The Department of History and Philosophy of Medicine
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This column will offer a chance to consider the remarkable contributions made by Dawn McInnis to the development of the Clendening Library. As many of you know, Dawn began a phased retirement in 2021, capping two decades as the medical center’s rare books librarian. Her accomplishments as the champion of our library collections have been wonderful and transformative. Under her leadership, the Clendening has grown steadily, with the ongoing development of the collections and the expansion of the reach and reputation of our exceptional library. We will have time ahead to celebrate with her, but it is a pleasure to take a moment now to reflect on a few of the highpoints of her career.

Early in her tenure, Dawn identified that library shelf space was a critical need, and she initiated a key transition for the library collections. Several large donations of historic books had arrived before her tenure and sat awaiting cataloguing and proper shelving. These donations included the astonishing gift by Dr. Leonard Peltier of over seven hundred titles, including many rare volumes in the history of orthopedics and surgery. In 2004, with Dawn’s careful orchestration and oversight, the entire library was packed up. Aging library shelves were removed, and our books were then unpacked and transferred onto new, compact shelving. Since that time, Dawn has directed the addition of thousands of new and historic books to the collections, with plenty of space remaining to grow. This expansion made it possible a few years later to add more than four thousand volumes selected from the main medical library. Dawn led a project to review and select key works from the tens of thousands of late twentieth-century books that the main library was deaccessioning. What had looked like the work of a long year, was accomplished in a little over a month. Perhaps more memorable were the small additions to the collections during this time. In 2008, Dawn opened a small package of donated books to find a 1479 printing of a compendium of Cicero on rhetoric. It is nice to have an incunabulum dropped into one’s lap from time to time.

Over these years the wonders of the library were shared by an ever-larger circle of patrons, who could enjoy Dawn’s guidance and enthusiastic presentations. Tours drew in groups throughout the metro area and across the state of Kansas. There were sixty library tours in the academic year 2013. This number grew to 131 tours at a peak in the year prior to the recent pandemic. Patron visits grew at a similarly steep rate. We hosted 537 patrons in the academic year 2013. This number grew to 715 in 2015, and then to nearly a thousand in the academic year 2018 to 2019. Faculty and students in the medical school and the school of nursing developed strong connections to the department and the library through Dawn’s engagement. Groups from Kansas State University and several local high schools established a regular schedule of tours.

Patrons who came regularly to work with Dawn also became friends and devoted allies for the library. The generosity of such supporters over the years has enabled the library to continue to grow and extend its reach. Dawn’s connections around the city helped to build several ongoing relationships. We hosted shared exhibits with Linda Hall Library on an anniversary of the publication of Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein* and on the centennial opening of the Panama Canal. The library has served as a special feature for graduating residents and visiting faculty, who could be treated to a chance to see some of the famous historical works in their field of expertise.

As we move into the next academic year, I hope that you will take the opportunity to visit with us in the Clendening Library and consider the wonderful treasures that Dawn has worked hard to guard, nurture, and promote. The collections are open now by appointment and will open regular hours for walk-in later in May. We are easily reached by phone or email (contact info on previous page). There will be more occasion in the months ahead to celebrate with Dawn. I will close for now with my heartfelt thanks for Dawn’s generous work shepherding our rare, treasured collections and securing the library’s long-term success.

Chris Crenner, MD, PhD
Professor and Chair
Clendening-King Summer Fellowships
The Clendening-King Summer Fellowship (CSF) is a program in the department that provides opportunity for mentored student research in the medical humanities.

Promotion begins during the fall semester of the M1 year, with workshops in December and January. Proposals are due in early February and applicants are notified by early March. Most fellows will then collaborate with faculty mentors to prepare research protocols for submission to the Institutional Review Board (IRB).

Research activities are carried out in the summer months. Prior to the COVID pandemic, many fellows traveled internationally to conduct research. In 2020 and 2021, none were able to do so. In 2022, two of the fellows are planning to work in an international context.

Each project bodes well for learning and producing publishable knowledge. Fellows will present their work in the fall of 2022. Below is a list of the fellows, their projects, and locations.


Hannah David: “Evaluating Moral Injury in Transplant Providers,” University of Kansas Hospital. Mentor: Dr. Tarris Rosell

Rahel Eshete: “Disparities in Healthcare in Burn Patients Based on Race, Gender, Socioeconomic Status, and Geographic Location,” Kansas City Metropolitan Area. Mentor: Dr. Tarris Rosell


Ashlyn Lipnicky: “Analysis of the Desegregation at the University of Kansas School of Medicine,” Greater Kansas City Area. Mentor: Dr. Jason Glenn

Lipilekha Mukherjee: “The Lived Experience of Individuals with Thalassemia in Eastern India,” Kolkata, India. Mentor: Dr. James Kallail

Kavya Nataraj: “Analysis of the Differences in Treatment of Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome in Evidence Based Medicine and Siddha Medicine,” Greater Kansas City Area and Chennai, India. Mentor: Dr. Carla Keirns

Amu Nuney: “Sociocultural Narratives of Heart Disease Management in Indigenous Communities of Northeast Kansas,” Northeast Kansas. Mentor: Dr. Jason Glenn

Sarani Pachalla: “Prioritization of Postpartum Depression Resources for Women with Adverse Childhood Experiences: A Quality Improvement Project,” University of Kansas Medical Center. Mentor: Dr. Carla Keirns

Randall Schmidt: “Pictures That speak: A Photovoice Assessment on Health Barriers within the Congolese Refugee Community,” Greater Kansas City Area. Mentor: Dr. Ryan Fagan

Andrew Smith: “A Phenomenological Examination of the Lived Worlds of Alzheimer’s Patients,” Wichita Area. Mentor: Dr. Ryan Fagan

Bethany Snyder: “The ‘Venery’ of Venereal Disease: Tracing the Evolving Moral Landscape of STI Public Health Art through the 20th century,” The University of Kansas Health System. Mentor: Dr. Jason Glenn

Carine Tabak: “The History of Mental and Intelligence Screenings at the Ellis Island Immigration Center,” Kansas City and New York City. Mentor: Dr. Christopher Crenner

Karam Hamada, M3, University of Kansas Medical Center
CSF 2022 Coordinator

Tarris Rosell, PhD, DMin, Co-Director, CSF Clinical Professor
R.H. Major Luncheon Seminar Series

The uncertainties of COVID are by now a commonplace. So too are the usual adjustments and redirections that follow in their wake. Despite the hope for a return of our normal seminar setting, the fall 2021 series remained a Zoom-based affair. The line-up included Alyssa Peterson, a doctoral student at UT-Austin. She presented “Earthquakes, Chemistry, and the Changing Medical Treatment of ‘Noxious Vapours.’” Some will recall that Alyssa spent time this past summer in our historical collections as the first fellow of the History of Science and Medicine Fellowship, which is jointly funded by the Clendening and the Linda Hall Library of Science and Technology. We also welcomed Dr. Marta Vicente from KU-Lawrence who presented “The Lieutenant-Nun: Science, Baroque Art, and Transgender Celebrity.” Her talk forms part of a larger research project on medical controversies in early modernity over the question of sexuality and gender identity. We rounded out the fall series with Kevin Flattery and his talk “A Brief History of the Kansas University Hospital.” For many of us Kevin was once a familiar face at KUMC before he ventured off to other opportunities. Along with his years of service, he developed an enduring interest in the institution’s history and development along with many of its important figures. One can explore the details in his recent book The Best Medical Care Available Anywhere.

Ryan Fagan, PhD
Research Assistant Professor

This verse is from the 1966 English version of The School of Salernum: regimen sanitatis salerni by Sir John Harrington. The Clendening Library caricature was published by T. Tegg, 111 Cheapside, London. No. 380 (circa 1804-1824), but the artist is undocumented.

Conservation Report

After a year of deciding what materials most needed conservation, getting a quote from recommended St. Louis conservator, NS Conservation, working with lawyers on a contract, carefully packaging the material, and handing off the materials in the parking lot because of campus COVID restrictions, our conservation projects have been returned and are back in their original locations. How did we decide what went first? One of our most frequently used tour items, the 1542 “Fuchs’ herbal” had a detached cover, which made it difficult to handle. The spine was properly rebacked (from a previous nineteenth century repair) and in the process the text block was cleaned, loose pages were fixed, some tears were repaired, and the original pastedowns and leather were reattached. We’re excited to get it back on the tour circuit and to begin evaluating materials for next year’s conservation projects.

Dawn McInnis, BS
Rare Books Librarian

Library Notes

Early Mindfulness

Dr. Diet, Dr. Merryman, and Dr. Quiet are still methods to help us continue through the COVID-19 pandemic. The Three Best Physicians caricature is taken from an ancient rhyme of prescriptions given to patients who stopped at Salerno [Italy] on their way back from the Crusades. Some of the instructions include keeping anger from your heart, drinking and eating in moderation, getting up early and foregoing an afternoon nap, going to the bathroom when needed, and “Use three physicians still; first Doctor Quiet, Next Doctor Merry-man, and Doctor Dyet.”
From the Museum Collection

Last September, we received a remarkable collection of military uniforms belonging to Major General Floyd W. Baker, MD. Dr. Baker served in the US Navy in the last months of World War II just after graduating high school. He began medical school at KUMC in 1949. He recalled Dr. Jesse Rising’s description of the shortage of physicians in western Kansas, and decided that was the direction he wanted to take his career. In 1953 he “temporarily” joined the US Army on the suggestion of Dr. Mahlon Delp, who viewed it as an excellent opportunity after having served in the 77th Field Hospital during the war. This internship turned into a surgical residency, which led to a thirty-six-year Army career culminating in the rank of major general. This collection includes uniforms, decorations, and insignia from throughout his career and is currently on display in the Clendening Foyer and is available for viewing by appointment through September 2022.

Reopening for Tours

With the declining rates of COVID in the metro area and the relaxing on campus precautions, we are pleased to say the Clendening History of Medicine Library & Museum is reopening for non-KUMC researchers and tours by appointment, Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. We ask that tour groups be kept to eight people or less to allow for social distancing. Visitors must wear a mask at all times while on campus. Contact Dawn McInnis or Jamie Rees for more information. Updates to this policy can be found on the Clendening Library web page.

Jamie Rees, MA
Museum Curator and Assistant Librarian

A collection of insignia from Dr. Baker’s Army career.

Several pieces of Army and Navy uniforms. “Colonel Jay’s” uniform was sewn by Dr. Baker around 1979.

A portion of the 288 composites awaiting digitization after receiving preservation work in the archives. Story, right.
This spring, archivist Alex Welborn is aiding the Office of Alumni Relations to preserve a well-known feature on campus, the class photo composites for the Schools of Medicine and Nursing. Since the late 1980s, KUMC students, alums, and visitors alike have enjoyed the large composites of the graduating classes on display throughout the Medical Center.

Over the years, however, environmental factors like temperature, humidity, and ultraviolet light have damaged the composites, which now require attention before they deteriorate further. A new Facilities Management initiative to update and renovate the corridors of the Wescoe, Sudler, and Delp buildings has given Alex the opportunity to undertake this much-needed preservation project.

The composites first appeared in the hallways of the Medical Center in 1987 following the dedication of “Alumni Way” by Director Pat Head of the Office of Alumni Relations. Since then, Alumni Relations has added new composites annually, with the latest classes now snaking beyond the original location between the Murphy building and the hospital and onto the walls of the Delp and Sudler buildings.

Prior to “Alumni Way,” the composites were displayed in large “flip chart contraptions” in the Francisco Lounge with the construction of the Student Center in the 1950s. Photographs in the KUMC Archives depict composites on display at the Goat Hill campus, the original location of the KU School of Medicine, indicating that the oldest composites have been on display – and exposed to environmental hazards – for over one hundred years.

Over the last few weeks all 288 composites have been taken down from the walls of the Medical Center, have been removed from their frames, and have undergone preservation work in the archives. Next, Alex will pack up and ship the composites to a library services company to be digitized before they return and enter permanent storage in the archives. With the last step of the project, the Office of Alumni Relations will provide access to digital copies of the composites in a new, accessible manner where they can be appreciated once again without damaging the one-of-a-kind originals.

Alex Welborn, MLIS
Head Archivist

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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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