

## Kansas City, Mo.-area Universities to offer medical MBA program

by Donna Gehrke-White  
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Rockhurst University and the University of Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine plan to offer an MBA program for medical students beginning in June.

Officials with the two Kansas City universities said medical students would be able to earn a Rockhurst MBA degree along with a doctor of osteopathic medicine degree from the University of Health Sciences.

The classes will be at Rockhurst, a Jesuit university just east of Troost Avenue on Rockhurst Road. A growing number of physicians have sought MBA degrees in recent years as the nation's health

care reimbursement systems have become more complex.

Karen Pletz, president of the University of Health Sciences, said faculty from the two universities had been formulating the medical MBA program for about three years.

"We want to provide our physicians in the 21st century the ability to manage in a business sense, as well as to be highly competent in a medical sense," Pletz said. Business training will help physicians become leaders in the health care field, she added.

Bill Bassett, deputy director of Rockhurst's health care leadership program, said Rockhurst planned to expand the medical MBA program and make it more widely available in coming years.

## Divorced father must pay half of sons' tuition, court says

by Billy O'Keefe  
TMS Campus  
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Divorced father Roger Zenn is responsible for paying half of his sons' college tuition and fees, a New Jersey appeals court ruled this week.

A panel of three judges ruled that Zenn must pay half of son David's tuition at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., and further ruled that the New Jersey dentist must do the same for younger son Jacob, presently a senior in high school.

Counsel for Roger Zenn argued that the father was not trying to skirt responsibility, but that he felt his son's choice of school was more than he bargained for.

With fees, a year of tuition at GWU costs roughly \$31,000, court records show. Zenn's lawyer, Stephen E. Sannick, argued that his client should only have to pay around \$6,500, or roughly half the cost of tuition and fees for in-state students at Rutgers Univer-

sity in Camden, N.J.

While in the stages of a 1989 divorce, Zenn and former wife Carol Finger agreed in writing to evenly divide payments for their children's college education.

But nine years later, when David began looking at colleges, Sannick sent a letter to Finger's lawyers stating that his client, in hopes of eliminating any legal wrangling, would simply pay half of Rutgers' asking price.

In the end, the panel ruled that as long as the money is there, there is no reason for the older Zenn to go back on his word.

"Obviously, the parties' ability to pay is a critical factor in the selection of a college," read the decision.

"However, unless the parties otherwise agree, selection of a college for a child of the marriage should not be governed by an artificial bottom line."

A decision to appeal the case has yet to be announced but is under consideration.

## Winter 2001: A tale of 2 regions

by Billy O'Keefe  
TMS Campus

As if there weren't enough reasons for students to love winter break.

With an inventory rollout that would put any department store to shame, this equal opportunity winter season has provided Americans with lavish amounts of snow, ice and colder than cold temperatures.

After enjoying a string of winters with sparse snowfall and mild temperatures, some part of the country have seen their cold-weather immunity disappear like the mercury in their thermometers.

For most students, however, winter break came just in time. Instead of shoveling a path from the dorm to the lecture hall or cheating death on icy highways, students could stay inside, sleep late, and kick back while Mother Nature cleaned up the mess she made. That is, if she doesn't knock out your power in the process.

"We were fortunate in that the storms came just as students were finishing finals," says Roger Williams, vice chancellor for university relations at the University of Arkansas, which kicks off its second semester this week. "Still, some students actually came back toward the end of last week, because the campus had electricity, and a lot of places, including much of Little Rock, did not."

While the southern United States may not be known for its chilling winds and buckets of snow, a good chunk of the region felt the wrath of winter through a pair of crippling ice storms, which left dozens of people homeless and scores more with property damage and no power.

Williams says that the storms, and the bitterly cold weather that accompanied them, punished less-prepared areas like Fayetteville that much more.

"This is not Chicago," he said. "We're not accustomed to this, and there is not nearly as

good an infrastructure to remedy the situation."

A few degrees up north, in Markato, Minn., the snow and the cold are just settling in for the long winter ahead. But that, according to Karen Wright, director of media relations at Minnesota State University, is just fine.

"The snow, for us to close, would have to be absolutely catastrophic," she says.

Students up north aren't invincible, and even they are no match for icy roads or blistering wind-chill temperatures, which can sink as low as 90 degrees below zero.

Cold winters, however, are a way of life at MSU. And according to Wright, students attending school up north know that snow, and lots of it, comes with the territory.

"We expect it, and we have such a huge system of snowplows and salting that we're constantly on top of it," she says. "We might have to cancel events here and there, but even that is very, very rare."

Case in point: MSU's wintertime commencement ceremony, which honors students who graduated

following the summer or fall 2000 semesters. As temperatures took a nosedive, calls poured in from parents and would-be graduates, some of whom most likely wanted to know how long, not if, the ceremony would be postponed.

But the show, like the snow, must go on.

"We have a lot of parents and family who travel from far away to attend the ceremony, and we can't just call it off," Wright says. "So we went on as normal. And while we lost a few people because of the weather, we had an extremely respectable turnout."

Asked how her counterparts to the south might handle Minnesota's annual freeze, Wright laughs.

"That's funny," she says. "If some schools in the south get an so much as an inch of snow, they close down."

Unfortunately for a large chunk of the south, it wasn't snow, but ice, that slowed things to a crawl.

"It's been very tough in this part of the country," says Williams, who adds that parts of Oklahoma, Texas and southern Missouri were

equally taken by surprise. "It's been brutal by comparison. Unusually cold."

But with the exception of one final exam day that had to be rescheduled for the Sunday before break, UA has gotten through the storms with little damage. Schools everywhere benefited from the good timing of winter break, which ends just as temperatures return to normal and sizeable portions of the snow and mice melt away.

"Our finals were complete the day before the first storm," says Straley Snipes, coordinator of university communications at Arkansas State University. "Offices were closed down for a day and a half, but other than that, we've been lucky. Students should have no trouble returning to campus."

Of course, all the good timing in the world can't save schools from that other weather-related problem: the gas bill.

"We're paying twice as much, about \$2 million, for heat this year," says Wright. "That hurts. But that's a whole other story."



KRT PHOTO BY JOE ODEN

While it may be shocking to students in Arkansas and Texas, the snow is nothing new for Kong Thao, left, and Acha Yang, shown here helping their St. Paul, Minn., neighbors by shoveling snow out of an alley.

## Web music still a free-for-all, users vow

by Lou Carlozo  
Chicago Tribune  
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By his own account, 20-year-old Bradley Coleman, a junior at Rutgers University in New Jersey, is a clean-cut college kid. "I'm a very moral person," he said. "I never steal. I don't gossip. However..."

Mention the Internet -- music in particular -- and the computer-science major dishes a guilt-riddled confession: "I'm a die-hard pirate on the Net."

Coleman has downloaded nearly 2,000 free songs in the form of MP3s -- musical files that can be sent from one computer to another, much like e-mail. He plucked a good chunk of those cuts from Napster, a service that allows its users to trade music without paying a cent.

And while Napster is the most prominent target of the record industry's anti-piracy efforts on the Internet (and, indeed, the subject of a pending merger with a record company), it is but one of many places where people can go for free music.

And trying to shutter them all, industry experts say, is like playing a no-win game of virtual whack-a-mole: Pound away at one site and another one (or 10) will pop up somewhere else.

"It's obvious that things like Napster will continue forever and it's impossible to try to control them," said Shellac guitarist and Chicago-based recording engineer Steve Albini. "I have absolutely no complaint with Napster and other protocols for exchanging music. They are free exchanges. There's absolutely no money involved. To my ears, it's as harmless

as making a cassette copy to trade with a friend."

Albini raises a key distinction that separates Napster and its ilk from the traditional "pirates" or bootleggers: no one, it seems, makes any from money bartering music via the Web.

But record-industry heavyweights, translating all of that free song traffic into lost income, see the piracy question in entirely opposite terms, and they are still trying to shut down Napster in federal court for copyright infringement.

Meanwhile Coleman, like many Napster users, admits mixed emotions over his downloading jones. "I would never steal so much as a Tootsie Roll in real life," he said. "But the Internet is all about getting something for nothing."

And it is that Webhead manifesto -- "something for nothing" -- that promises to keep the Internet's free music suppliers operating well after Napster either closes or morphs into a subscription service.

"The thing that really (ticks) me off about this Napster thing is that they are thieves, period," said Michael Greene, president of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences. "People think they're ripping off the record companies, and who minds ripping them off? Maybe what they don't recognize is when they (use Napster), the artists, the studios, the engineers -- the entire food chain that's involved in this -- is harmed. And we've got to sensitize people to that fact."

Still, Greene acknowledges that the record industry has created a lot of ill will over the last two decades by overcharging consumers for mediocre CDs -- and that free music sites, legal or no, are likely here to stay.

"It's cutting off a lizard's tail; he'll just grow another one," Greene said. "I don't think we should spend a whole lot of money trying to come up with secure digital music. It'll just get hacked. What we've got to do is give

filler material."

What the music moguls seem to overlook is that free music, somewhere down the line, can translate into a big payoff. Such was the logic when Tom Petty gave out his single "Free Girl



Napster founder Shawn Fanning.

consumers more value for their money and give people six or seven good cuts on a CD instead of loading it up with

Now" on MP3.com last year. His record label, Warner Brothers, pulled the plug after a few days.

But some 150,000 people downloaded the song -- meaning that Petty can target merchandising efforts directly to those listeners. It's also likely that he picked up thousands of new (and record-buying) fans in the process.

For a more old-fashioned example, consider the Grateful Dead, a band that not only allowed but encouraged fans to make unauthorized "bootleg" recordings of all its live concerts.

Years of tape swapping spread the band's renown and won it one of the most loyal followings in rock history. A key element in those cases is that the artists themselves authorized the giveaways. Anti-Napster acts such as Metallica argue that it amounts to piracy when others do the giving away on a grand scale, without permission. Still, it's equally possible that prior to suing Napster, Metallica benefited from free exposure on the exchange.

"I have bought some artists' CDs that I had never heard of, all because of the free service on Napster," said Shannon Biehl, 22, a college student from Rockingham, N.C. "You only have to download what you want and if something is trashy, you can delete it."

Like many Napster fans, Biehl fears that if another free site gets a lot of publicity and traffic, "the greedy, money-grubbing record companies will go after them." Yet a big reason free music will continue on the Internet is that unlike Napster, exchanges such as Freenet and Gnutella operate without central server computers. That means they cannot be intercepted and silenced by authorities.

However, such freedom (or at least free music) comes with other costs: time and frustration. Near gridlock conditions often await visitors to

Gnutella, and learning the ropes of the service is much harder than on Napster.

"The saving grace is that those systems are very cumbersome and don't work very well," said entertainment attorney Owen Sloane, who has represented artists including Elton John and Fleetwood Mac. "But that's not for long. Technology moves so quickly, and it's so easy to get a college or high school kid who develops something and it spreads like wild fire."

What's more, new Internet pirates can easily evade the grasp of authorities by setting up operations outside the U.S. Still, the question remains what motivation there might be in it, other than the love of music itself. Despite all the publicity and a user base of some 38 million, Napster had yet to make any money before it announced a partnership with German media giant Bertelsmann AG in October.

Whether that alliance takes effect depends on the federal court decision, which could be announced any day now. Win or lose, it's the end of free music on Napster -- though definitely not the end of free music on the Web. Loyal as he is to Napster, Coleman said he would leave in search of free songs elsewhere "in a heartbeat." Millions of others will likely join him, and where there is demand, Coleman believes, suppliers will soon follow, whether or not there's money to be made.

"The reason that the record companies went after Napster and no one else is because Napster does it the best," Coleman said. "I would have done exactly the same -- go after the main one, not the small fry. However, they should know that someone else will fill the void."