The Department of History and Philosophy of Medicine
## Table of Contents

- Notes from the Chair ............................................3
- General Announcements .....................................4
- Upcoming Events .................................................11
- Library Notes ........................................................12
- News from the Museum .......................................13
- News from the Archives ........................................14

Co-Editor and Layout: Julie Stark; Co-Editor and Proofreader: Heather McNeill
Contact: (913) 588-7098; jstark2@kumc.edu
Front cover photo: Student nurse and patients in KUMED Pediatric Ward, 1924.
Photo credit: KUMC Archives.
As the new academic year gets underway, the melody may sound familiar, but some of the lyrics will have changed. These changes start with this newsletter, which will see a slimmer format for the next edition. Beginning this fall the department is moving to expand our digital communications, pushing out more event notifications and updates on activities through the web and related media. This means that the conventional printed newsletter will appear in a compact form, as an overview of the past year’s activities. What lies ahead will be broadcast digitally, but our reflections on what has passed will go on paper, based on a secure belief that paper records will survive in the archives long after many electronic records have faded into a haze of binary hiss.

A piece of this year’s changing digital landscape is the medical center’s new arts and commentary online forum called Med Intima (https://medintima.com). The site is the creation of QueQee Gao, a rising second-year student with a gift for creative collaborations. Med Intima is an online publication “dedicated to community, creativity, and culture at the University of Kansas School of Medicine.” The first volumes are filled with work both intriguing and beautiful, a collection of reflective essays, fiction, musical samples, and photography of plastic arts. It is an eclectic, welcoming digital space that inspires reflection on the nature of medicine and its place in a broad understanding of our shared humanity. The site is supported by the department as part of Ms. Gao’s work through the Clendening Summer Fellowship. I was pleased to find that the site’s main page is the first Google hit for “Med Intima KUMC”—with no sponsored ads! A roll-out party with live readings to celebrate the site’s new front page took place in late August.

The new academic year brings other changes in student leadership with the Ethics Round Table now under the stewardship of Urmi Patel and Hannah Hildebrand. They have already laid out a terrific schedule of topics for monthly meetings. Taking up the torch from last year’s president, Isaac Baldwin, Patel and Hildebrand plan to build on the existing format. The sessions will begin with a short clinical presentation or a news item that leads to discussion in small lunch groups and concludes with a large, mediated open exploration of the topic, engaging the full thirty-five-person attendance. Topics planned for this year include the health impact of socioeconomic conditions in our Wyandotte County, transplant ethics, Medicaid expansion, vaccination and measles outbreaks, accommodations for disability, end-of-life decision making, and safety-net clinics and quality of care.

Another change this year in medical student programs will be the inclusion of Kansas City’s Osler Society as a formal part of the department’s educational initiatives. Drs. Carla Keirns and Ryan Fagan have been working closely with Dr. Sherman Steinzeig, who is the founder and motive force behind this remarkable organization. The Osler Society has been one of the rare collaborative student organizations connecting KU Medical School to the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine. I have long admired the society, as a great opportunity for medical students to step back and think about medicine and the physician’s role more broadly. This rare bistate collaboration
seems a perfect symbol of the professional collegiality that they seek to encourage. Dr. Keirns has great bona fides to be a leader of the organization, as an historian of medicine well acquainted with the legacy of Sir William, and also a palliative medicine physician who has been leading the Osler Society’s hospice experience programs. The opportunity to provide a home for the Osler Society here at KUMC with Dr. Keirns at the helm will also create a connection to the national American Osler Society, where Dr. Keirns and I are both members. That may provide further new opportunities for professional growth for students on both sides of the state line.

If you are interested in registering for the regular email list, you can contact Ryan Fagan directly at rfagan@kumc.edu, or visit the department webpage where you can register online through the pull-down list under About Us on the home page.

Chris Crenner, MD, PhD, Professor and Chair

CLENDENING-KING SUMMER FELLOWS
The Department of History and Philosophy of Medicine is pleased to award ten Clendening and King Summer Fellowships in 2019. These include a variety of international projects as well as several in the Kansas City area. The Fellows, all second-year medical students at the University of Kansas School of Medicine, were each asked to describe their project.

Emma Bassette
I am exploring the attitudes and perceptions of women in San Pedro, Guatemala, regarding cervical cancer screening. I conducted a qualitative analysis by administering a survey to women who were patients in a local clinic. The goal of this project is to use the results to work toward developing a program to increase the use of Visual Inspection with Acetic Acid for screening and treatment of cervical cancer in rural Guatemala. (Department Faculty Mentor: Dr. Tarris Rosell)

Idaima Calderon
My project seeks to gain an understanding of the knowledge, beliefs, and attitudes that Dominican adolescents have regarding sexual health and pregnancy prevention. Research is conducted through survey collection methods in high schools of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. In addition, the project aims to increase the students’ knowledge of these topics using evidence-based interactive educational sessions. (Department Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jason Glenn)

Leah Dionisi
My project seeks to explore parents’ perceptions of genetic testing of their newborns. The perceptions of those who have received prenatal genetic counseling will be compared with families who did not receive counseling. This will be accomplished through both quantitative and qualitative analysis. The study is being conducted at Children’s Mercy Hospital in Kansas City. (Department Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jason Glenn)

QeeQee Gao
My project aims to chronicle and discover commonalities of the lived medical school experience among the Class of 2022 medical students. The framework of my research is based on a phenomenological study. I am concurrently laying the groundwork for establishing the KUMC Quarterly (with a new
name and design) as a viable and permanent publication at our institute. I am excited to share the new website and space with the community. (Department Faculty Mentor: Dr. Ryan Fagan)

Nadia Nawabi
My project aims to differentiate and identify events of moral distress and moral injury within the nursing staff at The University of Kansas Hospital. This study involves participants taking two different surveys objectifying whether they have or have not experienced moral distress or moral injury, and how these events and terms coincide with one another. I am looking especially at how presence of these morally injurious or distressful events leads to burn out, which inevitably may precipitate onto patient care. (Department Faculty Mentor: Dr. Chris Crenner)

Tho Nguyen
I am studying the phenomenon of facemask usage in Vietnam. To conduct my research, I spent about a month in Ho Chi Minh City, where I interviewed 125 people on their usage of facemasks. The experience allowed me to better understand this phenomenon with direct observation and conversations. (Department Faculty Mentor: Dr. Tarris Rosell)

Gracie Palmer
I interviewed two cohorts of emergency physicians in Kansas City and Oslo, Norway in order to compare their experiences with different electronic health records (EHRs). My project focuses on how these variations influence their practice of medicine and perceived pros/cons between two systems—specifically interoperability, delivery of patient care, physician burn out, and work efficiency. (Department Faculty Mentor: Dr. Chris Crenner)

Shiva Pedram
The aim of this project is to analyze the maternity health system of home births and midwives in the Netherlands. I hope to uncover the intrinsic and extrinsic factors that influence a woman’s choice to give birth at home or in the hospital. I conducted the research by administering a patient survey, interviewing midwives and OB/GYNs, and facilitating patient focus groups. (Department Faculty Mentor: Dr. Ryan Fagan)
Nathan Stacy
This project attempts to ascertain what values are most important to the medical profession through the lens of medical oaths. I am conducting a research survey on the oaths that medical students take during or at the completion of their training in U.S. medical schools and will do a content analysis to determine the values present in those oaths. (Department Faculty Mentor: Dr. Carla Keirns)

Emily Worley
My project assesses our competency as medical students to care for and support those with developmental disabilities. To accomplish this, I created an online questionnaire that encompassed the “baseline expertise required to provide quality care to patients with disabilities.” This standard is described by the Alliance for Disability in Health Care Education in their article “Core Competencies on Disability for Health Care Education.” The questionnaire was sent to University of Kansas medical students from the classes of 2019 through 2022. So as to address competencies that responses indicate were not met satisfactorily, I also am collaborating on an educational film with the University of Kansas Center on Developmental Disabilities. (Department Faculty Mentor: Dr. Carla Keirns)

Isaac Baldwin, MD Candidate
2021, 2019-20 Coordinator
Tarris Rosell, PhD, DMin, MDiv, Co-Director
Clendening-King Summer Fellowships

FELLOWS PRESENTATION SCHEDULE
All presentations: 12 noon - 1:00pm, Clendening Auditorium, 2004 Robinson. Lunch for the first 50.

Monday, October 21
QeeQee Gao
Emily Worley

Tuesday, October 22
Gracie Palmer
Tho Nguyen

Monday, October 28
Nadia Nawabi
Emma Bassette

Tuesday, October 29
Idaima Calderon
Shiva Pedram

Wednesday, October 30
Nathan Stacy
Leah Dionisi

HEALING AND POETRY
To live a long or short life is to desire at some point a certain kind of healing, whether physical or spiritual. In this desire, we become a place of need in which healing is physical or transcendent or both at once.

In the history of healing, artists have been hard at work for centuries. I refer to the way art leaves us feeling awestruck, joyful, or stretched to new visions. This expressiveness, if you believe in such possibility, can infiltrate your life-spirit that becomes a zone in which suffering or chaos finds respite, harmony, clarity. Art does many things, but its pull on troubled minds and hearts is indisputable. It’s both a beginning and an end: the act of seeing, reading, or hearing brings about fresh responses and delivers us from pain or lostness. Artists are the servants of healing.

Among artists, writers have been using creative works to heal for a long time. Some have called it “bibliotherapy,” an all-inclusive term, or the more
specific “poetry therapy.” Recently, there has been another kind of action: the one-on-one connection between artist and other, or the group session between artist and others, facilitating an emotional-healing effect. I think of the national writing project for veterans called “Writing My Way Back Home.” The poem, for example, is the all-important material of the interaction; but the interaction itself is a most vital part of this therapy. Poets in particular know that poetry and therapy are so close to one another that only the most elitist definition of literature eschews this intimate connection.

Arthur Lerner, the clinical psychologist, not the figurative artist, pointed out more than 20 years ago that poetry therapy is a “tool.”1 Lerner didn’t believe that poetry could “cure”; he sought greater awareness and improvement in the quality of life through poetry therapy. Yet he wrote poetry as well as practiced psychology over a long and successful career. While Lerner combined art and healing in his own life, many poetry therapists do not. They are psychologists, educators, and social workers by training and outlook. Somehow the notion developed that poetry therapy aims to make poets. (Lerner alludes to turf wars in his assessment of the field.) Most working poets and writers who help vulnerable populations try to show how literature can make a place in their lives, whether they read it, write it, or both, that is at once creative and healing. Their goal is not to preach a single meaning of a poem/story or how to write one. When brought together in poetry therapy, the meshing of imagination and suffering can help one continue the journey of being and becoming more fully human. There are tools and there are gifts.

In 1994, Edward Stainbrook, MD, PhD, recognized in poetry therapy precisely what poets and other artists have known for a very long time: “The merger of poetry with therapy may result in the revitalizing and remoralizing of the self by providing a wholeness of consciousness—an integration of emotion, cognition, and imagery—with which to create and maintain personal meaning.”2 Stainbrook’s language suggests that the focus of this “merger” is both the person and the poem simultaneously. To privilege one or the other is to limit both. Obviously, quacks on either side of the therapy/art divide can make a mess of things, but with a widening or “whole” view of both poetry and healing something dynamic happens.

More than a hundred years ago, the English poet Christina Rossetti wrote: “If I had words, if I had words / At least to vent my misery: -- / But muter than the speechless herds / I have no voice wherewith to cry.”3 How often has anyone wished, longed for, or cried out to be able to express common human experience? Language and life together as one! Their impossibility producing hopelessness and silence! Ordinary working people, who would never claim to have an artistic or writerly bone in their bodies, often carry a pocket-sized book of poems or quotations or images that offer them a voice or simply a moment in which to confront their lives. For many of us, healing commences not in church or temple, mosque or ashram, clinic or private consulting room, but in the barrens of life when a poem or other work of art alters time and changes us.

Andrés Rodríguez, PhD
Graduate Writing Specialist

THE RISE AND FALL OF THE KU PEDIATRICS RESIDENCY PROGRAM (1932 – 2020)

The KU Peds residency program is finished. But we can still examine the arc of its eighty-eight years in view of the educational goals it once tried to meet.

The medical resident, according to William Osler in 1893, is an MD who yearns to become a specialist and even to teach as a clinician-scientist. The requisite faculty will be full-time; giving half to teaching, half to research, and nothing to private practice. The teaching hospital will sit within the university, with the scientific labs within easy reach. The residents and faculty will work together, the former absorbing what they can and giving back with serious questions. This model was adopted all across the land, but it sometimes took decades to achieve.

The first classic pediatric residency program debuted in 1912 at the Johns Hopkins Children’s Center. Its Chair, John Howland, worked 50:50 at teaching and research, and all of his faculty did likewise, thus offering their residents ideal academic models. Howland was the nation’s first full-time pediatrics Chair and he was paid $300 a year ($4,300 in 2019), and throughout his twenty-one-year Chairmanship he lived on the income from his private practice in Missouri. He published often, and sometimes with other Peds faculty, but science did not interest him, and he stocked the department with like-minded private practitioners.

In the early 1930s, four MDs were accepted as hospital residents. The first in pediatrics was Eugene Schwartz, a 1931 St. Louis University MD who interned at St. Mary’s in Kansas City, Missouri, then pursued a KU Peds residency for eighteen months before he evidently became discouraged. He chose instead to move on to a full year at Boston Children’s Hospital, the country’s strongest pediatrics residency program. Schwartz returned to Kansas City and opened his Missouri office. Finally, he became an assistant to Neff but dropped off the academic map after only one year. His KUMC history was typical in those early times: Many residents stayed for only one year.

A Timid Beginning
KU Med Center’s published budgets show that for at least forty years it was in no condition to host serious residency programs. The hospital had no basic science departments and it was located forty-five miles from the main campus science center. Moreover, few KUMC department Chairs worked full-time, and the other teaching faculty were practicing physicians who worked for nothing or a small honorarium and put in just a few hours a week teaching the undergraduate medical students. There was practically no research being done because the faculty’s interests generally lay in their private practices across the state line in Missouri.

In 1924 a new hospital was built and Pediatrics was officially established, but the framework was much the same as described above. Our Chair, Frank Neff, was paid $300 a year ($4,300 in 2019), and throughout his twenty-one-year Chairmanship he lived on the income from his private practice in Missouri. He published often, and sometimes with other Peds faculty, but science did not interest him, and he stocked the department with like-minded private practitioners.

In the early 1930s, four MDs were accepted as hospital residents. The first in pediatrics was Eugene Schwartz, a 1931 St. Louis University MD who interned at St. Mary’s in Kansas City, Missouri, then pursued a KU Peds residency for eighteen months before he evidently became discouraged. He chose instead to move on to a full year at Boston Children’s Hospital, the country’s strongest pediatrics residency program. Schwartz returned to Kansas City and opened his Missouri office. Finally, he became an assistant to Neff but dropped off the academic map after only one year. His KUMC history was typical in those early times: Many residents stayed for only one year.

The Program Takes Wing
The graph on the next page shows nothing doing in Pediatrics or Internal Medicine until the end of World War II. In 1945 the second
Pediatrics Chair, Herbert Miller, arrived from Yale, exuding East Coast academic confidence. For him, clinical medicine is built on science, and successful residencies depend on full-time faculty doing science. Miller built that faculty, and a cadre of committed residents followed. By the early 1950s four full-time teachers were publishing excellent research. One of them, Herbert Wenner, was being recognized internationally for work on polio viruses.

In the 1960s KUMC developed basic science departments just in time to greet the explosion of federal research grants … and KU Peds’ residents acquired a healthy complexion that lasted for decades. Not everybody did research, yet the 1981 national norms required research of all residents, and our program was occasionally dinged by the accreditation authorities. Nevertheless some residents could always be seen doing research.

The resident count increased to an all-time high of thirty-eight in 2011, then promptly crashed.

The Fall
In 2012 a “merger” that destroyed KU Peds was signed with Children’s Mercy Hospital in Missouri. Our last new residents would arrive in 2017 and graduate in 2020, but the numbers began to drop five years earlier, in 2012. Thus the ship began to sink before the ink was dry. In Summer 2019, graduating resident Sarah Hanna Orr was hired to stay on, as Chief Resident, for the program’s last year. In Spring of 2020, it will therefore fall to Dr. Orr to turn off the lights and shut the door.

John M. Belmont, PhD
Department of Pediatrics

RALPH HERMON MAJOR
LUNCHEON SEMINAR SERIES
Whatever the season, the fickleness of Kansas weather is an established fact, if also a defining characteristic. Yet, this year’s winter was decidedly more consistent than in years past and dispensed no small amount of cold air, snow, and ice. As part of the logistical fallout from these winter offerings, the spring series had an unfortunate, late start. The cancellation of Dr. Kirby Randolph’s February talk, “Participatory Research and Postcolonial Outcomes,” came as a disappointment. And notwithstanding the interests of safety foremost at heart, those inclined toward a literal semantics were heartened that the cancellation meant the spring series began officially after the equinox.

Thus, we began in late March with Dr. Lillian Pardo and her talk, “Pediatric Neurology: Baby Steps to Now.” This talk was a long time coming to say the least. I say that because Dr. Pardo resisted my invitations to present for the last few years, largely out of modesty, but also because of her many service commitments, some of
which are done internationally. She continues to honor many of those commitments well into her retirement, which she does with heightened verve. This bears testimony to the success of her career as a pediatric neurologist at this institution, which her talk briefly outlined. The talk itself complements her memoir, *Beyond the Shores* (2016). While the memoir relays the trajectory of her life and career in the Philippines and the US, her talk focused on the development of pediatric neurology at KU along with her personal and professional relationships with some of that department’s *dramatis personae*, who effectively, just as Dr. Pardo had done, left a remarkable stamp. Indeed, Dr. Pardo shared part of a fascinating story, which we were privileged to hear.

Dr. Stephen Bohrer joined us in April from Alamosa, Colorado. It was a delight to host him and to get to know more about him and his family story. Dr. Bohrer is a lifetime educator having initially taught high school physics and chemistry and later served as a district-level administrator for thirty years. In his retirement, he has cultivated among other things a love for history, and specifically, his family history. His talk, “A Civil War Surgeon Triumphs over the Vicissitudes of the 19th Century,” traces the history of his ancestor, Dr. Godfrey Bohrer. Godfrey had served as a surgeon in the 34th Indiana Volunteer Regiment during the later months of the Civil War and bore witness to some of the Western Theater’s harrowing, concluding moments. We learn that he was a recipient of a homestead grant, which led him and his family from Indiana to Kansas in 1873. Having arrived in Kansas, he established a farm and later served as a representative in the Kansas State Legislature. Godfrey’s skills did not end there, however, but extended to horticulture and apiculture, two pursuits that he advocated for in unison. He planted literally thousands of fruit trees and was a founding member of the National Beekeeper’s Association and contributed articles on the subject. As Dr. Bohrer had said, Godfrey’s was truly “a remarkable life.”

The spring series concluded with Dr. Whitney Sperrazza, just as she entered the final months of her tenure as a post-doctoral fellow at KU’s Hall Center for the Humanities. This fall Dr. Sperrazza joins the faculty of English at the Rochester Institute of Technology where she will continue her work on sixteenth and seventeenth-century English poetry and prose. We were delighted to host Dr. Sperrazza last May and to hear about some of her recent research. It has been a longtime desire of mine and others to facilitate a better communion between this department and the Lawrence campus, especially since there is considerable overlap of interesting and meaningful work. Dr. Sperrazza’s seminar served well in that effort. Her talk, “Renaissance Skins: Translating Dissection to the Page in Early Modern Anatomical Texts,” stems from her recent work that explores the intersections between literature and science. These points-of-contact, such as those between the poetic practices of women and early anatomical work, are revealing and enrich our understanding in several ways. Her current book project continues in that vein and is titled *Perverse Intimacies: Poetry, Anatomy, and the Early Modern Female Form*. It is sure to be a valuable contribution to the scholarship devoted to the dynamic between the literary humanities and the sciences along with some of its historical features.

Ryan R. Fagan, PhD
Research Assistant Professor
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9
Ralph Hermon Major Luncheon Seminar Series
Seth Jacob, MD
Associate Professor, Anesthesiology
University of Kansas Medical Center
“Chloroform, the Dogmatic Edward Lawrie, and Pariah Dogs”
12 noon – 1:00 pm
Clendening Foyer, 1000 Robinson
RSVP: Ryan Fagan, rfagan@kumc.edu or 913-588-7040. Lunch provided.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10
Clendening Museum Exhibit Opening
“White Coat/Black Bag” centers on doctors’ bags from the museum collection, exploring rural medicine in late 19th and 20th century Kansas.
Exhibit underwritten by family and friends of Dr. John Berry (MD’74).
1:00 – 3:00 pm
Clendening Foyer, 1000 Robinson
Refreshments will be served.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25
Don Carlos Peete Lecture in the History of Medicine
David Herzberg, PhD
Associate Professor, History
University of Buffalo
“The Other Drug War: Addictive Medicines and American Drug Policy from Heroin to OxyContin”
12 noon – 1:00 pm
Clendening Auditorium, 2004 Robinson
Lunch provided for the first 40.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13
Ralph Hermon Major Luncheon Seminar Series
Stuart Munro, MD
Professor, Psychiatry
University of Missouri at Kansas City
“Good Doctor/Bad Doctor?: A Clinical Discussion of a Short Story from the Popular Literature”
12 noon – 1:00 pm
Clendening Foyer, 1000 Robinson
RSVP: Ryan Fagan, rfagan@kumc.edu or 913-588-7040. Lunch provided.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14
Stanley R. Friesen Lecture in the History of Surgery
Douglas Burton, MD
Marc and Elinor Asher Spine Professor, Vice Chairman
University of Kansas Medical Center
“The History of Spine Instrumentation Through a Kansas Lens”
4:30 pm – Reception
Clendening Foyer, 1000 Robinson
5:00 pm – Lecture
Clendening Auditorium, 2004 Robinson

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11
Ralph Hermon Major Luncheon Seminar Series
Anthony Kovac, MD
Professor, Anesthesiology
University of Kansas Medical Center
“Orval Cunningham: The Man, His Machine, His Tanks in Kansas City and Cleveland”
12 noon – 1:00 pm
Clendening Foyer, 1000 Robinson
RSVP: Ryan Fagan, rfagan@kumc.edu or 913-588-7040. Lunch provided.
At the end of February 2019, we received Bonhams Auction catalog for *The Medical & Scientific Library of W. Bruce Fye*. Dr. Fye is well known in the medical rare book world as a discriminating collector as well as a rare book dealer. In addition, he is a prominent cardiologist and medical historian.

We realized the Fye Library auction was being held in about ten days, on Monday, March 11, 2019. Bidding would take place in person, by phone, absentee bid, or live online. After a discussion with Chairman Dr. Chris Crenner, our plan was in place. While Dr. Crenner investigated the bidding procedure, I would review the four-hundred-plus entries, concentrating on the following questions: Is it already in the Clendening? Is it relevant to our collection? Is the low and high selling estimate within our rare book budget?

Until the Friday before the Monday auction, every spare minute was spent reviewing the sale entries. Occasionally there was a book that I was certain was in our collection, but I was unable to find it in our online catalog. Searching for those items was challenging: although cataloging has a very explicit syntax, our catalog does not always have the same English representation of diacritical marks. Additionally, authors’ Latin names had numerous spelling variations. For example, Spieghel in the auction entry was spelled Spiegel in our catalog. I ended up searching for many title word/date combinations and false leads.

After reviewing my suggestions, Dr. Crenner and I collaborated on the purchase recommendations and then created a list of five potential books we would like to acquire for the library. We wanted to bid on more items than we had budgeted, so the bidding could not be dedicated to only one item. If our beginning bids were successful and took the budgeted amount, then we would stop bidding. If they weren’t successful, we had other items later in the list that we wanted. Neither Dr. Crenner nor I felt qualified to bid at the auction, so we arranged for rare book dealer Jeremy Norman & Co., Inc. to bid for us. This strategy resulted in the purchase of two books for the Clendening: Samuel Crumpe’s 1793 *An Inquiry into the Nature and Properties of Opium*, and Caspar Hofmann’s 1627 *De thorace, eiusque partibus commentarius tripartitus*. Garrison and Morton’s *Medical Bibliography* states Crumpe’s “book provided the first detailed description of the effects of narcotic withdrawal” [GM 10590]. Hofmann’s book appeared one year prior to Harvey’s *De motu cordis* and was a comparison of “Aristotelian and Galenic views regarding the heart and lungs” (Bonhams catalog, no. 369).

One unexpected reward of the extensive auction catalog research was when both Dr. Crenner and I commented to each other on the large number of auction items that were already in our library. The Clendening History of Medicine Library collection truly is a gem!

Dawn McInnis, Rare Book Librarian
In May, I encountered a situation in the collections which was bound to happen eventually. As part of an upcoming exhibit, I spent the summer cataloging the dozen or so doctor’s bags that have been donated over the years. One of the particularly fine examples was used by Dr. Frank Edward O’Neil of Prescott, Kansas, between 1901 and 1939. This bag contained a particularly exciting artifact: a full, unopened four-ounce can of anesthetic ether manufactured by Mallinckrodt, probably dating to around 1939. Ether is extremely dangerous because it is flammable. Not only this, but it has a low ignition temperature and can be set off by something as innocuous as a coffee maker or electric kettle. It is flammable when it is fresh, but can become explosive after just a few weeks (much less ~eighty years) if exposed to oxygen. I isolated the can away from other artifacts and went to speak with KUMC Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) about the best plan of action. Director Ryan Lickteig came immediately to my office to assess the situation—along with a curious EHS department member. Thankfully the can was in good shape, unopened, and the contents still liquid. This lowered the risk of explosion, as ether becomes more dangerous when exposed to light and air. I had hoped that they could empty the contents and return the container, but the disposal method required it to be submerged in a five-gallon bucket of water. I photographed the can thoroughly, and it was removed from the premises. According to Ryan, this was not the first time he has had to do this at the medical center.

At the suggestion of Dr. Anthony Kovac, KUMC anesthesiologist and history enthusiast, I was able to find a comparable empty can for sale online. After double-checking with the dealer that the can was indeed empty, I purchased it for the collection. This is the first artifact purchase in the museum in several years. Dr. O’Neil’s bag and the ether can will be on display during the Fall 2019 exhibit.

Jamie Rees, Museum Curator and Assistant Librarian
NEW ARCHIVES CATALOG
KUMC Archivist Alex Welborn is pleased to announce the unveiling of a new online catalog of collections housed at the KUMC Archives. This achievement represents a major step towards the Archives’ long-term goal of increasing the visibility and accessibility of the Medical Center’s historical materials. For the first time, the Archives’ collections will be widely represented and searchable online similar to the book and journal catalog provided by Dykes and Clendening Libraries at the Medical Center. Alex believes that the new catalog will increase both awareness and use of the Archives’ collections, particularly among long-distance and unaffiliated historians and researchers.

The KUMC Archives’ catalog is built using the ArchivesSpace web-based platform, which has emerged as the premier archives information management system for academic and business repositories. After a considerable amount of research, Alex selected ArchivesSpace for the catalog due to its extensibility and flexibility, which will greatly aid in the management of the KUMC Archives. In addition to providing access through a browsable and searchable online public interface, ArchivesSpace also supports core administrative functions, including accessioning, arrangement and description, and collections management.

To date, over sixty of the KUMC Archives’ collections are represented in the catalog through simple records intended to provide a basic level of access for researchers. Over time, Alex will continue to catalog new archival collections and expand descriptions of existing records. Eventually the catalog will offer extensive finding aids complete with biographical information, additional subject terms, and box inventories. You can check out the new catalog through links on the KUMC Archives website or at https://kumc-archives.lyrasiscontent.org. Alex may be reached at 913-588-7243.

SUMMER PRACTICUM STUDENT
Hello! My name is Logan Thompson and I recently completed a student practicum at the KUMC Archives this summer. I have a Bachelor of Arts in German from Truman State University and I am working on a Master of Library and Information Science from the University of Missouri. One of the requirements for my program is to do an on-site practicum within a library, archive, or museum. I chose the University of Kansas Medical Center Archives as my site, and Archivist Alex Welborn graciously accepted. Outside of my schoolwork, I currently work as an assistant librarian at the A.R. Dykes Library.

Most of my time during the practicum was spent processing the papers of Ralph H. Major and those of his first wife, Margaret J. Major. I combined four smaller existing accessions into one larger, more usable collection. The whole purpose of this was to make the materials more accessible for researchers. I did so by bringing like items together within folders, and by arranging them in an order which is more consistent and flows together more logically. Many of the materials are sorted chronologically whenever possible, which also makes the collection neater.

The collection itself is very fascinating, as Ralph H. Major was such an important figure
Logan Thompson poses with the Ralph H. and Margaret Major collection he processed this summer.

Logan Thompson poses with the Ralph H. and Margaret Major collection he processed this summer. Photo credit: Alex Welborn, Head Archivist

at KUMC and within the field of medicine. A lot of his professional correspondence and drafts for his manuscripts are included within the collection—but it also reveals much about his personal life. He was an avid traveler and appears to have traveled to more than thirty countries during his lifetime. He was also a polyglot, who spoke English, German, Italian, French, Greek, and Latin. Some of the materials are in those languages as well. I particularly enjoyed organizing and looking through photographic negatives from his worldwide travels, which date from the turn of the twentieth century through the 1950s. I was also very happy to give Margaret J. Major recognition for her work. We did not realize until looking through the materials that she had contributed to this collection. There is correspondence between her and family members during their later travels in the 1950s. Also, her diary entries from their travels in Europe during the 1930s, when combined with the travel negatives in the rest of the collection, really bring their experiences to life.

Right now, the bulk of the collection has been organized, and I am working with Alex to finish writing its description, which will be put in the KUMC Archives online catalog.
FRIENDS OF THE CLENDENING

We welcome contributions that support the broad mission of the Department of History and Philosophy of Medicine and the legacy of Logan Clendening. Private support makes a great difference to the department.

Name: _____________________________________________________________

Address:____________________________________________________________

City: ___________________________ State: ______________ Zip: ___________

Amount of Contribution $: ____________

Please make checks payable to the:
Kansas University Endowment Association
3901 Rainbow Blvd., Mailstop 3012
Kansas City, KS 66160-7804

Or charge to: _____ Mastercard  _____ Visa

Card #: _________-_________-_________-_________ Expiration: _____/_______

Signature: ____________________________________________________________________________