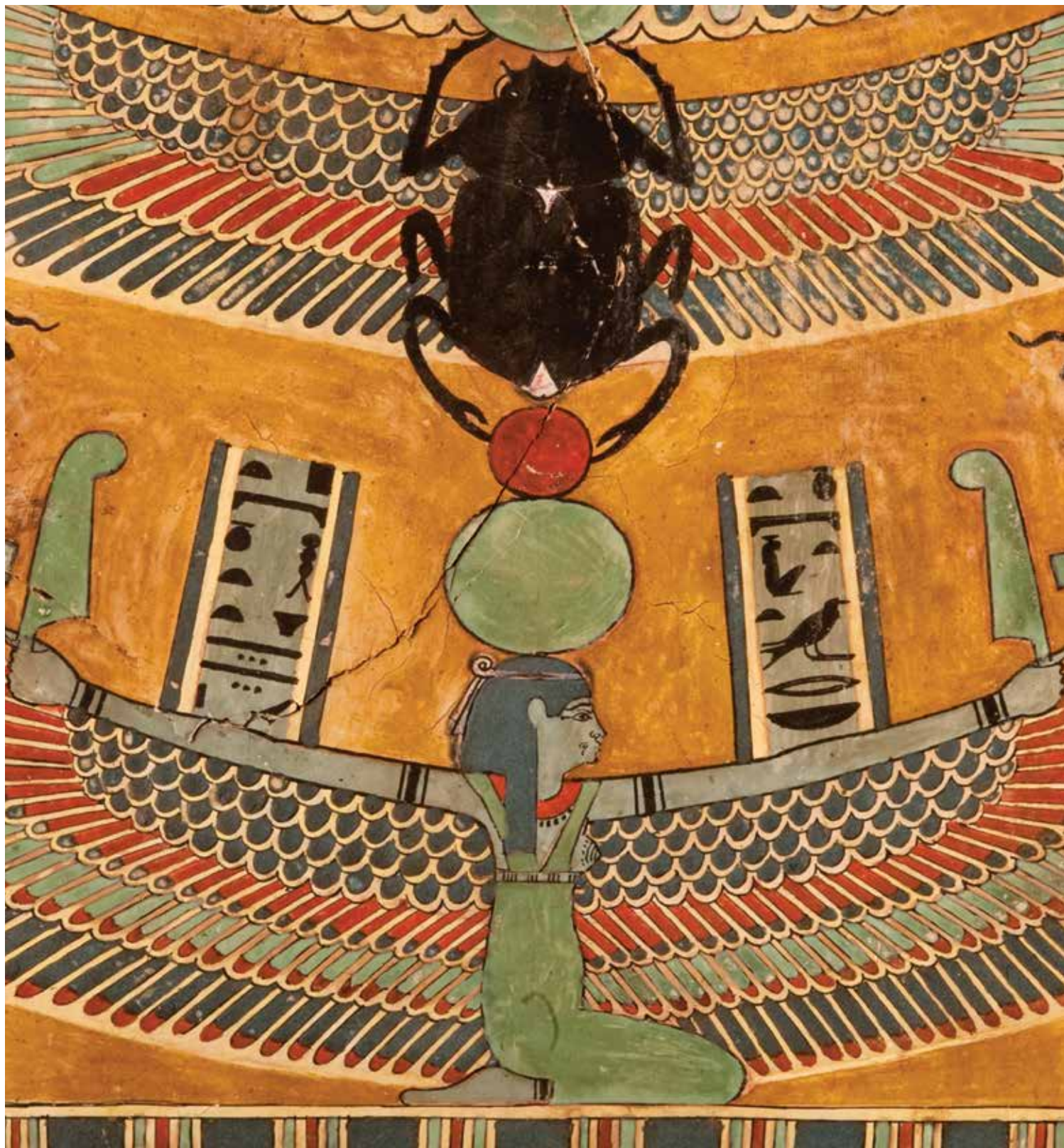


Spring 2011

# PERSPECTIVES

News magazine of the University of Missouri-Kansas City



**The ancient dead:** Bringing Egyptian mysteries to life

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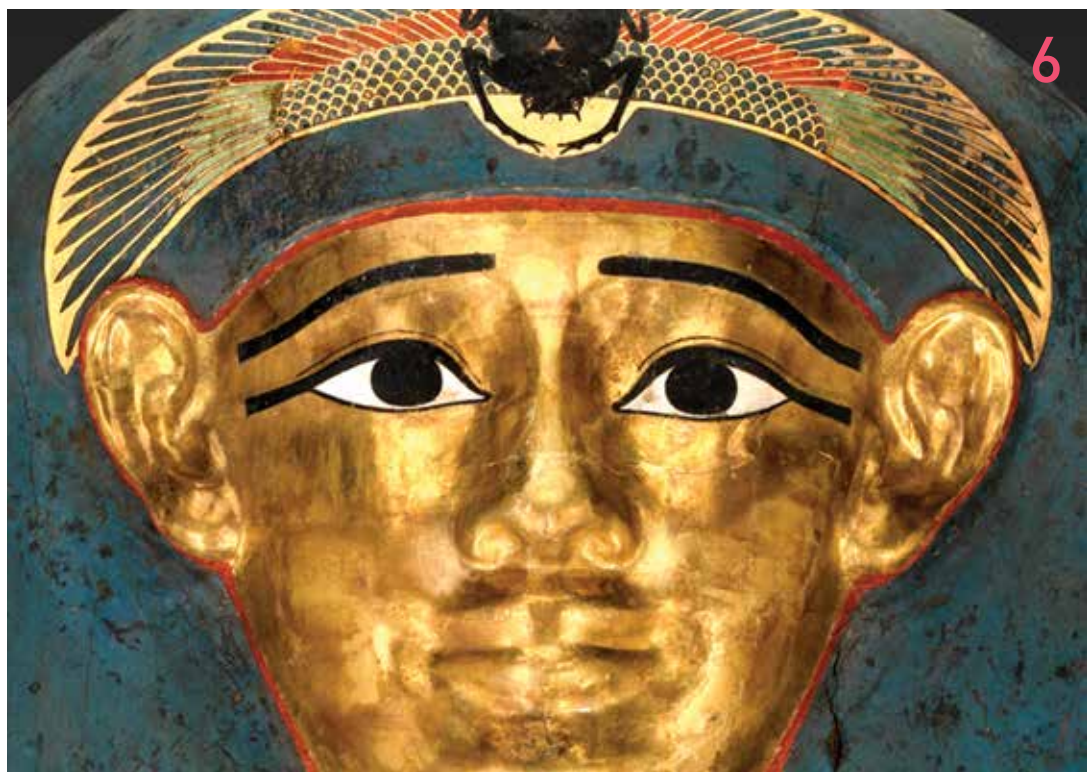




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unveil ancient history



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# The strong and the proud

## GI Bill helped alumni learn and thrive

Last issue, we asked to hear from alumni who attended the university on the GI Bill. We received a record number of responses—that was the easy part. The hard part was selecting a few stories to tell in this issue in light of the numerous accounts we read of determination, hard work and success.

Elizabeth Case (B.A. '49) wrote to tell us about her husband, Jim, who attended the University of Kansas City (UMKC's predecessor) with the help of the GI Bill from 1947 to 1949 after he was stationed in Germany. Jim and Elizabeth met in Larry Kuhl's radio class at UKC. While Jim's name might not ring a bell, chances are his work will. After attending UKC, Jim graduated in 1950 from the University of Denver's media program, which propelled him to a career in television filled with milestones and achievements. He worked for NBC, where he was film producer for *Howdy Doody* and a production assistant for Sid Caesar's *Your Show of Shows*. After a stint at CBS in Los Angeles, Jim returned to Denver and became the director of the city's first educational programming station, KRMA-TV (now Rocky Mountain PBS).

His 12-part television series, *The Ragtime Era*, gained national exposure in the early 1960s and became the most watched noncommercial series of its time. He also produced dozens of documentaries for KPBS in San Diego. I can't do justice to Jim's career here, but we owe him gratitude for his role in public television and its impact on our lives. Jim is quick to turn the praise back onto his alma mater. "He often remarks that the only real liberal arts education he received was at UKC under Carolyn Benton Cockefair," his wife said.

I was struck not only by the Cases' story, but by the many e-mails and phone calls we received from alumni who fondly remembered their time here and what it meant to them. They served. They studied. They went on to have fulfilling careers as teachers, writers, military leaders and scientists, just to name a few. You'll read about some of these people in this issue, and we hope to highlight others in the future.

The students who came through the doors of UKC after World War II to those who are entering UMKC after service in Iraq and Afghanistan have helped make this university great. Their stories have become part of the fabric of our alumni character—strong and proud.



LISEN TAMMEUS

➔ Our Fall 2011 issue will mark the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. We invite you to share your thoughts and memories with us. Where were you that day, how did it affect you and has it shaped or changed your life? E-mail us at [perspectives@umkc.edu](mailto:perspectives@umkc.edu).

## Perspectives Spring 2011

*Perspectives* magazine is published twice each year for alumni and friends of the University of Missouri-Kansas City by the Office of Alumni and Constituent Relations, 5100 Rockhill Road, 300B Administrative Center, Kansas City, MO, 64110-5189; 816-235-1561 or [alumni@umkc.edu](mailto:alumni@umkc.edu).

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UMKC is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution.

## Readers respond to the fall issue

### Close encounters

When I read about Michael Albano's encounter with Harry and Bess Truman in the Fall 2010 issue of *Perspectives*, I was reminded of my own encounter with Harry Truman. In 1955, I had a temporary summer job as a mail carrier with the post office in Kansas City. One afternoon, I was picking up mail from the deposit box in the entrance of the Federal Building.

As I turned around to leave, I had a face-to-face encounter with former President Truman. He was coming to his office there. It was a very close encounter, but we avoided colliding with each other. We smiled and went on our ways. American politics has been all downhill since Harry's time.

On another note, my temporary job helped me make ends meet between semesters. I had begun teaching at Northeast Junior High School in 1954 and salaries in the Kansas City School District were quite low. You can verify this by asking Don Fitzhugh, who worked in Admissions at UMKC. We began our teaching careers in rooms next to each other at Northeast Junior High.

I began taking courses in the School of Education at the University of Kansas City in order to complete my teaching certificate. The school's dean, Hugh Speer, later asked me to apply for admission to the graduate program. I did and I received my Ph.D. in education with an emphasis in curriculum and instruction in June 1963.

Since I was the last person to go up to the podium to receive my diploma at that graduation ceremony, I may have been the last person to receive a degree from UKC. Almost immediately thereafter UKC became UMKC. My educational experiences at UKC were superb. I've always been proud to be an alumnus and to share that status with Harry Truman, who was an alumnus of the old Kansas City Law School, which also merged with UMKC.

Jim Masters  
Ph.D. '63

### Professor worth honoring

Thank you for the article celebrating the career of Jim Falls, Ph.D. I was a student in several of his classes in the 1980s, including the freshman must-have: Western Civilization. One day, not long into the term, I was eating in the cafeteria when Falls and some of his students came in and sat nearby. When there was some point of disagreement among them, he turned and noticed me at the end of the table. "You," he said. "You're in my class. What do you think?"

How he pegged me out of 150 students I have no idea, especially so early in the term, but now I understand that was one of his many gifts. We talked often after that, both in class and at a number of extracurricular events. I considered him a mentor and role model.

Despite being in the School of Medicine, I tried to keep taking history classes. Falls' class about ancient Rome was a highlight of my undergraduate experience. He was one of those professors who made you question your chosen path and ask yourself, "What if?" about your education and focus. Those individuals are rare in our lives and I appreciate the role he played in mine. Congratulations on retirement, Dr. Falls, and rest assured you not only taught history at UMKC but made it as well.

James Borden, M.D., F.A.C.P.  
M.D. '90



### Have you ever wanted to know how to ... ?

If you've got a tricky question, we've got the experts to answer it. *Perspectives* is interested in hearing about what's stumping you and what you wish you knew how to do better. From carpentry to number crunching to hosting a dinner party, we'll help sort out what's perplexing you—just let us know.

### Get in touch

We want to hear what's on your mind, so drop us a line. *Perspectives* welcomes letters to the editor. Letters appearing in the magazine may be edited for space and clarity. Send letters to:

*Perspectives* editor  
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Kansas City, MO 64110-2499

E-mail [perspectives@umkc.edu](mailto:perspectives@umkc.edu) or give us a call at 816-235-1561.

UMKC honored History professor Jim Falls, Ph.D., for his contributions to UMKC at a ceremony last fall. To learn more about the Jim Falls Honorary Scholarship, contact Karen English at 816-235-1139.  
— Photo by Bob Greenspan



# Small wonders

## The treasures of the Toy and Miniature Museum

by AMANDA BERTHOLF

■ A rare collection of fine-scale miniatures, toys and dollhouses is nestled within a stately mansion on UMKC's campus. Items on display at the museum are from the private collections of Mary Harris Francis, who loved antique dollhouses, and Barbara Marshall, who appreciated the intricacies of fine-scale miniatures. Both women had collected so many items over the years that their homes were bursting at the seams. Family members joked that the two could start a museum with all the items they owned—so they did. Francis and Marshall formed a not-for-profit foundation in 1979 and the museum opened in 1982. Here's a look at some of the highlights from the museum's collection.



POENITE TALTRICE SVCCVBVISSE SVE



Visit [toyandminiaturemuseum.org](http://toyandminiaturemuseum.org) for more information. Students, faculty and staff get free admission to the museum with a UMKC ID.

### DRESSMAKER'S DOLL

The oldest doll in the museum's collection, Georgiana, dates back to the 1750s. During this time, dolls were rarely used as toys, said Laura Taylor, the museum's educator. Instead, Georgiana was used in dressmakers' shops to model the latest fashions of the day. The doll's body is made of wood, its eyes are made of glass and the wig is made of human hair.



### DID YOU KNOW?

Nell Donnelly, a wealthy Kansas City dress manufacturer, once occupied the Tureman Mansion, now home to the Toy and Miniature Museum. In the 1920s, Donnelly's financial success—thanks to sales of her “Nelly Don” dresses, which were stylish but affordable—made her a target for kidnappers. In 1931, Donnelly and her chauffeur were kidnapped from the mansion's driveway and held for \$75,000 ransom but rescued two days later. Donnelly never owned the mansion. The Tureman family bequeathed the home to UMKC in 1960 and the university has owned it since.

### MISS MARY DOLL

“The star of the doll collection is Miss Mary,” Taylor said. The cloth doll was made in 1861 by Izannah Walker and is in excellent condition for its age. Walker was a 19th century doll artist and entrepreneur. She held a patent for her doll-making process—an unusual accomplishment for a woman in those days. Just before she died, museum co-founder Mary Harris Francis convinced the owner of the doll to add it to the museum's collection. It was the last piece that Francis acquired for the museum.



### STUDIOLO GUBBIO

(Left) This is a small-scale version of a room originally commissioned by a Renaissance man named Federico da Montefeltro for the Gubbio Palace in Italy. The full-scale room was reassembled in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. The marquetry represents Montefeltro's interests in the liberal arts. The small-scale version is one-twelfth the size of the original and was created by four artists who worked on different sections: walls, ceiling, terracotta floor and paintings. The room was so perfectly rendered by four artists in four different workshops that it's indistinguishable in photographs from the full-scale room.



### JARDINIÈRE

A highlight of the miniatures collection is an art nouveau jardinière that took the artist seven years to complete. “The time it took to complete this is mind-boggling,” Taylor said. “This piece must've been the challenge of her career.” The one-of-a-kind piece was commissioned for the museum. The piece of plum wood was hollowed and shaped in one-twelfth scale.









# Unwrapping the past

Researchers unveil the secrets of ancient history

by ERICK R. SCHMIDT

**T**he gold face of Meretites' coffin glimmers beneath the display lights at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, and it becomes instantly obvious why Egypt's wealthy would have so strongly desired this flamboyant burial. The detailed artwork is impeccable even after 2,400 years of entombment. Complex drawings line the outer shell of the sycamore fig coffin of a woman 24 centuries past who expected to be reborn into eternal life. Along the wall opposite the sarcophagus is a cascading line of blue-green figurines, most no larger than a light bulb but carrying infinite meaning to the people who buried them. The figurines are intended to come to life and serve as Meretites' loyal attendants in the afterlife.



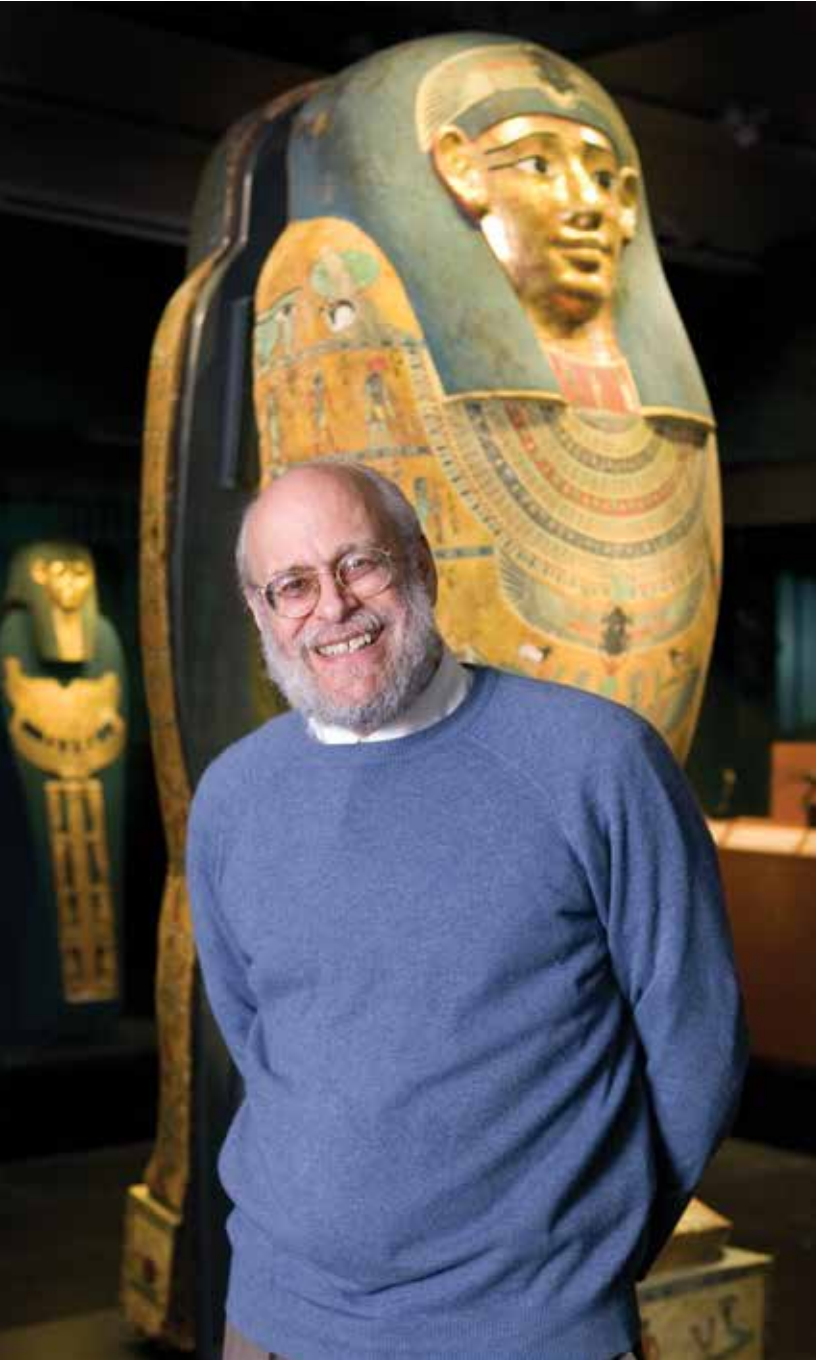
## Peret kheru en ka en Ka-i-nefer

**A prayer for bread and beer for the ka of Ka-i-nefer**

The Egyptians believed that the ka, the vital life force of the deceased, needed to be fed either with actual food or through a spell so that the spirit of the deceased could continue living in the hereafter.

—Courtesy of the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art

“This is the deceased come to life.”—Robert Cohon



Robert Cohon, Ph.D., UMKC professor and curator of ancient art at The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, stands before the tomb of Meretites. Cohon has spent several years researching the centerpiece of the Egyptian collection at the museum.

After thousands of years and recent whirlwind stops in Germany and China, Meretites' tomb (pronounced mer-et-IT-es and meaning “beloved of her father”) arrived at The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City, Mo., in 2008. It has reached what should be a resting place, just inside the entrance of the Ancient Art Exhibit at the museum.

The man who helped bring the collection to Kansas City is Robert Cohon, Ph.D., curator of ancient art at the museum and professor of art history at UMKC. Cohon chose to give Meretites a prominent spot in the gallery. At the entrance, Meretites welcomes patrons and as she serves as a doorway into a forgotten time. “We wanted to surprise people and give them something a bit funerary,” said Cohon of the casket’s location. “It’s been a big hit.”

Cohon leads the team that has spent a half-decade acquiring the collection and dutifully analyzing its every detail in hopes of unlocking more of its mysterious past. The team has spent countless hours poring over clues. And while it’s hard for the untrained eye to know where to begin at first glance—there are decorations on nearly every square inch of the casket—Cohon starts at the top and works his way down, quickly educating the viewer.

He starts with the shining gold face, its eyes staring knowingly ahead. “It doesn’t look like a human, does it?” Cohon asked. “But it’s not meant to look like a human. It’s meant to look like Osiris, god of the underworld.” Osiris held a special place in ancient Egyptian religion. Believed to have died and been reborn, Osiris was said to have overseen the afterlife. The belief in his story meant that thousands of well-to-do Egyptians were mummified in hopes of joining Osiris in rebirth.

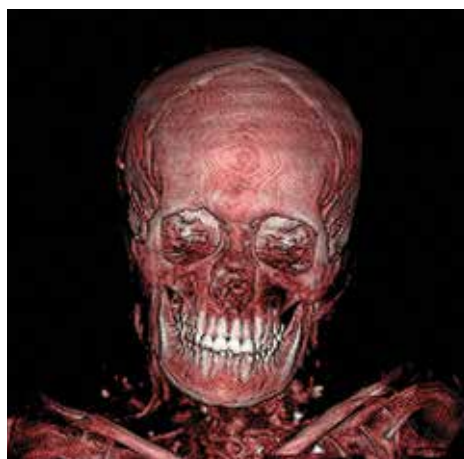
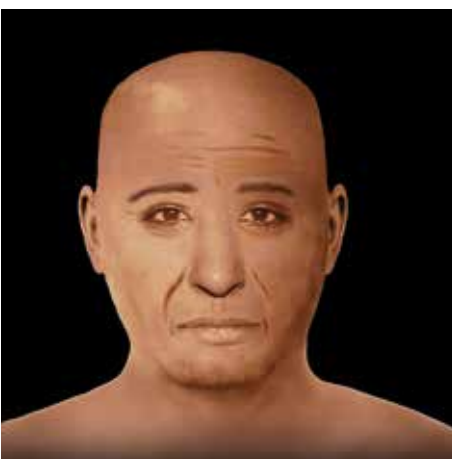
### The living dead

Meretites’ golden face symbolizes the sun, which reflects life and, specifically, rebirth. “The rich reddish ochre suggests the sun’s rays are striking the coffin, bringing her to life. The ancient Egyptians believed that each day, the sun was reborn,” Cohon said. “Meretites wished to be reborn as well.” Black dung beetles the size of small fists speckle the coffin, representing the Egyptians’ fascination with the insects that in myth pushed the sun across the sky. Baboons and a cow also hold a place in Egyptian lore and adorn the casket.

Cohon cautions modern viewers against interpreting the decoration on the coffin as mere symbolism. The images are meant to be much more, he says: They’re magic. The ancient Egyptians’ elaborate mummification, burial and preservation process wasn’t intended to communicate their hope of rebirth—it was meant to communicate their expectation of an afterlife.

The concept of life after death translates to most cultures, so Cohon isn’t surprised that mummies carry appeal today. He said he appreciates the intrigue people have with Egypt, and he hopes to provide a collection that art-lovers and history





UMKC Professor Randy Thompson worked with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) to depict what the ancient Ka-i-nefer would have looked like during his life.

To provide an idea of what Ka-i-nefer looked like, the team produced images using CT scans (left) and sophisticated identification technology.

## Face-to-face with a 2,500-year-old man

So museum-goers would know what it's like to look a 2,500-year-old man in the eye, a team of ATF agents, a cardiologist and a museum curator joined together to solve a mystery. In 2009, Randy Thompson, M.D., a cardiologist at St. Luke's Mid-America Heart Institute in Overland Park, Kan., and professor of medicine at UMKC, led a team that learned more about Ka-i-nefer the mummy. Thompson had spent time analyzing cardiac and vascular CT scans of mummies in Cairo, Egypt, hoping to shed some light on diseases once thought to be conditions of modern man.

Unlike the tomb of Meretites, the display of Ka-i-nefer isn't extravagantly adorned. The remains have been reduced to a tightly-bound but well-preserved human form stretching about five feet long. As a result of the mummification process and natural aging, Ka-i-nefer is the size of a pre-teen. And thanks to Thompson, we now know more about the ancient man.

What Thompson and his team were surprised to discover was that Egyptians, going back as far as the successor to Ramses the Great, suffered from atherosclerosis, a condition of fatty materials gathering on the walls of arteries. When he learned that the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art was home to a mummy of its own, Thompson contacted Robert Cohon, Ph.D., curator of ancient art at the museum and professor at UMKC. Thompson offered to use his knowledge on CT scans that researchers had previously conducted on the museum's mummy.

"We didn't find any disease in the arteries because he was healthier than the mummies in Cairo or the preservation wasn't as strong," Thompson said. "But the skull and the teeth were in very good condition." From Thompson's analysis of the scans, the team determined that the man had suffered a cystic infection in his leg. This may have led to his death at an early age, which Thompson

estimated at 50 to 55 years old.

Thompson's and Cohon's work on the mummy led to a collaboration with the ATF. Using the CT scans, the ATF team used a futuristic program called Electronic Facial Identification Technique Program (EFIT) and Thompson's experience to produce a full depiction of what Ka-i-nefer might have looked like more than 2,400 years ago.

The ATF uses the program to see realistic changes in appearances of missing persons or to develop full facial structures of suspects. In the case of Ka-i-nefer, there was nothing to go on but the CT scans. Still, that was enough for the sophisticated technology to put a face on the mummy.

The result was a depiction of a man with a broad forehead, concerned eyes and deep lines between his mouth and nose. "I've spent a lot of time on these, and it's a fascinating field. To be able to use 21st-century diagnostic techniques to look across two or three millennia is incredible," Thompson said.

buffs appreciate. "People are fascinated by Egypt, and I thought this was exactly what could bring in new audiences and sustain our old audiences," Cohon said.

## Unlocking a story

When Michele Valentine began her work of the Meretites mummy in June 2008, she expected to spend only a few weeks helping Cohon determine how portions of the collection were created and by whom. At the time, she was a graduate student in the UMKC Art History program and had taken two classes taught by the museum curator. Two years and hundreds of hours copiously examining and categorizing later, she completed the capstone on her art history study and a project she said she

never could have fully appreciated when she first began.

As she went about her work, rather than proclaiming why the ancient artists designed the pieces the way they did, Valentine says she tried to arrange them in an order that let the art tell the story. "I didn't go into the assignment with any preconceived notions, so I wasn't trying to prove anything. Instead, I was letting the material tell its own story," Valentine said.

The material may have been on a much smaller scale than the 10-foot tall Meretites sarcophagus, but the scope of its study was just as broad. Valentine's assignment began with a task that sounded simple enough: to determine whether Meretites' 305 ushebti (oo-SHEB-tees) were mold-made or hand-crafted and how that process was completed. Ancient

## MUMMIES 101 //

### Addressing the dressing of the dead

There's more to mummies than what's on the outside. In many ancient cultures, the full preservation of the physical body was believed to help ensure that the dead would either enjoy an afterlife or be reborn. Here's more about the process:

**Step 1.** Remove internal organs and store them separately from the body. They are still needed in the afterlife.

**Step 2.** Fill the body with various materials (including fabric and resin) to maintain its shape.

**Step 3.** Wrap bandages around the body to keep moisture from seeping in and to keep the body from being damaged.

**Step 4.** Place mummy inside a wood or stone coffin for storage inside a larger sarcophagus.

**Step 5.** Seal the coffin into a stone encasement, such as a cave or underground dwelling.

*Statue of Metjetji, courtesy of the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art*

Most mummies were either royalty or extremely wealthy people—the cost of mummification could be significant and not accessible to everyday folks. Here are other facts about mummies that you can use to impress your friends:

- 70: The approximate number of days required to prepare a mummy for entombment.
- Before starting the process, embalmers dry the body using a salt-like product called natron.
- In Egyptian entombments, a team of two or three people prepared the body, wrapped the mummy and artists decorated the tomb.
- In high-end mummifications, toes were sometimes wrapped individually and even capped with gold sheaths to ensure they wouldn't break off.
- Embalmers mummified bodies as recently as the 18th century. Some cultures still use the process to preserve their dead.

Sources: *History.com, Teachnet-lab.org, PBS.org*

Egyptians believed that the ushebti would regenerate with their owner, exist as his or her servants and take on the astonishing amount of work that awaited their owner in the afterlife. Without the ushebti, the coffin itself carried little value.

### The eyes have it

It was an opportunity not every art history student gets to experience. “I got to hold and handle the pieces,” Valentine said. “Students don’t get to typically do that. We’re usually looking at slides and studying pictures of art, not engaging with it.” While the task offered Valentine a rare opportunity, it was not without challenges. She began by dividing the ushebti into four groupings based on the size of the mold the craftsmen used to create them. She expected to spend only a few weeks doing this, but once she dug into the project, she quickly discovered subtle differences in the ushebti and expanded the scope of her work.

It wouldn’t be a simple matter of lining up the figurines by scale. Instead, as she worked on the project she started to notice subtle differences in the figurines: in color, in style, in craftsmanship—she even noticed differences in the smallest places like the noses and eyes. “Almost immediately I could see there were different patterns,” she said. The series of realizations helped Valentine determine that the pieces were developed by separate groups who used different methods and had varying skillsets.

Now, as a UMKC graduate, Valentine looks back fondly on the hundreds of hours she spent studying and arranging the ushebti. She said she was never afraid of the assignment’s growing enormity and was motivated by Cohon’s exuberance. “He was always passionate about what he was teaching, and I liked that about him. He has a different way of looking at art. He teaches you to really look at it and appreciate what it’s telling you,” Valentine said.

Valentine discovered that molds were used, but that the finishing touches were done by hand. Each of the figurines contains an inscription that spelled out the expectation of rebirth and her relation to her mother.

These inscriptions are the most important part of the figurines, Valentine said, as they make them supremely different from any others in the world. The larger ushebti stand a few inches taller and were related to characters from an ancient book of the dead. They were supposed to instruct the smaller ushebti about service to Meretites upon regeneration.

### Unsolved mysteries

To help guide Cohon and his team and to answer questions that came up as they conducted research, the museum brought in Joyce Haynes, the world’s expert on ushebti. And through a fellowship from the UMKC Women’s Council, Valentine





Alumna Michele Valentine spent two years studying and organizing the 305 ushebti that were buried with Meretites to serve the ancient Egyptian in the afterlife. The project served as Valentine's signature research project and allowed her an opportunity to get first-hand experience with the art she studied.

traveled to Boston and New York City to study other ushebti. She says the research was helpful, but she was never able to find an ushebti collection quite as spectacular or complete as the display in Kansas City. "Museum visitors can get a good look at them and be amazed by how different each face is. It's rare and it adds to the whole exhibit."

**"Visitors to the museum can get a good look at them and be amazed by how different each face is."** –Michele Valentine

Even after the years she spent cataloguing the ushebti, Valentine has questions that she realizes might never be answered. She's particularly curious about the ancient people who carefully sculpted each figurine to serve Meretites in the next life. "Why did they write the inscriptions the way they did? Why do some have larger features?" Valentine asked. "We'll probably never know the answers to that."

If you want to test your skills at examining the ushebti, Valentine is happy to challenge you: Try to find the two that are different from all the others. Only two of the 305

ushebti were created without beards. Cohon gives Valentine credit for her eagle eyes and the attention to detail she used during her work on the display. "She's dedicated—you can see how complex the work would be trying to figure out who made each one of these," Cohon said. "It's easy to look at them once and say, 'Oh, they all look the same,' but

then you begin to notice the countless little differences. It's a difficult call."

Like Valentine, Cohon said he has unearthed eternal mysteries during his work on this project. But unlike his former student, his work isn't complete. He's excited that

there's no end to his research. And he said he hopes there never will be. So for now, Cohon and his students continue analyzing the collection, asking questions of the unknown and accepting that there are mysteries they may never solve.

**➔ To learn more about the Nelson-Atkins ancient art exhibit, visit [nelson-atkins.org](http://nelson-atkins.org). To learn more about the Women's Council Fellowship Program that helped Valentine to complete her studies, visit [umkcwc.org](http://umkcwc.org).**

# Beats, ball gowns and buttons

From a lesbian-focused album collection to spectacular cabaret costumes and two decades of AIDS Walk T-shirts, the Gay and Lesbian Archive of Mid-America (GLAMA) features important pieces of American history. The Dr. Kenneth J. LaBudde Department of Special Collections in the Miller Nichols Library at UMKC houses the collection. Founded in late 2009 as a partnership between the Kansas City Museum, the

Jackson County Historical Society and the UMKC libraries, GLAMA was established to collect, preserve, and make accessible the documents and artifacts that reflect the history of the gay and lesbian community of the Kansas City area. "The response has been enthusiastic," said Stuart Hinds, head of Special Collections at LaBudde. "We've picked up about a dozen collections in our first year." These are just a few highlights.

by PAT MCSPARIN



## GLAMA MUSIC COLLECTION

Included in the archive are albums, books and other materials donated by Kansas Citian Diane Constantine. Hinds said Chuck Haddix, host of KCUR's "The Fish Fry," was thrilled with the music collection because the albums are rare, having had limited distribution when they were produced. A particularly rare piece that Hinds acquired separately from the Constantine collection is the Rae Bourbon album. A female impersonator—called a "fem mimic" in the 1960s—Bourbon was a national touring artist, performing his lounge and cabaret act at clubs such as Kansas City's Jewel Box.

➔ For information or to make a donation to the GLAMA archive, contact Stuart Hinds at 816-235-5712.

## KANSAS CITY AIDS WALK T-SHIRT COLLECTION

A gift from activist Mike Sugnet, the archive's collection of every Kansas City AIDS Walk T-shirt produced since the first walk in 1988 represents a milestone grassroots public health initiative. To help raise funds for the walk, the Kansas City Museum published a book of postcards featuring each individual shirt. Purchase books by contacting the museum at 816-483-8300 or visit [kcmuseum100.org](http://kcmuseum100.org). —Photo by Bruce Bandle







### MELINDA RYDER COLLECTION

The Melinda Ryder collection of dresses, costumes and promotional materials, donated by Bruce Winter and Kirk Nelson, adds a touch of sparkle to the archive. As the stage persona of Winter, Ryder has performed in clubs and cabarets around the region for more than 35 years and is a former Miss Gay America second runner-up.

### ACTIVIST BUTTONS

A popular and effective way to raise awareness, buttons are an important part of the archive. The two below are from the Scoop Phillips collection. A prominent activist and prolific writer until his death in 2008, Phillips played a role in making Kansas City a center in the LGBT movement.

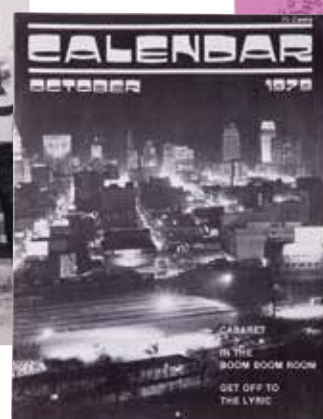
### PUBLICATIONS

Included in the archive are a wide range of magazines, fliers and brochures dating back to the 1960s, covering everything from news and issues to calendars of events from all over the country. Part of the collection was donated by the Lesbian and Gay Community Center of Kansas City.



### LGBTQIA SCHOLARSHIP

With leadership from alumnus Paolo Andino (M.F.A. '97), star of Logo network's *Big Gay Sketch Show*, UMKC recently established the LGBTQIA Scholarship. The scholarship will provide financial support to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, queer, intersex and allied (LGBTQIA) students who have demonstrated a commitment to the LGBTQIA community through volunteerism and meet academic standards. "This scholarship provides UMKC and the community with an opportunity to grow and excel," said Karen L. Dace, Ph.D., deputy chancellor of Diversity, Access and Equity. "The actions of those who believe we benefit from a culture that's rich with the contributions of all citizens strengthens UMKC's commitment to diversity—financially and philosophically." For more information or to donate to the LGBTQIA Scholarship, contact Karen English at 816-235-1139.



# They served and studied

## GI Bill makes education accessible to generations of students

by PAT MCSPARIN

■ The Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, better known as the GI Bill, has been called one of the most important pieces of legislation of the 20th century. It has helped make college possible for millions of veterans. A few of UMKC's veteran alumni share their stories here.

### From training bomb dogs to teaching kids

As a senior airman in the United States Air Force, Chad Morgan (B.A. '00) served as a K-9 handler. "I had a bomb dog," he says. Today, he's a middle school principal. Stationed at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., Morgan's job with the Air Force was similar to that of a civilian police K-9 handler. He patrolled base housing and other parts of the base, including the flight line areas, and he conducted base entry point checks several times a week, searching cars coming on to the base. Morgan was also called out to any bomb threats in the area. "Someone once called a bomb threat in to Warrensburg High School (Mo.) and my dog and I went to the school to conduct the search," he said.

He was also called on to provide security for important events like political campaign visits. "Military dogs are used to search areas of presidential candidate visits, high-profile dignitaries and so on," Morgan said. "I had the opportunity to go to Iowa State University and work a speech for President Clinton. Getting to work with the Secret Service and see some behind-the-scenes preparation was exciting." And while his job as a middle school principal seems like a world away from bomb-sniffing dogs, make no mistake: His experience in the military helps him succeed as an educator. "I learned about dealing with different situations—stressful situations," he said of his military training. "I learned about dealing with adversity—how to handle it. The training made a huge difference. You learn to work together and get the job done."

Morgan said the ability to handle stressful situations is important when dealing with kids—especially middle school kids. "My old principal used to say 'they're not done yet,'" Morgan said. "They're in that weird stage where sometimes even their own parents don't like them. But I really like middle school age because of the in-between range. You can still kid around with them but they still want your approval." Morgan has an

unusual vantage point when it comes to the students who are seeking his approval: He stood exactly where they stand. Morgan is principal of Senath-Hornersville Middle School in Hornersville, Mo., the same middle school he attended as a kid.

The GI Bill not only helped Morgan earn his degree. The support he received from the program also helped his wife, Shannon, earn her LL.M., at the UMKC School of Law. "My wife was going to law school. We were both full-time students, and we were taking more than the minimum class load," he said. "She couldn't work, so I had a full-time job. We used the GI Bill to supplement our income, it being expensive to live in Kansas City. We had never been to Kansas City before, so we just took it all in. We really tried to take as much in as possible during those three years we were there."

Senior Airman Chad Morgan and his military working dog, Lion, at Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia, in 1996.







Left: Pvt. Alice Tanner (Boyer), Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, Summer 1943. Right: As a University of Kansas City School of Law faculty member Boyer organized slides in the law library as part of a project producing visual aids for teaching legal bibliography.

# Adventures of a truck driver-librarian-lawyer

UMKC Conservatory of Music and Dance alumna Margaret Owens (B.M. '77, M.M. '78) exudes pride when she talks about the life of her mother, Alice (Tanner) Boyer (L.L.B. '51), who passed away in 2002. And why wouldn't she? It's the story of a soldier, legislator, lawyer, teacher and mother. And truck driver.

“All of her professors had quit to go to war, so she did, too.” –Margareth Owens

When war came to the United States in 1941, Boyer was a graduate student at Kansas City University. She soon joined the newly formed Women's Army Auxiliary Corps. When asked what would compel a young female graduate student to enlist, the answer made perfect sense: "She said all of her professors had quit to go to war, so she did, too," Owens said. "After she completed basic training, she was assigned to the motor corps—she drove a truck."

Boyer's job as an Army truck driver was brief, however. When the Army learned she was educated, it sent her to England where she was assigned to a unit that tracked troop movements leading up to D-Day. She was then assigned to the Counter Intelligence Corps, and after Germany surrendered, she was placed with the U.S. Army Office of Military Government in Berlin. "She looked at it as a great adventure and a real opportunity to serve her country," Owens said.

The military was not the end of her service. Just a few years after coming home from the war at the age of 26,

Boyer took on her next adventure. “She stood for election in 1946 and won,” Owens explained. “She served on the Missouri State Legislature from 1947 to 1948 and represented the 9th District of Jackson County.”

Inspired by her position as a lawmaker, Boyer enrolled in the Kansas City University School of Law in the fall of 1947, and like most of the challenges she took on, she did so without hesitation. “She’d been a woman in a man’s world



in the army during World War II,” Owens said. “Law school was also a man’s world, but it held no terrors for her. She worked a full-time job, traveled to Jefferson City, Mo., for the legislature and attended night classes at KCU law school at the same time.”

Boyer didn’t stay in politics after finishing law school. “She liked making laws,” Owens said, “but I don’t think the politics part fit for her.” Instead, she took a job at the law school and was the law librarian when the KCU law library moved into the new building. To prepare for the move, every student checked out a certain number of books at the old library, then had to check them back in at the new library building. Boyer’s service at the university didn’t end there. While the law school didn’t have a woman credited as an official assistant professor until 1958, Boyer was an instructor from 1951 to 1953, teaching courses in criminal law, military law, restitution and statutory construction.

After leaving the law school faculty, Boyer’s law practice was limited to mostly pro bono work. Owens says with pride that her mother left the law school to do what women did in the 1950s: raise a family.

## A wife, mother, student ... and Marine

When Linda Roth (M.Ed. ’77) earned her bachelor’s degree, she felt the need to give back. “I wanted to do something: the Peace Corps, VISTA, those organizations,” she said. “But I wasn’t sure I could handle dirt and bugs.” So she interviewed with the different branches of service and liked how the Marine Corps treated her.

“These were not just good professors at UMKC—schools all over the country used their books.” —Linda Roth

Unrest over the war in Vietnam made it a time in history when the military wasn’t the most popular way for college students to serve their community and country. But Roth says the atmosphere was different at her school, the University of Tulsa, and she didn’t hesitate to sign up. “Nobody said, ‘You can’t do that,’ ” she said. “The war wasn’t popular, and I wasn’t necessarily a supporter of the war. But I wanted to do something, and it seemed like the right thing to do.” Roth said she also liked the challenge. “There were



The women of the KCU School of Law’s Class of 1951, left to right: Verlyn Reese (Munoz), Bettie Hynson (Flemington), Alice Tanner (Boyer), Ida Turner and Rosemary Roberts (Kehrer).

people who said I didn’t look strong enough to be a Marine and who told me I’d never survive the Marine Corps. You don’t tell me I can’t do something.” So, she joined the Marines.

Roth married a fellow Marine Corps officer and was serving as a training support officer at Camp Lejeune, N.C., when she became pregnant. Honorably discharged as a first lieutenant, her next challenge was awaiting her. Her husband left on assignment to Okinawa, Japan, and she moved the family to Kansas City. “While he was gone, I thought I’d get my master’s degree, not realizing how difficult it would be with two kids,” she said. Using her GI Bill benefits, Roth finished her master’s in Reading Education. “It was a great program,” she said. “I had Professors Emeritus of Education Helen Huus, Tony Manzo and Warren Wheelock. These were not just good professors at UMKC—schools all over the country used their books.”

➔ Read about Dental School alumnus Commander Ben Gaines, USN (Ret.), and the 20 years he served in three branches of the military at [perspectives.umkc.edu](https://perspectives.umkc.edu).

# Turning troops' lives rightside up



## 70 YEARS OF HOPE

As World War II loomed in 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt recognized the advantages that would come with an alliance of organizations such as the Salvation Army, YMCA and YWCA. His solution was the United Services Organization—better known as the USO. Sloan Gibson, (middle) along with members of Congress, stuffed care packages for female troops serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

—USO photo by Joe Lee

**USO President Sloan Gibson** (M.A. '75) has good news, bad news and a mission. “The good news is that there are troops coming home today who’ve survived wounds on the battlefield that they wouldn’t have survived in previous wars. The bad news is their lives and their families’ lives have been turned upside down. Long after the war is over, we’re still going to be dealing with these wounded warriors and their families, and we need to make sure that we’re there for them.”

A graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point and former Army Ranger, Gibson earned his master’s degree in economics at UMKC while stationed at Fort Leavenworth. “I chose to get a graduate degree in economics purely out of intellectual curiosity,” Gibson said. “My time in class, studying and writing was a time of intense intellectual engagement for me, and it was a real source of fulfillment.”

With a master’s degree in hand and his military service complete, Gibson worked 20 years in banking, but he never stopped giving back. He worked with several non-profits throughout his career. After completing a second master’s degree, Gibson got the phone call that changed his life. “It was a recruiter looking to fill this job,” he said. “I told him I’d do it in a minute. And as great as I thought it would be, it’s a million times better.”

Since 1941, the USO has been dedicated to lifting the spirits of America’s troops and their families. The USO hosts more

than 700 performances and events yearly and operates about 160 centers around the world, including seven locations in Afghanistan and three in Iraq. It also provides services that seem relatively modest but are incredibly important to troops and their families. “It’s things as simple as a duffle bag of clothes, magazines and an MP3 player or portable DVD player for a wounded warrior who arrives at a medical center with not even a shirt on his back,” Gibson said.

As the organization marks its 70th anniversary this year, the USO will launch Operation Enduring Care, a \$100 million fundraising initiative. Part of the funds the USO raises will go toward construction of two 25,000-square-foot USO centers that will provide non-medical support for wounded troops and their families at Bethesda Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., and a new medical center at Fort Belvoir, Va. Gibson said these facilities are vital to helping the organization better serve troops and their families into the future. “There’s a legacy of 10-plus years of war that we as a society will have to deal with,” Gibson said, “and that legacy has to do with troops who’ve been wounded. We never want wounded warriors and their families—or families who’ve lost a loved one—to feel despair. We want them to feel hope. We want them to know there’s a caring community prepared to help them.”

PAT MCSPARIN

## College and School Alumni Achievement Awardees

### COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Durwin Rice (B.A. '78)

### SCHOOL OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Stephanie Karst (Ph.D. '00)

### BLOCH SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT

Joe Freeman (B.S. '93)

### SCHOOL OF COMPUTING AND ENGINEERING

Len Rodman (M.S. '78)

### CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC AND DANCE

Mikel Rouse (Cons '78)

### SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

Paulette Spencer (D.D.S. '78,  
Ph.D. '93)

### DENTAL HYGIENE

Ann Battrell (M.S. '07)

### SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Steven Obenhaus (B.A. '88,  
M.A. '96)

### SCHOOL OF LAW

Peter Levi (J.D. '69, L.L.M. '71)

### SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Mamta Reddy (M.D. '98)

### SCHOOL OF NURSING

Debra White (M.S.N. '99)

### SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

Samuel Strada (B.S.P. '64,  
M.S. '68)

# 2011 Alumni awards

by PAT MCSPARIN

## Cynthia Watson

ALUMNA OF THE YEAR

A world-renowned authority on security policy analysis, Cynthia Watson (B.A. '78) has directly affected U.S. and foreign policy in everything from civil-military relations to national security issues. And she credits UMKC for helping her succeed in her field.

"I got a wonderful education at UMKC," Watson said, "and not just what I learned in books and what I learned in lecture halls. UMKC made me really recognize the role that education plays in our society, and it also reminds me what it is that society is interested in. I never take for granted when we have a conversation inside the Beltway that people outside it are going to have the same views."

Watson serves as chair of the National War College's Department of Security Studies, is a member of the International Institute for Strategic Studies, and a fellow of the Inter-University Seminar on Armed Forces and Society. Described by colleagues and students as a gifted classroom teacher and unrivaled scholar, Watson is a sought-after speaker and a prolific author. Her book *U.S. National Security* won the 2003 CHOICE award as academic book of the year.



Alumni award recipients will be honored at the Celebration 2011 Awards Luncheon on April 27. For ticket information, visit [umkcalumni.com](http://umkcalumni.com) or call 816-235-1563. Read more about this year's recipients at [perspectives.umkc.edu](http://perspectives.umkc.edu).



A portrait of Cynthia Watson, an older woman with long, wavy, light-colored hair. She is wearing a black long-sleeved top and a multi-strand necklace of red beads. She is seated, with her hands resting on her lap, and is looking directly at the camera with a calm expression. The background is softly blurred, showing what appears to be a window with sheer curtains and some wooden architectural elements.

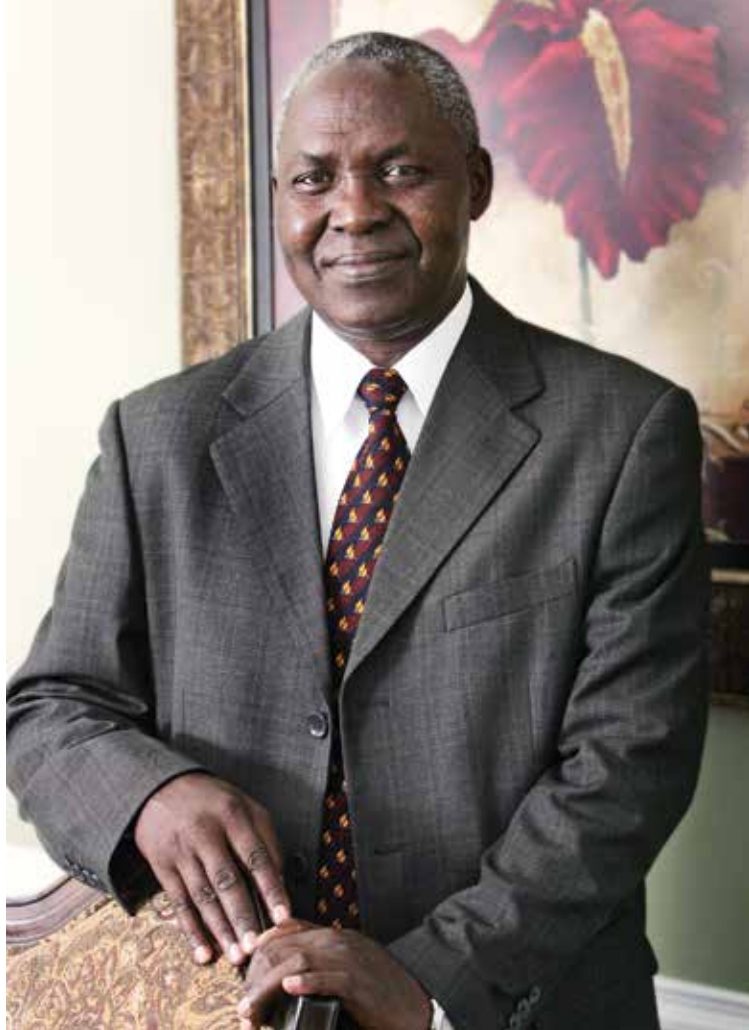
“I never take  
for granted  
when we have  
a conversation  
inside the  
Beltway that  
people outside  
it are going to  
have the same  
views.” –Cynthia Watson

## Mutuku Mutinga

DEFYING THE ODDS AWARD

It was uncommon for children in the tiny village of Machakos, Kenya, to complete the fourth grade. But Mutuku Mutinga (M.S. '68) is uncommon. He moved on his own to Uganda where he could pursue his primary and high school education. Motivated by the devastation that malaria caused his family and homeland, he worked, learned and eventually took his master's degree from UMKC home to Kenya. There, his research and dedication yielded patents and breakthroughs that would improve the lives of thousands suffering from malaria and insect-borne diseases. He co-founded Kenya's first chartered university and he recently accepted the position of vice chancellor (the equivalent of president) of Zambia Adventist University.

*—Photo by Anne McQuary*



## Michelle LaPointe

BILL FRENCH ALUMNI SERVICE AWARD

Loving your alma mater is one thing—working tirelessly to make it better is another. That's exactly the dedication Michelle LaPointe (B.A. '80) has shown UMKC. In addition to co-chairing UMKC's 75th anniversary celebration, she chaired the UMKC Alumni Awards celebrations for four years, served as president of the College of Arts and Sciences Alumni Board and as an officer of the Alumni Association Governing Board. From her board service to her volunteer leadership in helping plant 75,000 tulips on and around campus, she is being honored for her extensive commitment to UMKC.





## Salazar Family

### LEGACY AWARD

The Legacy Award honors a family with a tradition of attending UMKC and a commitment to serving the university, community and profession. This year's recipients epitomize family tradition. The Salazar family has two generations of UMKC alumni—a total of 14 family members. The family is dedicated to the community, from Tony Salazar, who helped found the Hispanic Development Fund, to Irene Salazar Caudillo, who served as director of Children and Family Services for Catholic Charities. They show their commitment to UMKC through service. Erica Hernandez-Scott works with the Institute for Urban Education as she completes her doctorate, and Carlos Salazar leads the UMKC Hispanic Advisory Board and serves on the UMKC Alumni Association Board. The university is honoring the Salazar family members for their unwavering support and service to UMKC and the community.

Left to right from top: Mac Salazar, Velia Salazar, Carlos E. Salazar (A&S) B.A. '78, Mac O. Salazar Jr. (Bloch) M.B.A. '77, Tony M. Salazar (A&S) B.A. '74, Art M. Salazar (A&S) B.A. '75, Erica Hernandez-Scott (EDU) M.A. '08, Virginia Salazar Bellis (A&S) B.A. '84, Irma Salazar Robinson (Attended) '83-85, Irene Salazar-Caudillo (Bloch) M.P.A. '90, Jesse Hernandez (SCE) B.S. '94, Jessica Hernandez-Luster (A&S) B.A. '08, Melissa Salazar-Webster (NRS) B.S.N. '06, Art J. Salazar (Law) JD '10, (A&S) B.A. '07.



## Jacki Witt

### SPOTLIGHT AWARD

Commitment and service to the community have defined Jacki Witt's (M.S.N. '87, J.D. '92) career. As one of the founders of the Helen Gragg Clinic at Operation Breakthrough, she has helped provide healthcare access to hundreds of parents and children. Through her work with underserved mothers, she received one of 11 national Cherokee Inspired Comfort awards. A member of the UMKC School of Nursing faculty, she serves on the Board of Directors for the Maternal Child Health Coalition of Greater Kansas City and as the project director for the U.S. Department of Health's National Clinical Training Center training clinicians in family planning clinics. She is a women's health nurse practitioner at the Kansas City Free Health Clinic and the Women's Wellness Center at Truman Medical Centers.





# Against the grain

## Paving the way to found the School of Medicine

by PAT MCSPARIN

In the library at Diastole, E. Grey Dimond, M.D., sits in a chair that was a gift from his late wife. The teak chair's hand-carved details bear witness to a craftsman rendering absolute focus and unwavering commitment into creating something both strong and beautiful. For dedicating that same brand of care and commitment to UMKC for more than 40 years, Dimond is being honored with the 2011 Chancellor's Medal.

Provost Emeritus for Health Sciences, Dimond is the founder of UMKC's School of Medicine. According to Dimond, city leaders Nathan Stark and Homer Wadsworth proposed to Kansas City Mayor H. Roe Bartle in 1962 that the university take over what was then General Hospital. Bartle agreed and later told Dimond that he laughed all day at the offer thinking he had gotten rid of the place.

**"It's hard for families to send a kid to college and then to medical school for four years." –E. Grey Dimond**

As their plan moved forward, Stark and Wadsworth convinced Dimond and his wife, Mary, to join them. UMKC's School of Medicine opened in the fall of 1970 and has since graduated more than 3,000 doctors. But Dimond did more than help establish the Medical School. He also developed the school's six-year B.A./M.D. program, which revolutionized the way medical schools educate doctors. Dimond first had the idea when he was a professor at University of Kansas before coming to UMKC.

"I was on the search and admissions committees for recruiting kids," he said, "and I was also a professor, so I was both selecting students and teaching students. At that time, everyone went to college for four years and to medical school for four years. As I watched, I saw that we were too late. I saw that these were serious kids and four years of college slowed many of them down. They were being wasted to a great extent. I gradually formed my idea: Why not get them into medical school and liberal arts at the same time?"

A proud and defiant look comes to Dimond's face as he talks about the development of the six-year program. An idea as

revolutionary as that didn't come together without pushback. Dimond and his colleagues overcame resistance from all sides, including the medical community and colleges and universities across the country.

"The barrier to doing this was so many liberal arts schools in this country make their living off of pre-med students," he said. "It's hard for families to send a kid to college and then to medical school for four years. The economics of the U.S. makes the six-year program much more attractive. But even in Missouri—just think about the good liberal arts schools—all of them resented what we were doing."

Today, several medical schools have added a version of the six-year program, but many encountered similar obstacles along the way. "Harvard has twice tried to implement a similar

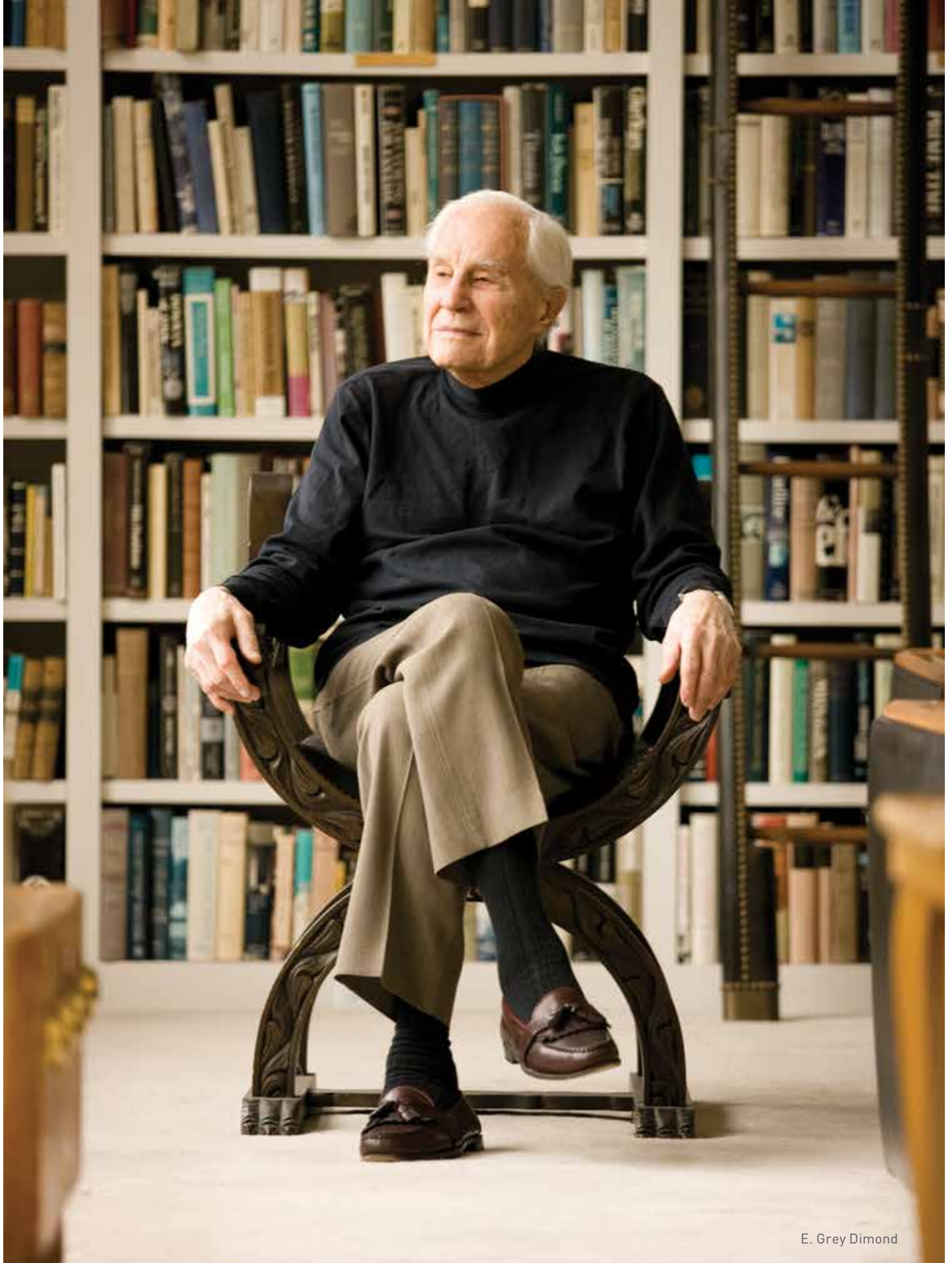
program," Dimond said. "The College of Arts and Sciences at Harvard resented this thing where you could enter medical school and at the same time pick up liberal arts credits. They had to stop. But they came back again, and now they have a variety of what we're doing."

Dimond's impact is visible everywhere in UMKC's School of Medicine. The E. Grey Dimond, M.D., Program in International

Medicine gives students the opportunity to develop an understanding of patient cultures and traditions in foreign countries and to gain international experience. The E. Grey Dimond, M.D., Take Wing Award honors a graduate who has excelled in medicine, academic medicine, research or community service. Take Wing is a bronze sculpture cast from a carving Dimond created in 1952 from a piece of driftwood. The sculpture stands in front of the School of Medicine.

The most visible of Dimond's legacy is the Mary Clark and E. Grey Dimond Scholars' Center, better known as Diastole. Dimond and his wife established Diastole as a peaceful and inspirational gathering place available for UMKC retreats, recitals, meetings, reunions and other university gatherings. The tranquil compound is named for the interim between heartbeats when the heart muscle is at rest.

Dimond sits in the hand-carved chair in Diastole. Volumes of books about everything from history to poetry to medicine surround him. But on Hospital Hill, he is also encircled by the medical school borne and shaped by his focus, determination and commitment.



E. Grey Dimond



# Homegrown improvement

Celebrating 40 years of non-traditional, practical education

by ERICK R. SCHMIDT

After all the skills and hobbies Communiversity has brought into their lives—like car repair, gardening, yoga and guitar lessons—Liz Donnelly and her family feel like regulars when they walk into a class. Most recently, Liz, the family matriarch, enrolled herself and two daughters in a letterpress class. It was the latest in a series of courses the family has taken during the past 25 years.

For Donnelly and her seven children (six daughters, one son), partaking in Communiversity classes has become a family tradition. “It’s fun to have my children share these things together,” Liz said. “We’ve spent a lot of time laughing and talking about classes we’ve taken.” Communiversity is the community’s adult education program sponsored by UMKC’s Office of Student Involvement. Now 40 years old, Communiversity celebrates its role in educating nearly 1,500 registrants per semester.

Donnelly began taking the classes out of necessity: she needed to know how to care for the family’s car. But she now seeks

out classes more for entertainment than gaining life skills. “In almost every class, I’ve met very interesting people and teachers who are very interested in what they’re teaching,” she said.

Community adult education exploded in popularity during the 1960s, but unlike many adult education programs that establish a list of courses and then fill those classes with interested teachers, Communiversity has always allowed participants to submit their own ideas for classes they’d like to teach.

If anyone understands the accomplishment of Communiversity’s 40 years, it’s Rick Mareske. He has served as program coordinator since 1978. The secret to its success? Mareske said it comes down to the philosophy of Communiversity. “It’s a chance for people to share a skill or an idea with other people. It creates a venue that makes that possible so people don’t have to do their own marketing,” he said. “For the people who sign up, it’s pretty casual and it doesn’t cost much. They just go for it.”





Chuck Harper teaches Communiversity letterpress classes in his basement using authentic machinery (opposite).

Jordan Billings teaches Introduction to Fencing at local school Academie Lafayette. The class is offered as an aerobic workout as well as a competitive sport (left).

Rick Mareske, Communiversity coordinator, has played guitar since 1968 and offers lessons through the program (below).

The method has been enticing to thousands of students and teachers, some of whom have participated for 20 years or more. One of those is Stanley Parsons, a retired UMKC history professor who taught at the University from 1964 to 1990. Parsons has transferred his knowledge into teaching two Communiversity courses per semester. “This is the best teaching gig I’ve ever had,” Parsons said. “I’m learning more and reading more and have a chance to prepare presentations, which I never had as a professor.” One reason Communiversity fits both students and teachers, Parsons said, is because everyone in the room is interested in the content. “I prefer having conversations with my students, rather than putting things in their mind. I have that freedom with Communiversity courses,” he said.

Mareske said the mutual interest between students and teachers helps keep class options fresh throughout the years. Despite his extensive history with the program, he said he can’t predict which classes will be popular. He’s seen trends—meditation classes were popular in the 1980s—but he doesn’t bother trying to guess. “You never know. I’m continually surprised by what works and what takes off,” Mareske said. “If it’s on *Oprah*, there’s a good chance it’ll be hugely popular.” For example, a surge in the popularity of a Communiversity pole dancing class followed a spot about pole dancing on *The Oprah Winfrey Show*. In just a few weeks, the class had to be split into sections A through T. Some of the courses with the highest enrollment in 2010 included beer-tasting, art collecting and printmaking.

The most successful class in the program’s history in terms of tangible results was a course in radio production that eventually led to the founding of Kansas City radio station KKFI 90.1 FM. “I like the idea of people having a place where they can create class ideas and try them out, see what works. I think that’s fun,” Mareske says. “It’s improvisational in a lot of ways.”



## A STRONG SIGNAL

Do you hear that? It’s the sound of volunteer-based community radio. KKFI 90.1 FM is a non-commercial, independent community radio station in Kansas City, Mo., that began in 1977 as a community radio broadcasting course within—you guessed it—Communiversity. The goal at the time was modest enough: To share the skills people need to be on the radio and to start a station. Nearly 35 years after the initial class session drew in a few dozen interested volunteers, KKFI stands as the strongest independent radio station in the Kansas City area, reaching thousands of listeners using a new 100,000-watt transmitter. Classes are still offered through the station. For more information, visit [kkfi.org](http://kkfi.org).





The environmentally friendly building serves as a new central hub on campus where students can relax. –Photo by Bob Greenspan

## Shiny, new Student Union opens

UMKC students now have a new spot on campus where they can study, grab a bite to eat or meet up between classes. The current student population of about 14,500 had outgrown the University Center, which was built in 1961 for a student population of about 3,600. After almost two years of construction, the 110,000-square-foot, \$38.3 million Student Union had its grand opening in October 2010. The new Student Union will be able to accommodate the university's continuously increasing enrollment. The environmentally friendly, LEED-certified building has

everything a student could need and more: a food court (featuring Baja Fresh, Chick-Fil-A and Jazzman's Café and Bakery), coffee house, retail space, printing and copying services, meeting rooms, stage area, lounge seating, game room, atrium and expanded parking garage. It also features a two-story bookstore, movie theater, outside bicycle storage, public transportation access, storm water control and a rooftop patio overlooking the Country Club Plaza. UMKC students were the force behind the project and funded it entirely with student fees.



Morton honored Dale for her contribution to UMKC at a February luncheon.  
–Photo by Troy Thomas

## Alumna's \$1 million gift supports three scholarships

A \$1 million gift from Jo Anna Dale (B.A. '52) will create the Jo Anna Dale English Scholarship and support two scholarships Dale previously established: the Jo Anna Dale Scholarship in Creative Writing (established in 2007) and the Jo Anna Dale Conservatory Scholarship (established in 2010).

Dale has cultivated a strong interest in literature and creative writing since she first stepped

foot on the UMKC campus in the late 1940s. Although she majored in English, Dale is also an avid supporter of the performing arts, so her \$1 million gift will be divided equally between the Department of English and the Conservatory of Music and Dance.

In addition to the three scholarships, she established the Dale Vocal Studies Travel Fund in 2008, which provides financial

support to vocal students needing to travel to launch their careers.

"Her generosity provides students in two of UMKC's fine programs with the resources necessary to reach their potential," said UMKC Chancellor Leo E. Morton. "This type of support exemplifies the pride the university's alumni have in their school." Dale, a published writer, said she hopes to foster a new generation of writers and musicians.



## A local composer from a world away

When Chen Yi was a teenager, she was torn from her home in Guangzhou, China, and the music she loved. During the Cultural Revolution of the 1960s and early 1970s, education came to a halt and many people in China, including Chen and her family, were put to work in large communities in the countryside. The government rejected art and culture in favor of massive industrial, agricultural and labor growth. Chen, the Lorena Searcy Cravens/Millsap/Missouri Distinguished Professor at the UMKC Conservatory of Music and Dance, began studying piano when she was three years old. But at the age of 15, she found herself miles away from what was familiar. She was working 10 hours a day in vegetable and rice fields. "It was intensive labor," she said.

After two years of working in the fields, the government sent her back to the city. Once there, she joined the Revolutionary Opera, which needed a Western orchestra accompaniment. Chen said the government used the orchestra to publicly promote its "hero" image. This orchestra needed to sound better than a traditional Chinese ensemble, so she took on the role of concert master because of her background and training in classical music as a child. During this time, she was allowed to practice Western classical music in addition to her duties with the orchestra.

**"I've been in Kansas City for 12 years, and the culture here influences my music greatly." –Chen Yi**

After the revolution, she finished her education in Beijing, where she was the first woman to earn a master's degree in composition. She headed to Columbia University in New York City, where she earned her doctorate of musical arts. In 1993, Chen became the composer-in-residence of the Women's Philharmonic, the Chanticleer Vocal Ensemble and the Aptos Creative Center in San Francisco supported by a grant from Meet the Composer. After the position ended in 1996, she started her first full-time teaching position at the Composition Department of the Peabody Conservatory at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Md.

The UMKC Conservatory of Music and Dance invited her to join the composition program in 1998 as the Lorena Searcy Cravens/Millsap/Missouri Distinguished Professor in music composition. "I was happy to come here and have been working hard in my position," she said. "I love my students and I'm a devoted teacher."



Chen Yi is composing an orchestral piece for the Kauffman Center opening.

The last year was a busy one for Chen. In addition to her teaching duties, she composed two pieces for a wind symphony that a consortium of university bands, NWECCG (35 bands) and the Mid-America Competing Band Directors Association (13 bands) commissioned. She also completed two pieces for choir and chamber ensembles, one for the San Francisco Girls

Chorus and Cypress String Quartet, the other for the Richmond University Choir and the eighth blackbird Chamber Ensemble. She has also composed several choral works that can be sung in Chinese or English.

In 2011, Chen will be working on an orchestral piece for the Seattle Symphony, but perhaps her biggest project of the year will be a major piece for the Kansas City Symphony that the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts commissioned to celebrate the grand opening of the new performing arts facility. "I will aim for presenting something that represents Kansas City's culture," she said. "I'm a local composer, and I consider Kansas City home. When other orchestras commission a piece, they always think of my Asian culture. But when I compose, it's natural to blend everything I experience. I've been in Kansas City for 12 years, and the culture here influences my music greatly." The piece will come together quickly: She will write it in a month.

Even when she works quickly she says she hopes her creative work is inspiring to her audience. "Music as a language is abstract, but it's a universal language—we share emotion, beauty, thinking and cultural backgrounds through performance and appreciation with musicians and audience."

AMANDA BERTHOLF



SCHOOL OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES //

## Culture shock: Fungal center curator elected to international board



Kevin McCluskey, Ph.D., knows his yeasts, molds and mushrooms, and the World Federation for Culture Collections (WFCC) has taken notice. The UMKC School of Biological Sciences associate professor, who also serves as the curator of the Fungal Genetics

Stock Center (FGSC), was elected to the WFCC Executive Board and is the only current board member representing the United States.

The board includes leading scientists from countries around the world, including Belgium, Brazil, China, Germany, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and Russia. “Being elected by my peers is a great honor and reinforces my commitment to working

to develop culture collection resources in the U.S.,” he said. “It emphasizes that there’s value in working to bring together researchers from areas including genetics, plant pathology, mycology and industrial microbiology.”

McCluskey said that in this role, he will be part of a growing effort to establish a network of repositories available to researchers studying microbes associated with plants and the environment. Being on the WFCC executive board allows him to make an impact on that process. “I also hope to raise awareness of a number of issues, including barriers to open sharing of research materials as well as the impact of genetic engineering on collection biology and material transfers.”

The WFCC is a commission involved with the collection, authentication, maintenance and distribution of cultures of microorganisms and cultured cells. The group aims to promote and

support the establishment of culture collections and related services, to provide liaison and an information network between the collections and their users, and to ensure the long-term perpetuation of important collections.

Founded in 1960 at Dartmouth University, the FGSC is a collection of fungi research materials used for global research in genetics, cell biology, medicine and plant pathology. The center distributes materials to research laboratories across the globe. Since moving to UMKC in 2004, the FGSC has doubled in size and has distributed more than 360,000 cultures worldwide. “Because the FGSC distributes cultures to countries from South Africa to Iceland, UMKC gains significant international name recognition,” McCluskey said. In turn, the success of the FGSC attracts additional materials and attention.

AMANDA BERTHOLF

MILLER NICHOLS LIBRARY //

## R00bot

Last fall, UMKC students, faculty, staff and community supporters voted and chose the name R00bot, a combination of UMKC’s kangaroo mascot and robot, for the libraries’ new robot retrieval system. Coming in second was the name Capek, after the Czech playwright who popularized the word “robot” in his 1921 play *R.U.R.* In third place was Fletcher the Fetcher—no explanation needed. Dean of Libraries Sharon Bostick and Chaz Walgren, executive vice president of the Student Government Association, announced the winning name as part of the official dedication ceremony for the Miller Nichols Library Robot Addition.

➔ Visit [perspectives.umkc.edu](http://perspectives.umkc.edu) to read about UMKC athletics and the School of Pharmacy’s 125th anniversary.



R00bot, located in Miller Nichols Library, is a retrieval system with about 400,000 items loaded in it. —Photo by Tracy M. Rasmussen



COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES //

## Katz Hall renovation

The Architecture, Urban Planning + Design Department unveiled a new look. The renovated Katz building, former home to the School of Pharmacy, allows for more flexible spaces for design-studio courses. Other features include a wood and model shop and a fully-networked exhibition room. UMB donated mid-century designer furniture for the reception area, faculty offices, studios and the entry. The donated furniture includes rolling tables for the studios, leather designer chairs for the reception area, a table and chair in the conference area and other items. The School of Pharmacy moved into its new home on Hospital Hill in the Health Sciences Building in 2008.

—Photos by Aaron Dougherty and Michael McClure



See more renovation pictures at [perspectives.umkc.edu](http://perspectives.umkc.edu).





Karan and Sharon Baucom were the first African-Americans to graduate from the School of Medicine. —Photo courtesy of University Archives

#### SCHOOL OF MEDICINE //

## Twin sisters reflect on success

For identical twins who grew up in an under-privileged area of Kansas City, Mo., earning acceptance into UMKC's school of medicine was a life-changing event. It gave the sisters, Karan Baucom (M.D., '75) and Sharon Baucom (M.D., '75), the opportunity of a lifetime.

new, innovative medical program at UMKC. The sisters had not finished their undergraduate degrees but had successfully completed all of the premedical courses. "There wasn't an award or honor given that one could receive that we weren't a part of during the three years we attended KU," Sharon said.

**"It's such a privilege to know that years ago, we were part of a vision that became a historic model."** —Karan Baucom

The twins were accepted into the UMKC School of Medicine in 1971, two weeks before the new school's first day of classes. The acceptance of two African-American women as the only minorities and the only third-year students attracted media attention from *The Kansas City Star* to *The New York Times*.

The sisters—known affectionately as "the twins" throughout their lives—graduated with honors from Central High School in Kansas City, Mo., in 1968. Although they were out-of-state and lacking financial resources, both women were accepted to the University of Kansas after an anonymous donor provided financial assistance. During their junior year, the twins were accepted into a mentoring program started by AT&T executives to provide jobs for inner-city students.

The Baucom sisters were called to the office of AT&T's CEO who had recommended them for admittance into the

Even with all the attention, the twins developed strong, supportive relationships. E. Grey Dimond, M.D., founder of the school, was a source of encouragement, along with minority physicians in the Kansas City community. "When I think about our training and the barriers we experienced, I'm humbled by the lives we touched and the exceptional life lessons our mentors provided," Sharon said.

Even though the twins didn't have the same educational background as their fellow students, they excelled. "UMKC created a task force for us and others that included a study group to learn the basic sciences," Karan said. "Clinically,



when it came to taking part two of the boards, we scored in the 700s. That was unheard of. The fact that UMKC still has systems in place to help mold and develop minority students is appreciated.”

Not only were Karan and Sharon in attendance during the school’s very first classes, but they would also become the first African-American graduates of the School of Medicine. “There was an excitement graduating from UMKC at the time because you knew residency programs would be monitoring your performance against traditionally trained residents,” Karan said. The Baucoms were asked to join the staffs of their respective residency programs in family practice and obstetrics and gynecology at KU. “This was a compliment and acknowledgement that the UMKC system excels at educating physicians,” she said.

As the School of Medicine celebrates its 40th anniversary in 2011, Sharon and Karan point out that the continuing efforts to remain on the cutting-edge of medical education and to consistently raise the bar have been distinct attributes of the School since the beginning. “UMKC invited us to share in the human condition and look at the patient’s life as a whole,” Karan said. “It had a magnificent curriculum because it introduced a living patient as your medical reference.”

After they completed residencies at the University of Kansas Medical Center, Sharon served as an assistant professor in the KU School of Medicine Department of Family Practice from 1979 to 1981. Karan headed to Stormont-Vail Hospital in Topeka, Kan., to join the practice group headed by Sen. Billy Roy and became the first female and first minority partner in obstetrics and gynecology.

Sharon joined her sister in 1981, where she helped establish a family practice group that represented the first interracial practice of its kind in Topeka. Karan worked as an assistant professor in the UMKC School of Medicine family medicine department teaching obstetrics and gynecology at Truman Medical Center East in Independence, Mo., and at the University of Kansas Medical Center where she taught as an assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology. In 2001, she created The Baucom Institute, where she practices anti-aging and rejuvenating medicine to improve the quality of her patients’ lives as they age.

Sharon accepted a position as statewide medical director with a private correctional company contracted to provide health care to state correctional facilities. She also was deputy director of health for the city of Richmond, Va., where she did post-graduate studies in public health. Since 2001, Sharon has served as director of clinical services for the state of Maryland’s 24,000 inmates. “I enjoy this job because it’s the closest opportunity for me to actually develop a public health preventive program,” Sharon said. “We make a difference in the health of inmates who are released back to their communities and linked to services.”

As the twins improve lives across the country, they say they’ve continued to support each other and remember to thank and give back to UMKC. “Thank God my sister and I had each other for support during that journey,” Karan said. “Sharon, besides being my idol, is so brilliant. But, you can point to so many other UMKC grads and say that. Most of all, it’s such a privilege to know that years ago, we were part of a vision that became a historic model.”

HANNAH LEMON

40 years

*Advancing the health  
of our community*

The UMKC School of Medicine gears up to celebrate its 40th anniversary in 2011. Here’s a look at the numbers that have shaped the school into what it is today.

**1971** The School of Medicine had its first day of classes

**95** Number of students enrolled in the first year the School of Medicine opened

**1976** State-of-the-art teaching facilities opened at Truman Medical Center

**\$13.25** million: the cost of the medical school building in 1974

**16%** Percentage of graduates who practice in the Kansas City area

**2,863** Number of students who graduated from the school during its 40-year history

**792** Number of full-time faculty members working at the school in 2010

**620** Number of students enrolled in the school in 2010

 Learn about the 40th anniversary kickoff events at [www.med.umkc.edu/40](http://www.med.umkc.edu/40)



## Cooking up a masterpiece

**Cody Hogan first heard** the adage “performing live music is like preparing an inspired meal” from his piano teacher. One of the Conservatory of Music and Dance’s cornerstone piano teachers, the late Jo Ann Baker, urged her students to think of their recital programs’ beginnings as the appetizer, something to get the audience interested. Then move to a soup, then to the main course (like a Beethoven sonata), and finally wrap up with a light, entertaining dessert.

“There’s always another ingredient, a different culture, a new cuisine. If you can get bored cooking, you’re not trying hard enough.” —Cody Hogan

The comparison wasn’t lost on Hogan, but he didn’t fully understand its relevance until he discovered the art of cooking.

In the years since graduation, Hogan (M.F.A. ’94) took his passion for creativity and turned it into a successful career not as a musician, but as a chef. Hogan has spent the past 12 years composing menus at Lidia Bastianich’s Kansas City,

Mo., restaurant, Lidia’s. He also spends three months each year traveling with the renowned chef, filming her Emmy-nominated television show and visiting food festivals around the world. His relationship with Bastianich, whom Hogan says is always cooking “in the moment,” has allowed him the opportunity cook at the United Nations, throughout the Mediterranean, and of course, in Italy. Hogan even spent time at the end of 2010 filming a documentary series

with Bastianich and Stanley Tucci about Italian-American Christmas celebrations. It’s all part of a journey that began years ago, in a quite unpredictable fashion. “I don’t know that I’ve ever really planned anything, it’s just sort of fallen into place,” Hogan says. “I just knew this was what I wanted to do.”

Hogan’s path from concert hall to kitchen began while he was studying in Germany as a Rotary Scholar during the fall of 1993. His host family was a

pair of retired doctors who ushered him away from the piano on the weekends to discover the country’s many food festivals. “We’d go out to some inn in the country, then go out to a Michelin-star restaurant,” he remembers. “That’s where the direction of my life changed completely because I started falling in love with food.”



Hogan came to the realization that his love for food equaled or surpassed his love for the piano, so he returned to UMKC and sought advice from Professor Baker. She supported his move away from a master's of performing arts to a master's of fine arts. With the degree in hand, he was saddled with student loans—and he couldn't afford culinary school. So he taught himself the art of cooking. "First, I started reading cookbooks—a lot of them—and I started cooking at home," Hogan said. "I dined around Kansas City, and eventually the owner of the Classic Cup was crazy enough to hire me."

His beginnings were modest (he started with preparing sandwiches) but knew he had stumbled into the career he'd always wanted. Soon, he was volunteering his services at The American Restaurant when guest chefs came to visit. During the summer of 1997, Hogan took a defining trip up the West Coast, armed with a stack of business cards he'd been given by those chefs, each of whom told him to drop by if he was ever in the neighborhood. He did exactly that. "Not that they really mean it. They're just being nice, but I took all of those cards and drove out to California and started in L.A., stopping in restaurants and winding my way up to Seattle."

The guerilla networking strategy paid off: Hogan was hired as a pastry chef at the esteemed Chez Panisse in Berkeley, Calif., where he began to study the quality of ingredients and fresh proteins he had never worked with previously. He tried to bring that emphasis to Lidia's when she offered him the position of pastry chef.

Hogan said one of his favorite things about working at Lidia's is that he gets to bring comfort to people through food. "I like so many aspects of working in a restaurant, but ultimately, what you're doing is taking care of people. It's nice to make people feel better," Hogan says.

He also enjoys teaching his craft. Hogan has blended his knowledge of music and cooking by teaching classes at the Culinary Center of Kansas City in Overland Park, Kan. "Lidia taught me how to teach cooking, but I think I learned a lot about teaching from all of the piano teachers I've had. The great thing about a piano teacher is that one person is focused on you for half an hour or an hour, and that's great for kids. I try to carry that over."

He loves cooking so much that when he's not keeping busy at the restaurant or playing the piano, he grows his own vegetables and yes, he even cooks at home. "A lot of cooks say that's the last thing they want to do when they get home, but there's no way I get bored with it," Hogan says. "There's always another ingredient, a different culture, a new cuisine. If you can get bored cooking, you're not trying hard enough."

ERICK R. SCHMIDT

## CODY HOGAN'S FAVORITE DISHES

- ➔ **Tuscan fennel and bean soup:** You can vary this soup's ingredients to make the recipe your own.
- ➔ **Grilled octopus and warm potato salad:** Lidia Bastianich introduced Hogan to octopus and it was love at first bite. Don't be afraid of trying this unusual recipe.
- ➔ **The frico from Lidia's:** A filled Montasio cheese crisp.
- ➔ **Cody's Kansas City focaccia:** This delicious crisp bread is best when you eat it the day it's baked.
- ➔ **Biscotti (or cantucci di prato):** Hogan mastered this famous biscotti while working at Chez Panisse.

➔ **Get the recipes for Hogan's favorite dishes at [perspectives.umkc.edu](http://perspectives.umkc.edu).**



Top: Grilled octopus served with warm potato salad.  
Above: Hogan helped Lidia Bastianich open her Kansas City restaurant more than 10 years ago. Hogan spends much of his time traveling the world with Bastianich as she promotes her television show and books. —Photos by Bob Greenspan



## 60s

**Ronald Winters** (B.A. '69, College of Arts and Sciences), of Dallas, just published his first novel, *An Angel for Maxey*, available through Westbow Press, Amazon.com and Barnes and Noble.

## 80s

**D. Brent Ballweg** (D.M.A. '87, Conservatory of Music and Dance) of Choctaw, Okla., accepted the position of Burton H. Patterson Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities in the Warren M. Angell College of Fine Arts at Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee, Okla. He conducts the University Chorale and Bison Glee Club and teaches conducting, choral procedures and choral literature.

**Ralph A. Monaco, II** (J.D. '81, School of Law), of Raytown, Mo., is a charter member of the 14 member Kansas City law firm Monaco, Sanders, Gotfredson, Racine & Barber L.C., established in 2000. He is a member of the Missouri Bar, the Western District of Missouri and the Phi Alpha Delta Alumni Law Fraternity. He served on the Raytown School Board from 1991 to 1997 and served as the board's president from 1995 to 1997. Monaco then served as a member of the Missouri House of Representatives from 1996 to 2002.

**Helen H. Spalding** (M.P.A. '85, Bloch School), of Lacey, Wash., has retired as university librarian/professor emerita at Portland State University. During her 36 year career, she held library management and administrative positions at UMKC and at Iowa State University.

**Garry L. Tillers** (B.A. '88, School of Education), of Ellicott City, Md., was honored when his school's program was selected as one of five schools in the nation to receive the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts

National Schools of Distinction in Arts Education Award, the Arts Education in Maryland Schools (AEMS) Alliance and the Kennedy Center Alliance for Arts Education Network.

## 90s

**Paul M. Rutherford** (Ph.D. '99), of Lee's Summit, Mo., was the first Kansas City area STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) teacher to receive the University of Kansas School of Engineering and Perceptive Software's Educating Excellence award. Rutherford learned about the award on Oct. 29 during a surprise visit at his school, Summit Technology Academy, in the Lee's Summit R7 school district.

## 00s

**M. Hyder Malik** (B.S. '08, School of Computing and Engineering), of Lee's Summit, Mo., works as operations engineer for Nordic Energy Services in Abu Dhabi overseeing all production, manufacturing and development of oil and gas well workover and intervention tools.

**Scott Roewer** (M.M.E. '00, Conservatory of Music and Dance), of Washington, D.C., recently collected 657 pairs of jeans as a charity project for Habitat for Humanity ReStore of Montgomery County. The jeans will be recycled into their natural cotton fibers and transformed into house insulation. Roewer's collection was enough to insulate 1.5 homes for Habitat. Roewer is a certified professional organizer and owner of Solutions by Scott, offering professional organization services to residential and business clients.



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## ANNOUNCEMENTS //

After three years as the University of Missouri System President, Gary Forsee announced his resignation in January in order to spend more time with his family. The former Sprint executive's wife, Sherry, was diagnosed with cancer in Nov. 2010. The Curators of the University of Missouri formed a search committee in January to find Forsee's replacement. Steve Owens, the system's general counsel, was appointed interim president. In a statement to faculty, staff and students Forsee said, "I want to personally thank all of you who have supported Sherry and me in expanding our perspectives and knowledge of this wonderful University. And I also would like to thank all those folks around the state we've met—new as well as former acquaintances with whom we've reconnected."

## PASSINGS //

**C. NEIL BULL**, professor emeritus of sociology, died Sept. 26, 2010. He was the chair of the department of sociology, professor of sociology and associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Bull also published many books and articles on sociology.

**DUANA LINVILLE DRALUS**, (B.A. '63, M.A. '69, School of Education) former UMKC director of community relations, died April 10, 2010. Dralus began her career as a teacher in the Kansas City Missouri School District, served as a lobbyist for the University of Missouri System, and later became director of instructional video and director of community relations at UMKC. She was an active volunteer and was president of the UMKC Alumni Governing Board.

**DUANE LIN HARTLEY**, professor and chair of counseling psychology and counselor education, died Oct. 4, 2010. Hartley's long career in education ended when he retired from UMKC in 1995.

**MADELEINE TURPIN**, professor of history and academic advisor, died Dec. 19, 2010. She began her career at UMKC in 1965 as a history professor and retired in 1992 as the College of Arts and Sciences and pre-med academic advisor.

# Domo arigato

Students come together to shatter robot dance record



## MR. ROBOTO

Students and community members gathered last September to break the Guinness World Record for the most people doing the robot dance at the same place and time. As part of the festivities for Homecoming 2010 and to commemorate the unveiling of UMKC's new ROOBot (see page 28), about 658 people showed up, unofficially beating the existing record of 429 people set by London's Whitgift Independent School in May 2010. The dance took place on the field at UMKC's Stanley Durwood Stadium. Students busted moves choreographed by Conservatory dance students to robot dance music.

UMKC students Taylor Thompson and Courtney Viar (left), got into the spirit of the event by donning full-on robot garb.



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