

# Save the Dates

REUNION WEEKEND AND SPRING CLINICAL DAY 2007

The 2007 Reunion Weekend and Spring Clinical Day will be held *Friday, May 4* and *Saturday, May 5, 2007* on UB's South Campus and at the Adam's Mark Hotel, downtown Buffalo.

Events include a cocktail party hosted by the Medical Alumni Association on UB's South Campus, Spring Clinical Day with speaker Dr. Michael Roizen, and the reunion dinner at the Adam's Mark Hotel. For more information on accommodations or the events, call the medical school's Office of Advancement at (716) 829-2773, or 1-877-826-3246; or email Jennifer Lobaugh at [jlobaugh@buffalo.edu](mailto:jlobaugh@buffalo.edu) for details.

## Dear Fellow Alumni,

As the new school year begins, I want to welcome the Class of 2010! In August, our governing board had the pleasure of cloaking the students at the White Coat Ceremony, as well as introducing them to the Student-Physician Mentoring Program during Orientation Week (programs that are sponsored by the alumni association).

A significant number of our incoming students are from Western New York, and the class is an equal mix of men and women (69:67). It is my hope that these new students will be as proud to be a part of the medical school and the Western New York community as I am.

Mark your calendars for Reunion Weekend and Spring Clinical Day scheduled for May 4-5, 2007. I want to thank the reunion chairs from each reunion class (1942, 1947, 1952, 1957, 1962, 1967, 1972, 1977, 1982, 1987, 1992, 1997, and 2002) for volunteering this year.

In October, Elizabeth Olmsted Ross, MD '39, was honored as this year's Distinguished Medical Alumna for her lifetime achievement in ophthalmology and her contributions to UB.

The first woman to receive this award, Dr. Olmsted is a pioneer in her field and was among the earliest female graduates of the medical school. It was a privilege for our association and the medical school to honor her with this award, and I invite you to read more about this event in the winter issue of *Buffalo Physician*.

This year, the Alumni Association governing board is working on two major objectives. The first is to promote and encourage alumni interest and activity in the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. This will be accomplished through membership, special events and the *Practice Giving* campaign. The second objective is to support medical students—from orientation through graduation—and to help them grow as physicians and as individuals. On behalf of our 7,000 alumni, our association will work to accomplish these objectives. It is important to note that nearly 10 percent of our alumni become members each year. In order to continue to increase the activities in the medical school, we need your support for membership every year. Please consider joining or renewing your membership. To do so, visit [www.alumni.buffalo.edu](http://www.alumni.buffalo.edu), or send your membership invoice by mail.

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Michael Cain, our new dean of the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. He comes to UB with outstanding credentials as a researcher, clinician, educator and administrator and was selected to continue the progress being made to position UB as a top-tier medical school.

The year is off to a good start, and I hope you will take pleasure in joining your alumni association to support efforts to enhance experiences of fellow alumni and the fine students attending medical school.



MARTIN C. MAHONEY, MD '95, PHD '88

President, School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences' Alumni Association

P.S. Practice giving to the scholarship campaign by visiting [www.practicegiving.org](http://www.practicegiving.org).

AUTUMN 2006

# Classnotes

## 1970s

**William Balistreri, MD '70**, has been awarded the University of Cincinnati (UC) College of Medicine's highest honor, the Daniel Drake Medal. The medal recognizes distinguished living faculty or alumni who have made outstanding or unique contributions to medical education, scholarship or research. It commemorates the frontier physician who founded Cincinnati's original medical school in 1819.

Balistreri is professor of pediatrics and internal medicine and medical director for the Pediatric Liver Care Center at UC and director of the liver-transplant program at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center.



He is an authority on pediatric gastroenterology and liver disease. Following medical school at UB, he completed pediatric residency training at Cincinnati Children's Hospital and then served a research fellowship in the gastroenterology division at the Mayo Clinic before being appointed assistant professor of pediatrics at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine in 1976. In 1991, he was named a professor at the University of Cincinnati.

**Roger Forden, MD '70**, recently celebrated 28 years as a member of (senior partner) Kenmore Pediatric Associates, PC in Kenmore, NY. He is a

member of the Pediatric Advisory Group to the New York State Department of Health and was recently elected to the Peer Review Committee of the Erie County Medical Society. He is also the editor of the *New York Pediatrician*, published by District II, NY, of the American Academy of Pediatrics. In addition, Forden is an associate medical director for Independent Health in Buffalo, NY.

## 2000s

**Yali Friedman, PhD '04**, is chief knowledge officer at Washington, DC-based New Economy Strategies. He currently guest lectures for the MS/MBA program in biotechnology at Johns Hopkins University. The second

## In Memoriam

**John W. Mattick, MD '46**, died on April 21, 2006.

**Raymond E. Moffitt, MD '48**, died on July 14, 2006.

On June 29, 2006, the school was notified of the death of **John A. Kutrybala, MD '54**.

**Donald M. Wilson, MD '54**, died on July 10, 2006.

**Ramon E. Dacheux, PhD '78**, died on May 30, 2006.

**Bruce E. Dunlap, MD '79**, died on May 15, 2006.

On August 4, 2006, the school was notified of the death of **Robert G. Johnson, PhD '95**.

## David Nichols Award

**E**ach year at residency graduation, the UB Department of Gynecology-Obstetrics presents the David Nichols Award for "Overall Excellence in Gynecologic Surgery." This year's recipient was George Figueroa, MD '02.

David Nichols, MD '47, was an internationally renowned obstetrician-gynecologist whose clinical expertise and research on pelvic reconstruction and incontinence focused attention on the medical needs of older women.

A professor of gynecology and obstetrics at UB from 1971-1979, Nichols left Buffalo in 1980 to become chair of the Department of OB/GYN at Brown University School of Medicine. (He also was a visiting professor at Harvard University School of Medicine from 1991-1996). Nichols is credited with building Brown's academic department into a nationally recognized program and with establishing the subspecialty of urogynecology and pelvic reconstruction surgery—an area that had become a standard part of residency training in U.S. medical schools by the time of his death in 1998.

The keynote speaker at this year's award ceremony was Myron "Mike" Gordon, MD '48, former professor and chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Albany Medical College for 15 years and longtime chief of OB/GYN at Albany Medical Center. Many of the improvements in maternal and child health in the Capital Region in recent decades have been attributed to Gordon, who began practicing in the area in 1980.



LEFT TO RIGHT: William Dillon, MD '70, Myron Gordon, MD '48, Mrs. Karol Gordon, and John Yeh, MD, chair of the UB Department of Gynecology-Obstetrics, at the photo presentation of Gordon.

edition of his book, *Building Biotechnology*, was published by Logos Books in August 2006.

In addition to its popularity with business



professionals and scientists seeking to apply their skills to

biotechnology, *Building Biotechnology* has been adopted as a course text in more than 15 advanced biotechnology programs,

including MBA programs at UB, the University of California at Irvine and Johns Hopkins University, as well as at biotechnology extension programs at UC Berkeley and UC San Francisco.

A review of the book states: "As biotechnology changes paradigms in medicine, agriculture, and industrial processes, there is a pressing need for cross-trained individuals capable of developing innovations and bringing

them to market. *Building Biotechnology* helps readers start and manage biotechnology companies and understand the business of biotechnology. The book also describes the convergence of scientific, political, regulatory, and commercial factors that drive the biotechnology industry and define its scope."

More details about the book, and sample chapters, are available at [www.BuildingBiotechnology.com](http://www.BuildingBiotechnology.com).

BP

## What's Up Doc?

Your classmates would like to hear from you!

TO UPDATE THEM, JUST COMPLETE THE ONLINE SUBMISSION FORM AT

[www.smbs.buffalo.edu/bp/classnote](http://www.smbs.buffalo.edu/bp/classnote)

THINGS YOUR FELLOW ALUMNI TELL US THEY WOULD LIKE TO READ ABOUT:

- Family updates
- Interesting 'trips and trails'
- Happy occasions, humorous interludes
- Moves/promotions
- Retirement
- Honors and awards
- Publications
- Public service/election to office
- Research endeavors
- Musings on life as a doc . . .

## Medical Alumni Association

### Officers 2006-2007



**Martin C. Mahoney, MD '95, PhD '88**, was elected president of the alumni association of the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences on May 6, 2006. Mahoney is chair of the Department of Clinical Prevention at Roswell Park Cancer Institute and associate professor in the UB Department of Family Medicine.



**Helen M. Cappuccino, MD '88**, will serve as the new vice president for the alumni association. Cappuccino is an attending surgeon in the Division of Breast Surgery at Roswell Park Cancer Institute and a UB clinical assistant professor of surgery.



**Charles R. Niles, MD '83**, is the incoming treasurer of the alumni association. He is an ophthalmologist in private practice in Williamsville, NY, and a UB clinical assistant professor of ophthalmology.

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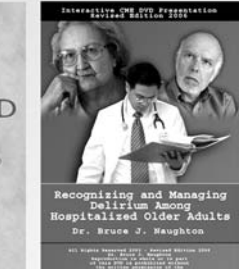
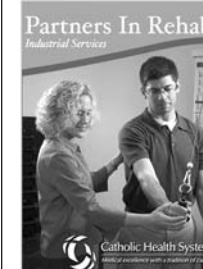
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SIX UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO RESIDENTS WERE PRESENTED THE ARNOLD P. GOLD FOUNDATION HUMANISM AND EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD AT THE FIFTH ANNUAL STUDENT CLINICIAN'S CEREMONY HELD ON JULY 9, 2006, IN THE CENTER FOR THE ARTS ON UB'S NORTH CAMPUS.

# Residents Honored

Student Clinician's Ceremony

The ceremony, sponsored by the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences' Professional Conduct Committee, was designed by the Gold Foundation to provide guidance, information and support to medical students as they transition to their clerkship years. Invited faculty speakers share insights, address collective fears and expectations and encourage the students to reflect upon their experiences in medicine to date. They also call upon the students to revisit the oath they took during the White Coat Ceremony as a means to underscore the challenges and imperatives they will encounter in providing care to patients that is both highly skilled and humanistic.

This year's keynote address was delivered by Martin Brecher, MD '72, chair of the Department of Pediatrics at Roswell Park Cancer Institute and the 2005-2006 recipient of the Humanism in Medicine Award. Additional remarks were made by Frederick C. Morin III, MD, interim dean for the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, Charles M. Severin, MD '97, PhD, interim associate dean for medical education and admissions, and Nancy H. Nielsen, MD '76, PhD, senior associate dean for medical education.

This year's Humanism and Excellence in Teaching Awards were presented by George C. Angelos, Class of 2007. Recipients were chosen from among 23 residents who were nominated by third-year students based upon their having exhibited strong teaching skills and serving as role models for compassionate, relationship-centered care. Final selection was made by members of the Professional Conduct Committee.

The following is a list of the award recipients, along with excerpts from comments made by about them by nominating students:

—S. A. UNGER

## Mark Falvo, MD '01

Surgery

Mark Falvo graduated from the UB School of Medicine and Bio-medical Sciences in 2001. He completed general surgical training in June 2006 and has begun a colorectal surgery fellowship, also at UB.



Falvo

*Dr. Falvo is an outstanding teacher and role model. His passion for surgery as well as teaching was evident from day one. Under his direction, students were made part of a team and always encouraged to jump in, learn and contribute to patient care. Dr. Falvo always challenged us with thought-provoking questions regarding patient management and took the time to explain things we didn't understand. He encouraged students to come up with topics we wanted to learn about, and during down time he invariably engaged the students as well as the interns in discussion of these topics. He also made sure we were in the OR learning from cases whenever possible.*

## Robert J. Ramsdell, MD '02

Anesthesiology

Robert J. Ramsdell earned his medical degree from the UB School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences in 2002. After completing residency training in anesthesiology he began a fellowship in pediatric anesthesiology, also at UB.

*Dr. Ramsdell was friendly and enthusiastic. He took me under his wing and allowed me to shadow him everywhere he went. He explained everything along the way and allowed me to participate in the procedures with which I felt comfortable. I am so grateful for all the time he spent with me and all that he taught me. We are fortunate that he will be staying in Buffalo to complete fellowship training in pediatric anesthesia. The nursing staff especially appreciates Dr. Ramsdell, which is perhaps the best proof of a good physician.*

## Diana G. (Pratt) Wilkins, MD '04

Family Medicine

Diana G. (Pratt) Wilkins earned her medical degree from the UB School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences in 2004. She is currently completing residency training in family medicine.

*Dr. Pratt took the time to teach medical students at every opportunity. Not only was she always teaching, but she also was good at it. She was able to make topics seem so simple and if any questions came up during teaching, she would come in the next day with articles about the topic. Aside from her interaction with medical students, she was wonderful with patients. At one point in the rotation, Dr. Pratt was the primary resident*



Pratt-Wilkins

*caregiver for a woman who was frequently hospitalized and had a reputation for being difficult. Dr. Pratt worked without bias for the patient and the patient's rights and, in doing so, obtained a more positive and timely outcome for the patient, her family and the staff.*

## Adeel I. Khan, MBBS

Internal Medicine

Dr. Khan earned his medical degree from Dow Medical University in Karachi, Pakistan in 2001. He will complete



Khan

residency training in internal medicine in 2006, after which he will serve a fellowship in pulmonary and critical care at St. Louis University.

*Dr. Khan is one of the most inspired teachers I've ever had the good fortune to train under. In spite of a challenging rotation, persistently full service and significantly taxed interns, he took every opportunity to not only teach but also to foster an environment that, regardless of the intensity of the demands of the service, was among the most fertile teaching environments I've ever experienced. For example, during a "call night" he thoroughly discussed with me a differential on a patient, despite other responsibilities I knew would keep him up until the early morning. He never missed a teaching moment and exploited every opportunity to illustrate facets of medical management.*

## Bindu P. Ninan, MBBS

Family Medicine

Dr. Ninan earned her medical degree from the University of the West Indies Medical School in Trinidad, where she graduated with distinction in biochemistry. Currently she is completing her residency training in family medical at UB.

*Dr. Ninan was a great team leader who supervised our educational experiences without micro-managing. She would often page us if an interesting procedure was about to take place or an interesting patient was being admitted, just in case we wanted to observe or participate. On one occasion, for example, a patient with classic multiple myeloma symptoms presented to the ER, and Dr. Ninan made sure each student was aware of this patient so that we would learn about myeloma's presentation. She was very supportive of students doing anything and everything to learn and took the time to explain and reason out why a particular course of treatment was pursued.*

## Shahzad Zafar, MBBS

Surgery

Dr. Zafar earned his bachelor of medicine/bachelor of surgery degree from King Edward Medical College in Lahore, Pakistan. He completed his surgical residency at UB in 2005, after which he served as administrative chief surgical resident for a year. He is currently completing a colorectal surgical fellowship at the Northwest Colon and Rectal Clinic in Seattle, Washington.

*After my time at the VA, I can say how grateful I am to all my Team A residents, most notably Dr. Shahzad Zafar. At every opportunity, he would literally grab me and get me in the OR, especially when emergency cases came up and I had no idea that they were scheduled. He would teach during the procedures and go over them afterwards. Dr. Zafar also regularly held teaching sessions for us that paralleled, and often exceeded, scheduled course lectures in their quality and breadth of presentation.*



Zafar



## Tow Humanism in Medicine Award

Christopher P. Schaeffer, MD '98



**C**hristopher P. Schaeffer, MD '98, clinical assistant professor of medicine, was presented the Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award at this year's White Coat Ceremony. The award, sponsored by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation, is presented annually to a faculty member who best demonstrates the foundation's ideals of outstanding compassion in the delivery of care, respect for patients, their families, and health-care colleagues, as well as demonstrated clinical excellence.

One student who nominated him, stated: "I have personally witnessed Dr. Schaeffer's empathy toward every patient's story. He treated every one of his patients with respect, kindness and tolerance. He truly listened to

them and went out of his way to address their needs beyond the bottle of medicine, regardless of how busy he was.

Another student recalled the following situation: "One of Dr. Schaeffer's patients was noncompliant and had created frustration among a previous medical team. Up until Dr. Schaeffer became his physician, no one bothered to notice that the patient didn't comprehend the majority of medical jargon with which he was being bombarded. In talking with him for a few minutes about nothing medically related, Dr. Schaeffer created an opportunity for the patient to break down in tears and ask, 'Why does this keep happening to me?' That in turn gave Dr. Schaeffer and his team the opportunity to help the patient

comprehend his various pathologies and what the patient needed to do to help control them."

In conclusion, another student observed: "Overall, Dr. Schaeffer inspired all of us—his patients and students, residents and other staff who worked beside him. Students merely have to watch him to learn all one needs to know about professional behavior, empathy, cultural sensitivity and communication. He is the ideal person to be honored with the Faculty Humanism in Medicine Award."



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