The Department of History and Philosophy of Medicine
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Portrait of Dr. William Earl Janes taken around the time of his graduation from KU School of Medicine in 1918. Story, page 6.

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Front cover photo: the 2021 Clendening and King Summer Fellows - top l-r: Caitlin Leconte, De’mond Glynn, Sophia Leonard, Grant Johnson, Grace Noonan; bottom l-r: Karam Hamada, Margaret Dionisi, Jose Alaras, Sharon Isaacs-Pullins, Quinnlyn Walcott.
What a difference a couple of months can make. In early January, in anticipation of a post-holiday bump in already record levels of COVID — and with my native pessimism fully engaged — I directed our department to close down completely to watch where risks were trending. As it turned out, the date just two days earlier would prove to be the peak case rate in the Kansas City region. We cautiously reopened for critical functions the next week, and COVID numbers have continued a steady decline, almost since that day. Now at the end of March, we again see a slight rise in cases locally. But I am restraining my pessimism this time. We have been ticking off the list of department members who found their place in line for vaccination. And cases in the medical center remain very low and at an all-time low since the first efforts at tracking. The spring rains seem to have a cleansing effect on the anxieties of the long winter behind us.

Throughout this long struggle, my gratitude and respect for the faculty and staff of the department have only grown stronger. The level of dedication and resourcefulness everyone has shown has been admirable. All historical collections remain closed to outside members. Nonetheless, we have managed to get the most important work done and to discover new opportunities, under the most difficult conditions and, at times, under considerable personal stress.

In this newsletter, you can read about many of the projects and developments accomplished during our year of contact precautions and mitigated risk.

In Alex Welborn’s article from the KUMC Archives, you can read about new gifts of historical documents. Alex highlights a remarkable collection of family letters, recently donated, that offer a frank account by an early KUMC physician of his efforts in the 1920s to track down and address several generations of congenital syphilis in his family.

Jamie Rees reports from the Clendening Museum about a fascinating project to create a detailed finding aid for historical collection of KUMC newsletters, dating back into the 1930s. These incredibly detailed reports on the development of the medical center already helped to clarify the origins of the strange gold-headed cane in the museum collection!

From the library, Dawn McInnis shares with us news about our large collaborative effort with the University’s Spencer Museum on an exhibit featuring several of our rarer books and prints. There is a link to a write-up on the exhibit also from the Washington Post.

The noon-hour lecture series has managed under the careful stewardship of Ryan Fagan to emerge intact this year in its new virtual format. We heard from a series of speakers including KU History doctoral candidate Emily Raymond, as well as speakers from the medical center and our neighboring institutions. Most recently, we established a valuable partnership with the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, who helped us host a historical talk by Bert Hansen for their grand rounds. Dr. Hansen described the nature of education in obstetrics based on the mid-nineteenth century lecture notes from American medical students.

We all look anxiously ahead to know the next phase in this incredible, exhausting journey through the Plague Years of 2020 and 2021. I can only be grateful to be able to share these challenges with the people in the Department of History and Philosophy of Medicine. It is inspiring to be able to work with this group.

Chris Crenner, MD, PhD
Professor and Chair
Clendening / King Summer Fellows
The Department of History and Philosophy of Medicine awarded ten Clendening and King Summer Fellowships in 2021. The Fellows are all second-year medical students at the University of Kansas School of Medicine. A description of their projects follows.

Jose Alaras – “Uncovering the Narrative of Filipino Nurses in the US: A Qualitative Interview Study on Immigration, Diaspora, and Hardship during COVID-19”
Location: Los Angeles County Hospitals and Clinics
Mentor: Dr. Tarris Rosell

Margaret Dionisi – “Telehealth Beyond the Pandemic: Its Role in Patient-Centered Care”
Location: University of Kansas Cancer Center
Mentors: Drs. Chris Crenner, Ryan Spaulding, Gary Doolittle

De’mond Glynn – “The Most at Risk, the Least Protected; Disparities in Healthcare for the Incarcerated through the Lens of the Novel Coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 Vaccine Rollout in Kansas Correctional Facilities”
Location: Kansas Correctional Facilities
Mentor: Dr. Jason E. Glenn

Karam Hamada – “Healing Invisible Scars: Analyzing the Impact of Increased Mental Health Resources on Recovery for Victims of Physical Trauma”
Location: University of Kansas Medical Center
Mentors: Drs. Jason E. Glenn, Archie Heddings, Robert Winfield

Sharon Isaacs-Pullins – “A Qualitative Study of Traditional Bone Healers in S. India”
Location: Bangalore, India
Mentors: Drs. James Kallail, Manjulika Vaz

Caitlin Leconte – “Barriers to Effective Use of Video Chat Software in Nursing Facilities”
Location: Nursing Facilities in the Kansas City Area
Mentors: Drs. Ryan Fagan, Cheryl Gibson, Jessica Kalender-Rich

Sophia Leonard – “Analysis of Medical Charting Within the University of Kansas Hospital Before and After the Implementation of the Cures Act”
Location: University of Kansas Hospital
Mentors: Drs. Tarris Rosell, Jonathan Wilcher

Location: Residential Sober Living Homes within the Kansas City Area
Mentor: Dr. Jason E. Glenn

Quinnlyn Walcott – “Let’s Talk About [SEX]ual Medicine: An Analysis of the History, Attitudes, Beliefs, and Gravity of Sexuality Education through the Lens of a Medical Student”
Location: University of Kansas School of Medicine
Mentor: Dr. Chris Crenner

Grant Johnson – “Effect of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Food Insecurity in Kansas City”
Location: Greater Kansas City Area
Mentors: Drs. Ryan Fagan, Jeannine Goetz

Ralph Hermon Major Noon Series
The Zoom platform has proved a surprisingly manageable alternative for the 2020-21 series. We have witnessed a steady participation along with the opportunity to see some faces we don’t typically get to see. Emily Raymond, a doctoral candidate in history at KU-Lawrence, initiated this year’s digital series with a well-informed discussion of eighteenth-century British obstetrics. No doubt, her poise and delivery allayed anxiety about Zoom logistics moving forward. On this relative wave of confidence, we next welcomed Linda Voigts, who provided some initial commentary on a manuscript compiled by an Oxford don during the fourteenth century. Fascinatingly idiosyncratic, the manuscript also provides a window into medical teaching during the time of Chaucer. Later in October, Gary Boxer, emeritus faculty at UMKC, led a discussion on the importance of philosophy for medical education and its lifelong significance for the well-rounded physician. We concluded the fall segment
with John Belmont, who shared some of his ongoing research on the history of the Department of Pediatrics. For this talk, John surveyed the Peds residency program along with its associated figures from the 1920s onward. In telling this story, John continues to illuminate a significant facet of the institution’s history.

Ryan Fagan, PhD
Research Assistant Professor

Library Notes
In late 2019 and most of 2020 the Clendening Library and Museum were collaborating with folks at the University of Kansas Spencer Museum of Art. Our Spencer colleagues were planning a new exhibition and wanted to borrow some of Clendening’s library books and museum artifacts. The requested items were transferred in November 2020, and “Healing, Knowing, Seeing the Body” opened in February 2021. The Washington Post had an article about the exhibition mentioning “The art in the exhibition shows how understandings of the body have changed over time and illustrates how much artists themselves contribute to knowledge about the body, inside and out.” Visit the online version and view the “Seeing” part for the Clendening books at bit.ly/seeingthebody.

Wednesday, March 17, 2021, marked one year of remote working due to COVID-19. Although it’s been difficult for everyone, I’ve realized a few advantages. A benefit has been the historical medical Zoom presentations that became widely available through all my organization and listserv memberships. Since in-person conferences were canceled in 2020, and many are canceled for 2021, there are numerous history of medicine lectures and even tours from the United States and the United Kingdom. Some of the best opportunities were listening to our own faculty present. Previously faculty presentations would have been in person somewhere on campus, in the metro area, or in other cities. Attending in person wasn’t practical because of the time it took away from the library. The result of viewing our faculty Zoom lectures: I’ve always known our History of Medicine faculty were great, but I now know they are superior! Other remote working advantages – having a tank of gas last three months, relearning how to cook, and seeing the first bluebird in our yard in 31 years!

Dawn McInnis, BS
Rare Book Librarian

Museum News
Catching up on the “Bulletin”
As we have continued working remotely, KUMC Archivist Alex Welborn and I recognized the value in creating a searchable document summarizing the newsletters published in paper form by the University of Kansas Medical Center from July 1930 to December 1934, and then picking up again in October 1949 and running into the late 1990s. This will be useful in many projects about the history of the medical center, including the ongoing museum cataloging project, and this issue’s “From the Museum Collection.”

From the Museum Collection
The passing on of a gold-headed cane from an older to a younger physician as a sign of high regard and affection became a common practice in the eighteenth century. In many medical schools and societies since that time, its presentation has become a symbol of honor. At the inaugural Ralph Hermon Major Lecture on November 16, 1954, Dr. E. Grey Dimond presented one such cane to Dr. Major. The cane, consisting of a heavy wooden...
From the Archives

This spring the KUMC Archives received a donation from Julie Dibner, who contributed papers from her grandfather, William Earl Janes, MD. Dr. Janes was a 1918 graduate of the KU School of Medicine who practiced in Eureka, Kansas, until his death in 1945. The collection contains an assortment of materials from Dr. Janes’ personal life and professional career, including office ledgers, photographs, certificates, and scrapbooks. Of particular interest to Julie, however, is a collection of correspondence about a long-forgotten piece of her family’s history, which she believes will be useful to future researchers.

Dr. Janes’ letters document the detection of congenital syphilis in the matrilineal line of his family and his subsequent efforts to locate affected relatives to eradicate the disease. According to Julie, Dr. Janes became aware of the disease following his sister’s diagnosis in 1923. She says, “[Dr. Janes] must have had some concern about her because he arranged a series of ocular examinations . . . that ultimately led to a spinal tap. I have the letter he received informing him about the results of her Wasserman test.”

After he learned of his sister’s condition, Dr. Janes set about trying to locate affected family members to secure treatments of mercury and Salvarsan 606. “My grandfather . . . made carbon copies of the letters he sent to his uncle and cousins. Of course, some family members did not want to even discuss it, but several did come to Kansas City to have spinal taps, as my grandfather requested,” says Julie. “My grandfather arranged treatment for those who were positive, and I have copies of the correspondence between my grandfather and these family members.”

In the end Dr. Janes discovered that the disease affected at least three generations of his family. Julie, however, was unaware of her family history until she found the letters in her grandmother’s cedar chest in 2010. “I think that the conditions of their storage
preserved them,” she says. “Fortunately, they had not been discarded, but no one had ever looked at them either. I think they have historical value and they form the center of this collection.”

Currently archivist Alex Welborn is cataloging the William Earl Janes papers. Please contact him with any questions about the collection or the KUMC Archives.

Alex Welborn, MLIS
Head Archivist

FRIENDS OF THE CLENDENING

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

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