



Jason Chen, D.O., '08, with his family after KCOM's commencement ceremony in May.

By Lee Cashatt

A likely vessel

Jason Chen, D.O., '08, is a passionate man, doing great things in the name of healthcare.

But he'd be the last one to say so.

During his first year at KCOM, Dr. Chen was instrumental in forming the Musical Cure, putting the healing power of music to work in local hospitals, hospice homes, and nursing homes to create greater harmony of the body, mind, and spirit. From the get-go, this ambitious undertaking, inspired by a similar group at Yale University, produced amazing results in the community. Even so, Dr. Chen humbly refers to himself as only a "vessel."

"I was just in the right place at the right time," he says.

But as Louis Pasteur said: "Chance favors the prepared mind," and Dr. Chen was preparing for his next challenge. His interest in musical therapy, which continued into his clinical training in New Jersey, led him to take a one-year hiatus to focus on medical informatics and clinical research.

Dr. Chen then landed an internship in clinical research informatics at the National

Recent grad shares his musical, medical passion

Institute of Health in Bethesda, Md., in the summer of 2006, and received an Arnold P. Gold Foundation fellowship at Columbia University in the fall. His internship and fellowship, combined with a clinical research fellowship from KCOM, allowed him to spend the balance of the 2007 academic year at Yale University School of Medicine.

During his fellowship, he led business and clinical development efforts for an interdisciplinary team of Stanford and MIT engineers, M.B.A.s, and physicians to develop a patent-pending wireless patient vital signs monitor that won first place in Yale's 2007 Entrepreneurship Competition.

He then joined a team of multidisciplinary researchers at Yale under the leadership of Zeev N. Kain, M.D., a leading authority in the clinical management of perioperative fear and anxiety in children and adults, in the Center for the Advancement of Perioperative Health. Dr. Chen's research on the impact of music in the surgical recovery room brought him full circle with the Musical Cure.

What began with Dr. Chen's entrepreneurial spirit and his fingers on the piano, the Musical Cure paved the way for new collaborations and research opportunities. Just days before graduating from KCOM in May, Dr. Chen presented his research findings on the beneficial impact of music in the perioperative setting.

In a room full of classmates, professors, and administrators, Dr. Chen shared his modest formula for success: "There's societal pressure to do something prestigious with your life, but I believe if you do something you love, the rest will follow."