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## Alumni Identification Key

A&S	College of Arts and Sciences
SBS	School of Biological Sciences
BPA	Henry W. Bloch School of Business and Public Administration
CNS	Conservatory of Music
DEN	School of Dentistry
DHY	Dental Hygiene
EDU	School of Education
SICE	School of Interdisciplinary Computing and Engineering
LAW	School of Law
MED	School of Medicine
NUR	School of Nursing
PHA	School of Pharmacy



# Together: Alumni Alliance, Association, Friends Emphasize University Priorities

Ask anyone who journeyed to Legislative Day 2002 in Jefferson City Feb. 27 and you'll find out helping spread the word about UMKC and University of Missouri System priorities is not only important, but fun.

A busload of alumni, friends and students, escorted by UMKC staff, made their way to Jefferson City to visit with legislators, thank them for last year's support and talk about UMKC's funding priorities for the upcoming fiscal year. Dr. Charles Cobb (DEN '64) was recognized by UM System President Manuel Pacheco as UMKC's recipient of the Presidential Citation for Outstanding Alumni Service.

The five funding priorities for this year center on initiatives in life sciences and health sciences, says Bill French, vice chancellor for University Advancement. The requested funds would go to complete the Health Sciences Building on the Hospital Hill campus and help the schools of medicine, nursing and pharmacy with educational costs for their students.

Other specific funding requests support Kansas City's life sciences initiatives through state-matched

endowments for faculty/researchers and the creation of a research and office park.

How does someone find out about such priorities? The Alumni Alliance is one good source of information, says longtime participant Dick Erickson (A&S '54). Started in 1968, the organization involves alumni from all UM campuses. There are 40 volunteers (eight from each campus and alumni organizations) who meet during the year under the leadership of a rotating chair and the Assistant to the UM System President.

During these meetings strategic funding goals for the University are explained, and the volunteers take this information back to other alumni groups. During the year, members interact with their legislators, attend Board of Curators meetings and participate in other special events.

"With the Alumni Alliance support the University's initiatives fostered under the leadership of Chancellor Martha Gilliland have a better chance of coming to pass," Erickson says.

For more information, call the UMKC Alumni Association at (816) 235-1557.

— Michael Johnson

## And "That's the Way It Was" at Dental School-Sponsored Convention

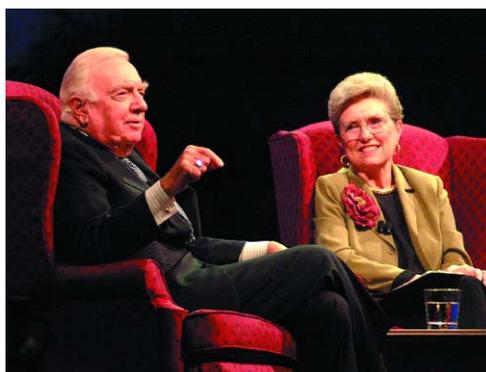
Who would guess you could hear a chat between Walter Cronkite and Kansas City Mayor Kay Barnes at a convention for dentists?

The nearly 20,000 dentists who descended on Kansas City for the 142nd Annual Session of the American Dental Association had that opportunity. The Sunday appearance by Cronkite at the keynote session was one of many highlights that Dentistry alumni put together for the October conference.

Eight dental alumni, as members of the ADA's Local Arrangements Committee, worked with ADA and the Kansas City Convention and Visitor's Bureau to make the Kansas City-hosted event a success — they even recruited 400 volunteers.

The committee membership: Stan Hite ('73), chair; Grant Merritt ('70, '72, '73) vice-chair; Rodger Suchman '70) and Bob Mobley '69), program committee co-chairs; Gerald Foley ('70) and Mike Dix ('69), registration committee co-chairs; Nevin Waters ('73) and Dr. Jim Hobbs ('70), hospitality co-chairs.

— Bryce Puntenney



Legendary CBS newsman Walter Cronkite, a Kansas City native, shared his memories of Kansas City with his cousin, Mayor Kay Barnes (EDU '71) at the opening ceremony of the 2001 American Dentistry Association conference, hosted by the School of Dentistry. Cronkite's wife, Mary, is a UMKC grad (A&S '42) and his father and grandfather were oral surgeons and graduates of the Kansas City Dental College, the forerunner of the School of Dentistry.

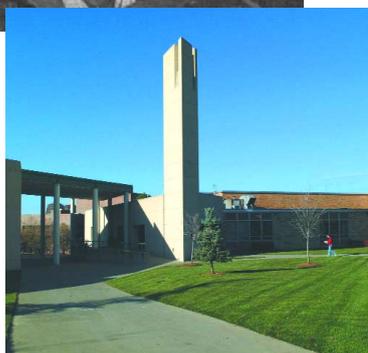
# Bounders: From Shenanigans to Service

## A Day in the Life: 1941

Read enough of the University's history and you will no doubt come across references to the Bounder Fraternity. Organized in 1936 and recognized as an official fraternity through 1956, the Bounder fraternity was not exactly traditional; the term "bounder," taken from British slang, meant "ungentlemanly," "a cad." Regardless, the Bounders proved to be extremely active in student organizations and they became influential leaders in their post-KCU lives.



The Bounder Fraternity, 1942.  
On May 12, 1989, the Bounders returned to the campus with the dedication of the Van Bergen 49-bell carillon — the Bounder Bells — installed in the tower of the Swinney Recreation Center. The bells were purchased with nearly \$30,000 in donations from 90 Bounder members.



What was campus life like in the 1940s?  
Below is Bounder member F. L. "Tom" Thompson's reflections of Dec. 7, 1941.

"The new Swinney Gymnasium had recently been completed and the students wanted to avail themselves of its facilities for intramural sports such as basketball, indoor football, handball and squash. Dr. Clarence R. Decker, the President of then University of Kansas City, and the university coach, Dr. Kennedy, initially had refused the use of the new Gymnasium for the requested purposes.

This caused much unrest among the students and particularly among the members of the fraternities, and more particularly, the Bounders fraternity.

"On Hobo Day, which was celebrated in the last part of November, after some hours spent in the Peanut Lounge at 50th and Main, a group of Bounders went to their fraternity meeting place on the second floor of a building on the northwest corner of 47th and

Prospect. Here they took possession of an old-fashioned barber pole with its red, white and blue stripes that spiraled up as it turned, painted a face on a piece of cardboard and made a sign stating "Clarence R. Decker," both of which were attached to the barber pole.

Thereafter, they transported their piece of art to the campus quadrangle behind Haag Hall, attached it to the rope of the flagpole and hoisted it up to its top position, hanging the President of the University in effigy.

"Dr. Decker was livid and sent word to the fraternity that he wanted some representatives from the Bounder Fraternity to meet with him so he could discuss the event, admonish them, and determine the punishment that was to be meted out. His messenger on Saturday, December 6, 1941, found a group of Bounders playing a football game against the members of the Keagon Fraternity.

**"The time for the meeting was set for Sunday, December 7, 1941, at 1:30 p.m.**

"Time has erased the memory as to how the representatives were appointed, but those so designated were Bob Hanna, Sig Kaufmann,

Tommy Thompson and Leon Timms. History tells us that on the appointed day for the meeting, at about 7 a.m. Hawaii Time (11 a.m. CST), the Japanese, without warning, attacked Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, devastating many war ships and military installations and causing America to enter World War II.

"By radio, word of mouth and extra editions on the streets by *The Kansas City Star* and *The Kansas City Journal Post*, news of the event spread fast. Each of the Bounder-appointed representatives got in touch with one another and determined that we would have to keep the appointment with Dr. Decker. At the scheduled time, we arrived at Dr. Decker's home, rang the bell and waited. Shortly, he opened the door, greeted us with a long and grieving face and invited us in. We quietly proceeded into his living room and were seated.

"He spoke first: 'Gentlemen, when are the members of the Bounder Fraternity going to grow up?' Then he said, 'The matter we are to meet on is so trivial compared to action of the Japanese at Pearl Harbor that we will not even discuss it further.' He then asked what each of us planned to do as a result the imminent war. Each stated, 'If possible, finish the semester and maybe even the school year, then enlist.'

"We then all took our leave and returned to our homes to be with our families and listen to the latest news on the radio."

## Bounders in World War II

■ **Bob Hanna**, who now resides in California, did enlist and served with distinction in the Army Air Corps. He got his Air Corps wings as a navigator/bombardier and became a captain. He served in the Pacific Theatre of Operations and had many combat missions.  
■ **Sigmond (Sig) Kaufmann** continued his education and graduated from the University of Kansas City in 1942. He completed the

Army's Officer Training School, and served as an infantry officer.

■ **Charles R. Rawlings** worked at the North American Aviation plant in Kansas City's Fairfax district in 1941-42, then received an appointment to the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in 1943. He participated in the invasion of Attu and Kiska Islands in the Aleutian Islands. In 1944-45 he served on a Navy attack ship and participated in the invasion of Okinawa.

■ **Tommy Thompson** finished the semester and went to work at Lake City Ordnance Plant in Independence, Mo. He later enlisted, became a lieutenant, and got his Air Corps wings. He was sent overseas to the China-Burma-India Theater of Operations and flew twin-engine C-46 cargo aircraft on 118 combat missions. In addition to the Distinguished Flying Cross, he was awarded the Army Air Corps Air Medal twice.

■ **Leon Timms** became a commissioned officer in the Navy's V-12 program and served his country with honor in a number of assignments during the war.

■ **Robert L. Smith** left KCU and became an Air Corps pilot, flying both B-26 Marauder bombers and P-47 and P-38 fighters. He returned to KCU, completing his degree in 1946.

## A&S Alumnus Dies in World Trade Center Attack

John Willett (A&S '2000) was among the nearly 3,000 people who died in the destruction of the World Trade Center Towers last Sept. 11.

Willett, 29, was an analyst for CO23.com, a division of Cantor-Fitzgerald, which had offices on the 101st floor of a World Trade Center tower. His work involved companies and organizations seeking to reduce the level of greenhouse gases in the Earth's atmosphere.

He earned a master's in economics at UMKC. He had previously completed a bachelor's degree at University of Missouri-Columbia. He had also attended classes at Rockhurst and studied at Notre Dame for a doctoral degree.

Willett, from Walnut Shade, Mo., had been active in southwest Missouri politics. He had worked on Missouri House Speaker Jim Kreider's 1994 campaign, as well as Alan Wheat's U.S. Senate campaign. Willett was named by then-Gov. Mel Carnahan to finish an unexpired term as Taney County treasurer in the 1990s — the state's youngest person to hold

a treasurer's position.

In a September 2001 *Kansas City Star* article, Kreider noted Willett "wasn't a door-knocker type as much as he was a strategist. He had a real passion for politics."

UMKC was notified of Willett's death by family members, according to Susan Hopkins, acting assistant vice chancellor for alumni and constituent relations.

It's not known if Willett was the only alumni death due to the terrorist attacks, and the University wants to acknowledge all alumni who were injured or killed in the Sept. 11 events in New York City, at the Pentagon, or on the flight that crashed in rural Pennsylvania.

Hopkins asks family members to send information. All reports will be confirmed prior to being announced.

The mailing address:

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## Ready, Set, Go Online for 2002 Alumni Awards Nomination

Know some classmates who are setting new standards in their professions? The best place to put that knowledge to use is by nominating them for honors from UMKC and the Alumni Association.

This year's winners will be recognized during a special event prior to the University's Fall Convocation in October.

A convenient way to nominate someone, says Lee Rodgers, manager of alumni programs and services, is to go online to [www.umkc.edu/alumni/awards](http://www.umkc.edu/alumni/awards). There, you can type up your nominations for the various awards: Alumnus of the Year, Alumni Service Award, Spotlight Award, Legacy Award, Presidential Citation for

Outstanding Alumni Service, Defying the Odds award, and the Alumni Achievement awards, which includes honorees from each academic division.

All nominations must be received by April 26, 2002. If you need additional information call (816) 235-6010, or send e-mail to [rodgersv@umkc.edu](mailto:rodgersv@umkc.edu).

— Laura Patterson

## May 4: Join Your Friends for a Celebration at Missouri Rep

Have a great night out with some old friends and classmates — join the UMKC Alumni Association Minority Affairs Committee for a celebration May 4, 2002.

The event is tied to the upcoming Missouri Repertory Theatre's production "Joe Turner's Come & Gone," which runs May 3-26.

This is the Kansas City premiere of what critics say is playwright August Wilson's greatest work.

Set in 1911, this eloquent drama is about a stranger newly arrived at a Pittsburgh boarding house after years of forced labor.

The warm mood of the boarding house changes abruptly with the arrival of the mysterious

stranger, Herald Loomis, and his young daughter. Loomis is a man on a mission to discover his lost past and construct a new life.

To RSVP, call (816) 235-6010, by March 30.

— Michael Johnson

## Kangaroo Pride is on the Move

Whether you're an alumnus, friend of the University or simply a Roo fan, you can accent your vehicle with UMKC Kangaroos license plates.

The collegiate license plates are available through the UMKC Alumni Association. You don't have to be a member to purchase



them. However, you must be a Missouri resident.

To show your Kangaroo pride, send a \$25 tax-deductible donation (\$50 for two-year registrations), payable to the UMKC License Plate Scholarship Fund, along with the application form. The fund provides scholarships for UMKC students.

See the ad on the back cover of this magazine for the application and more information.

— Laura Berry

## A Mix of Music and Medicine

A School of Medicine fundraiser, An Evening of Jazz, is becoming a tradition. The sixth annual event featured the Bobby Watson Quartet March 9 at the Carriage Club in Kansas City. As always, the event was a benefit for the SIRRIDGE Office of Medical Humanities.

Watson is the William and Mary Grant/Missouri Endowed Professor in Jazz Studies at the Conservatory of Music.

The SIRRIDGE Office coordinates medical humanities courses and conferences that highlight the long-established connections between the art and science of medicine. It also publishes a medical humanities journal, *The Human Factor*, featuring the contribute writings and art work of students.

— Kelly Edwards

# Connor's Enterprising Career

## Levell's PET Project Gets "Early" Boost

A healthcare innovation with a School of Pharmacy connection is helping consumers communicate with their healthcare provider.



Rocky Levell

And if being featured on the CBS Early Show in February is any sign, the potential for the "PET" device is very strong.

The handheld device, dubbed PET for "personal evaluation tool," was featured on the CBS show as one of the five most innovative new consumer products of the year.



Rocky Levell (PHA '79) is national sales director for PET Systems Inc., a partner in PET Systems Inc. and co-owner of Community Hospices of America, based in Springfield, Mo.

PET was evaluated in the United Inventors Association/Inventors' Digest national consumer products hunt and chosen as one of five inventions to be highlighted on the show.

The handheld device allows patients to directly record/report their current health status to their professional care providers, hour-by-hour, "24-7," via the Internet.

PET captures such information as the patient's pain levels, types of pain and location, other general symptoms, emotional status, and medication use by way of icons activated by a touch screen.

— Michael Johnson

## Before Connor Trinneer began exploring distant galaxies on the Star Trek series "Enterprise," he discovered acting success at UMKC.

After leading a newly discovered alien species on a tour of the U.S.S. Enterprise's warp engine area, Commander Charles "Tripp" Tucker, III senses something is amiss. The engine has been tampered with. Are the seemingly docile aliens actually diabolical fiends bent on destruction of the ship?

And you thought your job was difficult.

If you've watched "Enterprise," the newest installment in the storied Star Trek television franchise, you might recognize Connor Trinneer, (A&S '95) another of UMKC's M.F.A. graduates who's found his way to stage and screen. His performance as the Texas-born Commander Tucker is a fascinating blend of down-home Southern charm, crackling humor, and a passionate desire for deep space exploration. Although his command of the ship's Engineering section is tighter than Spock's nerve pinch, Tucker still takes pleasure in the lighter sides of space travel, such as devouring a juicy strip steak to get a rise out of a vegetarian-only Vulcan crew member.

But before his star-making turn as a crew member on board the Enterprise, Trinneer had to set course for Kansas City.

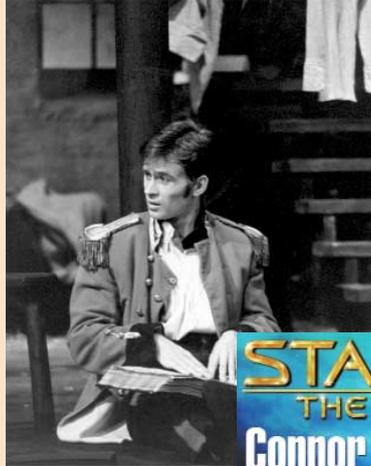
After completing his undergraduate studies at Pacific Lutheran University in Washington, Trinneer auditioned in Chicago for graduate acting programs at various schools. In attendance was Dale AJ Rose, director of performance training at UMKC's acclaimed Theatre Department. An immediate creative connection was established between the two, and Trinneer was soon packing to join the department's master of fine arts program.

"A lot of other schools were trying to sell me on their programs, but Dale was concerned with trying to help me improve my audition materials," Trinneer says. "I went with my instincts because I could tell he was a really good teacher. I've never met anyone as committed to what he is doing as Dale."

At UMKC, Trinneer's talents began to shine in diverse, challenging roles ranging from to a singing and dancing mobster to a British lieutenant battling a language barrier with a Gaelic woman he's fallen in love with. Trinneer's defining moment, Rose says, was his performance as an older man in George Bernard Shaw's "Miss Alliance."

"That's when I felt Connor matured into an actor worthy of the profession," Rose says. "He completely took on the rhythms, the changes and the intellect of Shaw's character."

Trinneer's connection to UMKC did not end after graduation. He and Rose remained in close contact from the initial lean years and with his first breaks with guest-starring roles on television series such as "Melrose Place," "E.R." and the HBO film "61."



Trinneer, performing in uniform at UMKC, and as Commander Tripp Tucker.

Rose says cultivating close ties with alumni is critical to the success of a theatre program.

"You're working with actors intensely for three years, day after day," he says. "We don't turn you away and never see you again. This profession is so full of rejection, there needs to be a sense of caring and understanding. And when you have an alumni base, you feel like you have a good support group wherever you are. They want the program to grow. They have thoughts like 'we were a good class, but we want the next ones to be better so we can all look better.'"

And when Trinneer's opportunity of a lifetime presented itself with "Enterprise," he continued to benefit from his training. Using the Theatre

Department's "tool box" philosophy, he drew tools from his experiences in courses such as voice, movement and clowning to help him overcome creative droughts.

"When it's all going great, you

don't think about technique," Trinneer says. "It's when you're stuck that your techniques really come into play. Dale was great at showing us how to dig deeper, and he gave me a foundation to work from."

That training came in handy for Trinneer as he explored ways to diversify his character during "Enterprise's" inaugural season.

"Once (the show's writers and producers) realized I could tell a joke, they really went for that, so I needed to pull in the reins a bit because he is commander of Engineering, not just the 'yuk-yuk guy,'" Trinneer says. "People needed to respect him as a leader."

The rigors of shooting a 26-episode season can be draining, particularly when faced with weeks of 12-15 hour workdays. Trinneer slept through his single day off during back-to-back shoots in which his character is heavily involved in the storyline of two episodes.

Yet he credits advice he received at UMKC from Rose to "stay in shape, be good to yourself and treat your body like an instrument" for giving him the physical and emotional tenacity to endure.

When the "Enterprise" finally breaks for summer hiatus, Trinneer is looking forward to some well-earned time off.

"You know, I'm glad I have a job to go to every day, but whew! I want to rest a little bit. I really would love to go to Europe or someplace for a month." Trinneer pauses briefly. "But I'm sure if Steven Spielberg calls about a role, I might take his call."

— John Couture



# Cruise the Rhine River or Walk the Wall of China



Are you looking for an enjoyable vacation in an exotic location without all the hassles of planning? The Alumni Association, through its Alumni Travel Program, offers an experience filled with wonderful accommodations, delectable food and beautiful sights in many countries around the world.

Since 1992, the UMKC Alumni Association Travel Program (sometimes referred to as the Rovin' Roos) has been

helping alumni and friends get the most from their travel experiences abroad. UMKC groups have journeyed to Paris, Rome, Ireland, and the Alps, to name just a few.

The fully planned and escorted trips include airfare, hotel accommodations, ground transportation, and sometimes meals. Manager of Alumni Relations Vicki Barham says the trips are good for seasoned travelers, but are "a great way to go abroad for the first time — worry free."

Alex Estes, (PHA '00), visited Ireland in September 2001.

"We showed up, gave them our luggage, and that was it," he says. "The luggage was in our room when we got to the hotel. It was very smooth."

Trips range in length from seven to 14 days. Prices vary according to air travel, destination, level of luxury and date of trip.

Three companies, Global Holidays, Alumni Holidays International and Travel Plans International, provide a variety of destinations and sightseeing opportunities through the Alumni Association. This year there are 15 destinations.

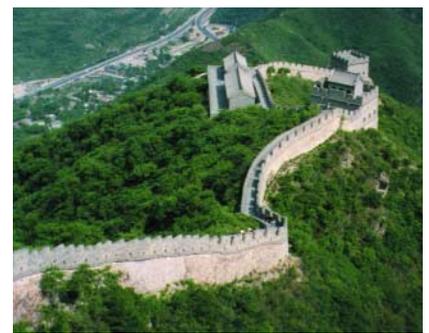
In April, you can travel to Paris on a variety of dates or take a cruise on the Rhine River. Maybe you would like to see China; several dates are available in June. In addition, there are trips this year to Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Austria, London, Quebec and the Galapagos Islands.

Dorine Lowell, a volunteer for the Conservatory of Music, can't say enough about traveling through the Association's program.

"There is always a nice group of people, you go to interesting places and the price is right," she says.

For more information on travel packages or the Alumni Association Travel Program, call (816) 235-2452 or e-mail them at [barhamv@umkc.edu](mailto:barhamv@umkc.edu).

— Janet McNamara



## Nursing Instructor Receives Service Award

Maithe Enriquez, Ph.D., (NUR '93), received an Outstanding Community Service Award for 2001 at the University's Fall Convocation.

Her connection to the community runs the gamut of several programs, from teaching infant resuscitation to elementary students to editing the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care national newsletter *ANACdots*.

Enriquez secured a diversity grant from the University last year and developed a task force to tackle the problem. The result was a pair of prep sessions designed to give assistance to minority students in difficult health sciences areas.



Maithe Enriquez

— Jeff Stapleton

## Graham's Company Takes Top Honor

The engineering firm of Taliaferro & Browne Inc., co-owned by alumnus and UMKC Trustee Leonard J. Graham (A&S '74), is the Professional Services Firm of the Year.

The award was given by Minority Enterprise Development during Minority Enterprise Development Week last October. The weeklong event was created to bring together business owners from the minority community.

Graham, a native of Kansas City, received a bachelor's degree in philosophy from UMKC. He received bachelor's and master's degrees in civil engineering from the University of Missouri-Columbia. He is a registered professional engineer and has been with Taliaferro & Browne since 1992.

Graham received a Distinguished Alumni Award from UMKC in 1993 and also received the Business Man of the Year Award from the Kansas City Black Chamber of Commerce in 1995.

— Janet McNamara

## Hansen Honored by Association for Work as Art Education Consultant

Dee Hansen (CNS '91) received a top honor from the Kansas Art Education Association last October. She was named the year's Outstanding Arts Educator in the division of Administration and Supervision.

Hansen is a Fine Arts Specialist for the Kansas Department of Education in Topeka. She earned a doctor of musical arts degree in 1991.

Candidates for the Kansas Art Education Association awards are nominated by colleagues. Hansen, who serves as liaison to more than 75 schools in Kansas, has chaired more than 50 Quality Performance Accreditation visits and served on various leadership teams, including Design of Accreditation and Integrated Review.

Hansen has been with the Kansas Dept. of Education since 1994, and serves on the Kansas Art Education Association board. She is national chair for the National Council of Supervisors of Music Education.

— Michael Johnson



Dee Hansen

## Law Alumna Wins Presidential Award

Anne G. Purcell (A&S '73, LAW '78) received the Presidential Rank Award of Meritorious Executives in October 2001. Since December 1996 Purcell has been deputy associate general counsel of the Division of Operations-Management of the National Labor Relations Board.

Each year the President chooses career members of the Senior Executive Service for this prestigious award. The award is based on the members' distinguished service in government.

— Janet McNamara