Class of 2012: Student, faculty leaders honored

More than 800 University of Kansas Medical Center students were honored during graduation ceremonies this month, culminating in the University of Kansas’ 140th Commencement.

The medical center graduates – from the KU Schools of Health Professions, Medicine and Nursing – were among KU’s approximately 4,800 students graduating in 2012.

During her commencement address, May 13 in Lawrence, KU Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little, PhD, encouraged the new grads to be “part of something bigger than yourself, something that makes use of the skills and talents you honed here.”

She acknowledged pursuit of meaningful lives does not always involve immediate financial rewards. “But we know from Shakespeare that ‘All that glitters is not gold’ – a caution to avoid the perils of pursuing false riches,” Gray-Little said.

“And J. R. R. Tolkien reminds us, ‘All that is gold does not glitter.’ Do not overlook rewards simply because they do not shine as brightly.

“Do well – and do good. Lead successful careers and successful lives. Your rewards will be so much greater if you commit yourself to something world-changing and worthwhile.”

Medical center graduates took the traditional walk down Mount Oread, through the campanile and into Memorial Stadium. In the days leading up to commencement, graduates were the guests of honor at hooding and awards ceremonies, luncheons and recognition ceremonies.

Steven Stites, MD, called the hooding, award and commencement ceremonies “the most rewarding experience of my short time as acting executive vice chancellor” at the University of Kansas Medical Center.

KU School of Health Professions

On May 12 the school recognized 22 graduating students with university honors and 56 graduating students with departmental honors. Students initiated into honor societies were acknowledged for their academic achievements. The ceremony also recognized exceptional faculty and clinicians. In all, the KU School of Health Professions awarded 262 degrees in 2012.

James P. Cooney Leadership Award
Thomas M. Van Towle
Stata Norton Distinguished Teaching Award
Debby Daniels
Eric Elsinghorst
School of Health Professions Banner Carrier
David K. Kress
The Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions 2011 Scholarship of Excellence Award
Angela Jean Noll
KUMC Auxiliary Scholarships
Richard Jackson Leaf
Stephanie Anne White
Lawrence Memorial Hospital Auxiliary Scholarship 2011
Lawton Allen Hicks
Health Professions Alumni Association Scholarship
Allison Elizabeth Prewitt
Laura Stallbaumer
Visiting Nurse Association Scholarship
Natasha Lynn Parman
Merrill Shankel Scholarship
Stephanie Diane Gomez
Dean’s Scholarship Recipients
Megan Leanne Ash
Eileen Therese Coughenour
Randall Gene Evans, Raymore
Kari Rose Harrington
 Roxane Petra Carmen Henrici
David K. Kress
Karen Lea Mason
Angela Jean Noll
Naijun Parker
Lori Kay Yearout

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DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS

Clinical Laboratory Sciences

Bertha Martha Conner Scholarship
Clarissa Beth Smith

Alan Voos Memorial Scholarship
Abby Yeboaah Asamoah

June Hull Sherrid Scholarship
April Coleman
Shelly Dawn Barker
Sofia Laura Hagebolling
Derik Allen Harlow
Andrew Jones
Andrew Joseph Kaehr
Lauren Ashley Parsons
Nico Anne Sambol
Scott Richard Smith
Stephanie D. Snodgrass
Jessica Marie Lynn Thimesch
Khánh Luu Trinh
Lori Kay Yearout

Cytotechnology

Geraldine Johnson Award for Clinical Excellence
David K. Kress

Health Information Management

Academic Achievement Award
Kelly Ann Gerard

Faculty Award to the Outstanding Health Information Management Student
Andrew James Claassen

Health Information Management Program Fall 2011 Scholarship
Haylee Pickell

Respiratory Care

Faculty Award to the Outstanding Respiratory Care Student
Robert E. Thurm

Dietetics and Nutrition

Sewie Nelson Scholarship
Jessica Rubin

Ruth Gordon Award
Kayli Hrdlicka

Rowena Sherrell Award
Claire McCaslin Cody, 2012
Randall Gene Evans, 2011

Hearing and Speech

William M. Diedrich Award for the Outstanding Student in Speech-Language Pathology
Karen Lea Mason

Cornelius P. Goetzinger Award for the Outstanding Student in Audiology
Megan Leanne Ash

Jacob R. Osman Award for Outstanding Pediatric Speech-Language Pathology Student
Lyda Kendrick

Shirley J. Salmon, Ph.D. and Thomas Lee Salmon Scholarship
Karen Lea Mason
Rachel Ferren Thompson

Nurse Anesthesia

George DeVane Excellence Award
Patrick Aaron Davidson
Stephanie Anne White

Kansas Nursing Foundation-George DeVane Scholarship
Andrew Sledge

American Association of Nurse Anesthetists-Ruth M. Wright Memorial Scholarship
Andrew Sledge

Occupational Therapy

Elizabeth Collins Award for Leadership and Professionalism
Angela Jean Noll

Jane M. H. Underwood Award for Outstanding Potential as an Artful Practitioner
Ryan Bird

Frank Gurtler Memorial Award for the Most Inspirational Student
Tyler A. Schrant
Kaylee Ann Sarratt

Andy Thompson Student Award Established in Memory of an OT Graduate
Alisha Ann Schoel
Barbara Reber Umlauf Scholarship
Angela Jean Noll

Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science

Marsha E. Melnick Research Award
Melissa Erin Feeney
Ronald Eric Harder
Megan Elizabeth McClain
Natasha Lynn Parman
Elouise van Swearingen

Chairperson’s Outstanding Student Award
Kathryn Mari Bartley
Dawn Marie Smathers
Jimmie J. Wilson

Joan Mills Clinical Excellence Award
Gabe Jared Harter

Bill Dunn Clinical Excellence Award
Natasha Lynn Parman

Ruth G. Monteith Outstanding Achievement Award
Thomas M. Van Towle

Penny Cohn Scholarship Award
Erin Teresa Boidock
Eileen Therese Cougheenour

Beverly A. Drake Fellowship Award
Meghan Elyse Cassidy

Banner carrier David Kress (right) joined Karen Miller, RN, PhD, dean of the KU School of Health Professions, during commencement ceremonies May 13 in Lawrence.

Ellie van Swearingen (below), a Doctor of Physical Therapy graduate, was hooded by Neena Sharma, PT, PhD (left), and Sandra Billinger, PT, PhD. The department is part of the KU School of Health Professions.
KU School of Medicine

The KU School of Medicine honored graduating students for their exceptional accomplishments during its annual Hooding and Awards Ceremony May 12 in the Lied Center in Lawrence.

Merck Manual Awards
Joseph Donald, MD
Dustin Elliott, MD
Brett Malone, MD
Alan Martinez, MD

Janet M. Glasgow-Rubin Certificate of Commendation
Allison Aripoli, MD
JoHanna Donald, MD
Michelle Fincham, MD
Diane Lieter, MD
Emily Roth, MD
Whitney Smith, MD
Rebecca Weiss, MD

Helmuth Sprinz Award
David Scoville, MD
Edward V. Williams Award
Keniesha Thompson, MD

OCED Personal Perseverance Award
Kenosha F. Hobson, MD

The Advocacy Award, Kansas City
Nichole Downing, MD
Dustin Elliott, MD

Perseverance Award
Elisha Jackson, MD

Endocrine Society’s Medical Student Achievement Award
Nichole Downing, MD

Pride in the Profession Award
Sheldon Leslie, MD

Academic Excellence Award, Kansas City
David Scoville, MD
Justin Steiner, MD

The Outstanding Student in Otolaryngology Award
Michelle Fincham, MD

The Department of Ophthalmology Medical Student Award
Whitney Smith, MD

The Mary Packwood Memorial Award
Rochelle Herre, MD

The MaryAnn McMullan Memorial Award
Brooke Dunlavy, MD

Emergency Medicine Award
Bryan Beaver, MD

W. Clarke Wescoe Award
Justin Steinert, MD

The Norman L. Martin Award
Ashley Inciardi Huppe, MD

Mahlon H. Delp Award, Kansas City
Martha Allen, MD

The KAFP-Foundation Hostetter Award
Nathan Smith, MD
Brooke Dunlavy, MD

Norge W. Jerome Preventive Medicine Excellence Award
Meggan Spokes, MD
Tom D.Y. Chin Preventive Medicine Excellence Award
Nicholas Stucky, MD

The Dr. Daniel C. Darrow Award
Dustin Elliott, MD

The Dr. Herbert C. Miller Award
Erin Anderson, MD

The Kyle Lee Gratny Memorial Award
Joshua Stewart, MD

The Dr. Louise deSchweinitz Award
Jessilyn Humble, MD

James G. Price, MD, Award for Excellence in Family Medicine
Neela Sandal, MD

Dewey K. Ziegler Neurology Award
Robert J. Murphy, MD

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The Ronald L. Martin Clerkship Award
Greg Gheradini, MD
Robert H. Robinson, MD Award
Jaya Arora, MD
Karl E. Becker, Jr., MD Award
Lara Felts, MD

Health Policy and Management, and Preventive Medicine and Public Health
Two departments in the KU School of Medicine – Health Policy and Management, and Preventive Medicine and Public Health – recognized graduates and faculty during a hooding ceremony May 12 in Battenfeld Auditorium.

HEALTH POLICY AND MANAGEMENT
Master of Health Services Administration
Bret G. Hammig Award
Patrick McCraney
Kayla Schuster
Health Care Executive of the Future Award
Kory Barrett

PREVENTIVE MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH
Master of Public Health – Kansas City Campus
Excellence in Public Health Teaching Award
Megha Ramaswamy
Analee E. “Betsy” Beisecker Public Health Excellence Award
Rebecca Mullen

KU School of Nursing
The school recognized 14 graduating students with awards and honors. Members of the academic honor society for nursing, Sigma Theta Tau, were acknowledged for outstanding achievement. The ceremony also recognized exceptional faculty and clinicians. In all, the KU School of Nursing graduated 237 students in 2012.

Daisy Awards, Undergraduate Teacher
Kathy Fletcher, PhD, RN
Daisy Awards, Graduate Teacher
Cindy Teel, PhD, RN
Phyllis Keeney Lawrence Teaching Award in Nursing
Mary Meyer, RN
Day Award for High Distinction
Molly Adams
Morieza Rabii
Dean’s Award
Katie Summers
Colleen P. Kosiak Graduate Student Clinical Excellence Award
Brett Michael Haynes
Jeanne Quesenbury Award for Excellence in Clinical Skills
Reese Fauser
Registered Nurse Award
Nicole Stewart
Kay Schlichter Award for Undergraduate Leadership
Yara Neilenschultz
Dr. Valmi Delfino De Sousa Award of Excellence for Dissertation Research
Besher Gharaibeh
Hester Thurston Award for Graduate Leadership
Regina Johnson

SIGMA THETA TAU HONOR SOCIETY FOR NURSING, DELTA CHAPTER AWARDS
Outstanding Senior
Elaine Davis
Master’s Award for Leadership
Michael Hastings
Doctoral Award for Leadership
Brenda Tyczkowski

UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS NURSES ALUMNI AWARDS
Outstanding Senior Award
Taylor Nicole Buckler
Elaine Davis
E. Jean M. Hill Award for Outstanding Clinical Performance
Anna Thomas
Ruth O. McKibben Alumni Research Award
Besher Gharaibeh
Henrietta Froehlke Award for Leadership
Michael Hastings

JAYHAWKER RN INSTRUCTOR AWARDS
Lecture Award
Jill Peltzer, RN
Clinical Award
Nancy Barr, RN