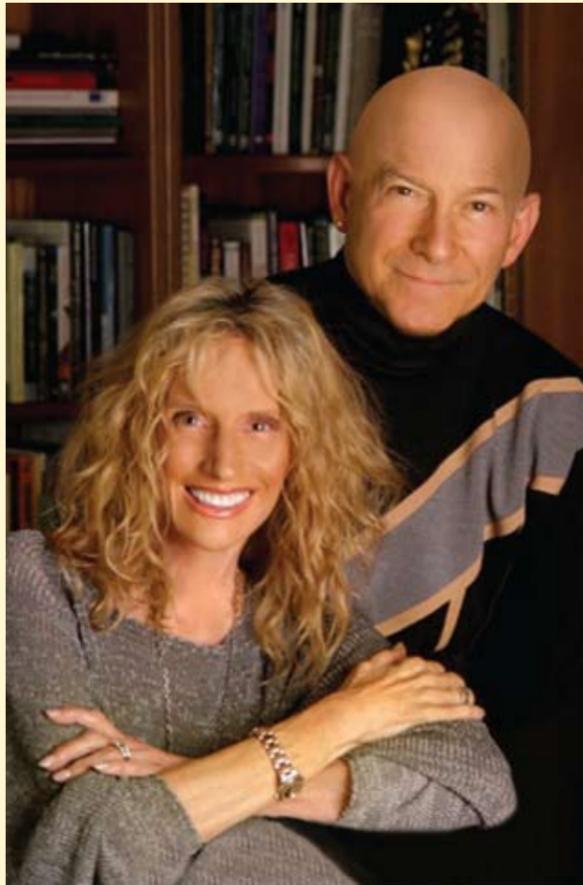


A life of collaboration and creativity



Alumni Sarah (B.A. '65) and Paul Edwards (B.A. '62) have appeared on *The Today Show* and *The Oprah Winfrey Show*.

We live in an age where we wonder how we can create a simpler life, have more time with family and friends, or just reduce the stress level of our lives.

Sarah and Paul Edwards are two College alumni who have made the leap from thought to action many times throughout their lives, creating a lifestyle that is part reality, part dream.

Their life collaboration began 45 years ago, when they were students at UMKC. As students, the flexibility of their schedules allowed them to see each other often, but they experienced a noticeable shift in their lifestyles after graduation. Sarah worked for the federal Head Start program, and Paul started his own law firm. Both traveled extensively and laugh remembering how they sometimes waved to each other at the airport as they came and went.

"We never saw each other in the daylight," Sarah said. "We were always trying to figure out how we could see each other more than in the dark."

In 1974, they realized working from home was their solution. It didn't take long for friends and acquaintances to become curious about what appeared to be a perfect situation, which led to questions about how they too could work from home. Those questions prompted the writing of the first of 17 books about intertwining career and life choices.

Soon after writing their first book, Sarah and Paul moved to Los Angeles to take advantage of publishing, radio, and TV opportunities. Despite continuing to work primarily from home, they discovered that their lifestyle was once again drifting away from their ideals. In fact, what they found they were missing most was the sense of community they enjoyed in Kansas City and at UMKC.

"I loved UMKC," Sarah said. "I loved it because the professors were so interesting, so bright, and so engaging with the students. It was a nice, small campus; it wasn't just this massive body of people."

Sarah and Paul found that L.A. was just too big. Again, their solution involved relocating, but this time it was less than 100 miles away to a small community located in the Los Padres National Forest. Nestled in a picturesque mountain

setting, they established the Pine Mountain Institute, where they write, provide consulting services, and offer online continuing education classes. It's also their home, and the nexus for what Paul calls "localized social activity."

"What we see as a solution to many of the challenges we face today is 'relocalization' – bringing people back to their local communities where they're earning a living and relating to things that are going on in their community," says Sarah.

Sarah and Paul say they recognize that multiple solutions and lifestyles exist, and that creativity and collaboration are ultimately what will help people negotiate the environmental and economic challenges they face. These approaches to work and living are the focus of their latest book, *Middle Class Lifeboat: Careers and Life Choices for Navigating a Changing Economy*. In addition to discussing 50 unique career choices, they also explore nine alternative lifestyles, such as living on the road or at sea.

"What we see as a solution to many of the challenges we face today is 'relocalization' - bringing people back to their local communities where they're earning a living and relating to things that are going on in their community." -Sarah Edwards

Sarah and Paul hosted a long-running show on HGTV and they have appeared on *The Today Show* and *The Oprah Winfrey Show*. They have more than 2 million books in print, and the third edition of their book, *Home-based Business for Dummies*, is being released in December. According to Sarah, the goal of their work is "to move people from worry to action in their community."

Discover the "contemporary cabaret" of Alacartoon

To the public, Alacartoon is a band. But to its members, Alacartoon is a she, the essence of a person, and a big part of their lives. And judging by Alacartoon's recent popularity at the Kansas City Fringe Festival and the sold-out concert at Off-Center Theatre in Crown Center, "she" is musical entertainment this city loves to follow.

Jennifer Martin, UMKC Professor of Theatre, describes Alacartoon as "a unique mix of the European cabaret tradition of the 20th century with contemporary performance."

"What results is a new form – the contemporary cabaret - with specific characters who interact in music and words to make a compelling evening of theatre," Martin said.

"(The band is) a unique mix of the European cabaret tradition of the 20th century with contemporary performance." -Jennifer Martin

The four founding members came to UMKC by way of Iowa and Kansas City and connected through friends and serendipity. The original four members include Erin McGrane (B.A. '90), Christian Hankel (B.A. '91, '01), Gregg Jackson (B.A. '87) and Steve Morse (B.M. '93), who recently left Alacartoon. Kyle Dahlquist, accordion, is now the fourth performer in the group.

The band's inception began about seven years ago when Hankel began exploring his German heritage. His grandparents moved to the United States from Frankfurt, and his link to Germany's past intrigued him, especially the time between the reign of the Kaiser and the Nazi invasion of Poland as portrayed in the Academy Award-winning musical, "Cabaret." As he learned about this period, he realized it would provide an excellent musical and performance platform.

His excitement was contagious: not only did the others embrace this concept, but they began their own research on the era to ensure the music and show would be historically accurate.

Alacartoon's first performance was at a friend's fundraiser, where they barely pulled together four songs and wore street clothes. Alacartoon evolved, however, developing a signature look by donning wigs, garters, painted nails and make-up on both genders, adding to the glamour and allure. Each member even developed a persona and stage name to heighten the intrigue.

McGrane plays the guitar and covers lead vocals as the chanteuse "Ruby Falls." She has relished her role, educating herself about women of the era and how they gained female empowerment and supported themselves.

"Ruby Falls is part songstress, part actress, part temptress and all entertainer," Martin said. "She's delightfully engaging and keeps her admirers on the edge of their seats."

The men of Alacartoon transform into captivating characters as well. Drummer and World War I researcher Jackson becomes "Bachelor Calwood" on stage. As "Providence Forge," Hankel serves as emcee, plays the bass, performs vocals and writes the music.

Alacartoon performs monthly at Jardine's, a Kansas City restaurant and jazz venue, as well as other locations, and sold out performances aren't uncommon.

"All ages seem to enjoy us," Hankel said. "The older couples thank us for the performance, as do the young adults at the next table."

Because of the unique history-based musical performance aspect of Alacartoon, the band is not only being noticed by the public, but it was recently awarded a grant by the ArtsKC Fund. With continued fundraising efforts, the group will debut an upcoming film, "Night is the Mirror," this fall.

Alacartoon's Web site, www.alacartoon.com, further exemplifies the members' creativity and imagination. Find their performance calendar there, so you can experience Alacartoon live. Then you might understand that what embodies the inspiration and passion of these UMKC alumni is not just a band. "She" is much more than that.



Alacartoon is Kyle Dahlquist and alumni Christian Hankel, Gregg Jackson and Erin McGrane.



School of Social Work professor Gloria Anderson

Alumna helps people confront end-of-life decisions

Social workers help people with life. Gloria Anderson (MSW, '06) is helping people with an especially sensitive part of life: death.

A clinical instructor at the UMKC School of Social Work, Anderson is an international author and motivational speaker. She is founder and president of Heart Tones, a company that offers educational and inspirational workshops, presentations and products. Her personal experience with elderly relatives and extensive research for her masters' thesis culminated in her ground-breaking publication, *The African American Spiritual and Ethical Guide to End of Life Care: What Y'all Gon' Do With Me?*

All ethnicities have difficulties talking about end-of-life issues, but Anderson's research found that it can be especially troubling for African Americans.

"Many African Americans have not had equal access or used end-of-life care options such as hospice and palliative care," she explains. "For example, only 8 percent of African Americans utilize hospice care, as compared to 84 percent of whites."

According to Anderson, three recurring themes affect end-of-life decision-making for many African Americans: history of disparity and mistrust, generational family values, and spirituality, religion and culture. But she says she believes the issues can be overcome through education.

"I feel that speaking to and educating groups, organizations and individuals within the community is the best approach to helping increase greater access and utilization of end-of-life care services," she says.

"I have always loved helping others, and I feel that my life course is directed to doing that." –Gloria Anderson

Anderson's passion for helping others didn't begin with her graduate work, though.

"I have always loved helping others, and I feel that my life course is directed to doing that," she said. "Receiving my MSW has provided a solid foundation to do so professionally."

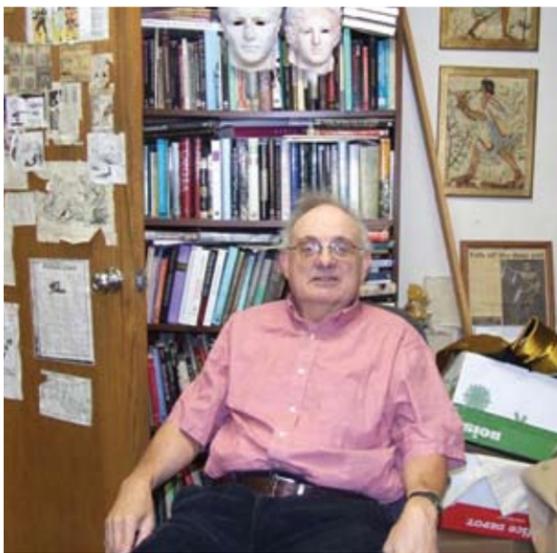
Anderson has presented workshops and lectured throughout the United States and Canada, and also published a motivational work, *Passion For Your Purpose – Discovering Peace, Direction and Balance in Your Life*, and an inspirational book of original poetry titled *While I Wait*.

On the



College of Arts and Sciences

UMKC
Fall 2009



After over four decades of service, Dr. Jim Falls is retiring.

Jim Falls, the College's "one-man recruitment and retention center" to retire

Every school has one: a teacher who achieves legendary status, becoming an intrinsic part of the school's culture. That teacher brings course material to life, filling the classroom with passion and making personal connections with the students. Since 1967, Dr. Jim Falls has been that person in the College of Arts and Sciences.

A long-time professor in the Department of History, Falls recently announced his upcoming retirement. To help honor his indomitable spirit and years of service to the University, a scholarship has been established in Dr. Falls' name. Your gift can help make the scholarship a reality. To donate, contact Karen English at 816-235-1139, or e-mail englishk@umkc.edu

Do you have a favorite Jim Falls story? If so, we would love to hear it! Please e-mail to Karen English, UMKC College of Arts and Sciences Director of Advancement, englishk@umkc.edu.

UMKC College of Arts and Sciences



Dean's corner



Dean Karen Vorst

It has been an interesting year here at UMKC and in the College. Like many institutions across the country, we faced significant budgetary challenges. To help meet those challenges, we cut expenditures and imposed a hiring freeze. As we look at some individuals and institutions outside of the University who have been impacted by

the recession, we believe that we have weathered this storm fairly well. In essence, we have successfully continued our missions of teaching, research and service, while continuing to plan for the better days ahead.

On a very bright note, our College enrollment numbers were up in both fall and spring semesters last year. This may be due in part to the fact that individuals tend to go back to school during times of economic downturn, but some credit for the rise in enrollment must also go to our increased marketing efforts. With faculty and staff input, we created a recruitment plan for the College, and have been working

with Admissions to implement it. Our retention policy is in full swing and we are anticipating significant results this coming year. We are also working on a complete revision of our College Web sites, including every department and program in the College. With more than 50 Web sites to complete, this project likely will take another year to complete, but will put us in a better position to continue to attract the best and the brightest students, faculty and staff.

We also know that facilities matter, and new buildings are shooting up all over campus. The new soccer stadium, named for Stanley H. Durwood, founder of AMC Theaters and a huge soccer fan, opened this fall, and we opened another residence hall, Herman and Dorothy Johnson Hall, helping to alleviate a critical need for students who want to live on campus.

The Miller Nichols Library expansion project is in its first phase with the installation of an automatic retrieval system. The library is still open during construction and we are excited about the eventual transformation of the library into a community learning center with more space for teaching, learning and research collaboration.

Finally, a new Student Union is also under construction after its official ground breaking this past spring. The new facility will add 110,000 square feet to the campus and will house student organizations, dining facilities, and provide meeting rooms and areas for student gatherings.

Be sure to visit our new Web site for information on these projects and for up-to-date news on all things UMKC. Go Roos!



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