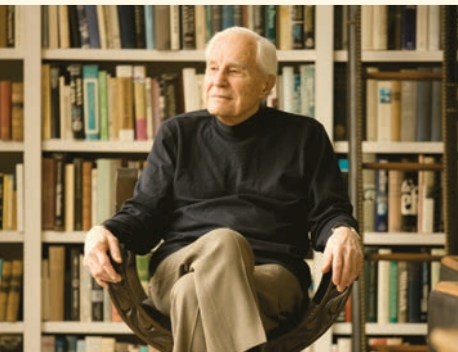
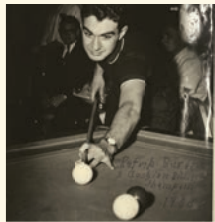


# Perspectives

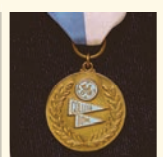
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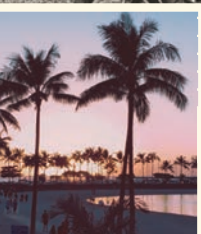
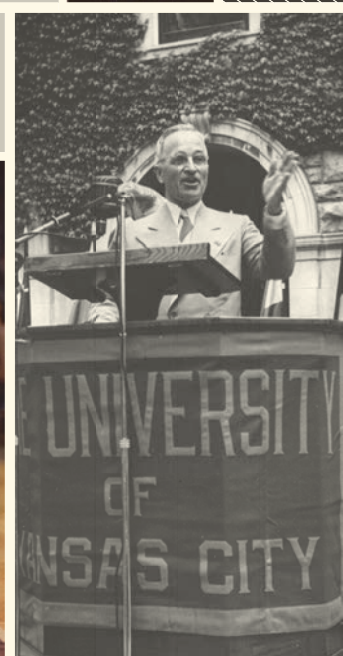


*LIVING HISTORY*

Compelling stories  
behind the campus we  
know and love



*Roos*



1933



PLUS: Welcoming Chancellor Agrawal • Springfield's first pharmacy graduates



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**Gaelic Glory**  
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Italy, France and Spain  
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Find details for these and other amazing trips at [umkcalumni.com/travel](http://umkcalumni.com/travel)

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**UMKC alumni**  
association



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# Perspectives

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**Managing Editor**  
Lindsey Mayfield

**Art Directors**  
Sarah Richardson  
Samantha Wise

**Writers**  
Julie Bunge  
Stacy Downs  
Kelsey Haynes  
Bridget Koan  
John Martellaro  
Patricia O'Dell

**Photographer**  
Brandon Parigo

**Executive Editors**  
Curtis J. Crespino  
*Vice Chancellor, University Advancement*  
Anne Hartung Spenner  
*Vice Chancellor, Strategic Marketing and Communications*

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## The shared history that connects us all

*In lieu of a traditional letter from the editor, we asked alumnus Chris Wolff, UMKC Bookstore manager and resident university historian, to introduce this issue about UMKC's intriguing past and present.*

What is it that links us as alumni of UMKC? Is it simply the fact that we were students in the same buildings and may have taken the same classes or had the same professors? Or is there a deeper connection between us?

When I first became interested in the history of UMKC and its predecessor, the University of Kansas City, I wanted to answer that very question. It ended up being a winding journey.

I was initially curious about the origin of the university and some of its buildings. However, the more I learned, the further UMKC's history drew me in. My interest became a hobby. My hobby became an obsession that led to a partnership with the UMKC Alumni Association, which helped me publish my book, "A Pearl of Great Value: The History of UMKC, Kansas City's University."

Writing the book gave me the opportunity to look at the totality of the university's history. What I discovered was a story that all alumni share.

William Volker and the Kansas City business community created a university from scratch in the heart of the Great Depression for us. Walt Disney drew our mascot, Kasey Kangaroo. We claim Harry Truman and more than 100,000 other UMKC alumni as our own, and they claim us.

What links us as UMKC alumni is our shared history. Each generation of UMKC students is like the squares on a quilt. They are colorful and patterned and bold and unique. What holds all the squares together is the backing cloth, the shared history of the university. Whether we were in the first graduating class in 1936 or the class of 2018, we share the entirety of UMKC's history, even if we only know bits and pieces of it.

History is alive in the sense that it is always growing. Each new student adds to our story. Moreover, knowledge of the past brings to life a new perspective on the present, just as current events can help explain what happened before. What follows in this issue is a collection of stories that we hope make UMKC's history come alive for you and help you discover the bond you share with your fellow alumni.

Chris Wolff (M.A. '12)

Author, "A Pearl of Great Value: The History of UMKC, Kansas City's University"  
Manager, UMKC Bookstore



## the POUCH » An inside look at campus and beyond

# Words of wisdom from the literary world

At mid-year commencement, UMKC presented honorary doctorates to two Kansas Citians: New York Times-bestselling author Candice Millard and David Von Drehle, writer and editor at large for The Washington Post. The two, pictured below, shared their words of wisdom with the graduating class.

*"It's not enough to be smart. It's not enough to be brilliant — genius even. If you don't work hard, all that candle power, all that blazing potential will go to waste, and that would be a shame, because, speaking on behalf of the rest of the world, we need you."*

– Candice Millard

*"Seek diversity in your lives. Seek out people who think differently from you and spend time with them — not in confrontation, but in community."*

– David Von Drehle





# First Class

A prescription for rural Missouri’s shortage of pharmacists

BY STACY DOWNS



Kendra White of Republic, Missouri, is a wife, mother and hobby photographer. And thanks to an unusual partnership in Missouri, she can add a career as a pharmacist to her list of accomplishments.

“This would not be possible if the UMKC School of Pharmacy hadn’t opened a campus in Springfield,” says White as she eats breakfast with her sons Ryder, 10, Roland, 7, and Rayden, 5, before they all leave for school.

The pharmacy school campus at Brick City, in Springfield’s revitalized downtown, is a 20-minute drive away.

White was one of 31 students in the first graduating class of the UMKC School of Pharmacy at Missouri State University.

“I’m beyond excited,” says White, who landed a job as a pharmacist at HomeTown Pharmacy in Mount Vernon, Missouri. Funny how life works, but that’s where she started working as a pharmacy technician nearly 20 years ago, introducing her to the profession.

“My career has come full circle,” she says.

With its unique university partnerships, the UMKC School of Pharmacy has hit upon a successful formula for increasing the number of health-care professionals in rural Missouri. The Springfield campus opened in August 2014, joining a satellite campus at the University of Missouri in Columbia that opened in 2005. A large number of the Columbia pharmacy graduates have taken their first jobs in and around central Missouri and surrounding rural areas. They call themselves “TigerRoos,” a mashup of the two universities’ mascots.

“We never settled on a good nickname in Springfield,” says White, laughing about the many iterations of the Kangaroos (UMKC) and Bears (MSU) they tried to mix.

The 15,000-square-foot Brick City space in Springfield features three classrooms with video-conferencing equipment that supports the transmission of classes among the Kansas City, Columbia and Springfield sites. It lets students interact with professors and other students during lectures regardless of their location — like a “fancy Skype,” as some students describe it.

“It’s been an amazing experience getting to know people here at school and on the other campuses,” White says.

Prior to the two satellite campuses, UMKC School of Pharmacy faculty couldn’t help but notice a pattern: After students graduated with their Pharm.D., they would establish roots in the Kansas City area, leaving other parts of Missouri underserved.

“That’s been an issue since I graduated 40 years ago,” says UMKC alumnus David Eden (B.S.P. ’78), mayor of Mount Vernon, Missouri, and a pharmacist at HomeTown Pharmacy. Eden is retiring, opening up the position White is filling.

“I was one of the rare exceptions, not the rule,” Eden says. “Until now.”



BY THE  
NUMBERS

2014

Year the Springfield campus opened

120

Number of students

80%

Percentage of students who come from counties in southwest Missouri

95%

Percentage of seats filled at the school

(Left to right) Victoria Floyd, Dalton Putnam and Kendra White were part of the first class of students to graduate from the UMKC School of Pharmacy campus in Springfield.





# Leading UMKC into the future

Welcome Chancellor C. Mauli Agrawal

BY JOHN MARTELLARO

As a child in India, C. Mauli Agrawal surrounded himself with Apollo 11 clippings and aerospace memorabilia. Now, he brings that same passion for exploration as chancellor of UMKC.

Agrawal comes to UMKC after 15 years at the University of Texas-San Antonio. He is a bioengineer, former auto industry executive, oil painter, inventor and entrepreneur.

Agrawal's father was the first in his family to attend college, and his mother was the first woman in her family to attend college. He grew up in a home with no television, no refrigerator and no air conditioning.

He graduated from the Indian Institute of Technology with a bachelor's degree in technology. Eventually, he decided to make his way to the U.S.

"I arrived in the U.S. with \$100 and a suitcase full of clothes," Agrawal says. "Now I see others

struggling to achieve that dream, and I feel committed to help them accomplish their goals."

Agrawal went on to earn additional degrees from Clemson University and Duke University, both in mechanical engineering. His research specializes in the area of orthopedic and cardiovascular biomaterials and implants.

His mother, Raj, is 87 and lives with Agrawal and his wife, Sue. Mauli and Sue have two children: Ethan, 24, who graduated from Rice University with a degree in chemical engineering, and Serena, 21, a junior at Rice who is studying mechanical engineering.

As chancellor, Agrawal's mission is to make UMKC an even better place to work, study and belong.

"For Kansas City to be great, UMKC has to be great," he says. "It is our time and our turn for spectacular to happen!"



## Open for business

Brookside 51 development brings Whole Foods Market, new home for student services

Traffic on the west side of Volker campus looked a bit different on May 23, 2018.

The grand opening of the Whole Foods Market at 51st and Oak marked the end of a nearly three-year construction project along the western edge of campus. The project included a 170-unit luxury apartment complex and a parking garage for both residents and retail shoppers.

For UMKC, the project yielded a new Student Services Suite, which now houses UMKC's Student Health and Wellness, Student Counseling Services and Student Disability Services.



Stuffed kangaroos are prominently displayed at Whole Foods Market. On opening day, the store invited customers to submit names for the kangaroo. The overwhelming winner? Kasey, of course.



# LIVING HISTORY

THE COMPELLING STORIES  
BEHIND THE CAMPUS WE  
KNOW AND LOVE

BY LINDSEY MAYFIELD

Everyone loves a great story. Especially when that story sheds light on who we are.

That's why it's such a privilege to tell the UMKC story in a brand new way with this issue of *Perspectives*. In the following pages you'll find tales of unlikely friendships, hidden treasures and history embedded in the very hallways UMKC students walk each day.

Though it would be impossible to break down nearly 90 years of history into 15 pages of a magazine — or, indeed, an entire book — these stories give real-life examples of some of the values this university was founded upon: equality, community and excellence across the board.

For a relatively young, small school, the university boasts a network of international relationships and personal triumphs. In these pages, meet a Japanese-American who crossed half the country on a promise, a young black man who broke boundaries on a national scale and a political exile who found refuge in the American heartland.

These stories tie directly to the place UMKC has become in the many decades since its founding.

UMKC has a living history — one that is still reflected in the faces of faculty, staff and students every day. We hope you will recognize yourself in these pages and consider how your own story is woven into the university's fabric.

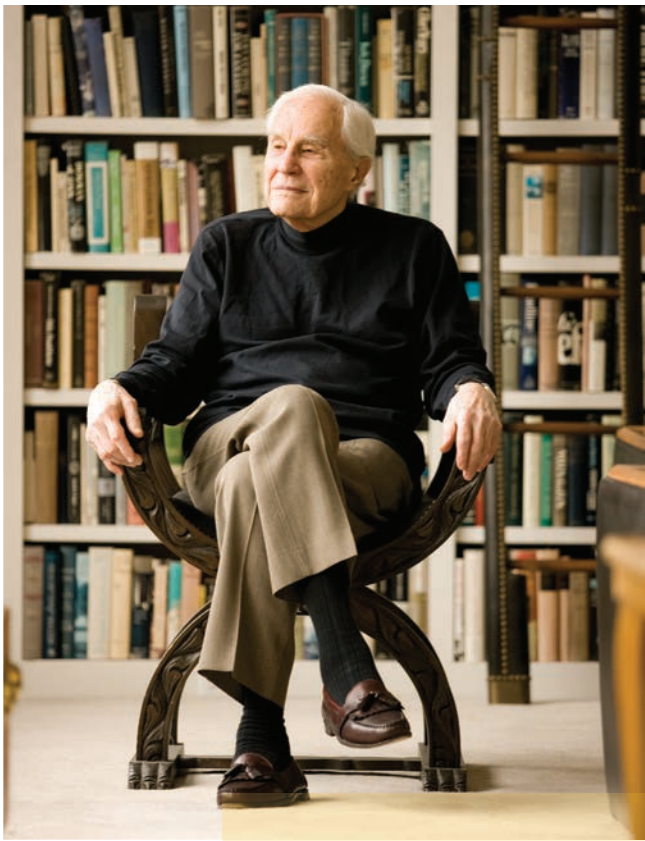
Many of the photos here and on the cover of the magazine were found in the University Archives. Some of them have never before been digitally reproduced, and all were collected as a result of UMKC staff members digging through box after box of yellowed documents. The University Archives are housed in Miller Nichols Library and contain thousands of documents — photographs, newspapers, film, audio recordings and more — dating back to 1895.



# A SAFE HAVEN ON HOSPITAL HILL

ONE MAN’S HOME BECOMES  
A TREASURED SPACE FOR  
UMKC STUDENTS

BY BRIDGET KOAN



*e. grey dimond*  
PHOTOGRAPHED IN 2010

Tucked away on a side street of the Hospital Hill neighborhood in Kansas City is a redwood townhouse known as Diastole Scholars’ Center. What was once the personal home of cardiologist E. Grey Dimond, M.D., founder of the UMKC School of Medicine, and his wife, Mary, Diastole is now a gathering space for everyone to enjoy.

The name, Diastole, is fitting.

“It’s the resting phase of your heart,” says Nancy Hill, Diastole’s executive director. Diastole is the phase of the heartbeat when the heart muscle relaxes and allows the chambers to fill with blood.

“[Dimond] would say, ‘Systole (the active phase) is your job, your life, your kids, your traffic,’” Hill says. “‘You come here, it’s Diastole.’”

Hill wants the UMKC community to know how much care Dimond took in creating the Diastole space for students.

“He carefully, brilliantly, beautifully constructed this treasure for the community. His second legacy, after the School of Medicine, is Diastole.”

This year Diastole celebrates the 30th anniversary of the building’s public use, and Hill celebrates 15 years as its executive director.

“I feel like the luckiest person in the world. Especially because the first 10 years were in daily contact with Dr. Dimond.”

Diastole as we know it today was built in phases, each one developed personally by Dimond. Hill recalls that Dimond used to joke that he needed Diastole to store all his stuff.

“Each piece has a story,” Hill says. “He was such a renaissance man. He knew what he had done. He was very confident and happy and content that Diastole and the School of Medicine were going to be around.”

When guests step into the building, they enter another world filled with treasures: artifacts, mementos from Dimond’s travels, historic documents, gifts and more.

Any group can rent the Scholars’ Center, with about 75 percent of bookings being UMKC-related. Many community nonprofits use the space for retreats, making Diastole a niche venue.

“We’re blended into the landscape deliberately,” Hill says. “We’re as busy as we can possibly manage without advertising.”

And according to Hill, that adds to the appeal. When people ask, “Do you know about Diastole?” not everyone will answer yes. And that’s okay, because when they hear about Diastole, they want to know more.

## EXPLORE THE TREASURES

### CHINA BOOK COLLECTION

Located in the curved bookcases in Diastole’s Piano Room, this collection encompasses all of Diastole’s books relating to China. In 1971, the same year the medical school was founded, Dimond was one of a handful of physicians invited inside communist China. It was the first of more than two dozen trips to China — a nation, people and culture that grew to become a lifetime passion.

### THE DIASTOLE LIBRARY

The Diastole Library is located on the third floor, but through the years has expanded throughout the entire house. It is classified on the basis of a simplified Library of Congress Classification and houses more than 4,000 volumes.

### GENEALOGY ARCHIVES

A collection of personal correspondence between Dimond and distant relatives, including letters, census records, lineage and research.

### E. GREY DIMOND, M.D., PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL LIBRARY

Contains photo albums, scrapbooks, travel diaries and books from the Dimonds’ life and travels. It also houses the books and articles published by Dimond, articles leading to the founding of UMKC School of Medicine and a variety of professional memorabilia.

### KANSAS CITY HISTORY

A collection of books on the history of Kansas City, Missouri, and Kansas City, Kansas, including pictorial history books, maps and books on points of interest in Kansas City.

### THE RUBAIYAT COLLECTION

This collection is housed in the Omar Khayyam Room. Named for the 11th century Persian poet, astronomer and mathematician, the room houses more than 3,000 versions of Khayyam’s most famous work, “The Rubaiyat.” The collection features numerous translations, illustrations and memorabilia. The collection has been donated to the UMKC Miller Nichols Library and is fully catalogued by the library, but is permanently housed at Diastole.

### REFERENCE COLLECTION

The Encyclopedia Britannica, National Geographic and the Unabridged Oxford Dictionary are in the administrator’s office on Diastole’s second floor. Of special note are the National Geographic magazines beginning in 1913 to yoday. From 1950 to 2018, the collection is 100 percent complete. From 1913 to 1949, the collection is more than 70 percent complete.



*“HE CAREFULLY,  
BRILLIANTLY, BEAUTIFULLY  
CONSTRUCTED THIS TREASURE  
FOR THE COMMUNITY.”*

- NANCY HILL

*Executive Director,  
Diastole Scholars’ Center*



# A TOUR OF DIASTOLE

1. The contents of Dimond's desk are artfully displayed on the walls of Diastole.

1

2

3

5

4

6

7

8

2 & 6. Wooden carvings are placed throughout Diastole, many of which were made by Dimond himself.

3. A bust of Dimond watches over the Diastole grounds.

4. Diastole is home to thousands of books, many of which the Dimonds collected during their travels.

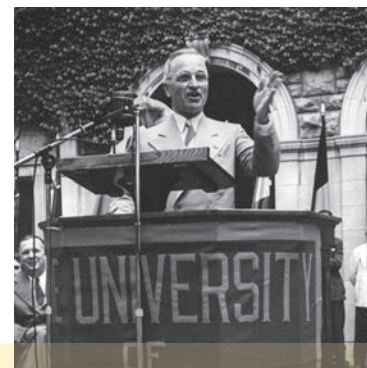
5. Dimond had a particular interest in China. This painting of Chinese farmers is one of the many mementos from his trips there.

7 & 8. One of Diastole's most prized artifacts: A bottle of scotch from Queen Elizabeth II's coronation.

# FAMOUS FOOTSTEPS

## MEET SOME OF UMKC'S MOST MEMORABLE VISITORS

BY KELSEY HAYNES



harry s. truman

JUNE 28, 1945

President Harry S. Truman served as guest speaker and honorary degree recipient at the School of Law's 50th anniversary alumni reunion. In celebration of his homecoming, the president rode with fanfare down the streets of Kansas City on his way to campus. The honorary degree presentation took place later that evening in a public ceremony at Municipal Auditorium.



desmond tutu

SEPTEMBER 24, 1990

South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu accepted an honorary doctorate at UMKC Convocation. One of the gifts presented to him was a Missouri quilt called "Star of Peace." In his acceptance speech, Tutu said, "The only way we can be human is together — black and white."



ina garten

MARCH 4, 2015

Ina Garten came to campus and was interviewed about her venture into the food industry and rebranding as "The Barefoot Contessa."



FAMOUS VISITORS THROUGH THE DECADES

From its early days to the modern era, UMKC has played host to actors, musicians, athletes, authors, activists and revolutionary thinkers.



eleanor roosevelt

**JANUARY 5, 1955**  
Eleanor Roosevelt spoke to a 500-person audience at the University Playhouse. Accompanied by former President Truman and his wife, Bess, Roosevelt discussed her work at the United Nations in a meeting sponsored by the Young Adult International Relations Council and the American Association for the United Nations.

**OCTOBER 1, 1977**  
Jazz legend Ella Fitzgerald performed in Pierson Auditorium as part of UMKC's "Count Basie Day" honoring Basie's jazz legacy. She also accepted an honorary degree from UMKC.



ella fitzgerald



maya angelou

**MARCH 4, 2006**  
Writer Maya Angelou spent an evening at UMKC with students and visitors. Angelou gave a lecture and shared excerpts of her poetry at an event hosted by the Office of Student Life in Swinney Recreation Center.

**AUGUST 9, 2012**  
Judith Martin — better known by her pen name, "Miss Manners" — came to Kansas City as keynote speaker of the Cockefair summer lecture. Her columns, managed by local syndicate Andrews McMeel, are carried by more than 200 newspapers in the U.S. and abroad.



miss manners



greg louganis

**MARCH 16, 2016**  
Five-time Olympic champion Greg Louganis spoke at the annual UMKC Pride Breakfast. In addition to being one of the greatest divers in American history, Louganis came out as gay in his 1995 autobiography, "Breaking the Surface."

1940



bob hope

**FEBRUARY 1, 1949**  
Entertainer Bob Hope made an impromptu visit to UKC, along with Doris Day and alumna Ruth Warrick (Theatre '38) to rehearse for a performance that evening at Municipal Auditorium. Word quickly spread that the trio was visiting, and the campus community packed the University Playhouse for a chance to see Hollywood



muhammad ali

**MARCH 5, 1969**  
Boxer Muhammad Ali, who at that time was facing a prison term for failure to serve in the armed forces, spoke during the university's first "Afro American Week." Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Gwendolyn Brooks also spoke, giving a one-hour poetry reading of poems tied to the theme, "Identity in Black."



nina simone

**MARCH 7, 1964**  
Singer Nina Simone and musician Herbie Mann performed for students at a concert sponsored by the University Program Council and Ford Motor Company. Concert tickets cost \$1 and, as an added attraction, record albums were given as door prizes.



john updike

**DECEMBER 8, 1988**  
Pulitzer Prize-winning author John Updike came to UMKC at the invitation of the Carolyn Benton Cockefair Chair in Continuing Education. Two years later, he won a second Pulitzer Prize for his novel, "Rabbit at Rest."

2018

OTHER NOTEWORTHY VISITORS TO CAMPUS

1947	1976
Miguel Alemán President of Mexico	Dick Gregory Comedian, author, social satirist and political analyst
1950	1985
Liaquat Ali Khan Prime minister of Pakistan	Yoko Ono Musician, artist and activist
1972	2011
Ken Kesey Author	Rick Steves Travel writer and TV host
1973	2015
Saul Bellow Pulitzer and Nobel Prize-winning author	Robin Roberts Journalist



# A FAMILY'S LEGACY, A UNIVERSITY'S TREASURE

## HAAG HALL MURAL CAPTURES AN ENDURING, PRE-WORLD WAR II POINT OF VIEW

BY PATRICIA O'DELL

Every year, hundreds of students, faculty, staff and visitors pass the vibrant murals of Luis Quintanilla, the Spanish expatriate who spent part of his exile from Spain creating the work for the University of Kansas City (UKC).

Julián Zugazagoitia, director of The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, has a compelling connection to the murals — one he only discovered when he saw them firsthand.



julián zugazagoitia

Zugazagoitia had lived in Kansas City for five years before he climbed the marble steps to the second floor of Haag Hall to investigate the legacy between his family and Kansas City. Quintanilla and Zugazagoitia's grandfather, also named Julián Zugazagoitia, were friends and soldiers in the Spanish Civil War, fighting the fascist regime of General Francisco Franco.

Quintanilla and Zugazagoitia had been in prison together in Spain in 1934, where the artist sketched his friend and compatriot.

"I'd seen an exhibit in New York that included the drawing of my grandfather," says Zugazagoitia. "Not long after, Quintanilla's grandson sent me an email to tell me about the murals. It was in the back of my mind, but I had not made it over to see."

### A PRESIDENTIAL REQUEST

Quintanilla came to UKC in 1940 to serve as its first artist-in-residence at the invitation of UKC President Clarence Decker. At 34 years old, Decker was the youngest-serving president of the country's youngest university. He suggested Quintanilla paint a mural in Haag Hall using the theme, "Don Quixote in the Modern World."

It was a bold move for the college president, considering Quintanilla's political past.

"The national mood in 1938 was certainly one of unease," says John Herron, associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and professor of history. "The effects of the Great Depression were still apparent, and the growing militarism and unrest in Europe did little to calm fears. Americans, for the most part, wanted nothing to do with a second world conflict and were eager to stay out of European politics."

Decker, a vocal proponent of the arts and culture, used his role at the university to cultivate relationships with many politically informed artists.

"He offered visiting appointments to a number of artists, poets and writers, and worked actively to make Kansas City a kind of avant-garde center in the American Midwest," Herron says. "Decker understood the hostility many artists and scholars, especially Jews, faced abroad. He remained a proponent of bringing these artists to Kansas City whenever possible."

### QUINTANILLA'S VISION

At the time of Decker's invitation, Quintanilla was living in New York as part of the Rockefeller Foundation's Committee for Displaced Scholars and Artists program that brought oppressed and imprisoned artists from Europe to the United States. His art had recently been shown at the 1938 World's Fair in New York.

Quintanilla envisioned four panels using Don Quixote's story as an allegory of the horrors and oppression of fascism in Europe. The artist used members of the university faculty and staff as models. His own family appears in one panel.

Zugazagoitia, who was aware that Quintanilla used family and friends as models in his work, expected to find his grandfather's face looking back at him from the walls. This was not the case, but what he discovered was even more powerful.



1. Quintanilla uses a UMKC student as a model for his murals 2. Portrait of Zugazagoitia drawn by Quintanilla in prison 3. Quintanilla's tribute to his friend in the "Don Quixote" murals

"When I saw he had dedicated the mural to my grandfather I was stunned. To see his name — my name — in the corner ... It took a while for me to process, but it fulfilled a notion of destiny for me. Finding his name confirmed that Kansas City is where I should be."

### MODERN-DAY REVELATIONS

Beyond his personal connection, Zugazagoitia was reminded how significant it is to be an immigrant. He sees the murals as a reminder of what it takes to make your way in a foreign place.

"It underscored for me how important it is to reinvent yourself in a new country. It seems the perfect time to be talking about this," he says.

Zugazagoitia emphasizes how important it is to preserve these murals. Besides recognizing the work for its artistic and historical merit — it is one of only two Quintanilla murals that were not destroyed during the Spanish Civil War — he believes living with art changes those who are exposed to it.

"Our experience is better because it exists. We are privileged to live in an environment that nourishes us, even if we don't notice," he says. "It makes these stories meaningful and present in our lives."



*The College Bowl medal and newspaper clippings shown here were sent to UMKC by Alvin Easter (B.A. '67).*

## AN UN-TRIVIAL PURSUIT

### UKC GAINS THE NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT AS FIRST INTERRACIAL TEAM IN TELEVISED TRIVIA COMPETITION

BY JULIE BUNGE

A package arrived at the UMKC Alumni Association office last year. Inside was a single sheet of paper with a contact name and phone number. It also included a medal, tucked inside bubble wrap.

The medal, with “GE College Bowl” embossed on one side and “Alvin F. Easter University of Kansas City” engraved on the other, is a small reminder of the big impact four students had on the university in 1963.

Right around the time the University of Kansas City (UKC) announced its plans to merge with the University of Missouri System to become the University of Missouri-Kansas City, the school was chosen to compete on the popular television show “GE College Bowl.” The program, sponsored by General Electric, pitted two colleges, each with a team of four, against each other in a trivia showdown.

The young men chosen to represent UKC — Team Captain Elbert Hayes (B.S. '63), Phil Marcus (B.A. '63), Bill Williams (B.A. '65) and Alvin Easter (B.A. '67) — began an accelerated study program to prepare for the trivia show.

Easter, a freshman who skipped a grade in high school and was just 17 at the time, specialized in history and cinema. Hayes was the music and science enthusiast. Marcus focused on sports and literature, while Williams was the expert on art, geography and nursery rhymes.

Their skillsets were certainly impressive, but this team was different from every other in one important way: Hayes was black, making him the first African-American to compete on the program and UKC the first interracial team.

Their appearance on “GE College Bowl” drew criticism from some and even resulted in death threats for the team. But on a Sunday afternoon the UKC team took the stage, undeterred.

UKC’s episode of “GE College Bowl” was taped live on Feb. 24, 1963. UKC was competing against Norwich University from Northville, Vermont. Easter, who sent his medal to the UMKC Alumni Association for its archives, says he still recalls a few of the questions posed during the show: naming a photo of the crab nebula, the date of the Battle of the Alamo and identifying a line from “Death of a Salesman.”

Ultimately, the team bested Norwich and won \$1,500 for the UKC Scholarship Fund. Back in Kansas City, the university was abuzz with excitement. It was the first time UKC had received national media attention, and the win united campus. Hundreds of students watched the contest to support their hometown team, and many showed up at the airport to give the team a hero’s welcome.

Although they didn’t claim victory during their next matchup against Wake Forest on Sunday, March 3, the team still received an additional \$500 for the UKC Scholarship Fund and a place in university history.

#### AFTER THE BIG WIN



Hayes and Marcus graduated in 1963, with Williams and Easter following in 1965 and 1967, respectively. While they didn’t keep in close touch, all four pursued careers in higher education.

Elbert Hayes (B.S. '63) went on to earn his Ph.D. in chemistry from Purdue University. He returned to Kansas City and taught at UMKC before passing away in 1992.

Phil Marcus (B.A. '63) received his Ph.D. from Harvard and taught at Cornell before becoming a professor at Florida International University. One of the world’s leading William Butler Yeats scholars, Marcus passed away in 2015.

Bill Williams (B.A. '65) served on the staff of the National Gallery of Art for more than 30 years where he worked as an education department editor and staff lecturer. He passed away in 2013.

Alvin Easter (B.A. '67) went on to the University of Minnesota for graduate studies and worked there for more than 30 years. In the early 1990s, he appeared on an episode of “Jeopardy.” He is now retired and still resides in Minnesota.



(Left to right) Takashi Honda (D.D.S. '47), Brent Honda (D.D.S. '17) and Randall Honda (D.D.S. '78) have some fun in the School of Dentistry following Brent's graduation in 2017.

## FINDING A HOME IN THE HEARTLAND

A WELCOMING DEAN SPARKS  
DECADES OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN  
UMKC AND THE PEOPLE OF HAWAII

BY LINDSEY MAYFIELD

When Larry Fujioka (D.D.S. '79) stepped off the plane at Kansas City International Airport in 1975, one of the first people he saw was his childhood friend, Randall Honda (D.D.S. '78).

The two young men both moved from Hawaii to study dentistry at UMKC, and would soon become roommates and remain lifelong friends.

Fujioka had no way of knowing that, more than 30 years later, he would sit across a table from Honda's son, interviewing him for a scholarship to attend the UMKC School of Dentistry, just like his dad.

The Honda men — Takashi (D.D.S. '47), his son, Randall, and grandson, Brent (D.D.S. '17) — form a three-generation arc in a

long history of friendship between UMKC and Hawaiians of Japanese descent.

### WARTIME ROOTS

When the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, life changed drastically for Americans with Japanese ancestry. Many lost their jobs, their homes and even their freedom. Thousands were imprisoned in internment camps along the West Coast.

Meanwhile, Roy J. Rinehart was in the midst of his second decade as dean of the School of Dentistry at what was then known as the University of Kansas City (UKC).

When Rinehart heard that students across the West Coast were being expelled from their schools, and worse, imprisoned, he didn't stand idly by.

He started making calls.

Over the next several years, Rinehart made it his mission to help Japanese-Americans escape internment camps and study at UKC.

In the early 1940s, he even traveled to California to sign papers releasing a young man from a detention camp. Rinehart loaded the student into his car and drove him to Kansas City in time for class.

It's just one story that illustrates the forward thinking of a man who lived more than six decades ago.

"Here's a person who went out on a limb, against popular belief at the time, and welcomed some folks who were being ostracized," says Marsha Pyle, current dean of the UMKC School of Dentistry. "He said, 'Come to our school. You'll find a home here.'"

### FROM THE PACIFIC TO THE PLAINS

Dean Rinehart's generosity was not forgotten. In fact, it has sparked a decades-long friendship between two unlikely communities: Kansas City, Missouri, and the islands of Hawaii, where so many are of Japanese heritage.

Since the 1940s, the UMKC School of Dentistry has accepted several Hawaiian students each year, often on scholarship. Many of those early students arrived in Kansas City having never been to the Midwest, and sometimes, having never left the islands of Hawaii.

This partnership has flourished under the stewardship of dedicated alumni such as George Tanaka (D.D.S. '49), Russell Tabata (D.D.S. '67) and, now, Fujioka.

Fujioka and Tabata are part of the group tasked with selecting worthy young Hawaiians to study at UMKC, but more importantly, to be caretakers of this special relationship.

"During the interview process, Dr. Tabata and I always make sure the applicants know why UMKC is even offering positions in the school — because of this connection with the Hawaiian alumni," Fujioka says.

Like many Hawaiian alumni, Fujioka chose UMKC because of its unique history.

After Pearl Harbor, Fujioka's father was expelled from the school in California where he was studying dentistry. He was sent to an internment camp, but avoided a lengthy sentence by enrolling at Drake University and eventually finishing dental school at St. Louis University.

When it came time to choose his own dental school, Fujioka knew he wanted to apply somewhere with that same history of inclusion. That's when he heard about UMKC.

"I felt a very strong connection because of that history of UMKC accepting these Japanese-American students," Fujioka says. "Just having this opportunity to go to school at a state school in Missouri all the way from Hawaii — it's just something we treasure."

"[DEAN RINEHART] SAID,  
'COME TO OUR SCHOOL.  
YOU'LL FIND A HOME HERE.'"

- MARSHA PYLE  
Dean, UMKC School  
of Dentistry

Larry Fujioka  
(D.D.S. '79) speaks  
at the Midwest Dental  
Conference in April  
2018. Each year, members  
of the UMKC Hawaiian  
alumni group host an  
alumni breakfast  
during the  
conference.





#### A FAMILY AFFAIR

Like Fujioka, Brent Honda chose UMKC because of a family connection. His journey to UMKC started back in 1943, when his grandfather, Takashi, became one of the first Japanese students to attend the UKC School of Dentistry.

In 1975, Takashi's son Randall followed. Randall grew up helping out around his father's dental practice, but is quick to point out he didn't feel pressured to follow in his father's footsteps.

"I wasn't even focused on dentistry. Kids are more focused nowadays, but I guess I wasn't really a high achiever," Randall says with a laugh. "My parents just put me on the plane and that was it."

Randall moved into an apartment at 50th and Troost with a group of fellow Hawaiian dental students. A year later, Fujioka made that same trip from KCI to Midtown, becoming Randall's roommate and a fellow patron of Arthur Bryant's Barbeque.

Fast forward three decades, and Fujioka is informing Randall's son he's been accepted at UMKC — another meaningful connection in a network that blankets the many miles between Kansas City and Hawaii.

The Hondas' story came full circle in May 2017, when the entire family was in Kansas City for Brent's graduation. As they ate dinner at Lidia's restaurant in Kansas City's Crossroads district, Brent's grandfather, Takashi, fixed his eyes on Union Station.

"My grandpa was like, 'That's where I got off,'" Brent says. "He took a boat from Hawaii to the west coast, and then took a train from there and landed at Union Station. It's pretty remarkable."

Randall recalls another memorable moment from that graduation weekend.

"One of the older dentists came by and talked to my dad and said, 'I know what you went through, and I'm glad you went to school.'"

Randall says. "He knew about the wartime. Not everyone knows that story."

#### A LASTING LEGACY

In Kansas City, among the barbeque joints and tornado sirens, you'll find Hawaiian students living together, studying together and spending holidays together. They host luaus for the dental fraternity. They cook traditional Hawaiian dishes — everything from shoyu chicken and kalua pork to something called "SPAM sushi."

And in Hawaii, among the sandy beaches and palm trees, you'll find some of the most passionate UMKC alumni in the country.

Pyle says she didn't realize the scope of the relationship until her first visit to Hawaii.

"I happened to see a Hawaiian dental journal, and it listed all the members and the top schools where they graduated from," Pyle says. "UMKC was number one. And we were number one by a long shot. It's not even close."

When Pyle visits Hawaii each year, alumni and parents greet her with hugs, handshakes and, of course, leis. They take her for authentic Hawaiian food and to some of the islands' treasured spots that few tourists see.

"You just can't say enough about the warmth these people have, the care, the love they have for our school," Pyle says. "And you cannot understand the depth of their commitment until you experience it."

For Brent, his UMKC degree is a constant reminder of what he — and his father and grandfather — stand for: community, family and service.

"It keeps me motivated, keeps me inspired, and I hope to give back, too," he says. "I can't imagine going to any other school."

## R00 roundup » Alumni news and views



The annual UMKC Alumni Awards celebration on June 15, 2018, honored distinguished alumni while supporting the next generation of Roos.

### UNIVERSITY-WIDE AWARDS



**KAY BARNES** (M.A. '71, M.P.A. '78)  
*Alumna of the Year*

First (and only) female mayor of Kansas City, Missouri, and senior director for university engagement at Park University

Hobbies: Golf, reading, needlepoint and cheering on the Chiefs!

*"It is clear that the legacy that UMKC created for us continues. It is now up to us to do everything we can to enable UMKC to be recognized as a great university — not just in the region, but across the country and beyond."*



**CARLA CONWAY WILSON** (B.S. '88)  
*Spotlight Award*

Senior director for student support services and student development at UMKC; former UMKC athletic director

Phrase used most often: To whom much is given, much is required.

*"For those who have been working at UMKC as long as I have, we have a really strong bond, sense of pride and loyalty to UMKC."*





**HANNAH LOFTHUS (B.A. '07)**  
*The Bill French Alumni Service Award*

Founder and chief executive officer of the Ewing Marion Kauffman School

Favorite book: "The Old Man and the Sea" by Ernest Hemingway

*"The world deserves and needs each one of us to dedicate ourselves to solving problems we're passionate about so we can leave the world better than how we found it."*



**FREDRICK N. MANASSEH (PHARM.D. '07, EMBA '12)**  
*Defying the Odds Award*

Senior pharmacy executive for AbsoluteCARE, principal and managing consultant at Rx Prowess

Favorite UMKC memory: Traveling to China for 10 weeks during an EMBA course to study disparities between Eastern and Western medicine

*"The only thing that is constant in the world is change. To supplement hard work and networking, education serves as an essential tool to attain future goals and aspirations."*



Sandra and Marvin Ferguson



William (Bill) O'Neill Eisler

**THE EISLER-FERGUSON FAMILY**  
*Legacy Award*

Within the Eisler-Ferguson family, there are more than a dozen Roos spanning three generations:

- William (Bill) O'Neill Eisler (B.A. '58, J.D. '60)

Richard Eisler (B.A. '65)

Patrick William Eisler (B.A. '93, M.P.A. '98)

Sean O. Eisler (B.S.M.E. '93)

Heather R. Beaird-Eisler (B.B.A. '90)

Haley Lynn Eisler (B.B.A. '90)

H. Elwin Ferguson (B.S. Pharm. '50)
- Marvin J. Ferguson (J.D. '62)

Sandra Lynn Ferguson (B.B.A. '62, J.D. '64)

Mark Marvin Ferguson (B.A. '87, J.D. '90)

Margaret Ann Costanzo (J.D. '94)

Carolyn M. Woodburn (B.S.P. '88)

Robert "Bob" Paul Richards, Jr. (B.B.A. '74)

George Mark Dunlap (Attended '82-86)

To learn more about the awardees and watch videos about their achievements, visit [umkcalumni.com/2018AlumniAwardees](http://umkcalumni.com/2018AlumniAwardees).



**CHRISTOPHER D. HARRIS**  
(B.L.A. '14)  
College of Arts and Sciences



**FRANK WEWERS**  
(MBA '69)  
Henry W. Bloch School of Management



**KARTHIKEYAN RAMASAMY**  
(M.S. '93)  
School of Computing and Engineering



**MOLLY WAGNER**  
(B.F.A. '07)  
Conservatory of Music and Dance



**JOSEPH PETER SPALITTO**  
(B.S. '68, D.D.S. '72)  
School of Dentistry



**DEBBY THOMPSON**  
(B.S.D.H. '81)  
School of Dentistry – Dental Hygiene



**CAROL CHARISMAS**  
(B.A. '67, M.A. '70)  
School of Education



**DANA TIPPIN CUTLER**  
(J.D. '89)  
School of Law



**WILLIAM E. (WES) STRICKER**  
(M.D. '79)  
School of Medicine



**RITA K. HAXTON**  
(M.S. '87)  
School of Nursing and Health Studies



**MARK L. HAYES**  
(B.S.P. '88)  
School of Pharmacy



# CLASS NOTES

## 2010s

Blake Cavender (D.D.S. '17, Dentistry) joined the Crider Health Center Dental Group in Union, Missouri.

Isaac Dains (D.D.S. '17, Dentistry) joined the Compass Health Wellness Dental Group in Butler, Missouri.

Nicholas Reinagel (D.D.S. '17, Dentistry) joined the Crider Health Center Dental Group in Wentzville, Missouri.



Gavin Brivik (B.M. '16, Conservatory) won Most Original Composition by a Young International Composer at the World Soundtrack Awards.

Kate Garman (J.D. '16, Law) was appointed as the first Smart City Coordinator for the City of Seattle, Washington.

Trevor Stewart (M.M. '16, Conservatory) joined Missouri Western State University's Department of Music as adjunct clarinet faculty. He is also principal clarinet of both the Wichita Symphony Orchestra and Symphony of Northwest Arkansas.



Sydney Harvey (B.A. '16, Arts and Sciences) was selected as a Fulbright U.S. Student Program Awardee to study the connection between philosophy and art in the United Kingdom.

William White (B.M.E. '15, Conservatory) joined Blue Springs South High School as assistant director of bands. An alumnus of Blue Springs High School, White says he is delighted to be back in the district.

Marc Reyes (M.A. '14, Arts and Sciences) was selected as a Fulbright U.S. Student Program Awardee to examine the political and cultural contexts of India's atomic energy program.

Kerwin Young (B.M. '12, M.M. '15, Conservatory) had a world premiere of his work "Season of Autocracy" performed by the University City Symphony Orchestra in St. Louis.

Beth Davey (B.M.E. '12, Conservatory) was named 2017 Missouri Teacher of the Year. Davey is a teacher at Iveland Elementary in the Ritenour School District in St. Louis.

Rachel Koger (MBA '11, Bloch) was named 2017 Kansas Emerging Leader of the Year by the Kansas Society of CPAs. Koger works as a CPA at Mize Houser & Co. in Overland Park, Kansas.

## 2000s

Femi Olagoke (B.B.A. '07, Bloch) appeared in the blockbuster movie "Black Panther," as well as "Avengers: Infinity War" and "Rampage." He works as a stuntman and actor in New York.

Jessica Agnelly (J.D. '05, Law) was promoted to partner at Wendt Law Firm in Kansas City, Missouri. She will continue to handle serious injury cases.

John Owen (M.S. '03, Bloch) was promoted to president and CEO of Executive AirShare. He was formerly chief financial officer for the company.

Janie Schumaker (B.S.N. '03, Nursing and Health Studies) was appointed executive director of the Board of Certification for Emergency Nursing (BCEN).

Gary Reese (B.B.A. '00, MBA '01, Bloch), a 23-year veteran of the Kansas City, Missouri, Fire Department, was named fire chief.

Brian Garner (E.D.S.P. '00, Education) became superintendent of the North Calloway R-1 School District in Kingdom City, Missouri.

## 1990s

Cynda Ann Johnson (MBA, '99, Bloch) retired as founding dean of the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine.

Kimberlee Reid (B.A. '99, Arts and Sciences) was appointed to the Park Hill School District Board of Education. The district serves more than 11,000 students and is the largest employer in Platte County, Missouri.

Rajiv Chilakalapudi (M.S. '97, Computing and Engineering) created the first Indian children's show for Netflix, "Mighty Little Bheem." The show is based on his enormously popular character, Chhota Bheem.

Stephanie Landing (B.A. '97, Arts and Sciences) became a major in U.S. Air Force. She has previously held nine HR positions, won five annual awards and has been an extra (military member) in the movies "Iron Man 2" and "Transformers 3."

Jodi Vickery (MBA '96, Bloch) was named president of Pioneer Services, a division of MidCountry Bank. She previously served as chief operating officer and has led a number of departments during her 20-year tenure with the company.

Jeff Andersen (M.P.A. '95, Bloch) was named Kansas Secretary for Health and Environment by former Governor Sam Brownback.

The Honorable Martina Peterson (J.D. '94, Law) was appointed 16th Judicial Circuit Court Judge of Jackson County, Missouri.

Ken Eberhart (M.M. '94, Conservatory) accepted a position as director of Instrumental and Vocal Music for Crossroads Academy Charter High School in Kansas City, Missouri.

Larry D. Martin (B.A. '91, Education), a second-grade teacher at Belinder Elementary in Prairie Village, Kansas, won the 2018 Jeopardy Teacher's Tournament and \$100,000.

Stephen J. Farnsworth (B.A. '90, Arts and Sciences) has published a new book titled "Presidential Communication and Character: White House News Management from Clinton and Cable to Twitter and Trump."



## 1980s

Lajuana Counts (J.D. '88, Law) was selected as Magistrate Judge in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Missouri. She previously served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney, leading the appellate unit of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Missouri.

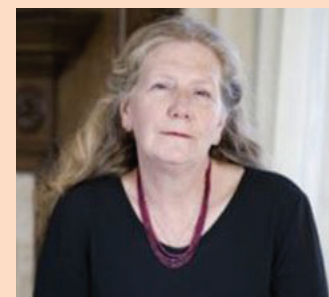


Charles Bruffy (M.M. '88, Conservatory), a Grammy Award-winning conductor, achieved a career milestone by receiving the Signature Sinfonian award from the Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity of America.

Katherine Pennavaria (M.A. '87, Arts and Sciences) has been a faculty librarian at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, Kentucky, since 2000. She is the author of two books, "Genealogy" and "Providing Reference Services," in Rowman & Littlefield's series "Practical Guides for Librarians."

Matthew Hahn (M.F.A. '87, Arts and Sciences) is the author of a new book, "The Animated Marx Brothers." The book details the cartoon appearances of the famous comedy team from 1930 to the present day.

## 1970s



Cynthia Watson (B.A. '78, Arts and Sciences) was named Dean of Academic Programs and Faculty at the National War College (NWC) in Washington, D.C. She has been a member of the NWC faculty since 1992 and served in various leadership roles at the college, including associate dean, department chair and electives dean.

Denise Bloch (B.A. '72, Arts and Sciences) joined Lathrop Gage's St. Louis office as Of Counsel in the Healthcare Practice.

Doug Jones (B.A. '70, Arts and Sciences) retired after a 50-year career of producing travelogues. In October 2017, his entire collection of film and videotape masters covering 68 different countries, shot between 1968 and 2011, and all supporting papers, were accepted into the UCLA Film and Television Archive in Los Angeles for future preservation and research.

Patricia Cleary Miller (M.A. '70, Arts and Sciences) received Rockhurst University's Rashford-Lyon Award for Leadership and Ethics.

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# ARE YOU A TRUE ROO?

In honor of this issue's look back at little-known campus tales and treasures, test your knowledge of UMKC and its alumni. Stumped? Find the answers at the bottom of this page.

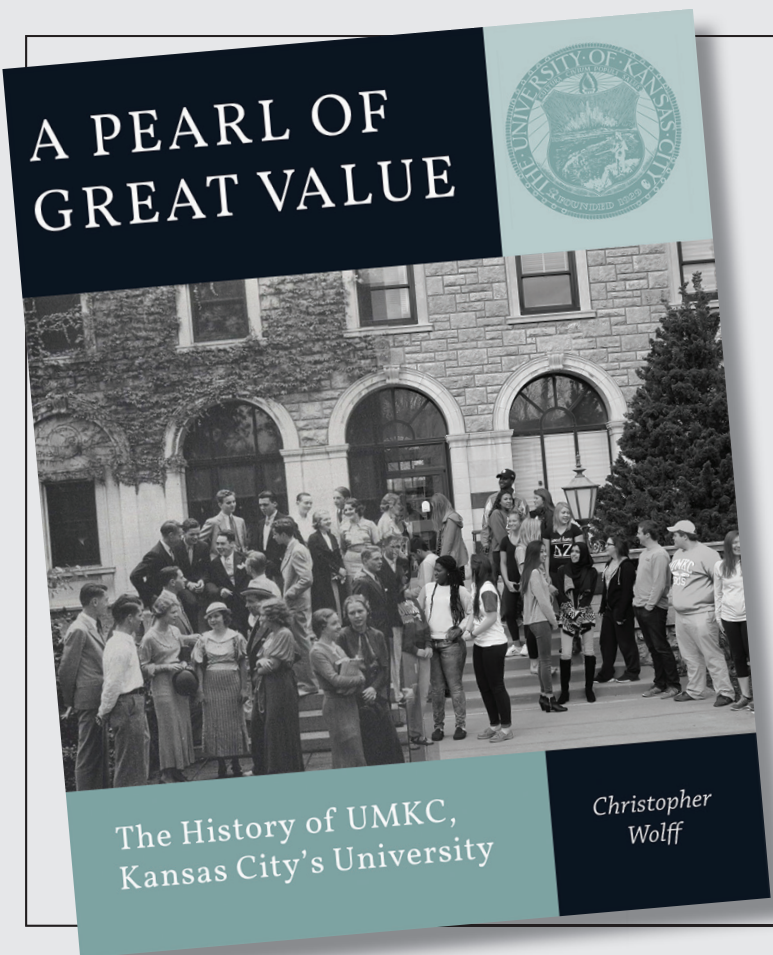
1. How many total alumni have graduated from UMKC?  
a. 14,200   b. 22,500   c. 58,000   d. 83,500   e. 123,000
2. Which of the following jobs have been held by UMKC alumni?  
a. Chief pharmacist at Ground Zero on Sept. 11  
b. Executive director of the Major League Baseball Players Association  
c. *New York Times* best-selling author  
d. Surgeon General of the U.S. Air Force  
e. All of the above
3. Who drew the original Kasey Kangaroo mascot for the university?
4. UMKC alumni have won which of the following honors?  
a. Miss America  
b. The Pulitzer Prize for investigative journalism  
c. The Pulitzer Prize for editorial cartooning  
d. Doris Duke Performing Artist Award  
e. All of the above
5. Of the three women who head a U.S. Federal Reserve Bank, how many are UMKC alumnae?

## Extra credit

How many of UMKC's 11 schools and colleges are older than the university itself, which was founded in 1933?

## Answers

1. e. 123,000 | 2. e. All of the above | 3. Walt Disney | 4. e. All of the above | 5. Two – Esther George (EMBA, '00), Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, and Mary Daly (B.A., '85), Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco | Extra Credit: Four – School of Pharmacy (founded in 1885, joined UKC in 1943), School of Law (founded in 1895, joined UKC in 1938), School of Dentistry (Western Dental College was founded in 1890 and joined UKC in 1941), Conservatory of Music and Dance (founded in 1902, joined UKC in 1959)



## Uncover UMKC's History

*A Pearl of Great Value: The History of UMKC, Kansas City's University*, written by alumnus Chris Wolff, is the first comprehensive history of the university published in almost 30 years. Containing hundreds of photographs, many never before published, this book chronicles the historical events and stories that embody the character and set the foundation for Kansas City's University. All book proceeds will support the UMKC Alumni Association's student scholarships.

Learn more about UMKC's historical book at:  
[go.umkc.edu/historybook](http://go.umkc.edu/historybook)

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