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Cover photo courtesy of the KUMC Archives
circa 1991 Father Jerry Spencer in Spencer Chapel
NEW CURRICULUM ADVENTURES

Last fall in our department newsletter I mentioned the new Health Education Building, which was designed from the ground up to accommodate the medical center’s new curricular reform for student-led, active learning. I noted my pleasure at my first experience in the new building, with an event that swept up a full 200+ medical students in a rolling discussion of informed consent led by Dr. Carla Keirns. It took place at the heart of the building in one of its vast and spacious open classrooms. But the new curriculum is playing out in smaller, cozier spaces as well. Earlier in the school year, our department completed a one-week intensive course in history and ethics with a handful of adventurous first-year medical students who signed on as part of what amounts to a new series of required electives. At the end of each thematic eight-week block in the new curriculum, students have one week of elective time. For each open week they must choose one of many dozen different intensive, one-week mini-courses.

A great number of these courses are clinical experiences in areas from family or emergency medicine to anesthesia, child psychiatry, advanced laparoscopy, or vascular surgery. The history elective that we offered took place in an older and less antiseptic part of the medical school—the Clendening Library. Meeting daily Monday through Thursday (Friday off!), we explored with the medical students topics in history, ethics, and their intersection. One of my favorite sessions was a two-hour tour of the rare books from the Clendening. Students had the chance to see firsthand in a series of historical books the changing ideas of what constituted medical knowledge and the evolving means for organizing and illustrating it. We noticed changing representations of the human body from an anatomically organized “flip-book” version of the human eye in Georg Bartisch’s 1583 *Ophthalmodouleia* to the violent specificity of Hunter’s 1774 *Gravid Uterus*, to a consideration of modern 3-D simulated anatomy available through our online teaching resources. It was a great afternoon rambling through a half-millennium of medical science with such an engaging and thoughtful group, who are taking their first steps into the profession.

The elective course joined a wide range of events this year that spread the word about our history of medicine programs and the remarkable resources of the Clendening Library and Museum. The most dramatic were the new artworks now displayed in the Health Education Building that draw from historical images in the Clendening Collections. Jamie Rees wrote in more detail in the last newsletter about the original artworks inspired by historical images that highlight such holdings in our collections as the Florence Nightingale correspondence, Hooke’s *Micrographia*, Vesalius’s *De humani corporis fabrica*, and a 1707 edition of Pierre Dionis’s *Cours d’operations de chirurgie*. Of special note, late last year Dr. Darrell Kirch, president of the Association of American Medical Colleges, paid a visit to the medical center to celebrate the new curriculum and its beautiful new home. Dr. Kirch was able to squeeze into his busy schedule a private tour of the Clendening. Dawn McInnis and I had a delightful time browsing with Dr. Kirch through some of the treasures of the museum and library and hearing his reflections on the vast changes in medical teaching. Pausing over the diagrammatic qualities of a Vesalius anatomy, each muscle labeled with a Greek letter...
keyed to the text, we were also struck by the things that seem largely unchanged.
I had the chance more recently to participate in teaching in a very different venue. I was able to visit several classes at the local J. C. Harmon High School in Kansas City, Kansas, where I was privileged to join several local professionals as invited participants in a demonstration project within their innovative College and Career Academy. Students were primed for the day by their work over the previous few months on historical topics related to a core question: Are medical advances achieved through human experimentation morally and ethically justified?
It was great fun, if a little daunting, to try to keep pace with several energetic groups of well-informed and opinionated teens. I have a vivid memory of one student standing up to respond to my question about reasons that an individual might enroll in medical research. She explained in terms both subtle and compelling her personal ambivalence about research on sickle cell disease, which affected her family. It brought the room to a sudden hush as we digested the wisdom of her thoughts—before the conversation bubbled right back up to its former pitch.

Chris Crenner, MD, PhD, Chair

CONLEY ETHICS ESSAY CONTEST
In September as I was getting to know my Wahl Society advisees, a friend passed along an email about the Conley Ethics Essay Contest from the AMA Journal of Ethics, an annual contest open to medical students and residents across the country. Remembering that one of my new students, Matt Heenan, had a background and interest in philosophy and ethics, I mentioned the essay contest to him, and Matt decided to submit an essay to the contest.

The essay prompt for this year’s contest describes a gruesomely injured critically ill trauma patient whose wife requests to see him just as he is about to be taken emergently to the operating room, and asks what ethical and aesthetic criteria the surgeon should use to decide whether to grant her request. Matt took what I thought was a truly innovative and insightful approach to the question using the philosophy of Viktor Frankl. His submission won an honorable mention, one of only three medical student submissions to be so honored, which earned him a $1,000 award. Below is Matt’s description of his approach to the essay.

*When I first read the case and prompt I was immediately interested in what might be meant by the phrase “aesthetically relevant criteria.” I thought aesthetics dealt with beautiful things, but it is difficult to see beauty in the image painted by the case. So, I started by focusing on the obvious ugliness particular to trauma cases—the shocking disfigurement and excessive blood, which I referred to as “traumatic imagery”—and the question of whether it is appropriate to expose a patient’s family members to this imagery. There has been a fair amount of*
research done on how to successfully facilitate family observation of medical resuscitations without harm to the patient or family members, much of which would apply in traumatic cases. However, of the few studies that have focused on family presence in trauma resuscitations, most of the patients studied appear to have lacked much of the traumatic imagery present in the case prompt. Thus, as far as the evidence regarding harm to family members is concerned, there is little to help the physician in the case to decide whether to allow the wife to see the patient. Faced with this (perhaps necessarily) limited evidence, I suggested an alternative approach to analyzing the wife’s request to see her husband by reconsidering the meaning of the request itself. I tried to evoke an appreciation of the real existential weight of the wife’s need to be with her husband, possibly for the last time—an expression of love that is perhaps the only glimmer of beauty penetrating this tragic scenario. Looking at the case from this point of view might be enough on its own to inform the physician’s decision, but it also elicits the possibility of a more nuanced and graded response than simply allowing or disallowing family presence.

Kenneth D. Marshall, MD, MA,
Department of Emergency Medicine
Matthew Heenan, medical student

FOSTERING CIVIL DISCOURSE, AND HUMOR, IN A PARTISAN ERA

Fifteen years ago in the aftermath of “9/11,” I was invited to respond as an Ethics panelist to a new, self-published book, The Fundamentals of Extremism (Blaker, et al., New Boston Books, Inc., 2003). The authors aimed to expose “the Christian Right” as a danger to democracy. While I sympathized with chief editor Kimberly Blaker’s agenda, the book itself struck me as taking much the same rhetorical tack as the religious fundamentalists she and her co-authors vociferously critiqued.

My invitation to a book-signing event was with the expectation that I, a progressive clergyman ethicist, would be an enthusiastic proponent who might also help sell a few books. While preparing remarks, I was challenged with the dilemma of not wanting to disappoint a young author with worthy aims, while also engaging in truth-telling, as I saw it. Most importantly, I wished not to support or practice the very thing we both condemned: divisive, speculative, paranoid, demonizing fundamentalist—or even anti-fundamentalist—rhetoric. Unfortunately, to my ethics eyes, The Fundamentals of Extremism was pretty much what it denounced.

So for my panel presentation, I resorted to writing poetry, or possibly doggerel—an ethics response in rhyme. It seemed to me then, and now, that our ideological divisions are ameliorated best by civil discourse laced with mutual respect and a dose of good humor. This is difficult, and especially so when the stakes appear high, as they did back then, and now. Yet, if we who disagree with political or religious extremism engage in the same sort of rhetoric and behaviors as those we
oppose, if our own claims are factually challenged anecdotes and innuendo, we only foster more schism and less democracy.

This is what I wrote (with minor edits). I think it still works in the partisan era of Trump.

FATHER JERRY SPENCER AND THE HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF MEDICINE DEPARTMENT

We’re not on this Earth to see through one another, but to see one another through.

—Father Jerry Spencer, 1976

On November 15, 2017, Father Jerry Spencer presented a lighthearted and spirited lecture titled “Even Ripley Wouldn’t Believe This?” to a crowded room of friends and colleagues for the Ralph Hermon Major Luncheon Seminar held in the Clendening History of Medicine Foyer. During this talk, delivered with wit, humor, and characteristic personal humility, Father Spencer described his forty-five years in the chaplaincy of the KU Medical Center. Two weeks later, unexpectedly stricken with pneumonia, “Father Jerry” died.

Born Jeremiah L. Spencer on March 5, 1939, he graduated from Hayden High School in Topeka, Kansas, in 1957. After a post-graduation trip to Mexico City, Spencer attended St. Thomas Seminary in Denver, Colorado, receiving a B.A. degree in philosophy, 1961, and an M.A. in religion and psychology, 1964. Also in 1964, upon his return to Topeka, he completed a course in clinical pastoral education at the Menninger Foundation.

On May 29, 1965, Father Spencer was ordained to the Catholic priesthood at St. Peter’s Cathedral, Kansas City, Kansas, by Archbishop Edward J. Hunkeler. He was subsequently named pastor to Holy Trinity Parish in Lenexa, Kansas.

AN ANTI-FUNDAMENTALIST CONFESSION
Tarris Rosell
© 2003, 2018

I’m fundamentally opposed to fundamentalism,
And separate myself from those who foster any schism.
I feel an obligation to expose the boorish Right
And other such extremists whom the rest of us must fight.

I fear their chief ambition is to slay democracy;
Their paranoia leads them to engage conspiracy.
They’d have us all subservient to Fundie ways of being,
Dichotomize and simplify our thinking and our seeing.

Black and white, or good and bad, on absolutist values
 Strikes me as absolutely wrong, as I’m compelled to tell you.
 Yet, in my strident anti-fundamentalist critique,
 Another thought has struck me, and has left me feeling meek.

One problem with Conservatives in all their stridency
 Is one that tempts both Right and Left as human tendency.
 While exorcism of their demonizing fits the facts,
 Sometimes I look into the mirror and see “Them” looking back.

The rhetoric we choose to use, the labels we assign,
The latitude we grant to those across the picket line,
Our attitude of hubris, or of apt humility—
All these demark the difference between Us and Them
Or We.

Tarris Rosell, PhD, DMin
Appointed Catholic Chaplain and a member of the Committee on Medicine and Religion at KU Medical Center in 1967, Spencer was named to the Advisory Committee on Human Experimentation (later called the Human Subjects Committee-Institutional Review Board), in 1972.

The KUMC Human Subjects Committee (HSC), established in the early 1970s, was a direct response to federal regulations requiring creation of institutional review boards for the protection of human subjects of biomedical and behavioral research. By law, regulations required that HSC membership include not only scientists but also ethicists, clergy, and members of the lay public; those on the HSC studied how science, morality, and ethics should be sensibly wedded.

As Father Jerry was given increasing responsibility for reading HSC protocols as second and then as first reader, it became clear that he not only enjoyed the moral, ethical, and scientific give-and-take, but also was conflicted by some private doubts as a Catholic priest. Being asked to approve some procedures, for example, experimental treatments applied to mortally ill children, while others with the same condition were given inactive placebo treatments. Where does the principle of beneficence ("do no harm") fit into such a picture?

Father Jerry disliked voting “nay” in opposition to others’ opinions; but he did it—rarely—when he simply could not square the circle; there were a few occasions when he abstained from voting when his faith disallowed participation. The challenging work of the HSC was serious stuff, and Father Jerry brought a unique and consistently informative viewpoint to the proceedings.

Jerry officially entered the world of academia in 1975, when appointed Associate Professor in the Department of History and Philosophy of Medicine at KU Medical Center. He served in this capacity until 1989, when appointed Director of Chaplaincy Services and Head of the Pastoral Care Department at KUMC. He then became Adjunct Assistant Professor (volunteer), History and Philosophy of Medicine, until his retirement in 2012.

From 1975 to 1989, under the auspices of the History and Philosophy of Medicine Department, Father Spencer lectured and taught classes, post-graduate courses, and seminars to students, nurses, physicians, and allied health personnel. He also conducted symposia for paramedics, and instructed at the local police academy.

With Robert P. Hudson, MD, Chair of the History and Philosophy of Medicine Department, Spencer lectured in the Medicine and Religion Seminars, participated in Hudson’s popular Death and Dying courses, and served as a lecturer and consultant for suicidology courses and workshops. During the 1980s, the Department was heavily involved in the evolving field of medical ethics. Father Spencer was appointed to the KUMC Human Ethics Committee in 1984, adding to the growing list of his Medical Center responsibilities.

In 1986, William G. Bartholome, MD, MTS, joined the History and Philosophy of Medicine Department as Associate Professor with a joint appointment as Associate Professor of Pediatrics.
At that time, “Dr. Bill” founded the Pediatric Ethics Committee with Father Jerry as a pivotal member.

Father Spencer loved to travel, and over the years visited Mexico, Rome, Puerto Rico, Portugal, France, the Holy Land, Japan, Korea, Thailand, Hong Kong, Spain, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Singapore, Malaysia, Australia, Ireland, Guatemala, and, in 1995, on the thirtieth anniversary of his ordination, Hawaii.

Upon Father Jerry’s retirement from KUMC in 2012, he became active in the Cure of Ars Parish in Overland Park, Kansas, serving as Senior Associate Pastor. He also served as Associate Pastor of St. Agnes Church, Roeland Park, Kansas. And, almost to the end, he continued to frequent the halls of his beloved KU Medical Center.

The Mass of Christian Burial for Father Jeremiah L. Spencer, held on December 6, 2017, at Cure of Ars Catholic Church, was attended by a remarkable number of people, all of whom, be assured, he knew by name. Internment was at Resurrection Cemetery, Lenexa, Kansas.

A longtime friend and colleague of Father Jerry, Noreen C. Thompson, RN, remembers him as “A lifelong learner who loved people and life. I most remember his humor and kindness.”

Nancy J. Hulston, MA, Associate Professor Emeritus, History of Medicine, and John M. Belmont, PhD, Professor Emeritus, Department of Pediatrics, with valued assistance from Noreen C. Thompson, Clinical Nurse Specialist

RALPH HERMON MAJOR LUNCHEON SEMINAR SERIES

The fall of 2017 brought to the seminar a trio of interesting talks. We began the series in September with George Thompson, who continues to be a most astute student of the medical aspects of the First World War. He mines the archival troves to illuminate the medical dimensions of modern, mechanized war along with its various lessons, both tragic and hopeful. As many know, George has been a regular contributor to this seminar, and has given us glimpses here and there of a sub-field of war medicine that he has long since claimed as his own. His work on the triage system instituted by the British Army at the Somme is especially noteworthy and has found audiences throughout the country. His most recent seminar presentation,
It is also worth mentioning here that George is working on a project devoted to the photographic legacy of T.E. Lawrence, aka Lawrence of Arabia. The project itself addresses a considerable lacuna given the context of Lawrence’s life, yet situates within a broader effort to make sense of a visual culture of modernity. One can expect that this project, along with the future research that accretes to it, will facilitate George’s task to rethink Lawrence and his world including the likes of war and the medical domain within it. And maybe we’ll have another seminar talk to boot!

The October seminar featured Lowell Tilzer, who presented “The Legacy of Dr. Mas Chiga-Pathologist Extraordinaire.” In a very detailed and interesting talk, we surveyed the life and professional legacy of one of KU’s finest pathologists whose influences resound to this day. With personal flourishes, Lowell’s talk gave tribute to his friend and mentor as both a clinician and researcher who, among other notable accomplishments, did much to advance the development of transfusion medicine and blood banking as it has taken shape on the national scene. Both have done much to characterize Dr. Tilzer’s long and distinguished career at KUMC.

The fall segment of the series concluded in November with Fr. Jerry Spencer. Alas, Fr. Jerry passed away unexpectedly two weeks after his seminar presentation, which is a loss deeply felt throughout the KUMC community. Well attended by friends and colleagues, the session was filled with Fr. Jerry’s usual wit and whimsy. As many of us know, he never passed up an opportunity to tell a joke, himself often the target of the punchline. This session was no different; for how could it be otherwise? He had a unique way about him to say the least. Those who knew him well can attest that he weathered so many of life’s storms—both his own and those on behalf of others—with an assurance that only his unique brand of comedy and wizard japes could sustain. Yet, behind the veneer of welcome and levity was a deeply reflective intellectual. He relied upon his Catholic faith and training to work through significant moral and philosophical problems, but obviously was never heavy-handed in either the pursuit or its delivery. The dominant contours of his character would not allow it, and thus his practical wisdom seemed to cross all boundaries of faith and culture to inspire, educate, and comfort.

Along these lines, his last talk was an informal and personal talk and recounted some of the highlights of his fifty-year tenure at KU, where one can say he became an institution within an institution. His title “Even Ripley Wouldn’t Believe This?” was most appropriate; and the vital, moral force that he himself was, as well as that which he imparted to our community, is now curiously absent and similarly hard to believe. I likely speak for many in saying that Fr. Jerry was one of the most authentic souls I have had the pleasure to know. He shall be greatly missed.

The spring segment of the series brings another trio of thoughtful and interesting seminars, and some with local and community appeal. On 28 February, we welcomed Chris Crenner who spoke on “Medicine and the Role of Race in the US—A Deep Historical Perspective.” On 18 April, Moya titled “Lessons of War: Defining Human Boundaries,” reflects his work on biometrics in the American Army, 1917-19. This is a formidable concern, and together with his work on triage, one can safely assume that George has two nascent book projects before him.
Peterson will share some of her research on local nursing history in a talk titled “KUMC in WWII: Nurses of the 77th Evacuation Hospital.” The series will conclude on 23 May with Austin Williams, a history doctoral student at UMKC, who will present on a social aspect of HIV/AIDS in “Quackbusters or Puppets?: AIDS and Health Activism in Kansas City.”

Mark your calendars now, and we hope to see many of you in the spring!

Ryan Fagan, PhD

WORKS-IN-PROGRESS GROUP, LINDA HALL LIBRARY

As some may know, faculty in our department take part in a monthly writing seminar hosted by the Linda Hall Library of Science and Technology. The seminar is currently under the direction of Ben Gross, vice president for research and scholarship. Ben has led us off to a great start during the 2017-18 academic year, and we can look forward to future years now that the seminar is established and off-and-running! The group enters its second year to convene local scholars working in areas of the histories of science, technology and medicine [STM], as well as its several cognate disciplines. Organized in 2016 by then Vice President for Research and Scholarship Tania Munz, the seminar realizes a long-held desire to develop a scholarly community that meets regularly to promote research and to discuss ideas at all stages of the writing process. Our department joins faculty and advanced graduate students from UMKC, the main campus in Lawrence, Wichita State, and Missouri University of Science and Technology, among others. The group is a very congenial one, while exhibiting considerable intellectual breadth. Expertise directs to technical histories, studies examining the social cultural dimensions of STM, and the philosophy of science, if cast often with a historical bent. From book proposals and chapters, to peer-reviewed articles, to conference papers, and much more, it is a pleasure to witness nascent projects as they take shape. This is especially so as discussions of them feature the intermingling of differing historiographies, methodologies, and general interpretive stances relating to a range of historical-philosophical concerns set forth in STM. Chris Crenner and Ryan Fagan are excited to contribute some of their work this spring, which will no doubt profit by the lively discussion and constructive criticism given by this accomplished group of scholars.

Ryan Fagan, PhD

NEW BOOK ON PLACEBO SURGERIES

Technological Change in Modern Surgery: Historical Perspectives on Innovation is a new book co-edited by Thomas Schlich and Christopher Crenner. The book traces the origins of placebo surgeries and how they were used as tools in randomized clinical trials. Dr. Crenner credits inspiration for this book to a symposium honoring Dr. Marc Asher. The book was published in 2017 by the University of Rochester Press.

Christopher Crenner, MD, PhD, Chair
Recently passed Ralph Hermon Major Noon Seminar speaker Father Jerry Spencer with Ryan Fagan, PhD, HOM Department.

Logan Clendening visiting lecturer Mical Raz, MD, PhD, MSHP; and Dawn McInnis, HOM Department Rare Book Librarian.

Alex Welborn, MLIS, Archivist of the HOM Department, with Mani Mani, MD, Professor Emeritus of Plastic Surgery; Nancy Hulston, MA, retired Archivist and Professor Emeritus.
1. Ralph Hermon Major Noon Seminar Series attendees.

2. Thelda Kestenbaum, MD, retired physician from the Dept of Dermatology; and Ryan Fagan, PhD.

3. Peggy Scanlon, daughter of the late Stanley Friesen, MD; and Chris Crenner, MD, PhD, Chair of HOM Dept.

4. - 5. Medical students and past Clendening Summer Fellows Rayyan Kamal and Mollyanne Gibson.

6. David Bodensteiner, MD with Ralph Hermon Major Noon Seminar speaker Lowell Tilzer, MD, PhD, Pathology Dept.

7. Connie Friesen; and Robert Friesen, MD; daughter-in-law and son of the late Stanley Friesen, MD; with Ryan Fagan, PhD.

8. Visiting lecturer Mical Raz, MD, PhD, MSHP, with Sue Lederer, PhD.

9. Ralph Hermon Major Noon Seminar speaker George Thompson, MA.

10. Stanley Friesen History of Surgery visiting lecturer Jean-Philippe Gendron, PhD.

11. Medical student and past Clendening Summer Fellow Harris Tsamolias; Chris Crenner, MD, PhD, Chair; and Don Carlos and Alice V. Peete visiting lecturer Matthew Gambino, MD.

Photos courtesy of KU Medical Center Photo Services
14 Upcoming Events

MARCH
Wednesday, March 21
Clendening Library and Museum Presentation
Miki Baird, BFA, MFA
“for FN. . .words without fear”
12 noon – 1:00 pm
Clendening Foyer, 1000 Robinson
Lunch provided
reservations—Dawn McInnis,
913-588-7244, dmcinnis@kumc.edu

APRIL
Wednesday, April 4
Spring Joint Library & Museum Exhibit Opening
“Lightning in a Bottle: Realities of Science and Medicine in Frankenstein’s Lab”
12 noon – 1:30 pm
Clendening Foyer, 1000 Robinson
Refreshments provided

Tuesday, April 17
The William G. Bartholome Lecture in Bioethics and Ethics Summit
Daniel Goldberg, JD, PhD, University of Colorado
Title TBD
8:00 am – 9:00 am, Lied Auditorium, G032 Lied

Wednesday, April 18
Ralph Hermon Major Luncheon Seminar Series
Moya Peterson, PhD, RN, University of Kansas Medical Center
“KUMC in WWII: Nurses of the 77th Evacuation Hospital”
12 noon – 1:00 pm
Clendening Foyer, 1000 Robinson
Lunch provided
RSVP - Ryan Fagan, 913-588-7040,
rfagan@kumc.edu

Friday, April 20
The Robert Hudson Lecture in the History of Disease
Joanna Radin, PhD, Yale University
“Michael Crichton, MD”
Reception:
4:30 pm, Clendening Foyer, 1000 Robinson
Lecture:
5:00 pm, Clendening Auditorium, 2004 Robinson

MAY
Wednesday, May 23
Ralph Hermon Major Luncheon Seminar Series
Austin Williams, doctoral candidate, University of Missouri, Kansas City
“Quackbusters or Puppets?: AIDS and Health Activism in Kansas City”
12 noon – 1:00 pm
Clendening Foyer, 1000 Robinson
Lunch provided
RSVP - Ryan Fagan, 913-588-7040,
rfagan@kumc.edu

Dawn McInnis, Dr. Richard Barohn, and the Vesalius display. Jeremy Rockwell’s Skeleton Key is reflected in the window. (Photo courtesy of Dr. Barohn.)
TAKIN’ IT TO THE HEB

Last fall was a flurry of table displays, tours, and events. Since the summer opening of the new Health Education Building (HEB), Jamie Rees and I have been attending KUMC celebratory occasions to display the library materials that inspired the artists whose work is featured in the HEB. This year we used those inspirational books and letters to feature the HEB art in a facilitated library tour during our part of the Alumni Weekend Celebration. We also participated in a special visit by the members of the Director’s Circle of KU’s Spencer Museum of Art. For two hours, the Director’s Circle toured HEB areas and the art was explained by the artist or Spencer Museum expert while we featured the book or letter that inspired the art.

ART & WINE RECEPTION

The “Art & Wine Reception” for Neurology faculty, residents, and fellows highlighted Jeremy Rockwell’s Vesalius-inspired artwork, Skeleton Key. The artwork was donated by the Department of Neurology in honor of Dr. Richard Barohn. After introductions Barohn spoke about his interest in Vesalius, then Rockwell gave a short overview of creating it and how he obtains the computer keys for his art. During the presentations and reception, I displayed the Clendening’s 1543 and 1555 editions of Vesalius’ *de fabrica*. . . along with the larger 1543 *Epitome*. Seeing those books was a first for many of the attendees.

NURSING EXCELLENCE CELEBRATION

The Nursing Excellence Celebration on November 1 was held on the fifth floor of the HEB, where artist Miki Baird’s art is featured. The forty-foot piece, *for FN. . .words without fear*, is riveting from a distance as well as at arm’s length. During this reception we featured a display of Florence Nightingale letters, Dionis’s book showing specific bandage shapes, a book on midwifery by Louise Bourgeois Boursier, and Hooke’s *Micrographia*. Baird gave a wonderful presentation on *for FN. . .words without fear* and the inspiration she received from researching Florence Nightingale in the Clendening.
She also fascinated the audience with her explanations of how her art is created. Watch for our announcement this spring of the Library & Museum’s first speaker presentation featuring Miki Baird, Wednesday, March 21, 2018.

HONORING SAMUEL J. CRUMBINE

The Topeka Dedication of the Samuel J. Crumbine Statue and Pocket Park occurred November 3, 2017, at the Kansas Health Institute where the Kansas State Capitol continues to provide a fitting background for the new park and statue. (http://www.khi.org/park). Crumbine was a Kansas physician, Dean of the University of Kansas School of Medicine, and Kansas Board of Health member who changed the nation as a public health advocate with his campaigns, e.g., “Swat the fly,” “Ban the public drinking cup,” “Out with the common roller towel,” and bricks stating “DON’T SPIT ON SIDEWALK.” The dedication of the statue went seamlessly, with the reveal performed by Crumbine’s great-great-great-grandchildren. In addition to Kansas Health Institute representatives and family members, there were politicians involved in the dedication and luncheon program—their addresses never wavered from the topic of Crumbine. The statue artist, Kansan Carson Norton, was there with some smaller Crumbine statues, and Manhattan, KS, author, R. Alton Lee, was signing copies of her book.

JAGER CLUB 50TH ANNIVERSARY

The Jager Club 50th Anniversary celebration dinner and lecture was held jointly with the Medical Society of Sedgwick County. I was warmly welcomed by Jager Club President, Dr. Gerald Nelson, and his wife, Doris, and I was privileged to finally meet Mrs. Thor Jager. Our tablemates were familiar with the Clendening’s Jager Collection and the Doctors Housholder mentioned they were even donors to the original fund for the Jager Room. Eric Jager gave opening reminiscences of his grandfather, Dr. Thor Jager. It was enjoyable to see him and his wife in another city and setting. The speaker was New York Times best-selling author Cristin O’Keefe Aptowicz, presenting “Dr. Mütter’s Marvels: Thomas Dent Mütter and His Fight to Bring Humanity into 19th Century Medicine.” She was informative and entertaining and her book has been continuously checked out since we acquired it!

Dr. Samuel Crumbine’s “Don’t Spit on the Sidewalk” campaign. Approximately every fourth sidewalk brick in Kansas in the early twentieth century was stamped with this message. (Photo courtesy of the Clendening Museum.)
of his book on Crumbine, *From Snake Oil to Medicine: Pioneering Public Health*. I exhibited some of the artifacts and materials from the *Samuel Crumbine Papers*, http://www.kumc.edu/dc/sc/sc.html, and set up a display along with some papers and books loaned to the Kansas Health Institute by Dr. Jim Barnett, and artifacts, family papers, and a scrapbook brought by Dennis Crumbine, great-grandson of Dr. S.J. Crumbine.

The day was a celebration of a famous Kansan who helped bring the message of safer hygiene to our state and later our nation when he served the rest of his career as the Executive Director of the American Child Health Association. The new Crumbine Statue and Pocket Park has added another scenic place to visit and learn about Kansas history in the capital city.

Following are Dennis J. Crumbine’s edited luncheon remarks about his family and great-grandfather:

*The statue is marvelous—I wanted to hug it. I am one of four great-grandchildren of Dr. Crumbine. My brother Peter and sisters Nancy and Katy send their heartfelt thanks to the Kansas Health Institute, to Robert St. Peter, the City of Topeka, and all of you for all of this.*

Sixty-six years ago, an 11-year-old boy and his 13-year-old brother boarded a train on their way to visit their only “grandfather.” He had a career as a doctor in Dodge City, influenced the “Doc” character from the TV show “Gunsmoke,” was a friend of gunfighter and lawman, Bat Masterson, and he witnessed gunfights. He was the man who raised our father, who corresponded with Calvin Coolidge and Herbert Hoover, and who outlawed the common drinking cup.

Let me take you back another ninety years to September 17, 1862... to Lincoln and the Civil War when Samuel Jay Krumbine was born to Jacob Krumbine and Sarah Mull in Emlenton, PA, in a log cabin. His father, an enlistee in the Pennsylvania Volunteers in the Civil War, died of typhoid fever in the infamous, disease-ridden Confederate Libby Prison in Richmond, VA, two weeks before Samuel was born. Samuel’s mother, impoverished with two young children, worked out of the home. The first eight years Samuel was raised mostly by Sarah’s mother, Grandmother Mull, who was also a widow. He attended Mercer Boarding School (for Civil War orphans), worked his way through Pharmacy school and the Cincinnati School of Medicine where he was first in his class. (His “First In Class” medal is one of our family heirlooms and I brought it to display on the table exhibit.) After medical school he moved to Dodge City, then Topeka, on to Washington DC, and finally to New York City.

Now we are back to the two boys on the train. During our time with him we saw him as kind,
he had a sense of humor, told us about gunfights, and he was wise, patient, and very old (90). We were in awe. However, he did not admit to knowing Marshall Dillon or Festus!

Dr. Crumbine’s respect for integrity and hard work came to us directly through our father. Many owe a debt to Dr. Crumbine, we descendants especially. We are all very proud of him.

Dr. Crumbine had two children, a son, Warren, and a daughter, Violet. In 1915 Warren and his new bride moved to Shanghai, China, working for an American company. At the age of 24, Warren died of pneumonia. Dr. Crumbine was heartbroken. Warren’s wife, Beulah Searle, was pregnant with Warren Jr., when he died. She returned home from China to have her baby and live with her parents in Ohio. Two years later, she died from the flu. Warren lived with his mother’s family until the age of ten and then moved to New York City to live with Dr. and Mrs. Crumbine. Violet, Dr. Crumbine’s daughter, had one child, a daughter who did not have children. Dr. Crumbine’s line rested solely on the shoulders of our father, Warren.

There are twenty-one living descendants of Dr. Crumbine, four of whom are here today. In addition to myself, his great-great-grandson, David Jordan Crumbine, and his wife Aisha are here from Houston. And their children Jay Carter Crumbine, his great-great-grandson, and Ziza Kay Crumbine, his great-great-granddaughter.

On behalf of our family, thank you so much for this tribute.

SAVE THE DATE

The upcoming exhibit will celebrate the 200th Anniversary of Mary Shelley’s Frankenstein. The Library & Museum exhibit opening reception is scheduled for Wednesday, April 4, 2018. Join us!

Dawn McInnis, Rare Book Librarian
THE GREAT SOLAR ECLIPSE OF 2017

Following the total solar eclipse in August 2017, the Clendening Library and Museum threw a reception offering a forum for members of our community to discuss what they experienced, and to learn more about the observations of physicians and scientists recorded during past eclipses. Attendees were asked about their observations and opinions about what they witnessed—below are a few of their comments:

(E. of Platte City) During the totality of the eclipse, when it got dark, we saw an owl fly overhead! We also saw a brief but brilliant red sunset on the horizon.

(Health Education Building Courtyard) ... My husband said the cat didn’t care but the dog did.

(Radiation Oncology Parking Lot) ... I noticed an increase in the wind and a temperature drop. Heard crickets and locusts. Great exposure, phenomenal to experience. I remember a partial eclipse in the early ’80s when I was in second grade. And a classmate’s dad came to school with his welding mask and took us out one at a time. Great change from second grade.

(KU Hospital) We were so fortunate that the rain stopped and the sky was clear. It was an awesome experience to witness. The moment the 99% totality occurred the crowd was quiet then the chatter started. The streetlights came on and the night sounds started.

I observed the peaceful silence. It was a beautiful calm as everyone watched.

A profound experience!!! Excited and curious to notice the changes around. The temperature dropped and streetlights came on. My family heard locusts and saw bats flying in Overland Park, KS. The temperature dropped and dawn-like weather was amazing. Glasses helped but couldn’t see at 1:07 so took them off and saw with my eyes.

I heard birds flying around when it was about to go totality. Heard crickets come out...

I organized an eclipse viewing party at our Filipino Cultural Center in Overland Park. The thrill of seeing the sun start as “Pac-Man” image as the moon was slowly encroaching on the mighty sun was incredibly awesome, [and watching] as the sun became engulfed in half, then lunar in configuration, then a sliver of light was powerful. At the time of the 99.8% totality, dusk became dawn in two minutes, as the cicadas started chirping, the streetlights went on and a mild breeze enveloped us. It was eerie, waiting for a witch on a broom fly over the sun and moon. An incredible experience of a lifetime.—Dr. William Pardo

The sunlight looked different, was surprised at how light it still was when sun was almost eclipsed. Heard the birds, crickets, and cicadas like you would hear at night. It got a little cooler. It felt fun and magical...

EXHIBIT ANNOUNCEMENTS

For Spring 2018, the museum is doing some spring cleaning and changing out the displays in our two satellite exhibit sites. At Dykes Library, we are continuing the “New Accessions” series with the urological collection of Dr.
Oscar Wilfred Davidson, a urologist, KUMC graduate, and member of the KUMC faculty from 1949 to 1968. He collected unusual and extraordinary examples of objects removed from patients, as well as a few tools of his trade. The collection provides a glimpse into the career of a practitioner who loved his specialty. A new display in the Anesthesia Department highlights Walter Sutton’s experimentation with rectal anesthesia. It features the charts from these experiments, recently acquired by the KUMC Archives and conserved thanks to the initiative of Dr. Anthony Kovac. Both of these displays will remain up through 2018.

On January 1, Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein* turned 200. In addition to writing a foundational novel that helped to launch science fiction as a genre, Shelley was able to craft a story that asks ethical questions about scientific inquiry that we continue to wrestle with today. Complementing an exhibit opening Thursday, March 15 at 6 p.m. at the Linda Hall Library entitled “It’s Alive! Frankenstein at 200: The Science Behind the Story,” the Clendening Library and Museum will produce a collaborative exhibit exploring Shelley’s novel as it relates to the collections, opening Wednesday, April 4, 2018.

**UPDATE: CATALOGING PROJECT**

In the Fall of 2016, I announced the ongoing cataloging project being undertaken at the museum. In Spring 2018, the time has come for an update. As of the end of 2017, 859 objects have been catalogued. All new acquisitions for the year have been added to the computerized catalog, including 89 in 2017, as well as 317 items from the existing collection. Already, the possibilities for future exhibits are expanding as the collection becomes accessible for research.

**FROM THE MUSEUM COLLECTION:**

This x-ray tube circa 1900 in its wooden stand was given to the Clendening by Frank Hoecker, PhD, chair of the Department of Physics at UMKC from 1932 to 1942, and professor of biophysics at KU from 1945 until 1973, when he became a professor emeritus. Dr. Hoecker obtained this tube from Dr. Raymond F. Miller, professor of physics at the College of Emporia. Dr. Miller was in need of x-ray equipment, which Dr. Hoecker was able to obtain for him. In recognition of this, Dr. Miller gifted him the tube, which Dr. Hoecker used as a student in 1929.

This model is both early and simple, containing just a cathode, anode, and anticathode (usually called the target) likely made out of a platinum disk, all contained in a glass envelope. Platinum provided a good intensity of x-ray but was susceptible to sputtering and has a lower melting point than was desirable. It was known as the “Gold Medal” tube in honor of winning the Roentgen Society’s Tube Competition of 1898, where the scientific community was challenged to design the best model for photographic and screen work. It was manufactured in Germany, as were most early tubes.

Jamie Rees, MA, Museum Curator
NEW DIGITAL EXHIBIT

Did you know that in 1923, Dr. Ralph Major became the first physician in Kansas to use insulin in the treatment of diabetic coma? Or that on November 21, 1949, KU Medical Center became the first institution in the world to incorporate television regularly into medical education? How about that the first successful pacemaker insertion in the Midwest occurred at KUMC on June 26, 1962? If not, then you are in luck! The KUMC Archives is pleased to announce the launch of Significant Firsts and Historical Events at KUMC, a new digital exhibit where you can learn about these and other “significant firsts” in the history of KU Medical Center.

Significant Firsts is the result of research by Nancy Hulston, who compiled a list of “firsts” while she was archivist of the KUMC Archives. Over 29 years, Nancy saved interesting tidbits of KUMC history until she had amassed a sizable compendium of historic events. It became an invaluable tool for assisting researchers with quick or common questions in the archives, which otherwise might require time searching through boxes of archival materials to answer. Nancy’s list reached a wider audience in 2005, when the KUMC Archives and the School of Medicine published a condensed version titled One Hundred Firsts of the University of Kansas School of Medicine in celebration of the school’s centennial.

The newest adaptation of the list began as a project for the 2016 sesquicentennial celebration of the University of Kansas. Initially, the archives planned to publish an updated version One Hundred Firsts of the University of Kansas School of Medicine, 2005
that would include milestones from the Schools of Medicine, Nursing, and Health Professions. Eventually, the project expanded in scope until it became a separate undertaking for the KUMC Archives and the History of Medicine Department. Following Nancy’s retirement, archivist Alex Welborn worked with the Med Center’s web design team to make Significant Firsts a reality. Alex, Nancy and the web design team ultimately decided to pursue a digital exhibit for Significant Firsts rather than a printed publication because of its ability to be updated easily unlike print, which quickly becomes outdated. The recent appointments of Dr. Douglas Girod to KU chancellor and Dr. Robert Simari to executive vice chancellor of KUMC have already proven this true, and both events are included in the online history. The online history includes over four hundred KUMC “firsts” and features dozens of historical images from the KUMC Archives photograph collection. Despite our best intentions, it was impossible to include every historical event—great and small—that has occurred over the past one hundred plus years at KUMC. However, if you have a remarkable first, significant achievement, or interesting fact pertaining to the history of KUMC that you would like to share, please contact Alex Welborn at awelborn@kumc.edu or 913-588-7243.


Alex Welborn, MLIS, Archivist
Friends of the Clendening

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

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