From the Dean

This spring we celebrate our second class of graduates. All eight students matched in the medical specialties of their choice. Five of the eight graduates will enter primary care residencies (family medicine, internal medicine and pediatrics), while three have chosen more specialized training programs (Ob-Gyn, urology and orthopedic surgery). It has been a joy to watch these students attain the academic and professional credentials worthy of the M.D. degree. I wish them success as they embark on their residency training, and I hope they will periodically update us on their achievements beyond medical school.

This spring also marks the transition of the other three classes of medical students. Before starting their fourth year, the third year students will take

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Match Day was celebrated with the fourth year students and their families on March 18. For more information about where our students matched, see p. 2. Photo credit: Ruth Cathcart-Rake
Back row L to R: Anna Scheuffele, Scott Rempel, John Long, Bill Pruett, Jeff and Lea Horinek, Christopher Smith. Front Row, L to R: Mercedes and Liam Ryan, JulAnne and Aurora Rathbun, Erin and Abigail Morley

Standardized patient enjoys teaching role

Several years ago, when Natalie Wood was pregnant with her fourth child, she expressed an interest in the standardized patient (SP) program at KU School of Medicine-Salina, but unfortunately there were no roles for pregnant women. Wood assumed that her interest would be forgotten, but a few months after settling in with baby, she was contacted by the school, and a star was born.

“When I was a new standardized patient, I was very, very nervous, and the friend who first told me about the program told me to relax and have fun with it,” she said.

Wood, who lives in Solomon, has secured her place in the program as one of the most versatile standardized patients – playing everything from an angry mother to a granddaughter of an Alzheimer’s patient to a veteran with PTSD and substance abuse issues.

Growing up in Randall, Kan., then graduating from Fort Hays State University led her to Lindsborg, where she directed the Parks and Recreation Department for six years before meeting her husband. Now, Wood and her family live on a farm where she stays incredibly busy with substitute teaching, PTO, Girl Scouts,
clinical knowledge and clinical skills exams as part of the U.S. Medical Licensure Exam (USMLE). Second year students must take the Step 1 USMLE exam before starting third year clinical clerkships. First year students have a ten-week break before the start of year two foundational science studies. Although these students have the option to take a much needed respite from the rigors of medical school, most will engage in medically-related activities during the summer.

KU SOM offers a variety of summer medical experiences for medical students who have completed year one. Several KU SOM-Salina students elect to participate in the Rural Summer Practice and Research Elective sponsored by the Office of Rural Health Education on the Kansas City campus under the leadership of Dr. Michael Kennedy. Students in this program spend eight weeks working with a rural primary care physician in Kansas, honing their interviewing and physical exam skills and collecting data for a rural research project. Many Salina students participate in a Summer Clinical Education elective. Students must secure a physician mentor (usually in Salina), identify those educational objectives they wish to achieve during a four or eight week period and describe the measures necessary to achieve these goals. Salina students have worked with emergency medicine physicians, family physicians, internists, cardiologists, gastroenterologists and surgeons. Additional first year summer opportunities include engaging in basic science research on the Kansas City campus, participating in a community health project, and participating in an international outreach or research project.

Students routinely find these summer experiences enjoyable and educational. Rather than returning to year two studies exhausted from their summer work, they return ready to tackle the next step toward becoming an M.D. I would like to personally thank all of the physicians in our medical family for dedicating time and energy to our students’ educational experience.

For the second consecutive year, the graduates of the KU School of Medicine-Salina have all matched to residency programs in their choice of disciplines. On Friday, March 18, National Match Day, students and families gathered at the Salina Art Center to celebrate.

“We are beyond thrilled that our students have been able to connect with programs that will challenge and benefit their education as they enter the field of medicine,” said Dr. William Cathcart-Rake.

The Salina students have matched with the following programs:

**Jeff Horinek:** Orthopedic Surgery, University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City, Okla.

**John Long:** Family Medicine, Cox Medical Centers, Springfield, Mo.

**Erin Morley:** Family Medicine, North Colorado Medical Center, Greeley, Colo.

**Bill Pruett:** Internal Medicine, Unity Point Health, Des Moines, Iowa

**JuliAnne Rathbun:** Urology, University of Missouri, Columbia, Mo.

**Scott Rempel (with Anna Scheuffele, couples’ match):** Family Medicine, Smoky Hill Family Medicine, Salina, Kan.

**Mercedes Ryan:** Pediatrics, University of Kansas, Wichita, Kan.

**Christopher Smith:** Ob-Gyn, University of Kentucky, Lexington, Ky.
Natalie Wood
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farming and raising her four children (Alana, Isaac, Evan and Odin) with her husband David. Wood loves working with the students and watching them grow through their clinical skills encounters.

“Year one students are definitely still getting the hang of the steps of introductions, taking the medical history, etc. By year three, the students are much more comfortable in their role as a doctor and are more focused on direct ways to help the patient based on their book knowledge and experience.”

Standardized patient feedback is a crucial part of the program – it allows students to get a better feel for patients, but also helps them gauge their clinical skills in a safe environment.

“My favorite thing about working with the students is the feedback sessions. The students are thankful for your help, and it’s nice to give them some encouragement so they know what they are doing well,” she said. “I encourage the students to ask a lot of questions and really listen to the answers because they might pick up on something they would have missed otherwise.”

Wood enjoys all of her roles, and does have a few favorites that she plays several times a year, although she admits sometimes it can be a struggle to stay focused.

“Staying in character can be challenging. I do multiple roles so I have to remember which part I am playing and sometimes the character is so far off my personality that I have to really focus to act in a way that doesn’t come naturally to me.”

Playing such a variety of roles means that occasionally Wood gets to work with other SPs on particular cases, including her role as a granddaughter to an Alzheimer’s patient named Ida Mae. Not only is the encounter fun for Wood, but she’s also formed a lasting friendship.

“That’s my favorite role. I love it because Sandy Winters (another SP) is my ‘grandma’ and we have such a good time working together. We have gone from strangers to friends, and it’s fun to get to do a part with someone else for a change,” she said. Wood enjoys staying busy and with her many other roles in life, the one she plays at KU School of Medicine is one she relishes.

“I actually enjoy my quiet drives to Salina to be an SP,” she said. “When I describe what I do, people think I’m like Kramer on Seinfeld, but it’s such a neat experience.”

The Spotlight
Spotlight: Dr. Chantel Long

Growing up in rural Kansas, Dr. Chantel Long didn’t pass up a great opportunity when she was given the chance to shadow her hometown physician. Plans to teach science went by the wayside as the experience led her down a path to becoming a family physician. After running a private practice in Abilene, Long moved to Salina with her husband, Ken, and their children, Isabella and Isaac.

How did the experience change your goals?
Seeing my personal doctor caring for his parents inspired me to do the same. I fell in love with the idea of caring for people of all ages through all aspects of their medical needs. I saw first-hand how diverse a family physician must be to care for their patients and how they must remain continually vigilant about their own education.

After having a private practice, why did you return to Salina?
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I had always had this longing to return as faculty to teach the family medicine residents and was inspired by the faculty that taught me through residency. My initial desire to go into education and my continued love of medicine brought us back to Salina. Fortunately, upon my return, the medical school was just beginning, so I was able to become involved in medical student education as well.

**Why is it important for you to be involved with the medical students?**
It’s so important - so they can see all the different aspects and options in medicine. To be able to experience how differently each physician practices medicine is important in shaping the kind of physician they become. It’s a great opportunity to show the students that while they are spending a lot of time studying, it’s worth it when they get to interact with patients and truly affect another person’s health and life.

**What’s your favorite part of working with medical students?**
Their excitement. Every experience is interesting and new to them, which keeps it fresh for me. It reminds me that even though I have become accustomed to performing a certain procedure over the years, it's still challenging to teach and it adds enjoyment to my job. Being able to teach something to a student for the first time and knowing that this experience is going to help them care for people in the future is very rewarding.

**How have things changed since you were a medical student?**
New developments in medicine are constantly occurring. When I was in medical school, I carried a large backpack with my notes and books. If I didn’t have the answer in my bag, I had to find the closest shelf of books to look up the answer. My pockets were filled with notes and pocket-sized books. Today, we carry our smart phones and can look up answers immediately. The amount of instantaneous information available at our fingertips is the biggest (and best) change since I was a resident.

**Final words to our students?**
My advice for any student or resident is to remember that medicine is exciting, yet personal. Every day we see or learn something new. We get to use our knowledge of science and medicine to make diagnoses and determine the best treatment plans for patients, but we also get to care for them individually as a person. We get to connect with people on an individual basis and truly impact their lives. We can remind patients that their health is important to us, and we are here because we truly care. We must remember it is an honor that our patients trust us to give them the best care possible.