New day with a new dean

| INSIDE |
Meet the Dean
Wichita mentor Donna Sweet, MD
Balancing school and family
With your help

T oday’s medical education uses simulators to prepare doctors, nurses, and other health care workers. At Wichita’s school of medicine, we have some terrific simulators. We’d like to see them used more often by more people as we work with other organizations to bring area simulators together under one roof, giving health care students and workers an opportunity to train together on state-of-the-art equipment.

And it all takes money. Of course, most of what we’re doing takes money. Some of you may have read or heard me say the KU School of Medicine–Wichita name is up for sale. For $100 million, you can have your name on the school in perpetuity. For less, we can talk about endowed professorships and the like. Regardless of the amount, we’re grateful and pledge to spend your gifts wisely as we grow what’s great at Wichita’s medical school … together.

KU SCHOOL OF MEDICINE–WICHITA
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wichita.kumc.edu

H. David Wilson, MD
Dean

How you can help
To do all this, we’re going to need help:

Money
Obviously, we need money to make a lot of this happen. If you’re interested in helping, we’d love to talk with you.

Connections
If you know someone who can help us reach our goals, we’d appreciate you letting us know or making an introduction.

Input
And finally, I’ll soon start blogging. It will be new to me, but I’m going to give it a try. If you visit Wichita.kumc.edu, you’ll soon find a link to “Dean’s Blog.” I plan to regularly post how we’re doing, share stories about the school and even life in Wichita, and engage with many of you as we work together to grow our medical school.

You can reach me via e-mail at hdwilson@kumc.edu, at 316-293-2600, and soon via my blog. I look forward to talking with you.

Cover

Dean H. David Wilson, MD, became the sixth dean of the KU School of Medicine–Wichita on July 1 and immediately set a new course that includes making Wichita’s campus a four-year school of medicine, expanding and strengthening faculty, raising money for students and endowments, and helping build clinical research programs. Photo by Mike Shepherd.

Where I see us headed
It’s obvious Wichita delivers incredible hands-on learning. I hear it over and over again … from students, residents, faculty, and the medical community. My task as Dean is to help us make what’s great even better as we educate doctors for Kansas and work together to improve the health of Kansans. What a privilege.

Develop a four-year program
Our first priority is to develop into a four-year medical school. With a four-year school in Wichita, we’ll be able to train more doctors and enhance our image, helping us raise more funds.

Grow our research activities
Thanks to a generous three-year grant from the Kansas Bioscience Authority (KBA), we have a unique opportunity to increase our clinical research activities in Wichita. We’ll work to grow our outcomes research, looking at how we can deliver quality health care effectively. We’ll hire some superstars, people who are clinician investigators with Washington, DC, track records and NIH funding. We’ll even recruit some MD PhDs, physicians who are trained researchers.

Secure graduate medical education in Wichita
During the past couple of years, a lot of time and energy has been spent on how we’re funding graduate medical education in Wichita. We’ll be working with our hospital partners to restructure the organization and secure the future of our residency programs.

Maintain high standards
It’s an honor to be a doctor and part of the KU School of Medicine–Wichita tradition. We’re committed to maintaining the highest standards, ensuring we’re educating the very best doctors for Kansas.

Strengthen our faculty
Education, research, and patient care are the three cornerstones of any medical school. When it comes to patient care, we’ll be looking for ways to treat more patients who have health insurance while we continue to do more than our share of caring for the poor.

Create a simulation center
Today’s medical education uses simulators to prepare doctors, nurses, and other health care workers. At Wichita’s school of medicine, we have some terrific simulators. We’d like to see them used more often by more people as we work with other organizations to bring area simulators together under one roof, giving health care students and workers an opportunity to train together on state-of-the-art equipment.

How you can help
There are many ways you can help support our efforts to educate doctors for Kansas:

Donations by Mail — KU Endowment, 1010 N. Kansas, Wichita, KS 67214
Online Giving - kuendowment.org/givenow

We welcome the opportunity to visit with you about how you might help. And we assure you that 100 percent of your gift will benefit the area of your choice. Please call Shanna Basset at (316) 293-2641 or send her an e-mail at KuEwichta@kumc.edu.
Having known Dean Wilson for many years, Barbara Atkinson, MD, KUMC executive vice chancellor, expressed her support for him as Wichita’s new Dean and for his vision for the Wichita campus at a reception welcoming him to Wichita.

New name for KU School of Medicine—Wichita?

Anyone who cares about educating doctors for Kansas and further developing the KU School of Medicine—Wichita — and has $100 million to donate to it — can have the school named in his or her honor. Such naming isn’t unprecedented among schools of medicine. The medical school in Chicago was renamed the Pritzker School of Medicine in 1968 because of the generous support of the Pritzker family of Chicago. The David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA was named in honor of a $200 million donation in 2001.

Dr. Wilson plans to build on that success by making Wichita’s school of medicine a full, four-year school, expanding and strengthening faculty, raising money for students and endowments, working to secure graduate medical education, and helping to grow clinical research activities.

“He’s very much a visionary and he’s very positive,” Dr. Bradham stated.

“Get your track shoes on,” H. David Wilson, MD, new dean of the KU School of Medicine–Wichita, told faculty, staff, and students at a welcoming event in June. But he said it with a smile.

That’s the nature of Dr. Wilson, who was dean of the University of North Dakota’s School of Medicine and Health Sciences for 14 years. He’s eager to get down to business, yet knows how to keep an organization running smoothly.
Donna Sweet, MD  
Modeling patient-centered care

S
ure, there are the legendary leg-wrestling tournaments, the characteristic clicking of high heels down hospital hallways, and the notoriety that makes incoming third-year students sock back an extra cup of coffee before arriving for rounds for not just to time, but only.

There’s also much more to Donna Sweet, MD (W79), than campus lore — as the students of this compassionate, quick-witted teacher soon discover.

“As Dr. Sweet discovered the ‘thrill of making the diagnosis,’ she turned to internal medicine and cemented a personal mission to put the patient first. Now, a professor of internal medicine at the KU School of Medicine–Wichita and director of internal medicine education at Via Christi Regional Medical Center–St. Francis, she hopes to instill that philosophy in today’s students.

“Dr. Sweet always knew the patient and family well and made it a point to teach us that,” said Michael Grant, MD, who now practices medicine with the Wichita Heart Center. “Dr. Sweet stresses that the patient is at the center of the patient care. By making you a better physician when you are more personally involved in patients’ lives; you can be much more sensitive.”

Dr. Sweet concedes that she pushes that agenda. “I want them to ask, ‘Is this what the patient needs?’ It may sound self-evident, but it’s gotten lost in a lot of places. Many people will teach my students facts and figures; I ask them to be something more. I want them to be a compilation of the best things of all their teachers. That’s the role of a mentor.”

Dr. Donna Sweet

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tion of the best things of all their teachers. That’s the role of a mentor.”

Dr. Donna Sweet

change the trajectory of Dr. Sweet’s medical career. Soon, young people who would’ve left the Sunflower State for California, New York, or Texas were coming home sick with the virus that causes AIDS. The scientifically, academically, and clinically fascinating disease became a passion for Dr. Sweet, one that now makes up one-third of her patients and takes more than 65 percent of her time as she teaches, seeks grant funding, and advocates nationally for AIDS research.

As a physician, she took on a population of patients who were poorly covered economically,” said Kyle Tipton, MD (W90), a former student of Dr. Sweet’s who now practices at El Dorado Internal Medicine. “That’s a pretty powerful example, especially in a society with a lot of doctors concerned more on income than the actual care they’re giving.”

According to Dr. Tipton, she left an indelible mark on his view of medicine.

“What she modeled to her students, that’s one of the most important features. Now you see gastroenterologists going into aesthetics, people following the buck. You don’t see a lot of people following the patient, and that’s what she does.”

For Dr. Valliant, aspiring to Dr. Sweet’s patient-friendly skill set is a priority. “She has a way of really listening, even in the midst of chaos, zeroing in on the things that are important in the story that’s being told to her and picking those integral details out of the mix.”

Making a mark, one heel at a time

As Allison Ast, a third-year medical student at the KU School of Medicine–Wichita, began rounds with Dr. Sweet, she knew what to watch for.

“When she’s not advocating for patients or encouraging national health care reform, Dr. Sweet can probably be found in the kitchen or on the golf course.”

“Dr. Sweet, known for her immunology background, followed the virus with interest and was invited to speak on the topic at the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology in Wichita. Eager for an expert, other organizations and local media increasingly turned to Dr. Sweet.

Then the state’s first known AIDS patient returned to Kansas from Philadelphia. “I’d never seen a real case but figured I could treat him as well as anyone,” she said.

It was a key moment that would

Hometown roots, global influence

Eight times in the past five years, Donna Sweet, MD, MACP endured a 7-hour time change — including a nine-hour flight from Moscow across the country’s massive interior — to reach Vladivostok. She volunteers there as an AIDS educator among the hardworking rural people of Eastern Russia. As Russia’s largest port city on the Pacific Ocean, Vladivostok is a hub for rural health care, but a far cry from modernized Moscow.

These are like the people I grew up with . . . rural, farmers, family-oriented,” she said.

Russia is one of the countries where AIDS is spreading rapidly. Each day about 130 new cases are registered in Russia, and it’s estimated there are more than 1 million out of 142 million Russians infected with HIV.

In Russia, according to Dr. Sweet, about 85 percent of physicians are women. “They appreciate a female from the U.S. who, in their minds, has ‘made it.’”

“Many people teach my students facts and figures; I ask them to be something more. I want them to be a compilation of the best things of all their teachers. That’s the role of a mentor.”

Dr. Donna Sweet

What you may not know about Dr. Sweet

When she’s not advocating for patients or encouraging national health care reform, Dr. Sweet can probably be found in the kitchen or on the golf course.

“I love to cook. I grew up making my own pie crusts,” Dr. Sweet said. It’s a useful skill, considering one of her famously favorite dishes is Quiche Lorraine.

As for her golf game, she hits the links at every possible opportunity, sometimes playing 18 holes twice in a weekend. So far, she’s had three holes-in-one.
CLASS OF 2011

Students are prepped with a picnic and personal attention

“Getting ready for surgery,” responded Alyssa Newth of Sabetha, KS. “It’s my first rotation.”

Jeff Robinson of Garnett, KS, was worried about “remembering things,” but was hopeful because “the faculty is really supportive in working with us.” And then there were fears about coming to “the big city.”

“I grew up in a small town, and I heard all about crime in Wichita and I was kind of scared,” said Erin Hemphill of Hoisington, KS (population 2,975). “But I love how they (the staff and faculty) have taken care of us.”

Knowing how to take care of and support Alyssa, Jeff, Erin and the other 52 students in the class of 2011 is what staff, faculty, and the Wichita Deans Club do best. And it starts during their first week in June.

At the orientation picnic on June 24, students enjoyed buffet tables brimming with barbecue and all the trimmings. Garold Minns, MD, Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs, followed up with a Jay Leno-type slideshow narration that revealed an unusual fact about each student who was then given a special gift courtesy of the Deans Club.

Several students stood out because of their talents or accomplishments:

- Bruce Tjaden of Wichita demonstrated his ability to do Mongolian throat-singing — a deep, growling sound — as his classmates cheered.
- Laura Cheng of McFarland, CA, was noted for twirling double fire batons in middle school and high school.
- Erin Guex-Clark of Shawano, WI, was noted for streaming double fire batons in middle school and high school.

Erin Guex-Clark of Shawano, WI, revealed a bit more than expected: When she was 35, she ran a 5K at a nudist camp.

“What place did you come in?” asked Dr. Minns.

“Last,” she said.

“Best place to be,” Dr. Minns quipped.

The next day each student received a white coat with his or her name stitched on, an iPAQ (handheld PC), membership to a fitness center, a scholarship to help pay for moving to Wichita, and tickets to various functions during the year — all provided by the Wichita Deans Club. Made up of members who have donated at least $1,000 to the Wichita school in the same year, the club goes the extra mile to make sure students receive needed support both for learning and living — special treatment that’s much appreciated.

By the end of orientation week, class members said they were ready to experience medical training up-close and personal.

“I really like helping people,” said Marcus Lewis of Elmira, NY. “In medicine, people trust you a lot more. That’s one of the major reasons I chose medicine.”

Alyssa said she likes the mystery of medicine.

“I really like to look at medicine as detective work — figuring out a diagnosis.”

Many students aren’t sure which specialty they’ll choose but are open to the possibility of practicing in Kansas.

Marcus, a New Yorker who has lived on both coasts, said Wichita is “definitely an option.”

Ultimately, he said, “I’ll go wherever God wants me to be.”

The class of 2011 got some hands-on learning from Bruce Bower (W10) when they were taught the proper technique for tying knots and stitching a wound. Those learning the ropes are, left to right, Anh Pham, Jessica Fields, and Lisa Guo.

Unusual facts about several third-year students

Sherri Bracktick of McLouth, KS, was a former competitive Country-Western line dancer.

James Console of Topeka, KS, can converse in Mandarin Chinese and Spanish.

James Hernandez of San Antonio, TX, was a former professional baseball player.

Rachael Korb of Wichita spent three weeks on a mission trip to the Peruvian Amazon in the summer of 2004.

Annabel Mancillas of Hutchinson, KS, loves to salsa dance.

Jonathan McCully of El Dorado, KS, was a former member of a West Point triathlon team.

“I always tell people Wichita is the biggest small town they’ll ever visit or live in. Everywhere I go I am likely to see someone I know. That makes me feel much more at home.”

Jim Stanford
Haynesville, LA
Wichita residents win national recognition

Two family medicine residents from the KU School of Medicine–Wichita received national recognition for their exemplary work. That number stands out even more considering only 10 nationwide were honored. “In the past, KU School of Medicine–Wichita residents have received as many as three out of 20 awards,” said Rick Kellerman, MD, Family and Community Medicine chair. “This year, they only awarded 10, and we received two.”

The Wichita recipients of the Bristol Myers Squibb Excellence in Graduate Medical Education Award are Melissa Chenoweth, MD, Wesley Medical Center Family Medicine resident, and Lacie Gregory, MD, Via Christi Family Medicine chief resident.

The award is given to family medicine residents in their second year who are members of the American Academy of Family Physicians and who have demonstrated leadership ability, community involvement, social commitment, exemplary patient care, and interpersonal relationships.

“Over the past 40 years, 37 Wichita residents have received this award, which is just a great honor for our program,” according to Dr. Kellerman.

Medical Center Family Medicine

Ray Jensen, MD, University of Kansas Cancer Center director, talks with media at a news conference announcing the Nanotax Phase I clinical trial in Wichita.

Shaker Dakhil, MD, FACP, Wichita’s Cancer Center president, and Tom Schulz, MD, Internal Medicine assistant professor at the KU School of Medicine–Wichita. Both are nationally known oncologists who currently conduct 116 Phase II and Phase III clinical trials between them.

“This Phase I clinical trial will complement the already extraordinary program we have in place and will allow us to offer more options to our patients,” said Dr. Dakhil.

Dr. Schulz said to pursue investigative studies with Kansas patients can mean sending them to other cancer centers, often at great distances. “Having a Phase I program in Wichita allows these patients to be treated at home with cutting-edge treatments.”

Providing hope

Technology that led to the discovery of Nanotax was developed by KU researchers and was licensed to CritiTech, Inc., a Lawrence-based biotechnology firm. It patented, developed, produced, and filed the required application with the Food and Drug Administration.

Funds to support the infrastructure needed to conduct the clinical trial were provided earlier this year by the Kansas Bioscience Authority (KBA) through the Collaborative Cancer Research Initiative program.

“We envision a future in which new drugs help patients in the state and in the nation win their battle against cancer,” said Tom Thornton, president and CEO of the KBA. “We’re doing nothing less than providing hope.”

Lacie Gregory, MD

Dr. Lacie Gregory, a chief resident, is also in her third year of residency. And though she can’t point to anything specific as the reason she received the award, she thinks it’s a testament to what she’s been doing all along.

“I’ve always strived for excellence,” she said. “I hope that’s what they saw.”

She won numerous awards for leadership and achievements including the 2007 P.G. Czarlinsky Family Award for outstanding performance by a fourth-year student clinician for significant contribution to the overall environment of health care and patient education.

Dr. Gregory credits her success to the training she received in her third and fourth years in Wichita “There is no stronger place for family medicine than in the Midwest,” she said. “I think, specifically, KU does a fantastic job of recruiting medical students who are going to be good for the specialty.”

Once residency is over, Dr. Gregory plans to move with her husband, Nate, and two daughters, Kylan and Kirstyn, to a rural Kansas area. She wants to join an existing practice where she can take care of families.

“I grew up thinking a doctor was a family medicine doctor,” she said. “And I just fell in love with it more and more.”

Melissa Chenoweth, MD

Now in her third year of residency, Dr. Chenoweth is predictably busy, but she still takes on more than is required of her. As well as putting in her shift at the medical center, she helps many in the Hispanic community receive the medical information and treatment they think they’re missing.

“I didn’t realize how big that void was,” she said.

Dr. Chenoweth has given presentations on such health care issues as prevention and immunizations to community groups and has answered health questions as a regular guest on a local Hispanic television show. Each time she volunteered or spoke to a group of people, she discovered a new place that needed help. In addition, she said it’s often difficult to find doctors who can speak Spanish.

Dr. Chenoweth said she enjoys communicating with those who speak Spanish and educating them about their health. “They come to the doctor too late,” she said. “I don’t think they really realize things can be prevented.

“Having a Phase I program in Wichita allows these patients to be treated at home with cutting-edge treatments.”

Tom Schulz, MD

Internal Medicine Assistant Professor

While the trial for Nanotax, which will include a total of 21 patients, first started in 2008 at the KU Cancer Center in Kansas City, the Phase I clinical trial at the Cancer Center of Kansas in Wichita, Jensen said, “moves us closer to fulfilling this mission by giving patients more options closer to home.”

The Wichita clinical trial will be directed by Shaker Dakhil, MD, FACP, Wichita’s Cancer Center president, and Tom Schulz, MD, Internal Medicine assistant professor at the KU School of Medicine–Wichita. Both are nationally known oncologists who currently conduct 116 Phase II and Phase III clinical trials between them.

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Shaker Dakhil, MD, FACP

Cancer Center of Kansas President

More options for patients

A vital step toward increasing treatment options for patients in Wichita and Kansas was taken this summer when a Phase I clinical trial for Nanotax — a drug developed by KU researchers used to treat ovarian and other types of cancer — opened in Wichita.

Nanotax is a reformulation of a common chemotherapy drug, Paclitaxel, which can have negative side effects. With Nanotax, cancer patients could experience more tolerable treatments.

“This is a critically important milestone,” Roy Jensen, MD, KU Cancer Center director, said at a news conference in July at the KU School of Medicine–Wichita. “Our mission is to ensure everyone across the state has access to cutting-edge clinical trials no matter where they live.”

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Some medical students want a lot, but can they have it all?

Balancing school and family can be a challenge

Pam Rizza — Married with a baby

A fourth-year medical student from Liberty, MO, Pam Rizza is a planner. She mapped out her education: high school to college to medical school. After she and Shawn were married in 2007, they strategically planned the birth of their first child.

“We definitely planned to have her right after third year was over,” she said. “I didn’t think it would be a good idea to do it in first-year residency because that’s going to be extremely busy and stressful.”

Their daughter, Kate, was born last July, and with Pam’s careful planning, she had worked ahead to allow herself to take off two months to spend with her daughter before returning to rotations in September.

Pam isn’t too concerned about the changes her family is undergoing while she’s a medical student. Shawn takes Kate to his mom’s house on his way to work each day at Stone Creek Nursery in McPherson, KS. Besides, she thinks her fourth year isn’t going to require too much of her attention at home because the fourth year focuses more on clinic rotations instead of classrooms and exams.

She said her biggest concern is about how many of her rotations will require her to be on call.

“If I’m on call, it’s going to be hard to be away from her a whole night and the next day,” she said of Kate. “I’ll be an adjustment period, but I don’t really have a choice. You just have to do what you can.”

Without Shawn’s help, Pam explained, she wouldn’t feel so confident about coping with the demands of school and motherhood.

“I don’t know that I do anything special,” Shawn said. “We’ve always put her education first.”

But Pam thinks otherwise. “I don’t think he realizes what he does; he just does it,” she said. “He’s made a lot of sacrifices to help me out.”

Pam’s family obligations are already influencing her decision about which specialty to choose. She’s interested in obstetrics but is concerned about the schedule and amount of time it would require.

“As a woman going into medicine, it’s intimidating,” she said, “because you have to think of so many things balancing, like family and how busy of a practice you want to have.”

Pam said she knows she’s going to have to be creative about how she sets up a practice and what work life is going to be like.

“Like having to react and make split-second decisions,” he said, though he concedes he has slipped up. Once while driving the EMS ambulance to a nursing home,

Adam Misasi — Married with 11-year-old son

Adam Misasi, a third-year medical student, and his wife, Brienne, say they think they have it all — family and career.

“It can be done,” he said. “We have no complaints.”

That’s not to say it’s been easy for them. While Adam went to medical school in Kansas City, KS, for two years, Brienne and their 11-year-old son Dylan stayed in Wichita where she works as a nurse. Adam would live in Kansas City through the week and drive to Wichita every weekend. However, he does think that students without families can more easily excel because their time isn’t divided up as much.

“I think it’s like playing golf with a handicap,” he said.

“If I could write the rules: for every kid you have, you get an extra five to 10 points per kid on every exam.”

By the numbers

Of the 113 third- and fourth-year students at the KU School of Medicine–Wichita:

- 31 are married
- 7 have one child
- 2 have two children
- 2 have three children
- 1 has four children

Numbers based on self-reporting by students.

Adam Misasi, third-year student, husband, and father

Adam got the ambulance wedged underneath the home’s awning. It earned him the nickname of “Wedge” from his co-workers.

While Adam and Brienne want to have more children, for now they’re dealing with each day as it comes.

“We just kind of got into the groove of things, and here we are,” Brienne said. And as for medical school, she added, “It’s already halfway over.”

Adam credits Brienne for their making a smooth transition from his being a paramedic to a medical school student. And that’s due in part, he said, to her understanding of what medical school and a physician’s life require.

“We were both 100 percent aware of what we were doing,” he said. “There were no surprises.”

Adam sums up their current situation this way: “I feel blessed to be where I’m at. In my mind, I have it all.”

The number of medical students who juggle academics and a home life? We sat down with two families to find out how they manage to maintain balance.
Lecture series ramps up to reach even more Kansans

Offering important health information to people in Wichita and beyond, the 2009-2010 Live & Learn Lecture Series began its season Sept. 15. Russell Scheffer, MD, Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences chair and professor, spoke on “Bipolar Disorder: Managing Mania in Children & Adolescents.” The monthly lecture series features an array of health topics that are presented free by KU School of Medicine–Wichita faculty to the public. About 95 people attended the lecture in Roberts Amphitheater after which Dr. Scheffer spoke with 20 area school counselors.

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The Deans Club, supporting KU School of Medicine--Wichita students, welcomed new members: Paul Callaway, MD, Westley Family Medicine residency program director and KU School of Medicine--Wichita Family and Community Medicine clinical associate professor, was serving as the 2009-2010 chair of the National Public Health Leadership Development Network (NPN). The NPN is a consortium of state, regional, and international public health leadership education, and training programs. Dr. Callaway is the co-director of the Kansas Public Health Leadership Institute (KPHLD) and also serves as the Kansas Department of Health and Environment director of a regional public health leadership initiative, the Kansas Missouri Oklahoma Regional Leaders Institute. At the conclusion of the Kansas Public Health Leadership Institute's program activities, a $200,000 grant was recently received from the Kansas Health Foundation.

Douglas D. Bradham, DrPH, MBA, chair of the Preventive Medicine and Public Health chair, was the recipient of the Kansas Health Foundation's Distinguished Professorship in Public Health. He is the third endowed professor at the KU School of Medicine-Wichita. Dr. Bradham also serves as a health economist and investigator at the Wichita-based Robert J. Daley Veterans Administration Medical Center. A reception honoring Dr. Bradham was held in July at the KU School of Medicine-Wichita Family Medicine clinic.

The Annual Jayhawk Roundup is set for Saturday, October 17, at the Mustang Stables, 1815 East 13th Street North in Wichita. This casual evening for friends of the University of Kansas raises money for scholarships for deserving Wichita-area KU students, including undergraduate students in law school as well as a third-year medical student at the KU School of Medicine-Wichita. With cocktails and the silent auction starting at 6:30 p.m., the evening’s event includes dinner and entertainment for $100 per person. For those under 35, a regular event ticket is $50 and a late arrival ticket good for dinner and entertainment is $75. For more information, to purchase tickets, or to help with the event, contact Lynda Loveland at lovlandl@kualumni.org or 316-308-3515.

Cheryl Weir, MD, is a Wichita-based family medical doctor. In that capacity, he is the medical liaison for the company’s contracting health care providers and is responsible for defining and resolving issues related to medical care. He also takes a leadership role in defining medical policies and procedures for BCBSKS.

Congratulations to radiology resident Adam Zarchan, MD, Sharien Gonda, MD, and Jed Malan, MD, as well as to members of the faculty Kanman Ali, MD, Daniel Davis, MD, and Charles McGuire, MD. The team came in second place in this year’s Kay Vydareny Image Interpretation Competition during the Association of University Radiologists Annual Program Directors’ meeting in May 2009 in Arlington, VA.

Ramona Warren, MD, Pediatrics clinical assistant professor, has successfully completed the American Board of Pediatrics’ requirements for board certification in Pediatric Emergency Medicine. The excellent level of care Dr. Warren brings to emergency medicine for the children of Wichita along with her board certification in emergency medicine highlights her commitment to continuing improvements.
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