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Cover photo: Spencer Memorial Chapel circa 1967. Photo courtesy of KU Medical Center Archives.
One of the reliable pleasures of the department newsletter for me is a chance to relive the high points of recent months. Inside this issue you can find a summary of the terrific speaker series put together by Ryan Fagan for the Ralph Major lunchtime lectures. And I had forgotten about the generous recent funding from the Greenwall Foundation for ethics research, until I saw the notice here. Fred Holmes offers a nice meditation on the living history that is captured in the memories of our oldest generation. And Kirby Randolph reminds us of a recent library event that reflects growing connections with the history program she is developing at our neighboring osteopathic university. I have often admired the 1840s amputation set pictured in the pages below—always from a safe distance. Jamie Rees writes here about her surprising discoveries linking this kit back to “railroad medicine” of the time. And it is especially exciting to be able to read about the recent rare book acquisitions for the Clendening Library from Dawn McInnis.

I was recently reflecting on one of these book acquisitions, a copy of Robert Jackson’s *A treatise on the fevers of Jamaica* (London, 1791). A key part of library development over the last couple of years has been a renewed emphasis on building on the strengths of the collection. The Jackson book became available late last year as we were also beginning work on our department budget. In that context I was thinking about the purpose and value of these original texts. Yes, a scanned, digital version of Jackson’s *Treatise* is available online. And using the astonishing resource of the Internet Archive, you can do a pretty good word-search of the original text. It’s a quick way to find out, for example, that Jackson preferred to talk about “noxious exhalations” as a source of New World fevers, almost shunning the common term “miasma” (hint: use an “f” for the archaic medial “s” of miafma). What purpose does the original text still serve? I worry, as an inveterate skeptic, that old books may turn into a fetish, becoming merely a symbol of accumulated wisdom, rather than its practical source. Granted, few people will take from the shelf our copy of *Ophthalmodouleia* by Georg Bartisch just to read the 1583 German Fraktur text.

Yet, Bartisch’s book remains among the most frequently used texts in our collections! There is something almost magical about opening to the original stunning illustrations of sixteenth-century eye surgery to push students to a lively discussion of how medical skills, and specialization, have developed. There it is before us, on the table, the material evidence of Bartisch’s aspiration to bring craft knowledge into medicine’s literate, scholarly traditions. Teaching from the original texts is a privilege and a joy that is not easily replicated.

In addition, there is a larger responsibility at stake. There are ever fewer public collections like the Clendening in existence. WorldCat shows that only a handful of libraries in the world hold a rare copy of *Ophthalmodouleia*; and perhaps more surprisingly there are only twenty-seven copies of Jackson’s book on fevers listed in libraries across the US. What is the risk? As Arthur Daemmrich once put it to me, the printed book is a form of information storage with proven stability over five hundred years. I have faith in the near-term stability—and flexibility—of resources like the Internet Archive. But we will be sticking with acquisitions in codex-form for the time being. Alongside Jackson’s first book on fevers in Jamaica, the Clendening shelves also hold Jackson’s two subsequent works. The ability to build systematically in this way enhances the special value of the collections. Many of the major donors to the support of the Clendening Library across the years have been scholars who were passionate about the early history of medicine, beginning, of course, with Logan Clendening and Ralph Major and more recently including Stata Norton, David Ringle, and Ilza Veith. The incredible generosity and foresight of these donors have made it possible to preserve, shape, and grow this wonderful and irreplaceable collection.

Chris Crenner, MD, PhD, Professor and Chair
recently reorganized under the direction of Nancy Hulston. Working closely with Nancy and the chair of the department, Dr. Robert Hudson, Marc established a permanent archival research center built around the Harrington Archives.

With Marc’s unflagging advocacy, the Harrington Archives has grown into an extensive, curated collection of practice and research records that attracts scholars interested in surgical history from across the globe. One of the first scholars to mine these records was Marc himself. In 2015, after a decade of work organizing and studying Harrington’s papers, Marc published *Dogged Persistence: Harrington, Post-Polio Scoliosis, and the Origin of Spine Instrumentation*. A true labor of love, this unique and valuable book provides an unprecedented examination of the step-by-step process of creating and establishing a new surgical technology. It offers a privileged insight to the daily hard work, compromises and successes of surgical innovation.

It is a pleasure to celebrate Marc for his unending energy and dedication, and for his deep and lasting contributions to the life of the medical center. Marc was someone whose only excess seemed to be in moderation and whose only evident indulgence was his humility. His dedication to the profession and to the craft of surgery was exemplary. And he will be remembered by our department for his unrivaled championing of the cause of historical preservation and the analysis of history as a tool for better understanding medicine and our role in it.

Chris Crenner
MENTORING PROFESSIONALISM

Faculty members of the Department of History and Philosophy of Medicine spend a considerable amount of time mentoring. At least some of that investment in student doctors involves mentoring them in matters of professionalism. That term, “professional,” has been gaining more attention from those of us who are involved closely in medical education and training. It is widely acknowledged that dismissal from training programs is mostly on account either of failure to pass boards or serious lapses of professionalism. (Burnout, another reason, is a topic for another essay.) Physicians who come before the Kansas State Board of Healing Arts are almost exclusively examined for question of professional conduct.

So what is professionalism? How is it taught and assessed?

A healthcare professional is one who has greater resources, hence power, than others in a context of healthcare needs. Resources include specialized knowledge, tools, titles, vocabulary, garb, goods (medicines and such), status, and access (to hospitals, clinics, labs). All of this adds up to power. Patients, with healthcare needs and a relative lack of resources to address them, are vulnerable to physicians’ power.

Professionalism can be defined as behavior that results in use of professional power for the benefit of those who are relatively vulnerable, such as patients. Abuse of power, unprofessionalism, is the opposite. Professional behavior in healthcare helps patients. Unprofessionalism hurts them. It is as simple as that.

Teaching and assessing professionalism is not a simple matter. It is an expansive area of current research and discussion, given the consensus among educators that professionalism matters greatly. There is consensus also that mentoring is one means, perhaps the primary means, both for teaching and assessing professionalism for our student doctors.

Mentoring involves significant face-to-face work with students, often one on one. How are we accomplishing this within the Department of History and Philosophy of Medicine? Here are some of the means and methods by which mentoring professionalism occurs:

- Clendening-King Summer Fellowships provide funded, competitive research opportunities annually to approximately ten medical students. Each fellow is assigned a faculty mentor who provides guidance for the project, oftentimes serving in the role of Principal Investigator for IRB-approved protocols involving research with human subjects. The more subtle but substantive role is that of faculty mentor for research professionalism.
- One or two medical students are selected annually to serve as planners and facilitators of the Ethics Roundtable, a case discussion student forum hosted monthly by our department. Faculty advisors provide supervision along with mentoring of professionalism for leadership.
- University of Kansas medical students are given several one-week “enrichment” opportunities each of their first and second year. Our department offers electives in clinical ethics and medical humanities. Typically, these involve between one to four students per elective. A small student-teacher ratio enables possibilities for teaching not only ethics and humanities but academic professionalism also.
- One of our faculty (this writer) is a clerkship/rotation preceptor for students from two medical schools and residents or fellows from several post-graduate training programs. Throughout any given year, a half dozen or so students will spend four to six weeks shadowing, collaborating on hospital ethics consultations, researching a chosen ethics topic, attending numerous ethics meetings and events, and discussing cases or articles with their preceptor. All such interactions involve significant opportunity for mentoring and assessing professionalism in clinical ethics.

In all of these venues, and more, professionalism is taught, learned, and assessed via faculty mentoring. It is not the only means of doing so, but it is a primary method—and has been
throughout the history of medical training. We merely carry on a great tradition.

Tarris Rosell, PhD, DMin
Clinical Professor, Department of History and Philosophy of Medicine

MAKING A DIFFERENCE: GREENWALL FOUNDATION GRANT RECIPIENT
Kenneth Marshall, assistant professor of emergency medicine and affiliate professor in the Department of History and Philosophy of Medicine, has been awarded a $110,000 grant by the Greenwall Foundation to research ethical issues related to naloxone resuscitation after opioid overdoses. The grant is part of Greenwall’s Making a Difference program, which supports “research to help resolve an important emerging or unanswered bioethics problem in clinical, biomedical, or public health decision-making, policy, or practice.” Ken, along with co-investigators from Harvard Medical School and the Medical College of Wisconsin, is using the support to examine issues that arise when patients refuse the recommended period of observation after naloxone is administered to reverse opioid toxicity.

Ken’s experience at his previous position prior to coming to KUMC, as an emergency physician in a Massachusetts town deeply affected by the opioid crisis, informed the project. As he explained, the primary problem is that the naloxone is often metabolized faster than the opioid, meaning that a patient can slip back into apnea, and as a result, a period of observation is standardly recommended before patients can be safely discharged. “These are extremely difficult situations. Often the patient goes from being essentially dead to being irate and demanding to leave in just a minute or two, and we know with all of these patients there is some risk they will have rebound apnea. They may be awake and alert initially, and often they are literally pushing you out of the way as you are trying to get an idea of whether they have capacity to refuse observation.” Joshua Joseph, clinical instructor of emergency medicine at Harvard Medical School and one of the co-investigators on the project, elaborated on some of the ethical values at stake: “These are patients that might be suffering acute withdrawal from the naloxone, in addition to other medical and psychiatric issues including substance use disorders, so it is a real challenge to look after their interests while also supporting autonomy. There are also issues of staff and provider safety that the physician has to weigh as well.”

The team has nearly completed research examining how emergency physicians analyze and attempt to resolve these scenarios. They are also working on a review of the scientific and philosophical literature to complete a comprehensive ethical analysis of the subject and generate recommendations for providers and organizations.

KCU STUDENTS TOUR CLENDENING LIBRARY
On August 29th, 2018, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., sixteen second- and third-year undergraduate medical students from Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences (KCU), the area osteopathic medical school, visited the Clendening Library for a special presentation of the Library’s collections led by Dawn McInnis and Dr. Christopher Crenner. Kirby Randolph, PhD, is faculty in Bioethics at KCU, and these are her students in the master’s level class on the history of medicine in the United States. Ten of the students are on rotations around the country, so this was a pilot effort to have them joined virtually with the use of Lifesize video conferencing (https://www.lifesize.com/) and her iPad. Dr. Ryan Fagan also hosted, and Dr. Carla Keirns spoke with the students after the tour about her experiences serving on an ethics committee and being a practicing scholar and palliative care doctor. The KCU students evaluated
this field trip as the highlight of the semester. This visit connected them to the venerable tradition of physician scholars and medical historians. If Dawn is willing to endure the disruption, Dr. Randolph would like to plan to replicate this experience in the future. Dr. Randolph is a former full-time faculty member and current volunteer assistant professor in the Department of History and Philosophy of Medicine.

DEPARTMENTAL PRESENTATIONS
Several members in the department have upcoming talks. Below is a taste of what we’re doing:

March 13:
Chris Crenner, MD, PhD “Richard Cabot and the Diagnosis of the Absence of Disease,” Heberden Society Lecture, Weill Cornell Medicine, New York, NY.

Chris Crenner, MD, PhD “Sham-Surgery and the Ethics of Human Research,” Division of Medical Ethics, NYU Langone Health, New York, NY.

Dawn McInnis, BS “Academic and Library Collaboration: Bringing Nightingale’s Legacy to Life,” Poster session presentation, Annual Meeting of the Southern Association for the History of Medicine and Science, Charlottesville, VA.

April 12: Ryan Fagan, PhD “To Change the Common Way of Thinking: Exploring the Contours of the Enlightenment,” Convocation Lecture, University of Mary, Bismarck, ND.

April 25: Jamie Rees, MA “Medicine Unearthed: Museums and Community Leaders in Productive Partnership,” ALHHS Conference, Columbus, OH.

April 26: Tarris Rosell, PhD “GlobeMed Justice,” Dinner talk for the GlobeMed Gala, University of Missouri at Kansas City, MO.

April 27: Chris Crenner, MD, PhD “The Surprising Epidemiology of Peptic Ulcers and the Historicity of Disease,” Paper at annual meeting, American Association for the History of Medicine, Columbus, OH.

April 29: Tarris Rosell, PhD “Transplantation Ethics,” Guest lecture in nursing ethics class, Rockhurst University, Kansas City, MO.

May 2: Tarris Rosell, PhD “An Evening Dialogue about Bioethics,” Guest lecture, EdD course, Baker University, Overland Park, KS.

June 11: Tarris Rosell, PhD “Clinical Ethics: Cases and Conundrums,” Ethics didactic for PGY-1 Residents, University of Kansas Medical Center, Kansas City, KS.

HISTORY LIVES IN LAKEVIEW VILLAGE
Four years ago we moved to Lakeview Village, a large, well-established retirement community on a one-hundred-acre campus in Lenexa, Kansas. Its 700 residents—ranging in age from early 60s to more than 100 years old—live in a scattered collection of apartments, cottages, and other larger dwellings. Some of the residents need assisted living or care center accommodation, but the majority live independently. Recreational facilities abound. For example, there is a small gym just down the hall from our spacious apartment in the Southridge apartment building and a large saltwater pool in a new nearby building. Living beyond a hundred years here is noted but not unusual. It took us several years to realize that we were living in the midst of people who represent the history of the twentieth century. For example, veterans of the Second World War abound, both male and female.

In our building we celebrate “Happy Hour” each Friday in a spacious lounge area before dinner down the hall in our building’s restaurant. M B King,
our bartender, knows everyone by name and what they drink. At the piano a retired banker regales us with ragtime in a style that Scott Joplin would admire. A retired minister brings back memories with show tunes. At a Happy Hour with friends early in 2016 we enjoyed our gin and tonics—we’re Old Colonials, who toast the Queen now and then—and our two male friends nursed single-malt Scotches, while a wife and a companion sipped a chilled chardonnay.

We asked the two men—in their nineties—how they had served in WW-II. With due modesty each said he was a very junior naval officer at the beginning of the war. Gently pressed for details of their service, each recalled being at the Battle of the Coral Sea in May 1942, something they had never discussed before. Memories flooded back and we got a replay of the crucial naval engagement that saved Australia from Japanese invasion. The Japanese lost their aircraft carrier Shoho, and a second carrier, Shokaku, was badly damaged. The Americans lost their carrier Lexington. Amazingly, the American carrier Yorktown, badly damaged, but with some repairs, was able to join the main American naval fleet in the north and participated in the Battle of Midway in June 1942, just one month later. The Battle of Midway was the turning point of the war in the Pacific—the Japanese lost four carriers and America lost one. What is the chance of getting personal accounts of a crucial naval battle of WW-II from two survivors 74 years after it happened?

The residents of Lakeview Village have a variety of gatherings, sufficient to satisfy the interests of all. Recently a History Club was formed. Meeting monthly the first two sessions were conducted by a retired a Special Forces US Army officer who is a student of the Civil War. He put in focus the state of tension on the Kansas/Missouri border in the 1850s, giving clarity to the real meaning of Bleeding Kansas. The November meeting of the club coincided with Veterans Day, and, to a large audience, a lecture on “Medicine in the First World War” was presented by a club member. The December meeting, accompanied by spiked eggnogs, featured four nonagenarians recounting memorable Christmases during WW-II (1942–1944). A retired brigadier general described his spartan life as a plebe at West Point. A woman described driving from Claflin, Kansas, to California by herself to be with her husband who was in flight training. A woman who was born and raised in Miami, Florida, with great wit, described being a student in a Catholic college for girls there and having her pick of dates from the thousands of young servicemen who filled that city and its environs. The final speaker was in the US Army in France during the Battle of the Bulge. Seeking a church for Christmas Eve Mass, he and his buddy found a badly damaged village church. Despite the destruction to their place of worship, the priest said Mass and the congregation sang familiar Christmas carols. His account brought tears to some.

History resides in every life. In the long-lived the richness and span of memory often has the clarity of reading a newspaper of a distant time. Though we are only in our eighties, we have found Lakeview Village to be—through its residents—a remarkably complete repository of the history of the twentieth century.

Frederick Holmes, MD, and Grace Holmes, MD Emeritus Professors

A Survivor of The Battle of The Coral Sea
RALPH HERMON MAJOR LUNCHEON SEMINAR SERIES

We began the fall series with Lynda Payne, professor of history at UMKC. With her most recent book devoted to the British surgeon Percivall Pott (1713–88) barely off the presses, Lynda has now turned her attention to a variety of nascent projects that will continue to enrich our understanding of eighteenth-century British medicine and surgery while opening new pathways for future, fruitful inquiry. Her September talk titled “The Illustrated Travel Journals of Charles Bell (1774–1842)” proceeds in this vein and will no doubt develop into a valuable contribution that accentuates the intersection of medicine and art, an area that continues to receive serious scholarly attention.

Many will recall Charles Bell in the context of neurology, particularly the several neurological manifestations that bear his name. Others may remember him as an anatomist and his enduring legacy as the author of several volumes of anatomical illustrations and diagrams. Lynda’s recent talk looked to Bell’s role as a surgeon attending to wounded soldiers during the Napoleonic Wars. While Bell’s success and ability as a surgeon are questionable, his experiences in that role nevertheless carried other significances that harmonize well with his more familiar mantles. Bell’s role as a surgeon allowed him to cultivate the sharp and practiced eye that would characterize him as both anatomist and artist; yet the paintings also convey a sense of the emotional toll exacted on its soldier sufferers. Bell’s later work on emotion and neuroanatomical expression seems to follow suit, providing a subtle continuity to his work.

October included two seminar sessions. The first seminar was a dual effort and featured Anne Walling, MB, CHB, Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs at the KU School of Medicine-Wichita together with Kari Nilsen, PhD, research educator and assistant professor in Family and Community Medicine, also at the KU School of Medicine-Wichita. Their talk “The Only Women in the Room: Stories of Women Who Entered Medicine, 1965–1980” is part of an oral history project that explores the experience of women in medical education and subsequent medical practice. As the title suggests, the talk was chock full of engaging personal stories and anecdotes. Many were matter-of-fact and others humorous, though all imparted a special color to the experiences of some women in the medical profession along with the travails and triumphs that continue to shape the contours of that history.

With October’s second seminar we welcomed Andrés Rodríguez, PhD, director of the KUMC Writing Center and affiliate faculty in this department. Andrés’s talk “Eyes Closed, Closer to Life: Keats, Suffering, and Care” derived from many years of thinking and writing about the Romantic poet, John Keats. Keats’s poetry requires no preface to its greatness. One could make a similar argument for his letters, which have long been noted for their literary qualities. The letters formed the subject of Andrés’s book-length study *Book of the Heart* (Lindisfarne: 1993). And though the poetical is never too far away from any consideration of Keats, Andrés presented a Keats all too familiar with suffering, care, and loss to which his poetic sensibility seemed to bind him even more. Some may know that Keats trained as a physician at Guy’s Hospital in London and was early on sworn to a healing mission. He was also an intimate and helpless witness to the sufferings and deaths of some of those closest to him. Keats’s own affliction with tuberculosis, which claimed his life at the age of twenty-five, seemed to round out a multi-perspectival experience of illness including its myriad physical and psychological dimensions that only the deepest poetic insight can capture. In this way, and as Andrés clearly conveyed, Keats continues to teach valuable lessons to the medical profession and beyond. And as Keats himself articulated in the unfinished poem ‘The Fall of Hyperion: A Dream’: ...

...sure a poet is a sage,
A humanist, physician to all men
The fall series concluded with George Thompson’s talk “Battlefield Medicine: The American
Response to Gas Gangrene on the Western Front.” The talk represents the latest in a series that George has given that explore the British and American medical experience during the First World War. George presents regularly at the National World War One Museum and Memorial and at military medicine conferences throughout the country. He also contributes to and helps curate the section on American Military Medicine in World War One found on the “US World War One Centennial Commission” website: https://www.worldwar1centennial.org/index.php/medicine-in-ww1-home.html.

We are excited for the spring series. Please visit the departmental website for details.

Ryan Fagan, PhD, Research Assistant Professor

UPCOMING EVENTS
Wednesday, March 27
Ralph Hermon Major Luncheon Seminar Series
Lillian Pardo, MD, KU Cancer Center
“Pediatric Neurology: Baby Steps to Now”
12 noon – 1:00 pm, Clendening Foyer, 1000 Robinson
Lunch Provided
RSVP: Ryan Fagan, 913-588-7040, rfagan@kumc.edu

Thursday, March 28
The Hixon Hour Lecture in the History of Medicine
Aimee Medeiros, PhD, UCSF School of Medicine
“Little Boys and Big Medicine: The History of Growth Hormone Therapy in the US”
4:30 pm Reception, Clendening Foyer, 1000 Robinson
5:00 pm Lecture, Clendening Auditorium, 2004 Robinson

Thursday, April 11
The Don Carlos and Alice V. Peete Lecture in the History of Medicine
Adam Biggs, PhD, University of South Carolina Lancaster
“Strange Cures: Black Doctors and the Problem of Race in American Medicine”
4:30 pm Reception, Clendening Foyer, 1000 Robinson
5:00 pm Lecture, Clendening Auditorium, 2004 Robinson

Wednesday, April 17
Ralph Hermon Major Luncheon Seminar Series
Stephen Bohrer, PhD
“A Civil War Physician Triumphs over the Vicissitudes of the 19th Century”
12 noon – 1:00 pm, Clendening Foyer, 1000 Robinson
Lunch Provided
RSVP: Ryan Fagan, 913-588-7040, rfagan@kumc.edu

Wednesday, May 8
Ralph Hermon Major Luncheon Seminar Series
Whitney Sperrazza, PhD, Hall Center for the Humanities, University of Kansas
“Renaissance Skins: Translating Dissection to the Page in Early Anatomical Texts”
12 noon – 1:00 pm, Clendening Foyer, 1000 Robinson
Lunch Provided
RSVP: Ryan Fagan, 913-588-7040, rfagan@kumc.edu

Thursday, May 9
Clendening Museum and Library Exhibit Opening
“[Re]Discovery: An Exhibit Featuring Newly Acquired and Re-Discovered Artifacts from the Museum Collection”
1:30 – 3:30 pm, Clendening Foyer, 1000 Robinson
Refreshments Provided

Thursday, May 16
The Robert Hudson Lecture in the History of Disease
Jaipreet Virdi, PhD, University of Delaware
“I Am Invisibly Crippled’: Mediations of Deafness in Dorothy Brett’s Life and Art”
4:30 pm Reception, Clendening Foyer, 1000 Robinson
5:00 pm Lecture, Clendening Auditorium, 2004 Robinson
“WHAT ONE DOES FOR OTHERS”: HELEN F. AND KENNETH A. SPENCER

“New Chapel at Medical Center Memorializes Kenneth Spencer” reads the headline of a June 1965 KU Endowment Digest article. Built with a generous donation to KUMC from Helen F. Spencer to honor her late husband’s dedication to faith and his belief in the inherent good in humanity, the chapel was envisioned as a quiet place for prayer and meditation for those seeking solitude while dealing with stress and uncertainty, and also as a place of joy, of weddings and baptisms, a place of thanksgiving. Today, the Colonial Revival–style chapel, named in memory of Kansas philanthropist Kenneth A. Spencer, sits neglected, virtually unknown and unnoticed, at the western edge of the busy University of Kansas Medical Center campus.

Kenneth Aldred Spencer, born in Columbus, Kansas, January 25, 1902, was raised in Pittsburg, Kansas. He completed high school in 1920, and graduated from the University of Kansas in 1926. Spencer married his high school sweetheart, Helen Elizabeth Foresman, in 1927, after joining his father’s business, the Pittsburg Midway Coal Company. In 1941, he contracted with the War Department to build and operate, in Galena, Kansas, a weapons-grade anhydrous ammonia and ammonium nitrate plant. After WWII, the company refocused on developing ammonium nitrate as fertilizer, and Spencer Chemical Company emerged. In 1944, Spencer helped found the Midwest Research Institute (now MRIGlobal) in Kansas City, Missouri, with one of that institution’s first research projects exploring the manufacture of peacetime products from ammonium nitrate. During the 1950s, he donated funds to build both the Spencer Auditorium and the Spencer Laboratories Building on the MRI campus near the University of Kansas City (now the University of Missouri-Kansas City).

Helen Elizabeth Foresman Spencer, born November 8, 1902, in Joplin, Missouri, attended high school in Pittsburg, Kansas, where she and Kenneth met. Eventually, the couple moved to Mission Hills, Kansas, purchasing a Tudor mansion there in 1942. Childless, they established the Kenneth A. and Helen F. Spencer Foundation in 1949, focusing on endowments to area cultural and educational institutions. After Kenneth’s untimely death, February 19, 1960, from complications of pneumonia, Helen sold Spencer Chemical to Gulf Oil in 1963. The philanthropic spirit of the company continued, however, through Helen’s careful administration of the Spencer Foundation, which she oversaw until its final dissolution in 1979.

Over the years, Helen Spencer’s many philanthropic enterprises touched a number of area institutions on both sides of the state line. In Missouri the list includes: The Spencer Art Reference Library at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art (1962); The University of Missouri-Kansas City’s Kenneth A. Spencer Chemistry Building (1972); Helen F. Spencer Theatre for the Performing Arts (1979); and The Helen F. Spencer Rare Book Room of Linda Hall Library (1973).

Notable Kansas legacies include: The Kenneth A. and Helen F. Spencer Wing for the Quayle Bible Collection at Baker University (1960); The Kenneth A. Spencer Research Library – University of Kansas at Lawrence (1968); and The Helen Foresman Spencer Museum of Art – KU Lawrence (1978).

Specific to the University of Kansas Medical Center, in 1957 Kenneth and Helen Spencer
donated their lavish, pristine 9,773-square-foot home in Mission Hills, Kansas, for use as the official residence for the dean of KUMC, intending the bequest to further elevate the stature of the Medical School. Ongoing maintenance of the property became an issue, and gradual deterioration occurred. At one point a beekeeper was hired to remove a huge swarm of bees and 200 pounds of honey from the interior wall at the front of the house. D. Kay Clawson, MD, Executive Vice Chancellor from 1983 to 1994, and his wife were the last to reside in Spencer House. Shortly after their departure, the house was sold.

Of final importance, the foundation funded the Kenneth A. Spencer Memorial Chapel at the University of Kansas Medical Center, which was dedicated in 1965. The Chapel in particular, a major project of the Foundation, served as a memorial to Kenneth Spencer. Non-sectarian, the Chapel was important to Helen as a lasting legacy and personification of Kenneth’s loyalty and devotion to the State of Kansas, its University and Medical School. According to the 1965 Endowment Digest article, “Kenneth Spencer…appreciated art and architecture, good deeds beautifully and quietly done. The non-sectarian chapel is one manifestation of his cherished memory.” In a 1972 Kansas City Times article, Helen F. Spencer stated: “Through the years I have believed that what one does for one’s self is short-lived, but what one does for others will live on.” Currently, the Spencer Chapel has fallen into disrepair and faces an uncertain future.

Nancy J. Hulston, Associate Professor Emeritus

RARE BOOK PURCHASES:
We’ve had our rare book purchases on hold for a few years because of our cataloging backlog. Cataloging isn’t caught up yet, but we do occasionally purchase books or items that fit in with our collection or presentation responsibilities.

During the Commemoration of the Centennial of World War I, we purchased *Tales of a Field Ambulance*, 1914–1918 told by the personnel of the 2/4th London Field Ambulance Unit. A British book printed for private circulation (five hundred copies), it included what seems to be a mimeographed (or facsimile or handwritten) letter about the book, signed by one of the editors, Claude R. Wellum. A second letter, from the librarian of the Imperial War Museum to Wellum, thanks him for their copy of the book.

The pamphlet, *An address on the life, character and writings of Elisha Bartlett, M.D., M.M.S.S., before the Middlesex North District Medical Society, December 26, 1855*, by Elisha Huntington, joins our other books about or by Elisha Bartlett. Bartlett not only was a physician, a professor, and a poet, but he also served in the Massachusetts House of Representatives.

To add to our collection on fevers by Robert Jackson, we now have the 1791 *A Treatise on the Fevers of Jamaica*, with some observations on the intermitting fever of America, and an appendix, containing some hints on the means of preserving the health of soldiers in hot climates.

Since we continue to receive inquiries about historical vaccination pros and cons, the following 1833 British tract by ardent anti-vaccinationists (who were misstating earlier pro-vaccinationists), was

A Crimean War poster (text only) also caught my eye this year. It’s interesting because of the Florence Nightingale connection to the war but also because of the political references. It will make its debut in a February 14th nursing class.

**VESALIUS CENSUS FOLLOW-UP:**

In our Fall 2016 newsletter I mentioned performing a lengthy review of the first and second editions of the Clendening’s “Fabrica” by Vesalius. The book, *The Fabrica of Andreas Vesalius: A Worldwide Descriptive Census, Ownership, and Annotations of the 1543 and 1555 Editions*, edited by Dániel Margócsy, Mark Somos, and Stephen N. Joffe, has been published and contained a welcome surprise. The index listed three entries for Kansas City, KS, not two. The third entry was the 1555 edition located in the Université de Strasbourg Médecine et Odontologie, with the notation that it had belonged to Ralph Hermon Major and was sold to the current collection in 1958. It was reassuring to see the final resting place of an item of the personal collection of our first chairman.

**SPRING MEETINGS:**

This spring two members of the University of Kansas School of Nursing faculty and I will be presenting a poster at the joint meeting of the Southern Association for the History of Medicine and Science (SAHMS) and the Agnes Dillon Randolph International Nursing History Conference. It will be held in March at the University of Virginia School of Nursing in Charlottesville, VA. Dr. Nelda Godfrey, associate dean, Innovative Partnerships and Practice, Elizabeth Young, clinical assistant professor, and I will be featuring the collaboration between the nursing faculty and the Clendening History of Medicine Library. During the spring semester the first-year nursing students have a short class presentation and rare material display from the librarian and one assignment in the library.

In April many of us in the department will travel to Columbus, Ohio, for the annual overlapping meetings of the Archivists & Librarians in the History of the Health Sciences, the Medical Museums Association, and the American Association for the History of Medicine.

Dawn McInnis, Rare Book Librarian

**FROM THE MUSEUM COLLECTION:**

This edition’s highlighted object has been in the collection since 1959, and was featured in the June 1960 department newsletter. It was donated by Standish and Bradford Hall, the grandson and great-grandson (respectively) of Dr. H. S. Squires. After his graduation from Harvard Medical School in 1880, Squires became the chief surgeon of the Mexican Central Railway Company headquartered in Aguascalientes, Mexico. He practiced there until 1915, when he was forced to flee the advance of Pancho Villa during the Mexican Revolution. The donation included thirty-nine handwritten journals and several medical sets, including a fine example of an amputation kit. This kit was used to treat railroad workers as well as outside patients during Squires’s time in Mexico.

Railway surgeons concerned themselves with the medical requirements of railway companies, especially trauma surgery. This is evident in the condition of this kit. Manufactured by F. Charriere of Paris between 1820 and 1842, it would have been one of the finest sets of instruments available at the time. Though it was at least forty years old when Squires acquired it, it bears evidence of heavy use and repeated sharpening. It is overall in good repair despite its age, with only one instrument missing.

**UPDATE: MEDICINE UNEARTHED**

In November the Clendening Library and Museum opened the exhibit “Medicine Unearthed,”
telling the full story of the medicine bottles found in a collapsed bootlegging tunnel in Hugoton, Kansas. Last fall, eight samples were sent away for testing at MRIGlobal. The analysis revealed that the tunnel held vials of vitamin B1, a degraded opiate, and bottles of Dr. Bundy’s “Salve No. 2”—a linseed oil–based concoction to promote healing after the removal of skin cancer. The full results are on display in the exhibit.

For the opening reception, Jan Leonard, executive director of Stevens County Economic Development and the excavator of the Hugoton tunnel, returned to the Clendening to help curator Jamie Rees give a presentation about how the discovery of the vials grew into a full-fledged museum exhibit. We also had the pleasure of hosting descendants of Dr. William Elwood Bundy, including several great-grandchildren and one great-great grandchild. They braved the cold weather and came from across Kansas and Colorado to see the exhibit and share their insights into Dr. Bundy’s story. The exhibit will remain on display through May 1, 2019.

Jamie Rees, Museum Curator and Assistant Librarian

NEW VOLUNTEER

KUMC Archivist Alex Welborn is excited to announce the arrival of a new volunteer in the archives. Associate Professor Emerita Rita Clifford from the School of Nursing began volunteering in the archives last fall. Dr. Clifford, who retired from KUMC in 2015, is working with the records of the School of Nursing—some of which she donated to the archives herself!

Dr. Clifford has helped with several tasks in the archives so far, including identifying photographs, organizing reports and programs, and assisting with the preservation of fragile materials. In addition to her help working with the records, she also has shown herself to be a wealth of information about the history of the School of Nursing. She served at every level, from instructor to acting dean, over the course of her fifty-year tenure in the school, and she often provides insightful context to the records stored in the archives.

The School of Nursing collection is one of the largest and most complex collections housed in the KUMC Archives. Adding to the difficulty, the records, which are housed in 446 boxes at approximately 228.8 cubic feet, grow every year through new transfers to the archives. In 2018, for instance, the school transferred thirty additional boxes of records to the archives, which accounted for...
nearly half of the eighty cubic feet of new materials received for the year. Alex is grateful for Dr. Clifford’s help with the School of Nursing collection, and he is excited for the opportunity to work with her in the archives. It may take some time, but he believes that the two of them will make considerable progress despite the challenge ahead of them.

CLASS COMPOSITE PROJECT

This spring Archivist Alex Welborn is working with the Alumni and Community Relations Office to preserve a well-known feature on the KUMC campus. Since the early 1980s, KUMC alums and visitors alike have enjoyed the large composites of the graduating classes on display in the corridors of the Medical Center. Unfortunately, the composites, which go all the way back to the first graduating classes of the Schools of Medicine and Nursing, have begun to look worse for wear and are in need of preservation work.

The composites completed an interesting journey to get to their present location, according to retired archivist, Associate Professor Emeritus Nancy Hulston. She recalls seeing the earliest composites in photographs taken at the Goat Hill campus, the original location of the KU School of Medicine located on the bluffs above the intersection of Southwest and Rainbow Boulevards. In the 1950s, the composites were displayed in large “flip chart contraptions” in the Francisco Lounge of the Student Center. Then, in the early 1980s, Executive Vice Chancellor Dr. D. Kay Clawson moved the composites to their present location, where they could be seen and appreciated by all. New composites have been added annually since then, with the latest classes appearing in the hallways of the Delp and Sudler buildings.

Over the years, environmental factors like temperature, humidity, and light have caused the slow deterioration of a few of the composites on display. The composites in worst condition have been removed and are now in the KUMC Archives awaiting repair. Their departure is temporary, however, and they will soon return to their original locations in the hallways of the Medical Center. Alex will spend the next few weeks scanning, re-matting, and reframing the composites using archival materials and techniques so that they may be enjoyed for many years to come.

Alex may be reached at 913-588-7243 or awelborn@kumc.edu.

Past medical school class composites grace the hallways at KUMED, above.
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