



Joycelyn Elders, M.D., former United States Surgeon General, presented the first Dr. Reaner and Mr. Henry Shannon Lectureship in Minority Health at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine on Feb. 24.

Former Surgeon General Visits SOM To Deliver Minority Health Lecture

While society has worked long and hard to improve the health of America, the message Joycelyn Elders, M.D., brought to the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine on Feb. 24 came through loud and clear.

“We can do better,” the former United States Surgeon General said at the first Dr. Reaner and Mr. Henry Shannon Lectureship in Minority Health. “Our health care system is not where it can be.”

The lectureship was possible through an endowment established by Reaner Shannon, Ph.D., the associate dean for cultural enhancement and diversity, and her husband. An overflow audience spilled out of the School of Medicine’s Theater A to fill both of the school’s smaller theaters as well.

Dr. Elders, who served under President Bill Clinton, spoke on “A Key to a Healthy

America,” raising many of the same issues that she brought up during her tenure as Surgeon General from 1993-1994. The first African-American ever to serve as Surgeon General, Dr. Elders added a message aimed directly at young medical students.

“You’re being trained by the best doctors in the world,” she said. “You’ve got the best nurses in the world. You’ve got the best hospitals in the world. We’re doing cutting edge research.”

But, her emphasis was on the need for more.

A large portion of the money spent on health care in the United States, 97 percent, Dr. Elders said, is spent on what she called, “sick care,” while not enough is being spent on educating people how to prevent illness.

“We don’t teach people how to be
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New Professorship Continues Vision for Humanities

The University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine has taken another step in its commitment to the humanities in medicine by creating the Sirridge Professorship in Medical Humanities.

The endowed professorship, approved by the University of Missouri System Board of Curators, will provide for a clinical scholar who will be chosen to continue the legacy at the UMKC School of Medicine through leadership, intellect, intuition, kindness and the vision to advance the medical humanities.

Drs. William and Marjorie Sirridge left private practice to become founding docents at the UMKC School of Medicine in 1971. They established the Sirridge Office of Medical Humanities at the School of Medicine in 1992 to expand the opportunities to provide humanities courses for both premedical students and students in UMKC’s six-year B.A./M.D. program and to foster the development of a variety of humanities courses.

Marjorie Sirridge also served as dean of the School of Medicine as well as the first director of the Sirridge Office of Medical Humanities.

The Sirridge Professorship in Medical Humanities will allow the School of Medicine to continue the Sirridges’ vision of enabling students to participate in the creative expression of medicine, said School of Medicine Dean Betty M. Drees, M.D.

The Sirridges have continued their commitment to the School of Medicine and the medical humanities program as major donors to the endowed professorship. The remainder of the funding was raised from support by faculty, alumni, friends and supporters of the medical humanities. Those funds will be matched through the Missouri System Match Program to create a total endowment of \$1.1 million for the professorship.

“Our family is very supportive of this and has been very involved along the way,”
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Student Spotlight

Snowball/FAAPN



School of Medicine students enjoyed a full evening of dancing and entertainment on Feb. 25 at the annual Snowball and Faculty and Peer Appreciation Night (FAPAN) on Feb. 25 at the Radisson Hotel and Grand Ballroom in Kansas City. The event is one of the school's social highlights of the year. (Top left) Nadine Aboul-Magd, MS 2, left, and Cathy Cody, MS 2, share a moment together, while (top right) David Finke, MS 6, left, and Preeti Chopra, MS 6, were all smiles. (Above) Brenda Rogers, M.D., associate dean for student affairs, looks on as Marilyn McGuyre, middle, director of student affairs, presents the 2006 SNAKE Award to Ganesh Asaithambi, MS 3, a member of the winning Blue 2 docent unit of Richard Butin, M.D., assistant professor of medicine.

MSAC Officers



Pictured are the MSAC officers for 2006: (left to right) Tabitha Kenyon, MS 4, executive vice president; Lauren Fairbairn, MS 2, administrative vice president; Fahmeeda Jamaluddin, MS 5; Brenda Rodgers, M.D., associate dean for student affairs; Marilyn McGuyre, director of student affairs; Beverly Chen, MS 3, treasurer; and Ganesh Asaithambi, MS 3, secretary.

Lin to Receive AMA Leadership Award

Henry Lin, MS 6, will receive a Leadership Award from the American Medical Association Foundation on March 12 at the AMA Foundation Excellence in Medicine Awards Ceremony and Dinner in Washington, D.C., prior to the AMA National Advocacy Conference.

The awards ceremony is presented in association with the Pfizer Medical Humanities Initiative. The Leadership Awards are presented annually to medical students, residents or fellows, young physicians and international medical graduate physicians. The program recognizes the contributions of bright, energetic individuals who show strong non-clinical leadership skills in advocacy, community service or education.

The goal of the program is to help encourage leadership development and involvement in organized medicine.

Lin was one of just 15 medical students throughout the United States to receive this year's award.

OER Taking Senior Statements for SYIR

The Office of Educational Resources is taking senior statements for the 2006 Six Years in Review, the memory book that includes portraits, biographical material, and a statement of thanks, future plans, etc., from each graduate, as well as candid snapshot photos.

Senior statements must be sent to Kelly Edwards, editor, in the Office of Educational Resources, by e-mail at edwardske@umkc.edu with a maximum of 80 words. Deadline for senior statements is Monday, March 20.

SOM Students Planning Community Service Day

Students from the School of Medicine will be participating in a Community Service Day along side students from the Nursing School on April 1. The event, called Homerun for Health, will be from 1:30-4 p.m. at the Genesis School/Thornberry Unit of the Greater Kansas City Boys and Girls Club.

The day will consist of a Wellness fair with sports clinics, and health screenings. Helicopters, and a fire truck will also be on site for children to see.

Volunteers are still needed to provide 200-400 sports physicals to children ages 5-18 so that they can participate in the RBI (Reviving Baseball in the Inner City) program during the summer months.

To sign up, contact Beverly Chen, MS 3, at beverlychen@umkc.edu, Lauren Fairbairn, MS 2, at lrf36d@umkc.edu, Lucy Franjic, MS 2, at lfn66@umkc.edu, or Matt McLaughlin, MS 3, at mjmkc3@umkc.edu.

Financial Skills Seminar Presented in April

The School of Medicine will present a free, four-week non-credit course in financial survival skills for all students in years 4-6 during the month of April.

Randy Gardner, M.B.A., J.D., a member of the faculty of the Bloch School of Business and Public Administration, will teach each session. Light refreshments will be provided.

Sessions will be Thursdays from 4-6 p.m. in room M5-CO5. Sessions include: April 6 — Personal Financial Statements & Budgets: A MapQuest for Your Finances; April 13 — Personal & Business Tax Planning: Legitimate Ways to Keep What You Earn; April 20 — Investment and Insurance Planning: Growing Your Wealth While Protecting What You Have; and April 27 — Retirement & Estate Planning: Taking Care of Yourself and Your Family.

To participate, students should e-mail Ruth Grimsley in the Advancement Office at grimsleyr@umkc.edu by Thursday, March 31 to let her know they will attend. Students may attend any one of the sessions or all of the sessions as their schedules allow.

Faculty Focus

Dr. Moormeier Appointed GME Associate Dean

Jill A. Moormeier, M.D., M.P.H., associate professor of medicine and Red 1 docent, has been selected as associate dean for Graduate Medical Education at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine. Her appointment took effect on March 1.

Dr. Moormeier has been active in graduate medical education as director of the hematology/oncology fellowship program since 2000. She also serves as section chief of hematology/oncology, vice chairman for clinical affairs in the department of medicine, and as senior docent for the School of Medicine's Red Unit.

She served as associate director of the internal medicine residency program from 1992-2000.

A 1983 graduate of the University of Nebraska College of Medicine in Omaha, Dr. Moormeier completed her residency training at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center in New York, and did fellowship training in hematology and oncology at the University of Chicago Medical Center.

She joined the UMKC School of Medicine in 1990 as assistant professor of medicine and was promoted to associate professor in 2002.

Dr. Moormeier has held numerous committee positions and offices at the School of Medicine and Truman Medical Center Hospital Hill. She currently serves as a member of the board of directors for the University Physician Associates and is chairman of the UPA finance committee.

She has been active in grant-funded research and has published numerous journal articles.



Dr. Moormeier

International Medicine Expert N. Lynn Eckhart, M.D., lecturer on ambulatory care prevention at Harvard Medical International, presented the UMKC School of Medicine's first International Medicine Lectureship sponsored by the E. Grey Dimond Program in International Medicine on Feb. 10.



International Medicine Expert Speaks at SOM on Global Health Issues

N. Lynn Eckhart, M.D., an expert on international medicine, and a senior lecturer on ambulatory care prevention at Harvard Medical International, presented the UMKC School of Medicine's first International Medicine Lecture sponsored by the E. Grey Dimond, M.D., Program in International Medicine on Feb. 10.

Dr. Eckhart, who also serves as chair of the Association of American Medical Colleges, spoke on the changing patterns of health around the globe and the differences in global standards in health care and medical education.

Nearly 30 percent of all medical students in the United States today will do a rotation in an international medicine program, Dr. Eckhart said. Many of those rotations take place in developing countries. The difference in those rotations today, she said is that "they are no longer just a tropical disease experience."

Dr. Eckhart explained that she has used many of the lessons she learned while taking part in a residency overseas in later cases here in the United States.

Dr. Eckhart told students and faculty that major universities throughout the country are taking on the idea of globalization with a desire to develop a world expertise in medicine.

Major universities are embracing globalization, with a desire to become global doctors and develop experiences about different cultures to learn and share, she said.

"More people are retiring to places overseas and need health care overseas," she said. "We have an obligation to address global health problems."

Life Sciences Research Day is March 30

The 2006 Kansas City Area Life Sciences Annual Research Day will be from 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. on March 30 at Bartle Hall in the Kansas City Convention Center.

Registration is \$75 after March 7. Registration fees are waived for students, post-doctoral fellows and their teachers/mentors.

Three scientific sessions are scheduled with plenary speakers. Cy Stein, M.D., Ph.D., head of medical genitourinary oncology and professor of medicine at Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York, will lead discussions on oncology. Richard Atkinson, M.D., clinical professor of pathology at Virginia Commonwealth University, will speak on the complications of obesity. Franziska Grieder, D.V.M., Ph.D., associate director of comparative medicine at the National Center for Research Resources, a component of the National Institutes of Health, will speak on comparative medicine.



Julianne Donovan, graphic designer in the Office of Educational Resources, received the latest Cause For Applause staff appreciation award from School of Medicine Dean Betty M. Drees, M.D.

OER's Donovan Wins Staff Appreciation Award

Julianne Donovan, graphics designer in the Office of Educational Resources, was selected as the sixth winner of the Cause For Applause staff appreciation award at Dialogue with the Dean in Theater B.

Donovan was selected from a list of eight nominees for the award that recognizes School of Medicine staff members who go the extra mile at work to help students or co-workers.

In addition to Donovan, nominees included: Zig Zobans, senior graphics artist in the Office of Educational Resources; David Hanzlick, director of development;

Mary McCamy, director of advancement and special events; Mel Davis, special assistant to the dean; Ruth Grimsley, administrative assistant for alumni and development; Christopher Boyce, support systems administrator in Evaluation and Computer Resources; and Kelly Edwards, editor in the Office of Educational Resources.

If you have witnessed one of the UMKC School of Medicine staff going the extra mile at work to help students or co-workers, or if you think someone did a great job on a project and should be recognized, consider them for the "Cause for Applause" award.



The School of Medicine has created an endowed professorship in the medical humanities in the names of William Sirridge, M.D., and his wife, former School of Medicine Dean Marjorie Sirridge, M.D., who served as two of the school's founding docents. The Sirridge Professorship in Medical Humanities will provide for a clinical professor who will continue the vision of advancing the medical humanities in the School of Medicine curriculum.

Sirridge Professorship

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 said Dr. Marjorie Sirridge. "It really has been a family endeavor. We hope this establishes a formal recognition of the importance of the humanities in the medical curriculum and its relationship to the education of medical students. This is an effort to expand the program and make it more useful."

Former Surgeon General Lectures at SOM

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 healthy," she said. "We have a huge unfinished agenda. We have to deal with the social problems."

More importance has to be placed on educating today's young people on everything from the dangers of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco, to sex education. Many of today's teenagers, and even adolescents, are experimenting with drugs and alcohol, she pointed out. "And many are drinking while driving," she said.

"These are issues we're going to have to deal with to make a difference in society," Dr. Elders said.

She also talked about a widening of the gap in disparities in health care. However, she said those disparities are not merely an issue of black versus white.

"There is a lot of disparity in our health today as the result of socio-economic issues. There's a widening of the gap between the haves and the have nots," Dr. Elders said. "We have to be aware of the disparities but some of the problem is with us. We haven't educated the health

care population how to talk to minorities."

While many ask how the country can afford to spend more on health care, Dr. Elders said her response is simply, "How can we afford to keep doing what we're doing? We have not decided as a society we want to make (spending more on health care) happen."



Pro Re Nata: As Circumstances Require
 Volume 34 * No. 2 * March 2006
 University of Missouri-Kansas City
 School of Medicine

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prn. is published monthly with the exception of January and July for students and faculty of the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine by the Office of educational Resources:

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March Calendar

- 4 — Spring Break Begins at End of Day
- 13 — Coursework Resumes
 - National Residency Matching Program matched and unmatched student information released, 11 a.m. Central Time
- 14 — Locations of unfilled residency positions released, 11 a.m. central time.
- 16 — Match Day, 11 a.m., Theater A
- 25 — Marilyn McGuyre Bowling Tournament
- 31 — Last Day to Withdraw with Assessment