UMKC School of Medicine

2016 Annual Report
Milestones and momentum

**FORTY-FIVE YEARS** and counting ... a familiar phrase at the UMKC School of Medicine in 2016.

Over the years, we’ve experienced amazing growth and change. Our most recent commencement class included 126 graduates from seven degree and certificate programs. Compare that with our very first graduate class of nine students, all of whom earned a doctorate of medicine, the only program offered then.

Today, we rely on new technologies, innovative research and medical advancements to improve patient care and the medical training we provide to students — developments few could have imagined in 1971.

At the School of Medicine, we celebrate both pride in our history and excitement for our future, a combination that leads to continued success. And we couldn’t do it without you.

This past year, we raised more than $1.5 million from alumni, friends, foundations, partners and organizations that share our commitment to providing one of the best medical education programs in the country. Our new Alumni Mentoring Program was launched late in the year, connecting alumni donors with current students for career guidance, while also providing funding for needed facility and program improvements. We also received generous gifts to our scholarship programs, helping students fund their medical education. In 2016, more than 100 students received scholarship support. And throughout the year, we continued to honor those supporting the School of Medicine through estate planning gifts, leaving a lasting legacy in honor of our 45th milestone. Support through estate gifts in 2016 was more than $500,000.

Our mission — to foster excellence, innovation and scholarship in education, research and patient care — was advanced through generous donations, participation, encouragement and sponsorship. From grants, to memorial donations, to mentorship, your support played critical roles at our school. Thank you.

Although 45 years is relatively young compared with many other medical schools, our influence on the future health care of this country is no less significant. Working to prepare the next generation of physicians and health care professionals takes many forms, as well as many people. At UMKC, we are fortunate to count numerous friends and supporters in our mix.

Jay Wilson
Assistant Vice President – Health Science
UMKC Foundation
Daring to be different: UMKC marks 45 years of medical education

FROM THE BEGINNING, UMKC School of Medicine set out to be different.

It was the vision of founder E. Grey Dimond, M.D., who pushed for a unique way to train physicians. He called it a “rebellion in medical education”: an accelerated, dual-degree program completed in six years, based on a humanistic, hands-on approach to teaching and learning medicine. It featured peer and physician mentoring through docent teams, and focused on patient-driven education.

It was not your typical medical school … and not everyone was sold on the concept. Some called it a “bold experiment,” while a few warned it was “unproven” and “anti-establishment.” But in time, broad support came from community and civic leaders, hospitals and universities, trusts and foundations, the people of Kansas City, and even then-President Richard Nixon — who approved $8.8 million in federal funding for construction. Today, with many of its original concepts and programs still firmly in place, the UMKC School of Medicine is a leader in the medical education field, serving as a model and mentor for accelerated programs across the country.

This year, the school marked its 45th anniversary of innovative medical education. To reflect on that milestone, below are some lesser-known facts from the school’s anecdotal history, as told in the book Raising a Medical School:

• In the school’s beginning, only Missouri residents could be admitted, and the cost was $1,000 per year.
• According to Dr. Marjorie Sirridge, founding docent and former dean, because there was no regularly working elevator in the early years, and because it was determined that she was the docent whose coronaries were most adequate for making treks up and down the stairs, she was assigned to the upper floor docent unit.
• 1984 marked the first time the school’s incoming class had more women than men, 54 percent to 46 percent. This trend continues.
• Reflecting his early reputation, SOM founder Dimond was profiled in a 1991 The Journal of American Medical Association article titled “The Counterculture Medical Educator.”

For the School of Medicine, it’s been a 45-year rewarding journey of introducing innovative concepts into the field of medical education: involving patients early in the students’ learning process, incorporating the arts and sciences into the curriculum, and creating compassionate and knowledgeable physicians.

As the UMKC School of Medicine knows well, sometimes it pays to be different.
LOGAN BURROW, scholarhip recipient and fourth-year student in the six-year B.A./M.D. program, is the first to tell you that she didn’t choose medicine early on. Her idea of a doctor, while she was growing up in Concordia, Missouri, was limited to the family physician she visited annually.

Her dream was to be a teacher, but that started to change when her mother was diagnosed with breast cancer. Now, thanks in part to several scholarships, she is realizing her new dream.

Burrow’s mother was treated by Dr. Christopher Sirridge, M.D. ‘78, an oncologist at the University of Kansas Hospital (and son of UMKC School of Medicine founding docents William and Marjorie Sirridge). Burrow got to meet him, as well as see a whole other side of medicine.

Dr. Sirridge saw her mother until she was cancer-free, chatted with Burrow and her sisters during appointments, and participated in Relay for Life events with their mom even after she fully recovered.

“He really changed my perspective,” Burrow said. “I saw him be my mom’s friend. I thought it was cool how the doctor you had in your life could have a role beyond just fixing the problem. They can care about you long term.”

Years later, Burrow’s father was diagnosed with malignant fibrous histiocytoma, and Dr. Sirridge was back in their lives again. Unfortunately, her father’s cancer was aggressive and diagnosed in a late stage. After a month-long battle, he lost his fight.

“I believe that you get pushed into the direction of where you’re supposed to go based on your experiences,” Burrow said. “It’s also the gifts and talents that you have, and the people in your life.”

Dr. Sirridge was one of those people, as was Dr. David Paul, Burrow’s orthopedic surgeon. Burrow played volleyball, basketball and soccer in high school. During her sophomore year, she tore her meniscus, and Dr. Paul did her second knee surgery. Her time in a knee brace increased her interest in orthopedic surgery and sports medicine.

“I was meeting these really cool doctors who wanted to teach me about medicine,” Burrow said. “I saw that, as you progress through the field, giving back through teaching is not only encouraged, but facilitated.”

So the once-aspiring teacher found herself exploring a new career path. With her love of learning, the ability to handle high school science classes with ease and a passion for giving back, Burrow decided to pursue a degree in medicine. Among the first schools she considered: UMKC and its six-year program.

The B.A./M.D. program is an early-admit, dual-degree program. Burrow was especially interested in the mentorship aspects. Students are placed in docent groups from their first year and paired with a doctor and a more senior student starting in their third year. In classes, interactive learning is encouraged, and Burrows said that hands-on approach enriched her time in the program.

“I like that you’re not a number,” Burrow said. “Teachers and faculty know your name, and if you have any problems, everyone’s approachable. I like that UMKC facilitates a place of group learning. It discourages competitiveness among students and encourages competitiveness with yourself.”

Burrow also credits the school’s scholarships for making the program relatively affordable. For students like her, that’s important. Burrows has earned a scholarship every year so far, which has helped her get through medical school. Most recently, she received the Brian Petrie Memorial Scholarship and the Dean’s Scholarship.

“The alumni that choose to give back and help support the students who couldn’t do it on their own otherwise are a true asset to UMKC,” she said. “That’s something I want to do in the future. I want to help somebody else reach their dreams.”

Burrows knows these experiences, along with her future role as a physician, wouldn’t be possible without UMKC’s financial support.

“The scholarships I’ve gotten have honestly been really big blessings in my life,” she said. “Financially, they’ve been extremely helpful and, honestly, I don’t know if I would’ve been able to figure it all out otherwise.”

To learn more about scholarships available at UMKC and other support for School of Medicine students, visit med.umkc.edu/giving.
Fourth-year student Logan Burrow hopes to help others with scholarship aid someday.

SCHOLARSHIPS BY THE NUMBERS
2015-16 SCHOOL YEAR

100+
Students receiving scholarships

12%
Share of total donations designated for scholarships

$600,000+
Estimated total value of scholarships
The UMKC School of Medicine recognizes our Honor Roll of Donors, acknowledging gifts received between July 1, 2015, and June 30, 2016. These gifts are essential in advancing the quality of medical education and research conducted at the school. These charts show where the year’s contributions came from and what categories they will help finance.

**DONOR PROFILE**
- Organizations: $505,820
- Alumni: $392,560
- Foundations: $294,911
- Businesses: $190,176
- Friends: $142,215

**DONATION PURPOSE**
- Programs: 58%
- Faculty/Staff Support: 25%
- Scholarships: 12%
- Unrestricted: 4%

**THE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE BY THE NUMBERS**
- Six-year BA/MD Students: 607
- Degree and certificate programs: 10
- Residency and fellowship programs: 41
- Residents and fellows: 395
- Alumni: 3,488
- Alumni in KC area: 893
2015-16
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