In May, rural Kansas physicians brought home two of six national awards presented at the 22nd Annual Conference of the National Rural Health Association (NRHA).

Richard Ohmart, M.D., was honored as the organization’s Rural Health Practitioner of the Year, and Charles Stephens, M.D., was named Distinguished Educator of the Year.

For 36 years, Ohmart has lived and practiced family medicine in Oakley, a rural town of 2,100 people in northwest Kansas. For nearly 20 of his practice years, he has been the only doctor in town.

According to the NRHA, “Dr. Ohmart was nominated by two different groups, a real tribute to his place in the community and in Kansas.”

Along with his busy practice, Ohmart has been a preceptor for KU School of Medicine students since 1963. He also precepts physician assistant students from Wichita State University and serves as the medical education director of the School of Medicine’s Northwest Kansas Medical Education site in Hays.

One of Ohmart’s former students, Mary Beth Miller, M.D., recalled that a rural elective in Oakley changed her life. “It was clear to me that I was going to be a pathologist . . . but over the six weeks I spent shadowing him in the office, at the hospital, all hours of the day and night, he opened up a view of medicine I had no idea was there,” she said.

Miller is now beginning her own family practice career in St. Francis, a small town just 90 miles from Oakley. “I could not even begin to picture being a pathologist now,” she said. “I feel that Dr. Ohmart was my guardian angel, showing me early on the joy and satisfaction there is in rural medicine that cannot be found in any other setting.”

In addition to his professional dedication, Ohmart is active in his community and loves photography and writing. The walls of his office and the hospital are decorated with his photos of babies he has delivered as well as award-winning pictures of Oakley high school events, wildflowers, landscapes and longhorn cattle.

Articles by Ohmart, always tempered with the rewards, humor and sentiment he feels for his chosen profession, have appeared in the Journal of the American Medical Association, American Medical News, Medical Economics, CONTINUED ON PAGE 4
Sample Kansas

Residents, medical students, and really anyone with an interest in the state might want to attend the tenth annual Kansas Sampler Festival, Oct. 2 and 3 in Pratt. The festival was created to provide education about rural town culture and history, and to attract economic development and tourism.

Staged in Pratt’s Lemon Park, the festival will allow more than 130 communities to tell their stories through exhibits, demonstrations and two stages of entertainment.

This is the second year Pratt has hosted the festival, which began in Inman and eventually outgrew its original site. The 2000 and 2001 festivals will be in Ottawa.

Physician referral service

KU Medical Center now provides one-stop calling for doctors and their patients through its newly expanded Physician Referral Service. By calling toll-free 1-877-588-KUMC (or 913-588-KUMC in the Kansas City area) callers can obtain information about physicians of KU Medical Center or receive assistance in scheduling patient consultations.

The service assists in making appointments and provides written confirmation to both the doctor and patient. The service is available Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

In the future, the phone line will be answered 24-hours a day.

Kansas Bridging Plan

Rural Health is pleased to announce and recognize its newest Kansas Bridging Plan residents. By entering the program, these residents have made a commitment to practice in rural Kansas for three years. Residents and their affiliated residency program include: Jennifer Brull, M.D., and Patricia Patrinely, D.O., Topeka Family Practice; Bryan Davis, M.D., Jeffrey Ehrlich, M.D., Kyle Elmore, M.D., and Christian Whittington, M.D., Via Christi St. Francis Family Practice.

Also, Sean Herrington, M.D., Michael Malin, M.D., Gary Petry, M.D., and Edward Zimmerman, M.D., Smoky Hill Family Practice; Jeffrey Jennings, M.D., and James Moffitt, M.D., Wesley Family Practice; Sara Ragsdale, D.O., Olathe Family Practice; and Andrea Yang, M.D., KUMC Internal Medicine.

Rural resources

When looking for resources that support rural health, check out the World Wide Web site of the Rural Information Center Health Service (RICHS), located at the National Agricultural Library. The Web site, http://www.nal.usda.gov/ric/richs, is a one-stop shop of frequently updated information regarding rural health foundations, grants, publications and health conferences. To reach RICHS by phone, call 1-800-633-7701.

Publication schedule

If you would like to contribute a news item to Kansas Connections or have an idea for an article, we welcome your input. Please send information to the KU School of Medicine-Wichita, 1010 N. Kansas, Wichita, KS 67214-3199. Ideas are also welcomed by telephone at 316-293-2649; fax, 316-293-2671; or e-mail, Ivalenti@kumc.edu.

Deadline for the next issue is Sept. 13, 1999.

If you know of someone who is not receiving the newsletter but might enjoy reading it, please let us know.
Researchers at KU Medical Center will play an important role in what may be a breakthrough in breast-cancer prevention. To conduct this research, however, they need more than 600 women from across Kansas to participate in the study, said William Jewell, M.D., director of the Kansas Cancer Institute and principal investigator for the KUMC research.

The Study of Tamoxifen and Raloxifene (STAR) follows earlier research in which tamoxifen was found to reduce breast cancer by 49 percent in high-risk women. STAR continues that research by looking at whether the medication raloxifene is equally effective.

“The tamoxifen study represents a monumental breakthrough for breast cancer research,” said Jewell. “These types of clinical trials and research investigations are significant. They represent cutting-edge research. We are pleased to have been selected to participate in the new STAR trial.”

Though women from any part of the state who meet the study criteria may participate, the Cancer Institute will first seek participants from the rural communities of Hays, Garden City, Dodge City, Pittsburg and Parsons.

Deborah Graham, director of the Kansas Cancer Institute Protocols Office, said she is seeking volunteer participants who will receive oral medication of either tamoxifen or raloxifene daily for five years. The participants, who must be postmenopausal, will receive close follow-up examinations, including mammograms, physical exams and gynecological exams on a regular basis for at least seven years.

Graham explained that potential participants would be asked to fill out a risk assessment form to collect data that is entered into a computer program. The computer then generates a five-year risk profile. “The profile, along with other information, is used to evaluate eligibility for the study,” she said.

Physicians, as well as women who are interested in more information about the STAR research, should contact the Kansas Cancer Institute toll-free at 1-877-253-4477. Additional information is also available on the World Wide Web at http://www2.kumc.edu/KCI/protocols/star.html.
Constructing A Learning Zone

McPherson Memorial Hospital adds medical education wing

When McPherson was chosen as the KU School of Medicine South Central Medical Education Network site in 1997, medical school representatives were impressed by the entire community’s active role in health delivery systems. Now, two years later, the McPherson community is proving its long-term commitment to education brick-by-brick.

The construction of a 2,150 square foot medical education center at McPherson Memorial Hospital will be complete by late August. The new center, which broke ground in April, will house a medical library, accommodations for visiting students, medical education network office and state-of-the-art interactive televideo conference room.

Gregory Thomas, M.D., co-director, KU South Central Medical Education Network, and local physician, said, “The community support for this has been fantastic. We raised more than $220,000 and we are still in process to raise a little more to completely fund it.”

The new facility will offer visiting students fresh new living quarters, as well as an improved learning environment. Three sleeping rooms, with an adjoining lounge, are immediately next door to an expanded and improved medical library. The library includes office space for the network site secretary, who currently offices in a house across the street from the hospital.

“The library will have the traditional books and journals, and three Internet-computers that will link to the [KUMC] Dykes Library,” said Thomas. The computers will increase the potential for Web-based learning by students, physicians and other healthcare professionals, too.

The interactive conference room, with seating for 24, will be used to keep medical students connected with the School of Medicine, but it will also be used within the community and to partner with other health-care entities. For example, it is planned that a diabetes support group will use the room to access interactive education, and Hutchinson Community College is on board to provide LPN instruction through the system.

A $50,000 grant from the School of Medicine’s primary care physician education program is being used to purchase interactive equipment and other furnishings.

Thomas said the new medical education center is a winning situation for all. “It’s not only going to help the education process, it will help those of us who are practicing. We feel this is what Dean Powell was talking about when she asked the medical school to partner with communities,” said Thomas.
Third-year residents advised Sara Ragsdale, D.O., that if she were to be accepted into the Kansas Bridging Plan, she should look for a rural practice location early. The advice definitely didn’t fall on deaf ears.

Ragsdale officially entered the Kansas Bridging Plan and began her second-year of family practice residency in Olathe this July; however, she has thoughtfully plotted her future since January when the names of the 1999 bridging plan residents were announced.

By the end of May, Ragsdale, along with her husband and toddler son, had visited six rural communities. She is confident that she will be able to bridge with one of these communities. By bridging early, Ragsdale looks forward to being able to do locum tenens work there. “It will give me a chance to get to know the community before I show up ready to work,” she said.

Since Ragsdale had little spare time as a first-year resident, not to mention being a wife and mother, she started her search with a phone call to Rural Health Education and Services. In just one phone conversation with Trish Felt, senior coordinator, Kansas Bridging Plan, her search was not only rolling, it quickly picked up speed.

Felt queried Ragsdale about such things as which area of the state would she like to live in? What type of call schedule is important? Did she have emergency room experience and was her spouse going to seek employment as well?

With that basic information, Felt went to work as a liaison between Ragsdale and potential communities. She called several hospital administrators to tell them about Ragsdale and ask if they were interested in having her visit. In no time, Felt had arranged for Ragsdale and her family to tour two communities in April and four more during Ragsdale’s one-week vacation in May.

Ragsdale was amazed at the generosity and hospitality of all the communities she visited. “Everybody was so friendly and willing to help. Many people took a whole day to show us the community and the hospital,” she said. “I was pleasantly surprised by how much the communities had to offer – both for children in school and adults.”

Prior to the trips, each of the communities took the time to arrange nightly accommodations for Ragsdale and her family. On her week-long trip, three of the four communities were able to arrange day-care.

In addition to arranging meetings with key health professionals and visits to their medical facilities, several cities scheduled community tours that were hosted by local real estate agents. “Everywhere we went there was a real sense of community. Everybody knew everybody else. We really enjoyed it,” Ragsdale said.

Regardless of which town they settle in, Ragsdale looks forward to having a rural lifestyle. “We like the slower pace and the fact that you get to know your neighbors. We want to have more kids and raise them in a rural setting.”

She also praised the work Felt did to plan her community visits. “Trish did a wonderful job. I think I have already given her phone number to three or four other residents. I would definitely recommend this to anyone who wants to do rural medicine,” she said.

To contact Felt, call her at 316-293-2649, or e-mail her at tfelt@kumc.edu.
To better serve residents and communities, Rural Health Education and Services recently made changes that affect the Kansas Bridging Plan and the Kansas Practice Opportunities Program.

Rural Health staff member Trish Felt was promoted from coordinator of Kansas Practice Opportunities, to senior coordinator of the Kansas Bridging Plan. The newly developed position allows the program to focus on services for residents and communities, rather than just program maintenance.

“We want the Kansas Bridging Plan to be more proactive,” said Felt. “I will be letting our residents know about rural openings, as well as letting rural hospital administrators know that we are here to help them bridge with residents.”

To better coordinate the program, Felt plans to meet with administrators or clinic coordinators throughout the year to discuss the loan plan, answer questions and explore each community’s interest in meeting bridging-plan residents.

Since taking the position in May, Felt has already worked with two residents to schedule visits to several communities. The service provided by Felt, in addition to the community visits themselves, were highly praised by the residents, who were able to meet hospital staff, tour medical facilities and be shown about town.

Felt plans to meet individually with each bridging-plan resident yearly. She hopes she can encourage more of them to bridge earlier, or at least explore different rural options sooner. “An earlier match with a community would spread out a community’s financial commitment as well as allow residents to use the funding when they are still in training,” she said.

In early June, Felt relocated from Wichita to rural Canton, a small community 11 miles east of McPherson. She and her husband are now enjoying rural life first hand and she says her daily experiences as part of a rural community are going to be a plus in helping her promote rural Kansas.

In May, Denise Rozof joined the Rural Health staff to be the coordinator of the Kansas Practice Opportunities Program. Her primary job responsibilities are to coordinate two yearly conferences to highlight medical careers available in rural communities, and to carry on the clearinghouse service of connecting health professionals with practice opportunities in rural Kansas.

Rozof wants to build upon the opportunities program framework Felt established in the past year. One of her high priorities will be to get out of the office to meet with hospital administrators and clinic coordinators. “By meeting with individuals in the state, I can find out what they want and what we can do to tailor the program,” she said.

On average, Rozof said, the opportunities program receives three to four calls a month from health professionals seeking rural jobs and about the same from communities seeking workers. Many others access the job listings on the Rural Health Web site (http://ruralhealth.kumc.edu) each month.

Rozof, a native of California who moved to Kansas a little more than a year ago, is pleased to be working in the state’s health-care industry. She noted that nearly every job she has ever held has been in health care, most recently in the area of long-term care marketing and admissions, but she has also worked in the areas of managed-care contracting and financial analysis.

She holds a degree in public health from California State University at Long Beach, with an emphasis in community health education. She plans to pursue a master’s of public health degree from the University of Kansas.

Rozof relocated to Wichita to be near family, as well as to escape the smog and traffic of Southern California. “I am an avid equestrian and it’s a lot easier to pursue this hobby here,” she said. “I love the wide open spaces, country atmosphere and the fact you don’t have to ride next to a freeway.”

To reach Felt or Rozof, contact Rural Health at 316-293-2649.
Exhibitors Sought
Fall conferences can showcase communities

Hospital administrators, physician recruiters and physicians looking for future partners won’t want to miss the chance to showcase their communities at the 1999 Kansas Practice Opportunities conferences in Wichita and Kansas City.

“The conferences are a once-a-year opportunity to promote all the positive factors rural practice can offer today’s physicians,” said Denise Rozof, Kansas Practice Opportunities Program coordinator, Rural Health Education and Services. “Because residents from all residency programs in Kansas, all medical students, and their spouses are invited, community representatives can make contact with people who may be able to fill their short or long-term physician-recruitment goals,” she said.

The first conference is Oct. 15 at KU Medical Center, Kansas City. The second is Nov. 19 at the KU School of Medicine-Wichita. The conferences will conclude at 4 p.m., rather than 6 p.m. as they have in past years.

A community can purchase a booth at both conferences for $250, or $200 for one conference. A buffet lunch at noon is included in the booth-rental price.

In response to past conference evaluations, the 1999 conferences will feature a panel discussion or speaker targeted to exhibitors. This exhibitor session will be from 11 to 11:45 a.m., prior to the arrival of residents and medical students.

Contact Rozof, 316-293-2649, to reserve space now, or, access booth contract forms through the Rural Health Web pages at http://ruralhealth.kumc.edu.

Come To Explore Rural Practice
Fall conferences offer one-stop practice shopping for residents and medical students

Without traveling from one end of Kansas to the other, medical students and residents can explore the rural practice options of more than two dozen communities this fall. The only place to meet these community representatives in one location is at the 1999 Kansas Practice Opportunities conferences.

The third annual conferences, sponsored by Rural Health Education and Services, will be Oct. 15 at the KU Medical Center, Kansas City, Kan., and Nov. 19 at the KU School of Medicine-Wichita. Both are from noon to 4 p.m.

Students and residents are asked to register for the free conferences, which will include lunch, a panel discussion, prize giveaways and the chance to meet face-to-face with community representatives seeking physicians now and in the future.

Practicing rural physicians, spouses of physicians and health-care recruiters will present the 1 p.m. panel discussion entitled “The Anatomy of a Successful Practice Match.” Panelists will be different at each conference.

Ample time is allowed in the afternoon for medical students and residents to meet with community representatives. Community exhibitors can answer questions about rural practice, as well as other aspects of their respective cities.

KU medical students and residents will receive program fliers and registration forms for the conferences later this summer. Others interested in attending can register through the Rural Health Web site at http://ruralhealth.kumc.edu, or by contacting Denise Rozof, Kansas Practice Opportunities Program coordinator, Rural Health Education and Services, at 316-293-2649.
In May as a bus toured 1,700 miles of Kansas’ bumpy and not-so-well traveled roads, University of Kansas faculty discovered that on either side of the state’s interstate highways, natural beauty and friendly folks abound.

The third annual Wheat State Whirlwind tour is not a relaxing vacation for faculty. It is six days on a tour bus with 40 people who have probably never met prior to stepping aboard. They spend 15-hours-a-day sight-seeing and learning about the Great Plains of Kansas.

And they say it is incredible.

One native Kansan on the trip, Ken Kallail, associate professor, Family and Community Medicine, and medical education outreach director, Academic and Student Affairs, KU School of Medicine-Wichita, said he has lived in four Kansas cities, but those experiences were nothing like the broad introduction he received on the whirlwind tour.

“It is such an intense experience. I don’t think it’s possible to forget the trip or the people,” said Kallail. “The people on the bus were strangers, and now, if I never see some of them again, they will still be friends for life,” he said.

Judith Widen, associate professor, Hearing and Speech, KUMC, said she was impressed by the generosity of Kansans, especially those individuals who invited the entire tour group into their homes for a meal or dessert.

Among those who hosted the faculty at home was KU Alumna Polly Bales of Logan. She served homemade pecan pie to her guests and then took them across the street to tour the Dane Hansen Museum, of which she is curator.

Widen described this site as a “world-class art museum” that receives traveling exhibits and has excellent permanent displays. Throughout the trip, several other museums were visited, including the Sternberg Museum, Hays; Emmet Kelly Museum, Sedan; Keystone Gallery, Gove County; and Wichita Art Museum, Wichita.

The rural art collections impressed Widen. “The quality of the art surprised me, although I hate to say that because I know you don’t have to have a city to have quality – but these were phenomenal,” she said.

The stereotypical view of Kansas being absolutely flat, was easily disproved to faculty. They visited the Gypsum Hills near Medicine Lodge, described by one as “rugged, green and gorgeous,” Monument Rocks in southwest Gove County, which are chalk formations that abruptly rise 60 feet above the plains, and rolling acres of grassland at the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve near Strong City.

The variance of the Kansas topography was especially interesting to Deb Page-Adams, assistant professor, Social Welfare, KU Lawrence. “I was one of those folks who had only been along the I-70 corridor. I think the trip gave me a better understanding of what life and community experiences are like for my students,” she said.

Steve Kapp, assistant professor, Social Welfare, KU Lawrence, could also relate to the feelings of Page-Adams. “I felt isolated when a student told me they were from a certain area of the state. Now, I have been places where I have students from, and will have in the future,” he said.

Both Page-Adams and Kapp realize that not only is the landscape more diversified than they thought, so are the people of the state.

In the Western Kansas community of Garden City, there were many examples of cultural diversity. Faculty toured the United Methodist Mexican American Ministries Health Clinic and the Victor Ornelas Elementary School.

The school, where visitors are asked to check-in at the office by signs in three languages, was impressive to faculty. The school is doing everything possible to promote education for its culturally diverse pupils who come from countries such as Mexico, Thailand, Laos and Vietnam.

Making the educators’ job even harder is the fact that these children come from transient families.

Kallail said the school visit had an emotional impact on him. As he watched four young girls perform an intricate...
Laotian dance, he was saddened because administrators had told them three of the four would not be returning for the next school year. The beautiful and expensive native dresses worn by the girls, said Kallail, also contrasted the poverty their immigrant families’ face. “It seems difficult for them to take in the full opportunity of the American Dream,” he said.

Peggy Sullivan, assistant clinical professor, Division of Adolescent and Child Psychiatry, KUMC, described the tour as an “educational smorgasbord” on and off the bus. When traveling, faculty commentators with expertise in areas such as history, geography, geology and anthropology imparted their wisdom. And each time faculty boarded the bus, they were asked to sit next to someone new. “It was a great way to meet faculty from other disciplines,” said Page-Adams. “There was a lot of learning from each other.”

A goal of the whirlwind tour is to have faculty engage in discussions with the people of Kansas and develop ideas on how KU resources could be of further assistance to the Wheat State.

Many faculty, if not all, made those contacts. Widen, for example, said much of the emphasis of her work in the field of infant hearing could be disseminated throughout Kansas. She hopes to be of assistance to rural health professionals as Kansas enacts a mandatory hearing screening for newborns. “I met the AHEC (KU Area Health Education Center) directors. I didn’t even know about AHECs beforehand and I think they will be helpful in getting information out to physicians,” said Widen.

Kallail said, “It was a good opportunity on a regional basis to look for new educational opportunities for students, make new acquaintances and renew existing relationships. I will have dealings with many colleagues in the future only because I met them on the trip. I wouldn’t have known about them otherwise.”

Prior to the trip, Sullivan knew more about Missouri than Kansas, mainly because she is a Missouri National Guard nurse. She, as well as Kapp, met several representatives from the state’s community colleges. Each think they have made contacts that will be useful in their jobs.

With so much emphasis on education, one faculty found the true tourist sites to be educational breaks. One of the oddest stops was the Garden of Eden in Lucas, a very unusual display of concrete sculptures created by S.P. Dinsmoor, a civil war veteran who added to the garden for 22 years.

A ride out into a buffalo herd topped the expectations of everyone on the tour. “We sat on hay bales and went into the grazing area on flatbed trucks. They put food down so the buffalo would come in close with their young,” said Sullivan.

“The scenery was just gorgeous,” said Kallail. “We were right in the middle of the herd.”

As the tour bus rolled to its final stop, all participants looked forward to sleeping in their own beds and reuniting with family, but no one regretted a moment of the intense trip.

“It was a real gift to be able to go and to be able to represent KU,” said Sullivan. “It was good to get out of the ivory tower and see what is going on in the real world. I had no idea that all that beauty was out there. I definitely want to take my family back to some of the places we visited.”

Leonard Ray Griffin, director of KU Transportation Services, noted, “The tour provides the opportunity for the participants to get a firsthand feel for the people, environment and industry that make up the state of Kansas.”

“I learned something new every day,” said Widen. “I think this is a great opportunity to get a better feeling of what is going on inside the state.”

In addition to the whirlwind tour, all participants attended the Kansas Academy of Sciences annual meeting and the KU Area Health Education Center (AHEC) directors meeting. "It was a great opportunity to meet the state’s community colleges,” said Kapp. “The participants brought a variety of ideas and suggestions that will be useful in their jobs.”

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LEFT: Life-like dinosaurs greeted faculty at the Sternberg Museum in Hays.

TOP: In southeast Kansas, faculty are dwarfed by Big Brutus – the second largest electric mining shovel in the world. It stands 160 feet tall and weighs 11 million pounds.

BOTTOM: In May a tour bus full of University of Kansas faculty spent one week learning about the diverse industry, people and landscape of Kansas, including Monument Rocks which tower above the prairie in Gove County.

PHOTOS BY DANN HAYES (©1999 UNIVERSITY RELATIONS THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS)
A three-year, $319,000 volunteer faculty development grant will soon ensure that community-based Internal Medicine preceptors have teaching resources that are equal to those of their paid counterparts at the KU School of Medicine-Wichita.

Brent Beasley, M.D., associate program director and assistant professor, Internal Medicine, surveyed community-based faculty before pursuing the grant from Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA). “We found that 83 percent were in favor of a faculty development program created for their specific needs,” he said.

Beginning this summer, the grant makes it possible for Beasley and others to focus on Web-based instructional modules, a peer assessment program and biannual faculty meetings for volunteer Internal Medicine faculty.

“We have always had full-time faculty meetings, but we have never targeted a meeting to volunteer faculty,” said Laurie Hudson, grant and resident education coordinator, Internal Medicine. “We will now be able to host two volunteer faculty development evenings per year.”

The first gathering is being planned in connection with the September conference of the American College of Physicians-American Society for Internal Medicine. “We will use these meetings to bring in nationally recognized medical education experts, discuss residency policies and procedures, and provide a forum to discuss issues related to the clinical volunteer faculty,” said Hudson.

An interactive World Wide Web-site that is in the development stage will be promoted to Internal Medicine volunteer faculty; however, all community-based faculty regardless of specialty will be able to benefit from it, said Nancy Davis, Ph.D., director, Postgraduate Education.

“All the informational and teaching modules on the Web will be transportable to the rest of the faculty, volunteer and paid, in all departments. The bulk of the work for the grant this first year will be to develop these modules,” she said.

Hudson added that continuing medical education credit would be available for faculty who complete learning modules. “We plan to put a new educational module on-line every six-to-eight weeks. The first module should be ready in September,” she said.

The modules will help faculty become better medical educators by focusing on such topics as developing goals and objectives, dealing with a variety of student learning skills and assessing student performance, for example.

The peer assessment program being pursued has been piloted on Wichita’s paid faculty with positive results. “The program has worked really well in the classroom,” said Davis. “The teachers who have been assessed have given us favorable remarks.”

The assessment program will involve only those community-based faculty who request the service. It will consist of one of eight senior faculty, who have been trained for the program, observing an instructor who is working with students or residents in the classroom, private office or hospital. A standardized observation form will be used to give feedback to volunteer instructors.

Hudson is pleased that the School of Medicine is pursuing volunteer faculty development so vigorously. “The volunteer faculty are an integral part of what we do, without their support the Internal Medicine residency program would have difficulty functioning,” she said.
Working Together For Better Health
Students devote summer to assisting social service agencies

Thirty-seven participants of Community Health Project 1999 will walk away from their summer jobs with impressions that will last a lifetime.

And that’s just the way organizers in the School of Medicine’s Department of Preventive Medicine want it to be.

The ninth annual student-run Community Health Project is proving again that future physicians, and this year for the first time, future graduates of the KU Master’s of Public Health (MPH) Program, can learn a lot by working within the walls of social service agencies.

Twenty-six second-year medical students and 11 MPH students are spending 32 hours a week for eight weeks with an assigned agency. They have been given specific job responsibilities and must complete a special project to benefit the agency.

Brett Young, second-year medical student and executive director, Community Health Project, said the program exposes students to the importance of interdisciplinary teams. The future physicians, he said, for example, must realize they can’t write a prescription for everything. “Regardless if their practice is rural or urban, physicians can’t do everything themselves. They must know whom to turn to for help,” he said.

Andrea Anthony, second-year medical student and director, Community Health Project, said, “We really expect the students to add value to the agencies,” which are in Kansas City, Lawrence, Newton and Wichita.

At the Sedgwick County Health Department, Wichita, MPH student Edwin Gabbidon’s special project could affect all citizens of the county. He is gathering information about water fluoridation for the Sedgwick County Board of Health. “They get a lot of anti-fluoridation material, but they want to be able to weigh both sides of the issue,” he said.

He is questioning other cities in the county, as well as comparably sized cities in other states, about the action they are taking in regard to fluoridation. He is also looking at current research to help him evaluate the pros and cons of the issue. Ultimately, he will make a recommendation for or against fluoridation to the Board of Health.

Young and Anthony visit individual students at their assigned agency once throughout the summer, and they meet with groups of students in the project weekly. The weekly meetings help students learn about many agencies.

Gabbidon noted that the Community Health Project is an excellent program because students broaden their exposure to people of different social, economic and cultural backgrounds, and for many of the participants, people with physical and mental handicaps.

Stephanie Dreiling, second-year medical student, has had her eyes opened to people with developmental disabilities by working at Heartspring, Wichita. She assists in the organization’s classrooms with children ages five to 22 that have varying physical and mental capabilities. She is also spending time with physical and occupational therapists, and speech-language pathologists.

Her special project for Heartspring involves reviewing literature on the drug Coonidine, a medication that many mentally retarded, autistic and aggressive children at Heartspring are prescribed. When her research is complete, she will develop a drug information handout for parents.

“This experience has piqued my interest in developmental pediatrics. It has given me more of an understanding of what these kids face,” said Dreiling, who plans to continue volunteering at Heartspring after her eight-week obligation is complete. “I am more aware of community health programs in general now. It’s something I will be able to pass along to my patients,” she said.

Community Health Project, which provides a $2,000 stipend for each student, is funded by the Kansas Health Foundation, Wichita.
State Fair booth to be the largest to date

Don’t miss KU Medical Center’s booth at the Kansas State Fair’s “Party on the Prairie,” Sept. 10-19, 1999, in Hutchinson.

The medical center’s booth, located just outside the Industrial Building, will be the largest offering of medical center information to be displayed in four years of fair participation.

KU Medical Center established a presence at the fair in 1996 to reach as many people as possible from across the state. “So many people think that if you don’t live in Kansas City, you can’t use the medical center,” said Barbara Strain, business manager, Occupational Health and Environmental Medicine, KUMC, and chair of the State Fair committee. “We try to show people how easy it is to access the medical center even if you live in Western Kansas.”

In addition to an abundance of information regarding different programs and departments at the medical center, the KUMC booth will again offer health screenings. For example, people may have their cholesterol, blood pressure and glucose checked.

Dermatology and prostate cancer screenings, mammograms and an osteoporosis clinic are all planned for the fair booth as well. Medical tests that require special equipment and privacy take place in the university’s Mobile Medical Unit, an air-conditioned, customized 53-foot semi-trailer with two exam rooms.

Children will enjoy a puppet show staged by the Pediatrics Department, and nutritional information geared for young age groups.

In addition to health information, the medical center will hand out a number of Band-Aid holders, cups, magnets, pencils and T-shirts.

Fair visitors will find the University of Kansas, Lawrence, booth inside the Industrial Building. ☑
NORTHWEST

CITY: Atwood
POSITION(S): Medical Records Tech or Medical Transcriptionist
CONTACT: Don Kessen/Delma Jenick, 785-626-3211

CITY: Hays
POSITION(S): Otorhinolaryngologist, Ophthalmologist, Psychiatrist, Pediatrician, Cardiologist, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Physician
CONTACT: Karen Cook, 785-623-5143

CITY: Hays
POSITION(S): Step-Down ICU Registered Nurse
CONTACT: Julie Huelsman, 800-690-1560

CITY: Hoxie
POSITION(S): Family Physician, Director of Nursing
CONTACT: Brian Kirk, 785-675-3281

CITY: Phillipsburg
POSITION(S): Family Physician, Internist Pediatrician
CONTACT: C.D. Knackstedt, D.O., 785-543-5800

CITY: Russell
POSITION(S): Family Physician w/OB/Gynecology
CONTACT: Earl D. Merkel, M.D., 785-483-2178

CITY: Russell
POSITION(S): Family Physician w/OB
CONTACT: Bruce Garrett, 785-483-2323

CITY: Smith Center
POSITION(S): Family Physician
CONTACT: John Terrill, 785-282-6845

NORTHEAST

CITY: Blue Rapids
POSITION(S): Family Physician
CONTACT: Kenneth Duensing, D.O., or William Buck, M.D., 785-363-7292

CITY: Concordia
POSITION(S): Family Physician w/Obstetrics, Internist
CONTACT: Cindy Myers, 785-243-4272

CITY: Emporia
POSITION(S): Family Physician, Pediatrician, Orthopedic Surgeon, Psychiatrist
CONTACT: Terry Lambert, 316-343-6800, ext. 601

CITY: Emporia
POSITION(S): Internist
CONTACT: Mark Bieberle, 316-291-4378

CITY: Hiawatha
POSITION(S): Director of Nursing
CONTACT: Stephanie Hayes, 785-742-2131

CITY: Horton
POSITION(S): Family Practice Physician w/OB
CONTACT: Ty Compton, 785-486-2642

CITY: Lawrence
POSITION(S): Family Physician w/OB
CONTACT: D.A. Strathmann, 785-749-6133

CITY: Lawrence
POSITION(S): Family Physician (OB preferred, not required)
CONTACT: Kathleen Draskovich, 785-865-5300

CITY: Lawrence
POSITION(S): Obstetrician/Gynecologist, Oncologist
CONTACT: Charlene Droste, 785-840-3155

CITY: Marysville
POSITION(S): Family Physician w/Obstetrics
CONTACT: Ed Riley, 785-562-2311

CITY: Ottawa
POSITION(S): Obstetrician/Gynecologist, Internist
CONTACT: Robert Bregant, 785-229-8200

SOUTH CENTRAL

CITY: Anthony
POSITION(S): Family Physician
CONTACT: Cindy McCray, 316-842-5111

CITY: Conway Springs
POSITION(S): Dentist, Optometrist
CONTACT: Ruth Busch, A.R.N.P., 316-456-2411

CITY: El Dorado
POSITION(S): Family Physician w/o OB, General Surgeon, Orthopedic Surgeon, Pediatrician
CONTACT: Jim Wilson, 316-322-4557

CITY: El Dorado
POSITION(S): Social Worker (Part-time)
CONTACT: Gay Kimble, 316-322-4568

CITY: Ellinwood
POSITION(S): Family Physician w/o OB or OR, Pharmacist
CONTACT: Marge Conell, 316-564-2548

CONTINUED ON REVERSE
CITY: Halstead
POSITION(S): Pharmacist
CONTACT: Mary Heaton, 316-835-4606

CITY: Halstead
POSITION(S): Family Physician, Cardiologist
CONTACT: Ron Lawson, 800-475-1042

CITY: Hutchinson
POSITION(S): Nuclear Medical Technologist, Registered Vascular Technologist, Clinical Pharmacist, Echo Technologist, Medical Technologist, Registered Nurse (Cath Lab), Cath Lab Technician
CONTACT: Loretta Fletchall, 316-665-2032

CITY: Hutchinson
POSITION(S): Family Physician w/o OB
CONTACT: Sally Tesluk, 316-663-8484

CITY: Marion
POSITION(S): Family Physician w/OB
CONTACT: Craig Hanson, 316-382-2177

CITY: Pratt
POSITION(S): Internist
CONTACT: Rick Davis, 316-672-5432

CITY: Salina
POSITION(S): Family Physician
CONTACT: Charles Allred, M.D. 785-825-7251

CITY: Stafford
POSITION(S): Family Physician
CONTACT: Douglas Newman, 316-234-5221

SOUTHWEST
CITY: Coldwater
POSITION(S): Family Physician w/o OB
CONTACT: Nancy Zimmerman, 316-582-2144

CITY: Ulysses
POSITION(S): Family Physician w/Obstetrics, Nurse Practitioner, Physician Assistant
CONTACT: Steven Daniel, 316-356-1266

SOUTHEAST
CITY: Eureka
POSITION(S): Radiology Supervisor
CONTACT: Melisa A. Campbell, 316-583-7451

CITY: Girard
POSITION(S): Family Physician
CONTACT: Gene Sallsbury, 316-724-8291

CITY: Independence
POSITION(S): Family Physician w/Obstetrics
CONTACT: Darren Allison, 316-331-8855

CITY: Parsons
POSITION(S): Family Physician
CONTACT: Doris Griffin, 316-421-4881, ext. 262

CITY: Pittsburg
POSITION(S): Primary Care Physician
CONTACT: Lisa Deines, 316-235-3527

CITY: Pittsburg
POSITION(S): Nuclear Medicine Technologist
CONTACT: Jody Henderson, 316-376-4251

CITY: Sedan
POSITION(S): Physician Assistant, Director of Radiology
CONTACT: Candy Holtsclaw, 316-725-3115

NOTE: To list practice opportunities in Kansas Connections, please mail or fax a Kansas Practice Opportunities form to the Office of Rural Health Education and Services, 316-293-2671. Forms are accessible through the Rural Health Web site, http://ruralhealth.kumc.edu, or by calling at 316-293-2649.