



Sisters Without Borders – Two Journeys in Medicine That Began at KCC



(from left – Dr. Annie Kotto '93 and Dr. Anne-Marie Moukala-Cadet '94)

Last October, over 900 students, alumni, faculty and staff were in attendance at Kingsborough's homecoming celebration, where they enjoyed a fun-filled day of activities and entertainment. Among the attendees were keynote speakers Dr. Annie Kotto '93 and Dr. Anne-Marie Moukala-Cadet '94, two sisters who told their stories of emigrating from Cameroon to the United States and their time as Kingsborough students. Today, both are accomplished medical doctors, and at Homecoming they were particularly proud to show off Kingsborough to their own special guests: "My sister and I have children who are old enough to understand the importance of our KCC experience," Dr. Kotto says, "so we brought them along to show them where we were when it all started, and how our story began."

As the older sister, Dr. Kotto was the first to attend Kingsborough in the spring of 1991. Although she had only just arrived in the U.S. and was still learning English, Dr. Kotto was eager to get an early start on her academics: "At the time, I was mainly interested in 4-year schools, but when I visited the Kingsborough campus I fell in love. I also think it was a great idea to start at a community college, because I had a chance to really get my bearings." At Kingsborough, Dr. Kotto found mentors in professors like Dr. James Goetz (Biology), Dr. Alfonso Garcia Osuna (Spanish), and Dr. Delores Washington (Nursing), and she credits them for encouraging her to pursue her goals. A biology major, Dr. Kotto received the Biological Sciences award before graduating KCC in 1993.

With her sister singing Kingsborough's praises, Dr. Cadet also went on to enjoy her own unforgettable KCC experience. Like her sister, Dr. Cadet majored in Biology and earned distinction as a top student: "KCC is where my dream of becoming a doctor truly began, and the college gave me the educational foundation for my career as a physician." Yet in one crucial regard, Dr. Cadet's KCC experience was even more remarkable

than her older sister's: "Had I never gone to Kingsborough, I would have never met my husband and love of my life, Eldad. We met as freshmen and just recently celebrated our 20-year anniversary!"

Since Kingsborough, both sisters have enjoyed distinguished careers in medicine. Dr. Kotto practices pediatric medicine ("my lifelong passion") at Holy Redeemer Hospital in Pennsylvania, while Dr. Cadet is a family practitioner in Binghamton, New York. Outside of her medical practice, Dr. Cadet is a published author of a children's book (*Kathy and Brianna Learn to Speak Duala*) and an autobiography (*Growing Beneath His Wings*), both of which are available on [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). The sisters are also co-founders of Village to Village Care, an organization that helps connect rural people in African countries to health education, nutrition, disease prevention and treatment. "We share the joy of traveling outside of the U.S. to work on medical missions," Dr. Kotto says, "one of our passions is to help create long-term solutions in healthcare, and Village to Village Care was born out of that passion."

Even years later, they continue to recognize the invaluable role that Kingsborough played in launching their careers and helping their dreams come true. "'Community' is the key word when it comes to KCC," says Dr. Kotto, "just arriving on campus every day gave me a sense of purpose and belonging." For current and future KCC students, Dr. Cadet has the following message: "I would encourage you to always think positive and never get discouraged. Take advantage of the wonderful faculty and resources that are all around you, and remember that a Kingsborough diploma can take you anywhere in life."

Every month, the Kaleidoscope presents a different facet of the Kingsborough experience—inspiring professors, student success stories, alumni testimonials, exciting new programs, news-making events and much more. We hope you enjoy these stories, and we also encourage you to share *your* unique KCC perspective with us. *Whether you are a current student or an alum, a faculty or staff member, a retiree or a distinguished donor, [you can also share your story!](#)*

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