

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**For Immediate Release**

**MOCSA's Fall Forum Turns Focus On Johnson County**  
***Keynote Speaker Will Share Daughter's Tragic Story***

It's a cautionary tale that Andrea Cooper has been sharing with college students around the country for 13 years. The lessons came as a result of what happened to her daughter, who was raped while she was a student at Baker University during the 1990s.

Cooper will talk about her family's experiences as the keynote speaker at MOCSA's annual Johnson County Fall Forum at 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. on **Tuesday, Oct. 11, 2011**, at the Overland Park Marriott, 10800 Metcalf Avenue.

"College students and even parents have no idea how prevalent how sexual assault is out there," Cooper said in a recent interview. "I want them to know."

If aware, she says, a student might take steps to be less vulnerable in certain situations. For parents, awareness can lead to open conversations with their kids, Cooper says. "They can let their kids know they can talk to them about something like this without judgment."

In "Kristin's Story," Cooper also talks about the importance of a sexual assault victim talking about what happened. She says she always makes sure a counselor is on hand at her speaking engagements on college campuses.

Cooper first started sharing her daughter's story in 1998, first with students in Kristen's sorority, Alpha Chi Omega, then expanded her reach to more colleges through a grant from the Alpha Chi Omega Foundation and the Tri Delta Foundation.

"I wanted to do it so badly because I didn't want anybody to go through what Kristin went through," she said. "I just immersed myself in studying sexual assault. I was so naïve. I had no idea how prevalent sexual assault was, and thought, someone needs to be talking with these kids about this."

Individual tickets to MOCSA's Fall Forum are \$40. Sponsorships and tables are also available.

For more information about tickets, visit [www.mocsa.org](http://www.mocsa.org) or call (816) 285-1341.

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On Monday, Oct. 10, Cooper will visit the Baker University campus in Baldwin City, Kan., to meet with students at Kristin's old sorority. She will be available for face-to-face interviews that day as will MOCSA representatives. For more information about interviews or covering the Fall Forum, contact Toni Cardarella at 816.820.4113 or [tcardar@aol.com](mailto:tcardar@aol.com).