrink. Nobody needs a full library in their home anymore, nobody needs the kinds of things that have filled up houses, historically.

In the heart of the Crossroads Arts District sits an understated brick building, nestled between an alley and event rental store. Step inside, however, and you are transported to the design mecca that is Studio Build.

Sleek furniture, exposed brick and floor-to-ceiling bookcases welcome you to the space, as guys in jeans and glasses tap away on Macs.

Studio Build began in 2008, but one could argue it really began years earlier, when Jerad Foster and Ryan Deveney sat next to each other in their first architecture class at UMKC.

Foster and Deveney continued to work together as they completed the five-year architecture program that begins at UMKC and ends at Kansas State University. Today, they work together — alongside fellow Roo Chris Penland and others — to design and build beautiful spaces across Kansas City.

To learn about the future of homes, we talked to these three architects, as well as Joy Swallow, Ph.D., department chair of UMKC's Department of Architecture, Urban Planning and Design.

ON SMART HOMES

JF: A lot of our clients have decided to wait [on smart homes], because they see how fast technology is changing. They want to see what things are like in five years, because it's probably going to be cheaper, and it might be a totally different system. We're looking at it differently than we did even two or three years ago. It's changing that fast.

Ryan Deveney: I think smart homes are great, but then again, I like technology. I don't think it will really gain steam until the younger generation is building new homes. I also think people are reluctant to implement some of the technology until they have a better sense of security.

CP: There are some really cool advancements coming out in our fields. It's been concrete, wood, glass for hundreds of years, so it's cool to see where it's going to go. I think in the next 10 or 20 years, houses are going to look completely different.

ON ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND SUSTAINABLE LIVING

JF: The technology is adapting enough to where it's becoming more affordable. Five, 10 years ago, some of this stuff was just too expensive. And that goes along with the smaller size. It's much more green or efficient to not heat and cool a huge house.

RD: As construction costs get higher, people are going to try to get the footprint of their homes smaller and smaller. People aren't quite ready to concede square footage to allow for the integration of green technology. Until the cost of the technology comes down, I think a "prep for the future" mentality will continue. If energy costs start to soar and the return on investment comes down, I think people will jump on board quickly.

JS: The Europeans are way ahead of us. We're going to have solar panels, we're going to have wind power — we're already seeing that with our appliances. I just see it getting better and better.

"I think in the next 10 or 20 years, houses are going to look completely different."

—Chris Penland, Studio Build

ON TINY HOMES

JF: From what we've found, if you're trying to live in the city and connect to utilities, tiny homes are really not cost effective. The price and the economic standpoint is very intriguing to people, but I think when you take away the TV shows and the cameras, the logistics of what they actually cost is very skewed. It could make sense for people who want to be off the grid or live in more rural areas, but any time you're trying to deal with cities, it just kind of kills the efficiency.

RD: I think tiny homes are definitely a fad. The idea as a whole has great merit, it's just really tough to execute for what people are willing to spend. We've had numerous inquiries from people wanting to build one, but nobody has had an appropriate budget to do it right in our eyes, unless they are capable of self-performing most of the construction.

JS: Tiny homes are like a mobile home on wheels. It just has wood siding and looks more traditional. There's a place for tiny houses, but I think there are neighborhoods that would balk at them a bit. Now, modular homes, they can take all kinds of different figurations. In fact, we have one of the first ones here in Kansas City on Main. It came in on a crane and everything. It's still costly, but I think the cost will go down with technology.



BOB GREENSPAN PHOTOGRAPHY

One of Studio Build's homes in Kansas City, Missouri, just south of Brush Creek.

ON INNOVATIVE WAYS TO BUILD

JF: I think the biggest challenge for housing going forward is probably going to be the labor force. We have an impossible time hiring people right now. It's going to force a change in housing — whether it's houses that come in kits that bolt together, or whatever it is.

CP: They're already laser-printing concrete homes in some places. They basically have a computer-driven concrete pour machine. Who knows what's next?

JS: There are still going to be guys and gals on the site, strapping this thing together, but it's going to be like giant IKEA kits. It's the intersection of how these components come together that the person on the site will have to accomplish. But will the public accept that? That's a big question.

SURVEY SAYS

Alumni predicted that homes will be smaller, more high-tech and more energy efficient. And for the most part, our experts agree.

Grow your way to a better future

On the corner of East 36th Street and Woodland Avenue sits an ordinary two-story house. Passersby will notice a brick walkway, a white picket fence and an inviting front porch that seems built for a swing. And one other thing: a half-acre farm that brings in \$12,000 a year.

Neil Rudisill (B.S.N. '16) and his partner, Lisa Hummel, represent a growing population in the agriculture community: urban farmers. With a bee sting on his nose — an occupational hazard — Rudisill explains his passion for growing; how reconnecting with the land also reconnects him to the community, to the environment and to himself.

"One of the most important things you could do for your own personal health, simultaneously for environmental health, simultaneously for neighborhood health, is to grow your own food," he says.

If you've never met a boot-wearing, weed-picking urban farmer like Rudisill, give it a few years. In a sprawling urban center like Kansas City, the potential for growth is promising, but only if believers like Rudisill can take it mainstream.

Why urban farming?

It's hard to pinpoint the most persuasive argument for urban farming. The practice has benefits for health, economy, environment and community culture, just to name a few.

Another benefit is much more human: It's nice to know where your food comes from.

Jacob Wagner, Ph.D., is director of urban studies in the UMKC Department of Architecture, Urban Planning and Design. He is also board chair of Cultivate Kansas City, a local nonprofit working to create healthy food systems in communities across Kansas City.

Wagner recalls the moment he realized how disconnected people are from their food, while riding a bus in Eugene, Oregon.

"We were passing by a vegetable packing plant, and some little kid asked his mother, 'What is that?' And she said, 'Well, that's where carrots come from.'" Wagner says. "So the first benefit of growing food where people can see

it is they understand the labor, the process, the beauty of a farm."

For Dina Newman, director of the UMKC Center for Neighborhoods, one of the most compelling arguments is health, especially in underserved communities. Newman believes people are beginning to see why healthier, more sustainable living is worth their time and money.

"Urban agriculture challenges the old divide between the city being one thing and agriculture and farmland another."

—Jacob Wagner, director of urban studies, UMKC Department of Architecture, Urban Planning and Design

"There's a focus on a culture of health, which includes food and environment and exercise," Newman says. "People are starting to realize there's more to this food thing than just it tasting good."

In addition, there's a lot of money to be made — and saved — through urban farming. According to a 2014 food hub feasibility study, the Kansas City area has \$156 million in unmet demand for local produce. A modest grower, with the right training and resources, Rudisill says, can make several thousand dollars per year.

SURVEY SAYS

Alumni predictions ranged from the remarkable — artificially raised meat, bees replaced by drones, farms in climate-controlled domes — to the realistic — hydroponics, aquaponics and rooftop gardens.

Newman points out that urban farming can also give people a more cost-effective alternative to expensive grocery store produce.

"On the horizon, I see it continuing, because food is expensive," Newman says. "[Urban farming] can be as simple as just putting a tomato plant on your porch."

What's the catch?

So why isn't everyone growing arugula in their backyards? Simply put, urban farming can be really, really hard, especially in urban, underserved neighborhoods.

"People might work two jobs. They don't have transportation. You might not have childcare, and you don't know what you're doing," says Rudisill. "So it's a tougher project."

In addition, not everyone wants to live next door to an urban farm. They can be targets for theft, vandalism and rodents; they can become eyesores if unmaintained; they require time, technical skills and start-up funding. Rudisill will tell you right away: Urban farming is not for everyone.

Your kids and kale

Right now, the best hope for local growing may be sitting in your living room. Thanks to health and nutrition programs in schools across the country, children are becoming the teachers on lessons like sustainability, food quality and reconnecting with the earth.

As Newman tells her grandchildren, "This is a garden, and it's okay to get dirty."

"Kids are starting to go back to the old days of being in the dirt, of realizing where their food comes from, and they're taking that home to mom and dad and grandpa and auntie," Newman says. "Parents are starting to pay attention."

As for the future of urban farming, our experts agree that it can thrive, but only if we continue to educate people.

"Is [urban farming] the future of agriculture? I think that remains to be seen," Rudisill says. "I think we have to step everybody's game up. Urban agriculture will not be successful if we keep it where it's at, at least in this city."

Wagner puts it well: "As long as you go to a Whole Foods in the Kansas City area and they have peppers from Mexico or carrots from California, there's room to grow our local food economy."



Robots, runoff and the future of rural farming

One of UMKC's agriculture experts is a geotechnical engineer who uses a Roomba engine to shake blueberries off plants in her garden.

That, in a nutshell, is Megan Hart, Ph.D. (pictured above left). With two bachelor's degrees, a master's degree and a doctorate, Hart knows a thing or two about geology and agriculture. But her academic credentials are bolstered by a personal connection — her family's farm in Red Bluff, California.

For Hart, an assistant professor in the UMKC School of Computing and Engineering, the

changing world of agriculture is bittersweet. "It's really awesome to see the advances we're making in technology, but it's also really sad," Hart says. "The history of the United States has been built upon the farmer."

Her predictions for the future of rural farming hit three topics: higher costs, more automation and larger farms.

HIGHER COSTS

Water runoff from farms, Hart explains, contains harmful nitrates that must be filtered out before water is safe to drink. Currently, cities pay the filtering bill, but some water departments are trying to force farmers to use more eco-friendly — and expensive — practices. Those costs could drive up the price of farming and, as a result, the price of food.

MORE AUTOMATION

Today's farmers already use robotics — think self-driving combines, weed-pulling robots, pesticides delivered via drone and Hart's blueberry-picking Roomba. As farms get bigger and are expected to produce more output, those automated processes will become even more important.

LARGER FARMS

Hart describes an increasingly common scenario: A farmer is ready to retire, but either doesn't have children, or none of those children are interested in taking over the farm. As a result, these retiring farmers hire outside companies to work their land, creating more corporate farms and fewer single-family-owned farms.

As for how to tackle these changes, researchers like Hart are on the frontlines, working on new solutions to make agriculture safer, more efficient and more eco-friendly. Right now, for instance, she is working on a type of permeable concrete that would make filtering nitrates out of farm water much easier and more affordable.

Above all, Hart wants people to know researchers at UMKC are working to stay ahead of the changing agriculture industry.

"We're here, we understand, and it's part of our life and our future, too," she says. "It's a problem we know we can help solve."



Neil Rudisill (B.S.N. '16) and his partner Lisa Hummel (pictured above) operate a thriving urban farm in Kansas City, Missouri. At right, Rudisill lays tarp underneath the farm's high tunnel. (Photo courtesy of Lisa Hummel)



Interim Chancellor and Provost Barbara A. Bichelmeyer in the state-of-the-art Bloch Executive Hall for Entrepreneurship and Innovation.

Making education accessible to everyone

BY PATRICIA O'DELL

When asked in our survey which breakthrough they would most like to see by 2050, many alumni gave the same answer: quality education for all. And that's not just School of Education graduates talking — alumni from schools across campus said the same thing. As one graduate put it: "[I would like to see] everyone receive the best possible education. I currently pay to send my granddaughter to private school. The quality of education that she is receiving should be the standard, not the exception. It is my hope that UMKC, as an educational institution, will promote and share this dream."

Interim Chancellor and Provost Barbara A. Bichelmeyer does share the dream of quality education for all. In fact, she spends a good part of her day talking about it. We sat down with Bichelmeyer to talk about the future of education and what's next for UMKC.

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Why do you say that higher education is in "its most significant transformational moment since its creation?"

For generations, colleges were gatekeepers, ensuring that only those deemed worthy got access to higher learning. Today, we have evolved into bridge-builders, bringing knowledge to everyone, in a variety of ways that make it possible for everyone to access it.

Those of us working in public institutions have an awesome responsibility: to ensure that our entire community has equal access to knowledge. The bridges we build must reach across the many divides in our society — racial, philosophical, social, economic, language and cultural.

How is the "traditional" college experience changing?

Job-specific training programs that don't

confer degrees are becoming more popular. The attraction is undeniable — you spend less than four years learning a trade and typically finish with less debt than someone earning a bachelor's degree.

The nature of education and learning is very different now as well. The evolution of knowledge is so rapid. The demands of the workplace are evolving just as fast. Lifelong education is becoming the new norm. So we have to build strong and effective bridges to people at every stage of their lives.

What is the value of a four-year college degree?

A true college or university degree is more than just job training. We educate future citizens by providing a core curriculum that preserves and passes on our culture and values to the next generation.

Our graduates are engineers who appreciate great literature, physicians who attend and support symphony and jazz performances, entrepreneurs who are informed voters and involved citizens. Their lives are much richer and more rewarding as a result of their liberal arts education, and the value to society is immeasurable. That's something that a programming boot camp simply cannot provide.

As technology evolves, why are traditional brick-and-mortar campuses still important?

The heart of an educational experience is to engage with other people in service of one's own growth and development. That will always be most fully done when we are together, face-to-face, asking difficult questions and having challenging conversations. Technology and online programs allow us to get pieces of that, but not the full experience.

Online education isn't, by definition, awful or great, and being in the classroom isn't awful or great. It's what happens in those spaces and formats that determines the quality of the education.

SURVEY SAYS

Alumni envisioned year-round classes for all, multiple languages taught, more personalized teaching techniques and a complete overhaul of the public school system.

What is the value of a liberal arts education?

Liberal arts and sciences degrees teach students how to learn. We are preparing people not just for a job, but for a career; preparing them not just to make a living, but to live a life. That's what liberal arts and sciences do better than any other workforce training does. It teaches people how to think critically, how to communicate with each other, how to consider the place of an individual in society, how to be creative, how to have a difficult conversation in which you might disagree. All of these are really important components of the human experience that are advanced through the liberal arts and sciences.

For UMKC, specifically, what do you think the future holds? What can alumni expect to see in the next decades?

What we are trying to create is a university where students have a more personalized learning experience and much more empowerment in their education. We will do better in supporting our faculty for growth opportunities — helping them learn how to teach and do research in this new space higher education is becoming. Learning is still, and always will be, a human enterprise. We have to find our best ways to support people in that.

When you look at these challenges, is it energizing and exciting, or daunting and exhausting?

Energizing and exciting. I built my career in telecommunications and tech, and I could see that tech was going to change the world, and it was certainly going to change education.

The question is: How can we leverage new technologies to create more personal learning experiences for students? Managing this change is sometimes daunting, but we have great people at UMKC — a phenomenal faculty, staff and leadership team, and a community that wants us to be the best we can be for our students. That commitment from the leaders in our region is exciting and humbling. ●

BOUNDLESS
INSPIRATION

The annual UMKC Alumni Awards celebration on April 20 honored distinguished alumni while supporting the next generation of Roos.



BILL FRENCH ALUMNI SERVICE AWARD

Bob Regnier

MBA '78 · Leawood, KS

Founder, president and CEO of the Bank of Blue Valley, Regnier has been a long-time volunteer for UMKC, dating back to his service on the Bloch Alumni Association Board from 1990-96. He has served on the School's Finance Advisory Board and, in 2009, he and his wife, Ann, stepped into campus-wide volunteer roles as co-chairs of the university's capital campaign, helping UMKC raise more than \$250 million. In 2016, he became a member of the UMKC Foundation board of directors. In addition to Regnier's personal service, the Regnier Family Foundation has supported the Bloch School and the university in countless ways, including founding and naming the UMKC Institute for Entrepreneurship and Innovation's signature program, the Regnier Family Foundation's Venture Creation Challenge.

MORE ABOUT BOB:

He has been in the banking profession for more than 45 years and attributes his work ethic to lessons he learned from his father.



Pictured: Josephine Cisetti

LEGACY AWARD

Cisetti-Orozco-Madden Family

The Cisetti-Orozco-Madden family's Roo roots began with Josephine Cisetti, who graduated from the University of Kansas City in 1945. Many Roos would follow:

- Josephine (Mannino) Cisetti (M.A. '45)
- Roberto Orozco (Attended)
- Rev. Joseph Cisetti (B.A. '83)
- John Cisetti (B.M.E. '78, M.A. '79, Ed.S. '85)
- Veronica (Orozco) Cisetti (B.S. '77)
- Steven R. Cisetti (Attended)
- Catherine Cisetti (Currently enrolled, Ed.S.)
- Mary (Cisetti) Patonai (B.B.A. '12)
- Nicolas Patonai (B.L.A. '13, M.D. '14)
- Rebecca (Orozco) Poindexter (B.B.A. '80)
- Jonathan Poindexter (B.B.A. '10)
- David Poindexter (B.L.A. '12)
- David Orozco (B.S.C.E. '84)
- Celia (Orozco) Squires (B.S. '86)
- Dennis Squires (B.B.A. '86)
- Amanda Squires (Attended)
- Carolyn Squires (Attended)
- Patrick Madden (B.A. '85)
- Gloria (Orozco) Madden (Attended)
- Dennis Madden (B.A. '70)
- Robin Madden (Attended)
- Catherine (Katie) Madden (M.A. '67)
- Marie E. (Beth) Madden (J.D. '92)
- Brian J. Madden (J.D. '92)

Roo Love Connections

These Roos met their future spouse while studying at UMKC!

- John and Veronica Cisetti
- Nicholas and Mary Patonai
- Dennis and Celia Squires
- Patrick and Gloria Madden
- Dennis and Robin Madden
- Brian and Beth Madden

ALUMNA OF THE YEAR

Esther L. George

EMBA '00 · Weatherby Lake, MO

As president and chief executive officer for the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, George is a world-renowned expert on economic issues. Beyond her national leadership in shaping monetary policy, George is also known globally for her expertise. She hosts the annual Jackson Hole Economic Symposium and has participated in the Bank for International Settlements Financial Stability Institute programs in several countries.

George generously lends her time to UMKC by giving presentations at the Henry W. Bloch School of Management and inviting students to visit the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City so they can engage with economists and other professionals. She is currently a UMKC Trustee and has served on the Bloch Advisory Council. In 2017, she was appointed to the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation board of trustees.

MORE ABOUT ESTHER:

She is the first woman to serve as president and chief executive officer of the Kansas City branch of the bank.

DEFYING THE ODDS AWARD

Troy L. Nash

J.D. '97, M.A. '05, M.A. '11, MBA '13 · Kansas City, MO

Growing up in a single-parent home on public assistance, Nash worked odd jobs to help his mother make ends meet. The family bounced from house to house, forcing him to adapt to ever-changing circumstances. With the help of scholarships and loans, he earned an undergraduate degree from Wesley College and then a J.D. from UMKC. He went on to earn an M.A. in economics, an M.A. in political science and an MBA from UMKC, as well as a doctorate degree in education from St. Louis University. In 2014, Nash became the first African-American in Kansas City history to become principal and shareholder in a Top 10 commercial real estate firm. He is currently managing director and principal at Newmark Grubb Zimmer.

MORE ABOUT TROY:

Mentors have played a large role in Nash's adult life — he believes the universe brings people into your life at just the right time. Nash says three people, specifically, have been outstanding mentors to him: Rosemary Lowe, Hugh Zimmer and Rep. Emanuel Cleaver II.



SPOTLIGHT AWARD

Hermon Mehari

B.M. '10 · Kansas City, MO

Mehari's career has put the UMKC jazz program on the global and national stages, making him a world-wide ambassador for Kansas City. He has won countless accolades, including first place in the national trumpet competition for jazz, first place in the Carmen Caruso International Trumpet Competition, second place in the International Trumpet Guild Competition in Australia and semifinalist in the Thelonious Monk International Jazz Competition and the Charlotte Street Grant awards. While he was a student at UMKC, Mehari formed the award-winning ensemble Diverse. The group's debut album made the Top 40 on the JazzWeek radio charts. He continues to perform professionally around the world. One of his nominators notes that, "Next to Bobby Watson, Hermon Mehari has brought the most attention to UMKC and the KC jazz scene in recent history."

MORE ABOUT HERMON:

Mehari fell in love with jazz after listening to "Kind of Blue" by Miles Davis, one of the most iconic jazz records of all time. Since then, Mehari has released numerous records of his own. In March 2017, he released "Bleu," his first album serving as band leader.



Alumni Awards Luncheon 2017



Alumna of the Year Esther L. George addresses the crowd of alumni, students and community leaders.



Then-Chancellor Leo E. Morton honors the Cisetti-Orozco-Madden family with the 2017 Legacy Award. Since 1945, 24 family members have attended UMKC.



Hermion Mehari (left), Spotlight Award recipient, and James Mair, Conservatory of Music and Dance Alumni Award recipient.



Troy Nash is honored with the Defying the Odds Award at the 2017 Alumni Awards luncheon.

School-based Alumni Achievement Awardees

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

KATHRYN WEBSTER

B.A. '75, M.A. '79

SCHOOL OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

THERON E. ODLAUG

B.S. '71, M.S. '73

HENRY W. BLOCH SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT

GEORGE W. HOLCOMB III

EMBA '02

SCHOOL OF COMPUTING AND ENGINEERING

JIM HOGAN

B.S.C.E. '84

CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC AND DANCE

JAMES C. MAIR

M.A. '90

SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

JANE CHESTNUT ATKINSON

D.D.S. '81

SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY – DENTAL HYGIENE

LIZ KAZ

B.S.D.H. '86, M.S.D.H. '87

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

DAVID SHARP

M.A. '99, Ed.S. '03

SCHOOL OF LAW

NANCY B. FIRESTONE

J.D. '77

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

LATHA SIVAPRASAD

M.D. '99

SCHOOL OF NURSING AND HEALTH STUDIES

ANITA SKARBK

B.S.N. '01, M.S.N. '03

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

HEATHER LYONS-BURNEY

Pharm.D. '94



CLASS NOTES

2010s

Jeff Blackford (Ed.D. '16, Education) was named superintendent at Nodaway-Holt in Maryville, Missouri.

Kristie Cross (B.A. '12, Arts and Sciences) joined North Central Missouri College in Trenton as the Director of Admissions.

Sydney Crimmins (B.S.N. '15, Nursing) of Clay Center, Kansas, was selected by the WAC senior woman administrators to represent the WAC for the 2016 NCAA Woman of the Year award.

Courtney Frerichs (B.A. '15, Biological Sciences) of Portland, Oregon, qualified for the Olympic Trials and then for the final race at the 2017 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Adam Fontana (D.M.A. '16, Conservatory) was appointed assistant professor of music and director of instrumental music at Bethel College in North Newton, Kansas.

Daniel J. Garlow (M.D. '11, Medicine) was elected chief of staff at Cloud County Health Center in Concordia, Kansas.

Benjamin Grohmann (J.D. '16, Law) was hired as a lawyer at Overland Park, Kansas-based Hovey Williams LLP.

Suzanne R. Hendrix-Case (D.M.A. '11, Conservatory) joined Morningside College

in Sioux City, Iowa, as an assistant professor of music.

Steve Lewis (M.M. '12, Conservatory) was named music director of the Medical Arts Symphony of Kansas City. Lewis is also the music director of the Midwest Chamber Ensemble.

Vu Nguyen (B.A. '12, Arts and Sciences), co-founder of MADE Urban Apparel, opened the brand's first retail shop in Kansas City, Missouri.

Andrés Salguero (D.M.A. '11, Conservatory) of Washington, D.C., won a Latin Grammy for Best Children's Album. Salguero performs as 123 Andrés and was honored for his record *Arriba Abajo*. While studying at UMKC, Salguero taught students as part of the Musical Bridges program at the Conservatory.

Travis Tanaka (D.D.S. '16, Dentistry) opened Seneca Family Dentistry in Wichita, Kansas.

2000s

Danielle Carron (M.D. '07, Medicine) became a medical partner of Saint Francis Healthcare Systems in Farmington, Missouri. Carron specializes in family medicine and will join Farmington Medical Associates.

Kiran Chelluri (M.S. '01, Arts and Sciences), founder of Chelsoft Solutions in Olathe, Kansas, announced that the

organization was named number seven on Ingram's 100 Fastest-Growing Companies list for 2016.

Ramin Cherfat (MBA '02, Management) will become the CEO of McCownGordon Construction in Kansas City. Cherfat currently serves as the firm's COO and will assume the role of CEO on Jan. 1, 2018. In August, he became president of the UMKC Alumni Association.

Chandra Clark (B.L.A. '06, Arts and Sciences) received the 2016 Athena Young Professionals Leadership Award. Clark is the manager of external partnerships for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Kansas City.

Bruce Copeland (M.A. '01, Education) became a member of the board at BioKansas. Copeland is the director of business development at Cardinal Health Regulatory Sciences in Overland Park, Kansas.

Brian D. Corn (EMBA '04, Management) of Lenexa, Kansas, joined Athlete Network as CTO, where he will lead all product development and engineering.

Gregory T. Cotton (J.D. '00, Law) joined PG LLC as partner and president to work on the development of the Gateway Sports Village. Cotton is the former COO and general counsel for Sporting Kansas City.

David K. Dunning (M.P.A. '02, Management) is the new director of the Memphis VA Medical Center. Dunning was formerly commander of an Army medical center in Hawaii.

Kerri Evans (M.A. '02, Education) was named principal at Swift Creek Elementary School in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Jennifer Friend (Ph.D. '04, Graduate Studies) was named dean of the College of Health and Human Services at Rockhurst University in Kansas City, Missouri.

Esther George (EMBA '00, Management) joined the Kauffman Foundation Board. George is the 2017 UMKC Alumna of the Year and the president and CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City.

Alyssa Greedy (Pharm.D. '06, Pharmacy) was recognized by Continental Who's Who as a Pinnacle Professional in the field of retail. Greedy is a pharmacy manager at a Walgreens in Kansas City, Missouri. She has also been recognized by the National Association of Professional Women as a VIP Woman of the Year.

David Gohn (J.D. '00, Law) was named president and CEO of West Plains Bank in West Plains, Missouri.

Continued on next page

Ryan W. Horsman (J.D. '07, Law) was named the Mercer County prosecuting attorney in Princeton, Missouri. He was appointed by former Missouri Governor Jay Nixon.

Tamora Kapeller (MBA '05, Management) of Kansas City, Missouri, was promoted to head of U.S. Global Markets at SCOR Global Life. Previously, Kapeller served as COO of the Americas branch.

Jan Kraybill (D.M.A. '00, Conservatory) of Stilwell, Kansas, was named executive director of the Hymn Society in the U.S. and Canada. Kraybill holds the certification of Fellow of the AGO, the highest level of certification available to organists.

Jeffrey Meisenheimer (Ed.S. '06, Education) was named the 2017 Principal of the Year by the Greater Kansas City Missouri Principals Association. Meisenheimer is the principal of Lee's Summit North High School.

Kelly A. Schnieders (J.D. '06, Law) joined Armstrong Teasdale's Kansas City office. Schnieders works on intellectual property matters in the biological arts, chemical arts, medical technology, food science and other health care-related technologies.

Anna Stubblefield (Ed.S. '02, Education) was named interim superintendent of Lawrence Public Schools in Kansas.

Kevin Tuttle (J.D. '06, Law) was elected partner at Spencer Fane Law Firm in Kansas City, Missouri. Tuttle provides intellectual property counsel.

For the past three years, he has been named as a Rising Star by *Super Lawyers*.

Shateel Higbee (M.D. '09, Medicine) joined Conemaugh Health System as a medical oncologist in Johnstown, Pennsylvania.

Sara Jahnke (Ph.D. '06, Education) of Kansas City, Missouri, received the Excellence in Leadership Award at the Institute of Food Technologists Student Association Conference. Jahnke is a principal investigator in the Institute for Biobehavioral Health Research and director of the Center for Fire, Rescue and EMS Research at the National Development and Research Institutes, Inc.

John Owen (M.S. '03, Management) of Kansas City, Missouri, joined Executive AirShare as CFO. Previously, he served as vice president of EFL Associates.

Joel P. Rhodes (Ph.D. '00, Graduate Studies) of Cape Girardeau, Missouri, published a book titled *Growing Up in a Land Called Honalee: The Sixties in the Lives of American Children* through the University of Missouri Press.

Sarah Littleton Schiltz (M.S. '07, Management) was named partner at MarksNelson LLC in Kansas City, Missouri. She is the youngest woman in the history of the firm to be named partner.

Damian Thorman (J.D. '04, Law) was named vice president and chief innovation officer at Miami Dade College in Florida. Previously, he

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served as director of the White House Social Innovation Fund.

1990s

Elizabeth R. Bender (M.M. '99, Conservatory) was named interim executive director of the Racine Symphony Orchestra in Wisconsin.

Stephen J. Farnsworth (B.A. '90, Arts and Sciences) received the 2017 Virginia Outstanding Faculty Award from the State Council of Higher Education of Virginia. Farnsworth is a professor of political science and director of the Center for Leadership and Media Studies at the University of Mary Washington in Fredricksburg, Virginia.

Keith Hart (M.F.A. '99, Arts & Sciences) was named managing director of Blue Barn Theatre in Omaha, Nebraska.

Sherri Lewis (M.A. '95, Education) was named Middle Level Principal of the Year by the Missouri Association of Secondary School Principals. Lewis is principal at Bernard Campbell Middle School in Lee's Summit, Missouri.

Jodie Lin (M.M. '92, Conservatory) was selected as the 2017 recipient of the Honor Administrator Award, presented by the Kansas Music Educators Association for her work in Kansas City, Kansas public schools.

Greg Manis (B.B.A. '90, Management) was appointed to the position of corporate director of communications at MGP. Previously, Manis served as the director of client engagement for VML.

Damon Mitchell (B.A. '97, Arts & Sciences) was named chief deputy attorney for Wyandotte County, Kansas.

Vickie S. Murillo (M.A. '97, Education) was named the next superintendent by the Council Bluffs Community School District Board in Iowa. Previously, Murillo was chief academic and accountability officer at the Kansas City, Missouri, school district.

Michael L. Racy (J.D. '92, Law) was named the next commissioner of the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association in Kansas City, Missouri.

Jeffery E. Schreiber (M.D. '99, Medicine) received the RealSelf 100 Award for Enduring Commitment to Consumer Education. He is one of 100 doctors worldwide to receive this award. Schreiber is a plastic surgeon in Baltimore, Maryland.

Catherine Rachel Woods (B.A. '94, Arts and Sciences) was selected as one of Bixby (Oklahoma) Public Schools' 2016-2017 Teachers of the Year. Woods teaches social studies at the middle school and has been teaching for 10 years.

1980s

Todd Bower (B.B.A. '89, Management) was named assistant vice president and branch manager of the corporate branch location of Dime Bank in Norwich, Connecticut.

Dana Tippin Cutler (J.D. '89, Law) was elected president of the Missouri Bar. She is the first African-American woman to hold this position. Cutler is a partner at her family's law firm of James W. Tippin & Associates in Kansas City, Missouri.

Karen Daniel (MBA '81, Management) was selected to serve as chair of the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce. She is the first African-American woman to serve in this role. Daniel is the chief financial officer of Black & Veatch.

Virginia L. Fry (J.D. '80, Law) was selected as chair of the Missouri State Board of Governors. Fry is a partner at Husch Blackwell in Springfield, Missouri.

Pamela Jo Grant (M.D. '89, Medicine) joined Stormont Vail Health in Topeka, Kansas, as a maternal fetal medicine physician.

Kirby L. Hatcher (D.D.S. '80, Dentistry) was appointed to the Missouri Western State University Board of Governors. He has operated the Hatcher Dental Group in St. Joseph, Missouri, for 36 years.

Larry Kemm (B.S. '84, Bloch) joined the business transactions practice group at Carlton Fields law firm in Tampa, Florida.

Tom Bark Kretsinger Jr. (J.D. '81, Law) received the Truckload Carriers Association's Past Chairmen's Award. Kretsinger is CEO for American Central Transport of Liberty, Missouri.

Olevia Pitts (M.D. '86, Medicine) was named chief medical officer for Research Medical Center in Independence, Missouri. She is the first woman and person of color to hold the position.

1970s

James Bartimus (J.D. '77, Law) was named to *Ingram's Magazine's* list of the 250 most powerful business leaders in the Kansas City area. Bartimus is a trial lawyer with four decades of expertise. He is a partner at Bartimus, Frickleton, Robertson.

Robert F. Carpenter (B.A. '75, Arts and Sciences) was elected to the Oklahoma Association of Broadcasters Hall of Fame. Carpenter is a sportscaster and the TV voice of the Washington Nationals.

John Dane (D.D.S. '75, Dentistry) of Lee's Summit, joined the Missouri Coalition for Oral Health's board of directors. He has served as Missouri's state dental director since January 2016.

Jeanne Drewes (B.A. '76, Arts and Sciences) received the Ross Atkinson Award from the Association for Library Collections & Technical Services. Drewes is chief of the Binding and Collections Care Division and the Deacidification Program at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C..

Merlin Eaton (D.D.S. '77, Dentistry) retired in November from his dental practice in Warsaw, Missouri, after nearly 40 years in the business.

Randolph L. Lais (D.D.S. '78, Dentistry) of Rogers, Arkansas, completed a two-year residency program at the Texas Center for Occlusal Studies and Minimally Invasive Dentistry.

1960s

Paulette Jiles (B.A. '68, Arts and Sciences) published a novel titled *News of the World* and has been named a finalist for the National Book Award. Jiles is the New York Times bestselling author of *Enemy Women* and lives in San Antonio, Texas.

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SPOTTED

Edie McClurg (B.A. '67) receives her honorary doctorate at the May 2017 Commencement from Provost and now-Interim Chancellor Barbara A. Bichelmeyer and Wayne Vaught, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. McClurg is a successful comedian, actress and singer who has performed in more than 90 films and 55 television episodes, including *The Richard Pryor Show*, *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*, *Planes Trains & Automobiles*, *The Little Mermaid* and *Frozen*. Read more about the 2017 honorary doctorate recipients at go.umkc.edu/honorary-doctorates-2017.



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