

Mayor honors Comninellis for humanitarian efforts



Nicholas Comninellis, M.D., '82, (third from left) received the 2009 Kansas City World Citizen of the Year award from Kansas City Mayor Mark Funkhouser, (far right) at the annual Mayor's United Nations Day Dinner on Oct. 29, 2009. Pictured with Comninellis and Funkhouser are Teng-Kee Tan, Ph.D., (left) dean of UMKC's Henry W. Bloch School of Business and Public Administration, and Radhika Coomaraswamy, U.N. Under Secretary-General.

Nicholas Comninellis, M.D., '82, assistant clinical professor of community and family medicine, has a passion for providing medical service to those around the world who can least afford it. He spent a year in China serving inner city citizens at the Shanghai Charity Hospital. During a two-year period, he initiated a health ministry in the war-torn city of Huambo, Angola, in southern Africa. He has served on medical assignments throughout Central America, Africa, and Asia in areas including Honduras, Haiti, Zimbabwe, Burkina Faso, Niger, and Kuning.

In 2003, Comninellis began the Institute for International Medicine (InMed), an organization devoted to the educational aspects of international medicine. He currently serves as president of InMed.

Kansas City Mayor Mark Funkhouser honored Comninellis for his humanitarian efforts by presenting

him with the Kansas City World Citizen of the Year award for 2009 at the Mayor's United Nations Day Dinner on Oct. 29, 2009, in the University of Missouri-Kansas City Pierson Auditorium at the University Center. The award recognizes outstanding contributions to the world community on the part of individual citizens from the greater Kansas City area. It is presented each year at the Mayor's United Nations Day Dinner.

Radhika Coomaraswamy, who currently serves as U.N. Under Secretary-General and special representative for Children and Armed Conflict, delivered the keynote speech at this year's dinner event, addressing child welfare advocates and the Kansas City community on the responsibilities of protecting children who are caught in armed conflicts around the world. She is the second highest-ranking U.N. official to visit Kansas City.