



Distinguished Medical Alumna

Elizabeth Pierce Olmsted Ross, MD '39

ELIZABETH PIERCE OLMSTED ROSS, MD '39, PIONEERING OPHTHALMOLOGIST, NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED ADVOCATE FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED AND PHILANTHROPIST, IS THE RECIPIENT OF THE UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO'S 2006 DISTINGUISHED MEDICAL ALUMNUS AWARD.

A dinner in her honor, hosted by the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences and the Medical Alumni Association (MAA), was held October 27, 2006, at the Buffalo Club. In attendance were MAA officers and other alumni, Dean Michael Cain, MD, faculty and friends of Olmsted Ross.

Olmsted Ross was one of four women in a class of 64 to receive her medical degree in 1939. While still in medical school, she began flying planes as a hobby, becoming one of the first female pilots in Western New York. During World War II, she served as a medical officer and flight instructor, obtaining the rank of lieutenant in the Civil Air Patrol and serving as a member of the Ninety-Nines, the international organization of female pilots.

As an intern, she pursued a career in aviation medicine, which at the time was founded on eye tests. She enjoyed the training in ophthalmology and decided to pursue residency in this field, a decision that proved challenging. Women were not usually admitted to ophthalmology, since in most hospitals the specialty

fell under a surgical residency, a field dominated by men. This changed with the start of World War II, as hospitals needed women to fill the vacancies created by male physicians drafted into war. Olmsted Ross completed her residency training in Chicago at the Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary.

Olmsted Ross was the youngest person on record to be named diplomate of the American Board of Ophthalmology. As the first female ophthalmologist in Buffalo, she opened a private practice in 1944. Soon she was subcontracting with various local industries, beginning a long career of patient care, advocacy and research. Olmsted Ross initiated safety goggle programs and industrial lighting standards at Curtiss Wright Corporation. While working to fit engineers with protective eyewear at Cornell Aeronautical Laboratory, she listened to their concerns about working with a new technology called radar. She spent the next three years investigating the ocular effects of radar exposure and related issues with studies conducted at Tufts University, Griffiths Air Force Base, Cape Canaveral and aboard the RCA radar ship patrolling the East Coast.

During the 1950s and 1960s, Olmsted Ross established an accredited ophthalmology program at Deaconess Hospital, which involved the relocation of the Wettlaufer Clinic—the largest eye clinic in the city—to the hospital. She was chair of the Wettlaufer board and created the preschool vision screening clinic in Buffalo public schools by training Junior League volunteers to conduct eye exams. Additionally, she developed and introduced large-print books to area libraries.

Olmsted Ross has been associated with the Blind Association of Western New York since she began her practice. In 1999, she made the agency a gift of \$1 million to renovate the facility, the

LEFT TO RIGHT: Michael E. Cain, MD, dean of the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences; Elizabeth Pierce Olmsted Ross, MD '39, 2006 Distinguished Medical Alumna; and Martin C. Mahoney, MD '95 PhD '88, president, Medical Alumni Association.



largest gift ever made by an individual to the agency, which now bears her name: The Elizabeth Pierce Olmsted, M.D. Center for the Visually Impaired. People from around the world come to participate in the services provided, to obtain training and job skills and to learn solutions to the challenges they face living with impaired vision.

In the fall of 2003, Olmsted Ross offered a \$3 million challenge grant to UB to establish the Ira G. Ross Eye Institute, the research and teaching affiliate of the center named in honor of her late husband; upon its successful conclusion, she made an

additional \$1 million challenge grant. The institute will be an important element of the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus, a world-class facility located in downtown Buffalo (see related story on page 40).

A recipient of many awards for career accomplishments, Olmsted Ross was inducted into the Western New York Women's Hall of Fame in 2002 and received UB's prestigious Samuel P. Capen Award in 2005 for "meritorious contributions to the University at Buffalo." **BP**

—KATHLEEN WIATER

Changes in Residency Programs

In September 2006, University at Buffalo announced significant changes in two of the 64 residency training programs that it operates jointly with area hospitals.

The formerly suspended training program in otolaryngology is being reestablished, and the residency in radiology will be closed.

The university will voluntarily withdraw Buffalo's radiology residency training program from the national accreditation process conducted by the Accreditation Council on Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). The decision to take this step was reached following extensive internal reviews, an on-site assessment by an independent panel of nationally recognized leaders in radiology education and with the full concurrence of Kaleida Health, Roswell Park Cancer Institute, and the Buffalo Veterans Affairs Western New York Healthcare System, the current radiology residency training sites.

David L. Dunn, MD, PhD, UB vice president for health sciences, said the radiology residency cannot meet accreditation criteria with its current structure. Similar problems, he added, are being faced by nearly one-third of the radiology residency programs in the country.

Of the 773 residents in training programs overseen by UB, 14 are in the four-year radiology residency that will cease operation at the end of the 2007-08 academic year. The office of Graduate Medical Education in the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences will provide assistance and oversight for an orderly transition as residents in the program complete their training here or are placed in accredited programs elsewhere in the U.S.

Since several components of the radiology residency were judged to be of high

quality, UB and its partner organizations plan to develop a new radiology training program with a structure designed to meet the accreditation criteria of the ACGME.

Dunn said UB is confident that the withdrawal will not impact the excellent training in radiology provided to UB medical students or care provided to patients in the community.

"The UB School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences effectively managed a similar situation with the otolaryngology residency program in 2002 and is pleased to announce the new residency program in this specialty, which has been accredited by the ACGME after being restructured under the new leadership of Dr. David Sherris," Dunn said.

The new residency program in otolaryngology replaces one that was disbanded in June 2002 due to inadequate funding for a chairman (the program was not threatened with losing accreditation). Residents are being recruited for the new five-year program, which will begin in July 2007.

"UB and its hospital-system partners are committed to presenting the highest-quality residency programs across the board to train new physicians, many of whom will remain in the area to meet the health-care needs of Western New York residents," he added. **BP**

—ARTHUR PAGE



Honors Convocation

Recognizing Medical Students' Achievements

The Annual Honors Convocation recognizing academic excellence among first- and second-year students at the University at Buffalo School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences was held in Butler Auditorium November 4, 2006.

The following is a list of award recipients and a description of the awards received.

Departmental Awards

The departments of the school have established awards to recognize meritorious performance as well as outstanding achievement in other curriculum-related activities.

Biochemistry

Coralynn Sack, '09, and **Kelly Berchou, '09,**



SACK



BERCHOU

received the Edward L. Curvish Award, established by the Department of Biochemistry to recognize the students with the highest average in biochemistry.

Microbiology and Immunology

Anthony Cerminara, '08, and **Ajay Panchal, '08,** (pictured



CERMINARA

in third column) **Rebecca Ryszkiewicz, '08,** and **Arsalan Q. Shabbir,** an MD/PhD candidate,



RYSZKIEWICZ



SHABBIR

C. Kelvey Richards, '08,

received the Marek Zaleski Award, presented by the



RICHARDS

Department of Microbiology to the student who best combines Dr. Zaleski's high standards of academic achievement with outstanding service to the community. The third-year class chooses the recipient.

Pathology and Anatomical Sciences

Ajay Panchal, '08, received the Kornel Terplan Award, given by the Department of Pathology and Anatomical



PANCHAL

Margherita Bruni, '09, received the James A. Gibson, Wayne J.



BRUNI

Atwell and Oliver P. Jones Award, which is given by the Department of Pathology and Anatomical Sciences to the student with the highest combined average in the anatomical sciences. The award is named in honor of past chairs of the department.

Physiology and Biophysics

Guanhua Xu, '08, received the Donald W. Rennie Physiology Award, which is given to the student with the highest average in physiology. Dr. Rennie was a former vice



XU

president for research at UB and chair of the Department of Physiology and Biophysics.

McGraw-Hill Book Awards

Sameer Deshmukh, '09, and **Kelly Berchou, '09,** (pictured



DESHMUKH

in first column) received the McGraw-Hill Book Awards, which is given to the two highest-ranking students in the first-year curriculum.

American Medical Association Foundation Scholarship

Emily McCourt, '07, is the



MCCOURT

recipient of this scholarship, which provides support to medical students based on academic excellence and other qualifications at the school's discretion.

Richard Sarkin/Emeritus Faculty Chapter of the Gold Humanism Honor Society

At the end of the third year, based on peer nomination and faculty selection for qualities of exceptional compassion and dedication, students were selected for membership in the Gold Humanism Honor Society. This year's inductees are as follow:

ALAI ALVAREZ
GEORGE C. ANGELOS
JESTIN CARLSON
ELLEN C. FITZGERALD
LAUREN E. GRUBER
GARETH MARK LEMA
CARLENE A. LEWIS-LEBEN
BETHANY M. LIPA
GRACE T. LIU
PETER SCOTT MARTIN
MICHELLE A. MCCOOK
EMILY A. MCCOURT
AMY MEPANI
MICHAEL LOUIS MORGAN
SAMANTHA ANN SCANLON
DANA BETH SCHONBERG
JENNIFER M. TAKESAKA
REBECCA G. TAXIER
CHRISTOPHER WILKINSON TJOA
MEGAN SUZANNE WHITTAKER
JEFFREY P. YAEGER
MICHAEL C. ZANG

Alpha Omega Alpha

Alpha Omega Alpha is the national honor society for medicine. Its raison d'être can be expressed in a phrase: to recognize and perpetuate excellence in the medical profession. This year's inductees are as follow:

KRISTEN ELIZABETH AMANN
GWEN MARIE BERNACKI
ROBERT C. BUCELLI
ELLEN C. FITZGERALD*
BENJAMIN C. GILLEN
AMANDA ROSE GORMAN
JOSEPH PAUL HOUSEL
GERALD RAJISH JEYAPALAN
RUSSELL M. LAFRANCE
DAVID A. LIEBNER*
BETHANY M. LIPA*
JOHN A. MALONEY
EMILY A. MCCOURT
MICHAEL FRANK PETROZIELLO
PETER C. REVENAUGH
PATRICK D. SOLAN
CHRISTOPHER WILKINSON TJOA
VY THAO T. TRAN
THOMAS W. TRIMARCO
ADRIENNE VARGO
AFSHIN ZADFAR
MICHAEL C. ZANG*

*Denotes students inducted as juniors

Dean's Letters of Commendation

Years 1, 2 and 3

Dean's Letters of Commendation recognize exceptional coursework. In years one and two, they are awarded to students who earn honors grades in 75 percent of required courses or achieve 75 percent of available honors points each year. In year three, students who earn at least four honors and two high satisfactory grades are honored.

First Year

GURSANT SINGH ATWAL
SURBHI BANSAL
TORSTEN BEHRENS
COLLEEN ELIZABETH BELL
KELLY D. BERCHOU
ROBERT GREGORY BREWER
MARGHERITA BRUNI
BAISHAKHI CHOUDHURY
DEIRDRE A. COLGAN
SAMEER M. DESHMUKH
SWATHI GOPALAKRISHNAN
BENJAMIN J. GREENE
KASSIE A. HAITZ
ALAN J. HSU
MICHAEL A. HUBA
RUPA RADHIKA KRISHNASWAMY
MICHELLE C. LIANG
JOEL R. MOORE
NIV MOR
JASON M. ROTOLI
CORALYNN S. SACK
SUJATA SOFAT
LISA A. STEKETEE
KATHLEEN LOUISE WANIA
ALEXANDER EVAN WEBER
MARC A. WEISKOPF
DAVID C. ZISA

Second Year

RICHARD M. ACKERSON
JENNA LYN ARNDT
MEGHAN K. BARNHART
ADAM R. BROD
KRISTIN MICHELLE BRODERICK
ANTHONY JOHN CERMINARA
KAREN CHANG
STEVEN CHAO
MICHAEL JOHN CIPOLLA
JENNIFER E. COSTELLO
JILLIAN JEAN DELMONT
AMY BETH DEVLIN
LAUREN M. DUNFORD
KATHERINE JOY DUNHAM
CASSIE LYNN DURAWA
MATTHEW M. FERNAAYS
SARA FERRI
JENNIFER HELEN GABORSKI
STEPHANIE M. GAUDER
KASSONRA S. GRZANKOWSKI
SARAH L. GUELI
MICHELLE L. HASLINGER
FAHAD S. HASSAN
GEOFFREY C. HILL
MARIAM IMNADZE
ELIE G. JARROUGE

Third Year

MICHAEL ROBERT JOYNT
PRAVEEN KADIMCHERLA
MOHAMMED FARAZ KHAN
ARJUNA BRYAN KUPERAN
VICTORIA A. LILLING
JAROD STEPHEN MASCI
ANDREW W. MARINO
BENJAMIN P. MCGREEVY
CHARLES MILCHTEIM
PAUL ANTHONY MITRANI
RICHARD K. MONROE
MICHAEL RALPH NAZARETH
FRANCIS JAMES O'CONNELL
SHANNON E. O'MALLEY
AJAY NARHARI PANCHAL
SNEHAL RAJENDRAKUMAR PATEL
NARASIMHACHAR G. PRATIVADI
JENNIFER LYNN PUGH
REBECCA LYNN RYSZKIEWICZ
HAMITA SACHAR
CHRISTOPHER KEVIN SCHOTT
ARSALAN Q. SHABBIR
DANIEL A. SLEVE
HILARY ANNE SOUTHERLAND
JULIETTE MARIE STENZ
PAUL W. TAGLIANTI
ALAN VAINRIB
BONNIE R. WHITE
STEFANIE S. WU
GUANHUA XU
JUSTIN MARK ZBRZEZNY
MATTHEW DAVID ZIMMERMAN