WHAT I LEARNED IN WIDE OPEN SPACES

I almost missed the March for Science this year. Readers may remember that Earth Day, on April 22, was the occasion of a national march to defend science and its role keeping us healthy, safe, and flourishing. The faculty from KU Medical Center joined the march in Kansas City’s Washington Square Park this year with more than a thousand people from across the area. The Director of the NCI-designated University of Kansas Cancer Center, Roy Jensen, was a featured speaker along with Kenneth Peterson, director of KUMC’s Center for Epigenetics and Stem Cell Biology. It was, by all reports, a terrific event. I was sad not to be there.

But my wife and I had made other plans. Thinking of the date simply as Earth Day, we were heading out with three other couples for a day’s hike on the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve. And so, far from Kansas City, the eight of us met near Council Grove, Kansas, on a beautiful spring day for several hours of walking through the heart of the prairie. This preserve, a portion of the Kansas Flint Hills, is almost all that survives of the ancient grasslands that covered the central continent between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains. Intensive farming and grazing, a failing Ogallala aquifer, and urbanization have reduced what was once 170 million acres of tallgrass prairie to about four percent of its original size. On our walk, we would see a good portion of all that was left.

The March for Science lay far behind us in Kansas City. But determined not to miss all the fun, Kathy and I showed up in Council Grove with a stack of “March for Science” T-shirts for the members of our hiking party. So, the eight of us, clad in our matching “March” shirts, set out across the plains. It had rained the night before, giving the air an earthy scent. But the day was clear, with a bright, cloud-spattered dome of blue sky dropping below the horizon in a distant circle around us. The prairie seemed boundless and open, but it is not flat. The Flint Hills roll on very gently for thousands of acres. The shadows of large clouds moving over the ground pick out its smooth rhythms, with a hill that may extend for a mile rising just a couple hundred feet at its crest.

The one major landmark on our trail – other than a few grazing bison! – was an abandoned limestone schoolhouse on a small rise a bit past the halfway point. It was at this schoolhouse that
our walk turned into a march. There we met two women also out wandering the prairie. They were graduate students at Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas, who seemed delighted to spot us. It turned out that it was our T-shirts that excited them. They were out for a hike too, but scientists themselves, they were half-regretting their decision to skip the “March for Science” in Manhattan. We had rescued them from their dilemma. The March had come to the prairie. We teamed up with them and hiked back a portion of the trail together, happy to find that our mutual cause of science had connected us across such immense open spaces.

With this mention of large, flat spaces, I must make note also of the remarkable experience I had this week teaching in KUMC’s new Health Education Building. This six-floor glass polygon, which just had its inaugural opening on July 20, has about half a city block of classrooms, study spaces, and medical simulation laboratories for use by the students in medicine, nursing, and health professions. Designed to enhance interactive and experiential learning, these spaces do not, however, include an amphitheater. So last Tuesday, when I joined Dr. Carla Keirns to assist with her ethics class, I found myself in what looked like a 5,500-square-foot ballroom. Two hundred and twenty-one first-year medical students were present. About two hundred were arrayed across the room around twenty small tables, and the remainder were visible, projected on enormous screens by iTV from their classrooms in Wichita and Salina.

Not an ideal space for a fifty-minute lecture, but it was an arrangement that cried out for interaction and engagement. The topic was informed consent. The students, prepared with a reading and video Dr. Keirns had distributed, rose to the occasion. Working through the basic examples provided, they started asking questions, and then kept asking good, probing questions. The simple ethics cases branched out into a web of related hypotheticals, demanding our consideration. It helped that Dr. Keirns has the ability to parse key elements of a difficult ethical issue into about five expertly chosen sentences. So, one woman asked, if the parents are surrogate decision-makers for a child – what happens when the doctor disagrees? What if this child is sixteen and refuses treatment that the parent wants? As the discussion got rolling, I caught on also to the advantages of the strange object I had been given as a microphone. It was a brightly colored rubber cube with a wireless microphone embedded in it. The microphone had an accelerometer that shut off when moved quickly. It was not just unbreakable – it was throw-able! I joined Drs. Gary Doolittle and David Naylor roaming among the tables, tossing microphone cubes to eager questioners. Students could pass the cube along to a neighbor and keep the conversation moving. The session flashed by, and ended with the students in possession of a series of follow-up questions, with answers and commentary to cement the major concepts. It was certainly a lot better than a fifty-minute recitation from Faden and Beauchamp.

These large, open spaces – one very ancient, the other very new – surprised me. They created room for unexpected experiences and generated possibilities I had not looked for. While I might stay away from bison for a while, I am eager to venture back into our new teaching ballroom and see what else it can inspire in this most recent generation of medical students.

Chris Crenner, MD, PhD, Chair
A POTENTIAL PROJECT TO IMPROVE CARE OF THE DYING IN LAOS

In the early 1980s, a Lao woman, her four young children, and her mother, Phim, escaped war-torn Laos, emigrating to the US as refugees. Orady and her family found their way to Kansas City, where she eventually married her volunteer English teacher. Kenneth “Skip” Thomson was an engineer from a relatively affluent suburban family. He had been a Peace Corps volunteer in Ghana, an international experience that changed his life, and gave him a passion to make a difference in the developing world.

Skip adopted Orady’s children. Together, with “Grandma Phim,” they raised them in the same suburban county where Skip had grown up. In their eighteenth year of marriage, following the children’s launching and Grandma’s death, the Thomsons applied to a mission organization, World Concern, for service in Laos. They were accepted on staff when Skip’s father, Ken Thomson, was diagnosed with advanced pancreatic cancer. Ken made Orady promise that she and Skip would continue their plans to serve in Laos.

Soon after Ken’s death, Skip and Orady moved to a rural village in the southern province of Salavan. For the next three years, they worked directly with villagers on development projects selected by the villages. Projects included building five simple bridges, enabling river crossing during the rainy season. They assisted in the development of mushroom growing, rice banks, and village medicine boxes.

They lived near a small district hospital and Orady began helping patients to get treatment at the province hospital instead of going home to die. The Thomsons resigned from World Concern and their main focus shifted to healthcare
for an indigent population. After many years of applications, petitions, and meetings with government officials, approval was received for a new project in Champasak Province. “Medical Care for Disadvantaged People (MCDP)” was given a five-year agreement for a total budget of $250,000. Funding comes primarily from Thomson family resources, although donations are accepted through a fund established at the Lao American Baptist Church in Lenexa, Kansas.

Skip and Orady take no salaries, and pay just one part-time Lao staffer in Pakse, the provincial capital of Champasak Province. MCDP works with a regional hospital in Pakse and six smaller district hospitals. The Lao government provides for medical facilities and staff, but patients must pay for medicines and other consumables. MCDP gives grants for the hospitals to treat patients with acute medical problems that are either life-threatening or could result in a permanent handicap. The average patient cost is about $125. A typical surgery costs about $300. MCDP has provided care to over 1,300 people during its first four years of official operation.

While on a recent visit to Laos* to observe this work, I witnessed Orady in a role that was reminiscent of Mother Teresa. Both she and Skip were greeted with respect and gratitude in hospital facilities and outlying villages where I accompanied them. Neither of them has a medical background, though Orady’s father was a highly regarded shaman in Laos. Orady seems to have inherited her father’s leadership skills and healing ways. Together, she and her engineer husband clearly are making a significant difference in an impoverished part of the world. It is “The Good Samaritan” story repeated daily.

The Thomsons live in the small village of Wapi, Salavan Province. After they started their healthcare project, a family invited Skip and Orady to come live with them. Villagers they had worked with collaborated on the building of a traditional bamboo house on stilts. Today housing has been improved, and the household has expanded to include unrelated elders and children in need of family care. During my visit, we counted eighteen permanent residents, including Skip and Orady, plus several other young people who move in and out of the household depending on need.

We discussed ongoing healthcare needs of Lao locals. What surfaced as an area for further research, and conversation both with Lao physicians and with government health officials, is care of the dying. As a girl, Orady learned traditional caregiving from her shaman father. In Kansas City, she assisted hospice workers in caring for her dying mother and father-in-law, plus other terminally ill persons in the Lao community. Hospice workers asked her where she got her training. “From my father,” Orady replied. Back in Laos, pain meds are strictly controlled and there are few if any persons formally trained in palliative medicine or pain management as a specialty. Consequently, the Thomsons have seen too many horror stories and bad deaths.

Cultural values emphasize the importance of dying and having a funeral in one’s village. However, traditions prohibit the return of a body of a person who died outside the village. This would seem to exacerbate the need for home hospice in Laos.

Without data beyond that of anecdotal evidence from their own observation, the Thomsons
speculate that many deaths at home and in hospitals involve untreated pain and suffering. In a developing nation that has made significant progress for the betterment of its people, additional improvement may be that of better palliative care in hospitals and home hospice care.

I left Laos with a pledge to recruit colleagues in the States with those specialties for a brainstorming meeting with the Thomsons when they return to the US for their annual visits. This meeting was done in June, 2017, with follow up communications and preliminary plans for a small delegation to visit Laos sometime in 2018; in the meantime, Skip is doing research in Laos and neighboring Thailand to learn what resources already exist. Given existing collaborative relationships with provincial officials and physicians, including the heads of schools of medicine and nursing in Pakse, there is reasonable hope for an expansion of MCDP’s mission. It seems possible to make a further difference for good in Laos during years to come, specifically with education and training of providers to improve comfort care of the dying.

*The author’s trip to Laos was partially funded by KU Education Endowment as research for project development. It is hoped also that one or more medical students in the Clendening Summer Fellowship might study MCDP and help document the Thomsons’ work.

Tarris Rosell, PhD, DMin, Professor

THE LONG JOURNEY OF AN EXAM CHAIR

In 2002, I was contacted by an elderly lady who had a Victorian examination chair that she wanted to donate to the Clendening History of Medicine Museum. She and her husband were selling their home in east Kansas City, and moving to assisted living. When they first purchased the home around 1970, an old Victorian medical examination chair was found in a leaky shed in their backyard. The only information that she had on the chair was that it once belonged to a Dr. McClung, supposedly one of the first women physicians in Kansas City. Being a sucker for a good history story, I said yes: we would love to have the chair. I waited anxiously for the chair’s arrival. When the movers delivered it I was dismayed at the deplorable condition that the chair was in, and while it was being carted down the hallway to the museum storeroom, I walked behind picking up pieces as they fell off the decrepit “treasure.” Never mind, I thought to myself. Anything can be fixed.

The chair sat in storage for a number of years. One day, I was showing it to a colleague, Dan Ginavan, and surprise, surprise!, he offered to restore it – for free (previous estimates had been in the $8,000 range). He and his wife, Jennifer McAllaster, MD, would then donate the restoration to the History of Medicine Department. Yes! I said. So while Dan worked on the chair, I began researching the history of it. With very little information to work with, the following is what I was able to uncover.

In 1899, two sisters from Pattonsburg, Missouri, Anna and Frances Henry, graduated from the University of Minnesota School of Medicine.
They decided to set up practice together in Kansas City, and purchased a new four-bedroom house at 2910 Harrison to serve as their residence and medical offices. A used Victorian examination chair (circa 1884) was purchased as one of their first furnishings.

Frances and Anna Henry, were born to Erdman and Theresa Vogel Henry, at their farm home in Pattonsburg, Daviess County, Missouri. Frances was born January 20, 1871, and Anna on May 31, 1878. Although seven years apart in age, both pursued the same career – medicine. The two sisters attended the local rural elementary school and Pattonsburg High School. Both, interested in science, attended pre-college courses at the Kidder Academy, Kidder, Missouri, from 1894 to 1895.

Anna, while a preschooler, showed a vivid interest in anatomy, especially of the eye. The household pets would not stay still long enough for her curious examinations of them; consequently, her mother provided Anna with the eyeballs of slaughtered farm animals for dissection.

Anna’s interest in medicine was encouraged by a local physician who loaned her his *Gray’s Anatomy* and part of a skeleton to study. Her enthusiasm for the study of medicine soon infected her older sister Frances, too, and after convincing their parents that this was the right decision, the two young women entered the freshman class of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor in the fall of 1895. Opened in 1850, the medical school was Ann Arbor’s first professional school, one of the first to teach science-based medicine, and one of the first major medical schools to admit female students.

At Ann Arbor, the sisters’ enthusiasm and ability were recognized and by their sophomore year they had both advanced to junior-level work. Frances won a gold medal for achievement in pathology during her sophomore year, outpacing over one hundred junior-level students vying for the award.

Although excelling scholastically at Ann Arbor, the sisters decided to leave at the end of their sophomore year due to limited clinical facilities. They transferred to the University of Minnesota School of Medicine at Minneapolis, which had abundant clinical and hospital advantages, plus an outpatient department that was affiliated with the Minneapolis City Hospital. Students there were assigned house calls under the supervision of a physician supervisor, where they learned home delivery of babies, minor outpatient surgery, and other “out-turn” work.

Both Frances and Anna spent what little vacation time they had taking extracurricular studies to advance them for the next school term. These studies served to advance each towards her chosen specialty: for Frances it was obstetrics and gynecology; for Anna, ophthalmology and general medicine.

During their senior year, Anna and Frances spent a great deal of time in the poorest, seediest sections of Minneapolis, near the river’s edge. They often trudged through deep snow in sub-zero temperatures, usually without viable transportation. Finally, by the end of their senior term, they advanced to attending patients in the more upscale sections of Minneapolis.

Anna and Frances graduated from the University of Minnesota School of Medicine, both cum laude, in June of 1899. Anna, only twenty-one,
was the youngest student in the graduating class. During that period, few job opportunities for women physicians existed. Many conflicts arose as there was considerable opposition by male physicians in having their profession “invaded” by women.

After graduation, Anna and Frances returned to Pattonsburg to visit family and plan for their futures as physicians. That is when they decided to set up a medical office together in Kansas City, Missouri. There they purchased the home/office on Harrison. Frances practiced obstetrics, gynecology and general medicine, while Anna practiced ophthalmology and general medicine. Anna also served as instructor in physiology at the Scarritt Bible and Training School for Nurses. Scarritt was a Methodist school for missionary nurses, located at Askew and Norledge in Kansas City’s east side. The school was established in 1890, with land and money donated by the Reverend Nathan Scarritt and the Women’s Board of Missions. Besides teaching basic religious knowledge, the school provided students with practical training in missionary medicine and nursing.

After a few years in Kansas City, Anna returned to Pattonsburg to care for their elderly parents. There, locally known as “Dr. Anna,” she developed a broad general practice in the area, and served as a member of the Daviess County Medical Society. Meanwhile, Frances kept the Kansas City practice going, using the Victorian exam chair for everyday gynecological and obstetrical care. Anna would visit occasionally and lend a hand.

Anna resided for a time in Topeka during 1907, in a rooming house at 522 West 6th Street, while taking some postgraduate courses at the Kansas Medical College, a proprietary school affiliated with Washburn College. Her Application for Endorsement by the Kansas State Board of Medical Registration and Examination, dated January 16, 1907, recorded that she was also licensed to practice medicine and surgery in the states of Iowa and Missouri.

In 1904, a young man, Leonard McClung, came to Anna’s office in Pattonsburg, with two mangled fingers. After a long recovery period, the fingers healed while a courtship ensued. In 1910, Leonard and Anna were married. They had two daughters: Dorothy Frances and Anna Vernice.

Anna died of metastatic breast cancer at Noll Hospital, Harrison, Missouri, on April 22, 1956. She is buried in Bethel Cemetery in Pattonsburg. Her husband, Leonard, predeceased her in 1948.
Frances remained in Kansas City and practiced general medicine from her home at 2910 Harrison for close to 60 years. She also served on the faculty of several area hospitals, including Research Hospital in Kansas City, Missouri, and the University of Kansas Hospital in Kansas City, Kansas. A member of the Jackson County Medical Society, and the Missouri Medical Association, Frances retired in 1956 at the age of 88, after 57 years of practice. She died at Baptist Memorial Hospital on April 9, 1961, at age 90. Cause of death was inanition, cardiac exhaustion and chronic generalized arteriosclerosis.

The antique Victorian exam chair was relegated to an empty shed in the backyard of 2910 Harrison, not to see the light of day again for nearly 50 years. The chair, beautifully restored by Dan Ginavan and Dr. Jennifer McAllaster, now belongs to the History of Medicine Department, and is currently seeking a permanent location in the Medical Center where it can be displayed and have its history inspire future generations of women physicians.

Nancy J. Hulston, Associate Professor Emeritus

RALPH HERMON MAJOR LUNCHEON SEMINAR SERIES

The spring concluded with three seminars, each approaching the history of medicine in a unique and interesting way. Dr. Bill Jewell’s thoughtful seminar on the “Manhattan Project, NASA, and Cancer Research” explored the question of Big Science through three notable projects of the twentieth century. As the cancer epidemic continues into the twenty-first century, Dr. Jewell’s talk gave us occasion to reflect on what lessons there are to be learned from these earlier and striking precedents as researchers strive to find a cancer cure. To be sure, there is no absolute correlation between funding, institutional support, technology, and genius when it comes to the production of viable scientific and medical knowledge. And as with any excellent talk, we are left with more questions than answers.

In April we welcomed Matthew Reeves, who continues to explore the historical development of osteopathic medicine in the Midwest from its earliest beginnings in the nineteenth century. In this talk, Matthew shared with us some of his dissertation research. We were pleased to hear about two colorful individuals, A.T. Still and Elmer De Vergne Barber, and their roles in the early history of osteopathic medical training. Matthew will spend the upcoming year on a dissertation writing fellowship at UMKC, which will allow him to flesh out this interesting and often enjoyable history.

The series concluded in early June with Don Lambert and his talk, “Elizabeth Layton, Toward the End.” As both a journalist and an art enthusiast, Don has long been a significant factor in the support and promotion of local and regional artists. Elizabeth Layton was no exception. Her drawings can be found in museums and public spaces throughout the country including the Kemper, the Smithsonian, and KU’s Landon Center on Aging. Where so many of Elizabeth’s drawings explore aspects of her own mental health, Don centered his talk around a half-dozen drawings to bring her autobiography to life during the later years. What a lovely way to conclude a great series of seminars.
As the hot weather lingers in and around Kansas City, we look to the cooler months of autumn and the commencement of another year of interesting luncheon seminars. The 2017-18 series is taking shape, and we can expect to hear talks on a range of topics. Mark your calendars now, and we hope to see you at one or all of the upcoming seminars. The schedule will include:

**20 September**  George Thompson, “Lessons of War: Defining Human Boundaries”  
**18 October**  Lowell Tilzer, MD, PhD, “The Legacy of Dr. Mas Chiga—Pathologist Extraordinaire”  
**15 November**  Fr. Jerry Spencer, “Even Ripley Wouldn’t Believe This?”  
**28 February**  Chris Crenner, MD, PhD, Title TBA  
**18 April**  Moya Peterson, PhD, RN, “KUMC in WWII: Nurses of the 77th Evacuation Hospital”  
**23 May**  Austin Williams, PhD candidate History/Education, “Quackbusters or Puppets?: AIDS and Health Activism in Kansas City”

More information will be available as the seminars approach. If you are interested in presenting at one of our future seminars, please contact me at: rfagan@kumc.edu

Ryan Fagan, PhD, Research Associate
THE 2017 CLENDENING AND KING SUMMER FELLOWS

Every year, the History and Philosophy of Medicine Department awards fellowships to a group of first-year medical students based on proposals they submit for research endeavors. The summer between 1st and 2nd year, these fellows travel to do research on their proposals. Based on what they learn, they then create a presentation and write a paper which are both due the fall of their 2nd year.

The money for these fellowships comes from funds endowed through the Kansas University Endowment Association by Dr. Logan and Mrs. Dorothy Clendening, founders of the History and Philosophy of Medicine Department, and also from funds set up by Mrs. Lynn King in honor of her husband, Dr. Charles King, KUMC 1972.

This year’s fellows are:
Rima Abhyankar
Jihad Al-Khatib
Mollie Chesis
Rayyan Kamal
Anastasia Koptelova
Juan Salgado
Jacob Schroeder
Harris Tsamolias
and Katelyn Twist

The Fellows are guided by director Tarris Rosell, PhD, DMin; student coordinator Mollyanne Gibson (M3); faculty mentors Christopher Crenner, MD, PhD; Carla Keirns, MD, PhD; James Kallail, PhD; Kourtney Bettinger, MD; and Ryan Fagan, PhD.

Julie Stark, Office Manager

CLENDENING AND KING SUMMER FELLOW PRESENTATIONS

Clendening Auditorium, 2004 Robinson, 12 noon – 1:00 pm, lunch provided to the first 50

Monday, October 30
Harris Tsamolias, “The Refugee Crisis: Creating New Problems”
Anastasia Koptelova, “Contraceptive Behavior & Abortion Trends in USSR & Modern Russia”

Tuesday, October 31
Katelyn Twist, “Breast Cancer Prevention Education within the Kansas City Incarcerated Women’s Population”
Jihad Al-Khatib, “Health Care Under Military Occupation: An Assessment of the Determinants of Health within the Palestinian Territories”

Wednesday, November 1
Rima Abhyankar, “Public and Health Care Providers’ Perceptions of Type II Diabetes Mellitus in Urban India”
Juan Salgado, “The Integration of Simulation into the Curriculum of a Medical School in Barcelona”

Thursday, November 2
Rayyan Kamal, “Housing Cooperatives and Mental Health: Developing Community Based Interventions Towards Mental Health Inclusivity”
Jacob Schroeder, “Aspirin with a Dose of Acupuncture: The Role of Traditional Chinese Medicine in the Modern Medical World”

Friday, November 3
Front row l-r: Rima Abhyankar (on phone); Mollie Chesis; Rayyan Kamal; Jacob Schroeder; Anastasia Koptelova; back row l-r: Katelyn Twist; Harris Tsamolias; Juan Salgado. Photo courtesy of KU Medical Center Photo Services.
14 Upcoming Events

OCTOBER

Friday, October 6
KUMC Alumni Weekend Clendening Library and Museum Open House
Clendening Foyer, 1000 Robinson, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm, light refreshments will be served

Wednesday, October 18
Ralph Hermon Major Luncheon Seminar Series
Lowell Tilzer, MD, PhD
“The Legacy of Dr. Mas Chiga—Pathologist Extraordinaire”
Clendening Foyer, 1000 Robinson, 12 noon – 1:00 pm, lunch provided
Please RSVP to Ryan Fagan, 913-588-7040, rfagan@kumc.edu

Thursday, October 19
The Logan Clendening Lecture
Mical Raz, MD
University of Pennsylvania
“Race, Class and Politics in the Making of American Child Abuse Policy”
Reception 4:30 pm, Clendening Foyer, 1000 Robinson
Lecture 5:00 pm, Clendening Auditorium, 2004 Robinson

Thursday, October 26
The Friesen Lecture in the History of Surgery
Jean-Philippe Gendron, PhD
Université du Québec à Montréal
“Cancer, Peptic Ulcer and Obesity. Shifting Rationales in Gastric Surgery: 1880-1980”
Reception 4:30 pm, Clendening Foyer, 1000 Robinson
Lecture 5:00 pm, Clendening Auditorium, 2004 Robinson

Monday, October 30 - Friday, November 3
Clendening and King Summer Fellow Presentations
Clendening Auditorium, 2004 Robinson, 12 noon - 1:00 pm, lunch provided to the first 50

NOVEMBER

Thursday, November 9
The Don Carlos and Alice V. Peete Lecture
Matthew Gambino, MD
University of Illinois at Chicago
“Fevered Decisions: Race, Ethics, and Clinical Vulnerability in the Malarial Treatment of Neurosyphilis.”
Reception 4:30 pm, Clendening Foyer, 1000 Robinson
Lecture 5:00 pm, Clendening Auditorium 2004 Robinson

Wednesday, November 15
Ralph Hermon Major Luncheon Seminar Series
Fr. Jerry Spencer
“Even Ripley Wouldn’t Believe This?”
Clendening Foyer, 1000 Robinson, 12 noon – 1:00 pm, Lunch provided
Please RSVP to Ryan Fagan, 913-588-7040, rfagan@kumc.edu
SPECIAL VISITOR

I was delighted to see Dr. Robert Levy, our chairman’s father-in-law, for a quick visit and review of a book in the Clendening. Jamie and I enjoyed his visit and took the opportunity for a couple of photo ops!

SUMMER 2017

Usually the summer months are catch up and organize time, but this summer has been a time for projects and deadlines. Since receiving a number of books and artifacts from the Providence Medical Center when their museum closed, we’ve been considering hosting a collaborative exhibit of the Clendening Library & Clendening Museum. Nancy Hulston, the retired director of the KUMC Archives and Clendening History of Medicine Museum, even coined the title years ago: Gifts from Providence. That exhibit will come to fruition this October for the KUMC Alumni meeting. Watch for additional news from Jamie Rees and Dawn McInnis in our next newsletter.

ENDOWMENT TOUR

We were thrilled to be asked by the Kansas University Endowment Association to host a short tour for their Endowment associates who were at KUMC for a retreat. It was wonderful to be able to show 14 visiting members of the Endowment Association some of the treasures that they’ve helped us to purchase and maintain for future generations.
SOLAR ECLIPSE

Most of you have heard about the nearly total solar eclipse that happened in the Kansas City area on August 21, 2017. The Clendening Library had a small reception the next day to celebrate the eclipse and the return of the sun! We exhibited a table display of books featuring experiences of previous solar eclipses and the effect of the disappearance of the sun on humans and animals. One account states “...that some physicians having met on the case of a lady of quality: while they were actually in consultation, a solar eclipse was at hand. Wherefore, as they thought the patient in no imminent danger, they went out to view the eclipse: but they were soon called back, upon the lady’s fainting away the very instant it began: and she did not recover her senses till the eclipse was quite over.” From “A Treatise Concerning the Influence of the Sun and Moon upon human bodies, &c.” in The Medical Works of Richard Mead, MD London, C. Hitch and L Hawes, 1762: p. 189. Our Kansas City eclipse made for a very exciting day!

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF THE HISTORY OF DENTISTRY

I’m busy preparing a presentation for the annual October meeting of the American Academy of the History of Dentistry, “The Dentist and the Public Mind.” Through PowerPoint I’ll be showing and explaining our library’s medical caricatures featuring dentists, tooth pullers, blacksmiths, barber surgeons, etc. I’ll be defining the types of prints, discussing the meanings behind the images, and explaining some of the social transactions of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries that influenced the creation of the prints. The presentation from the Clendening Library should dovetail nicely with two other presentations, “Dentistry Evolved From Barbers: Myth or Reality?” and “Heroes and Scoundrels: Images of American Dentists in Popular Entertainment from the 19th and 20th Centuries.” (The aquatint pictured was engraved by Joshua Gleadah, c. 1815-1836.)

Dawn McInnis, Rare Book Librarian
UPCOMING EXHIBIT: “GIFTS FROM PROVIDENCE”

From the mid-1980s until 2013, Providence Health Center was home to a small medical museum named after a 1937 graduate of the KU School of Medicine and prominent Wyandotte County physician, Glenn R. Peters, MD. When the Glenn R. Peters Museum was downsized in late 2013, the caretakers of the museum decided a good home for the artifacts and books would be the Clendening History of Medicine Library & Museum. With a collection containing fine examples of anesthesiology, ophthalmology, World War One, bloodletting, and Civil War-era artifacts and books, the Clendening was happy to accept them.

Stroll through the Clendening, 1st floor Robinson, to see the bounty that Providence provided in an exhibit featuring highlights of the 165-artifact gift and complementary Library exhibit.

The exhibit opens September 2017, in time for Alumni Weekend. Stay tuned for the invitation to the exhibit opening reception.

SPRING 2017 CONFERENCES

In May, I had the opportunity to attend the ALHHS/MeMA (Medical Museums Association) in Nashville and the AAM (American Alliance of Museums) Museum Expo in St. Louis. The first offered the chance to meet other curators, museum professionals, archivists, and librarians working in the history of medicine subject area. One highlight of the experience was to hear how other museums are reaching out to younger audiences with a traveling trunk containing replica pharmacy equipment. With the museum educator’s help, classes of elementary schoolers grind up pumpkin seeds, and then combine them with sugar and water to create an old remedy for tapeworms. This begins a discussion about the history of medicine.

The AAM Museum Expo is the largest museum conference in the country, bringing together museums of all sizes and subjects into one giant exhibition hall. I attended sessions on a wide range of topics, spoke with vendors of the newest museum technology, and met other museum professionals from across the country. It provided healthy perspective for what we are hoping to achieve here at the Clendening.

HEALTH EDUCATION BUILDING GRAND OPENING

On July 20, the brand-new Health Education Building (HEB) on the northeast corner of 39th and Rainbow held its Grand Opening Celebration. Though every part of the building seems to be state-of-the-art and cutting-edge at first glance, three large-scale pieces of art trace their inspiration directly back to the Clendening Collection. In August 2016, museum curator Jamie Rees presented a sampling of the Clendening Library and Museum’s collections to the HEB Art Committee as potential items for display. Key members of the committee saw the possibility to create something new from the old; shortly after this initial meeting a call for proposals was sent out to local and nationally recognized artists to create a unique piece of
art directly inspired by materials held by the Clendening. Out of all the submissions, the committee selected three artists working in three different media.

Artists Marcie Miller Gross, Jesse Small, and Miki Baird were the chosen three. They visited the Library (multiple times, in some cases) to view the works that are the basis for their pieces. Inspired by engravings of bandages in the 1707 edition of Pierre Dionis’s Cours d’ operations de chirurgie… Marcie Miller Gross recreated the forms in industrial felt with her piece entitled Des Emplastres et Des Compresses (Health Education Building, Ground level).

Miki Baird was captivated by the Florence Nightingale letters in the Clendening Collection. Using nearly all of the letters, she created replicas of the letters, cut them into strips that highlight important words and dates, and arranged the strips into columns chronologically. The result, entitled for FN...words without fear, provides a visual representation of the breadth of Nightingale’s work and legacy (Health Education Building, 5th floor).

Finally, Jesse Small was drawn to the etchings in Robert Hooke’s 1665 masterpiece Micrographia. In his words, “these etchings represent [Hooke’s] commitment to make the frontiers of medical knowledge and the beauty of nature accessible to more people.” Small’s final work, Infinite Evolution, is made up of 44 hanging panels suspended from the ceiling of the pedestrian bridge across 39th Street.

Dawn and Jamie set up a display of the original works for the HEB Grand Opening Celebration. Hundreds of people were invited to tour the new building, attend the ribbon cutting, and enjoy light refreshments as they undertook self-guided tours through each floor. Attendees who stopped to chat were excited to get the chance to see the originals, then looked more closely at the artwork for the first or second time. As of July...
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24, the HEB is open to the public. All of the art mentioned above is on view in the public spaces of the building on the pedestrian bridge, ground level, and 5th floor.

FROM THE MUSEUM COLLECTION

A notable piece from the Providence Collection is this small pewter box, originally identified as a leech carrier. The mailbox-shaped container has a small hinged trap-door style lid pierced with a pattern of ventilation holes. It was thought to provide a convenient means of carrying a small number of leeches to a patient for a bleeding session. However, a bit of research reveals that this is not quite accurate.

Small pewter cases of this type were actually made for storing nail cleaning brushes, as documented in the illustration from Maw, Son & Thompson’s 1882 illustrated catalogue. These are frequently sold today as leech carriers due to an example on display at the Wellcome Library that has been inscribed “LEECHES.” Though the inscription has been proven false, it remains part of one of the seminal texts on antique medical instruments. While the idea of this object as a leech carrier may be more glamorous for some than that of a nail brush case, the story highlights the importance of relying upon multiple sources when doing research on historical medical artifacts. This object, and many more, will be on display in the upcoming “Gifts from Providence” exhibit in September.

Jamie Rees, MA, Museum Curator
I take several preventative steps to monitor and mitigate the effects of temperature and humidity in the KUMC Archives. Research by conservators shows that the lower the storage temperature, the longer paper documents last, and as such, I maintain the archives at a brisk 65 degrees Fahrenheit. Similarly, I try to maintain the relative humidity in the archives between 40 and 50 percent, though the range can be difficult to achieve during summer. In the case of extreme humidity, I run spare dehumidifiers to dry out the air until conditions improve.

Lastly, I have implemented a monitoring system for the archives using data loggers, which continuously record the temperature and humidity and alert me to any serious issues that require attention. If an issue beyond my control does arise, I work with Facilities Management to ensure the Archives remains a stable environment for the Med Center’s historical collections.

STUDENT INTERN COMPLETES NEW COLLECTION

The KUMC Archives is pleased to announce the completion of the William J. Reals Aviation Pathology Collection, 1944-2014. Dr. Reals, who served as the Dean of the KU School of Medicine-Wichita from 1980 to 1990, was a nationally known aviation pathologist and leading authority on the human factors contributing to aircraft crashes. Over the course of his career from the 1960s to the 1980s, he investigated several widely publicized accidents, as well as others he conducted for the military and the FAA. Some of the infamous accidents he investigated include the 1965 Air Force KC-135 Stratotanker
crash in Wichita, Kansas; the 1970 crash of the Wichita State University football team charter plane in Colorado; and the 1977 Tenerife crash in the Canary Islands.

Kelly Hangauer, a graduate student in the Master of Library Science program at Emporia State University, processed the Reals collection over the course of his semester practicum at the KUMC Archives. I have enjoyed working with Kelly and I appreciate his hard work and dedication processing the Reals collection over the last few months. I hope that he found his time in the KUMC Archives beneficial and I wish him well in his future endeavors. Kelly has graciously offered to write about his experience at the Archives, which follows.

Hi! My name is Kelly Hangauer and I have been working on my practicum at KUMC Archives since February 2017. My interest in archives stems from my degree in history and the hours I spent conducting archival research in Kansas City. After graduating with my BA in History and German Studies Minor in 2015, I jumped into the Master of Library Science program at Emporia State University. I am happy to say that I will be graduating in August 2017.

While going to school, I have also been working full time as the weekend and evening supervisor of the UMKC Miller Nichols Library. In addition to my normal duties in circulation, I provide reference and information literacy instruction. Eventually, I would like to combine my interests in public service and archives to offer archival instruction to undergraduates.

During my time at the KUMC Archives, I have been processing the papers of William J. Reals, MD. Dr. Reals was a prominent aviation pathologist who spent much of his career at KU School of Medicine-Wichita. During his time at KU School of Medicine-Wichita, Reals held many positions that included professor, program director, acting chair and chair of pathology; associate dean for Research Planning and Development and Postgraduate Education; and vice chancellor of the school. In 1980, Dr. Reals became the dean of the KU School of Medicine-Wichita and served in this position until 1990.
Throughout his career, Reals won many awards and wrote prolifically. He authored, or co-authored, 120 articles and published four books, including *Medical Investigation of Aviation Accidents and Aerospace Pathology*.

The most high profile crash Dr. Reals investigated was the 1977 collision of two jet airliners that killed 583 people in the Canary Islands. He was also involved with investigating local tragedies including the 1965 plane crash into a Wichita neighborhood, and the 1970 Wichita State University football team crash in Colorado.

It has been an interesting experience working with the Reals Collection and I have learned a lot about aviation pathology - a field I had never thought about before. Fortunately, Dr. Reals was very organized and consistently labeled and dated his plane crash investigation files. The most difficult part of processing his collection was matching up the hundreds of slides, sometimes scattered at the bottom of a box, with the investigation files. Now that the collection is processed and a finding aid has been created, researchers will be able to appreciate Dr. Reals’ work.

I feel fortunate to have had Alex Welborn’s guidance during this project. Alex is incredibly knowledgeable and I have spent many hours either pestering him with questions, or getting his insights into the library and information field. I have thoroughly enjoyed my experience here, and I will definitely recommend that other students gain practicum experience at the KUMC Archives.

Kelly Hangauer, KUMC Archives
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.

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