



## 1960s

**Paul A. Lessler, MD '63,**

writes: "I went back to work after retiring for the fifth time. I am currently the chief of anesthesia at Daniel Freeman Memorial Hospital in the Los Angeles area. I spend the weekdays living in Beverly Hills, which is close to the hospital, and go to Newport Beach on the weekends, where we have lived for 24 years. Our eldest daughter had twins and so we now have three grandchildren. Both of our daughters (one a

# Classnotes

SPRING 2005

teacher and the other a "retired" lawyer) live in Los Angeles, so we have the luxury of being close to them and their families. I am looking forward to attending our 45th reunion in 2008."

E-mail address is lessler@sbcglobal.net

**Marvin Kurlan, MD '64,** writes: "I was honored by the International Biographical Centre, Cambridge, England, by being considered, nominated and named 'an inaugural member of the IBC: Top 100 Health Professionals 2005.'

"Our son, Todd, is a

practicing attorney, doing litigation research in Manhattan.

"My favorite medical school story: Watching [anatomy professor] O. P. Jones casually imbibe three or four martinis at a Gibson Society Dinner and remain ostensibly stone-cold sober! Made

my awareness of the grandeur of ethanolic liver detoxification mechanisms more profound!"

E-mail address is: mkurlan@msn.com.

**Thomas O'Connor, MD '67,** see *Thomas O'Connor, Jr, MD '01.*

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**Jennifer Wiler MD/MBA '03,** received a 2006 American Medical Association Foundation Leadership Award. Wiler is currently a second-year emergency medicine resident at Drexel University College of Medicine in Philadelphia, PA.

According to the AMA, "the Foundation Leadership Award is given to medical students, resident physicians, fellows and young physicians who have demonstrated strong non-clinical leadership skills in medicine or community affairs and have an interest in further developing their skills within organized medicine.

"The objective of the program is to encourage involvement in organized medicine and continued leadership development among the country's brightest and most energetic medical students, residents and young physicians."

Wiler is chair of the Pennsylvania Medical Society Resident and Fellows Section; vice speaker, AMA Delegate; and speaker-elect for the Emergency Medicine Residents' Association. In addition, while a medical student at UB, she served as president of Polity, the medical student body.

—S.A. UNGER

# E-mail Us

Classnotes can also be submitted by  
e-mail to: [bp-notes@buffalo.edu](mailto:bp-notes@buffalo.edu)

**Barry M. Epstein, MD '67,** writes: "I am practicing ophthalmology in Amherst, NY, and have been joined by Michael Vilardo, MD, who is also an ophthalmologist with specialty training in glaucoma."

## 1970s

**Jeffrey Wigand, PhD '73,** the highest-ranking whistle-



blower in the history of the tobacco industry, was featured in an article in the February 14, 2005 issue of *Time* magazine, titled "10 Questions for Jeffrey Wigand." The article was prefaced by the following statement: "When former Brown & Williamson executive Jeffrey Wigand went up against Big Tobacco in 1995, he had to have a bodyguard. Now, thanks in part to a Hollywood movie, *The Insider*, he is a full-time crusader, arguing for smoking bans around the world and testifying last week in a federal racketeering case against tobacco companies."

Wigand is founder of SMOKE-FREE KIDS, a nonprofit foundation, which, according to its web site, "educate[s] kids about how the tobacco industry uses the media, the entertainment indus-

try, sports events, music and deceptive advertising to introduce children to tobacco."

Wigand was featured in a cover story in the winter 2000 issue of *Buffalo Physician*, soon after the *The Insider* was released. In the movie, actor Russell Crow portrays Wigand, who went public on *60 Minutes* with information about the tobacco industry.

**Richard P. Newman, MD '77,** writes from Rockledge, FL: "I have been in private practice over 20 years here—busy in neurology, with special attention to movement disorders, MS, dizziness, vertigo, gait disorders. I operate a telemedicine service for vestibular studies.

"Randi and I have been married 30 years. We have two children in college: Lindsey, at the University of Florida (Gators), and Jared, at the University of South Florida (Bulls).

"My most memorable medical school memory: My first day on fourth-year rotation with Dr. Larry Jacobs (sadly, now deceased). A light went on." E-mail address is: [brainman52@aol.com](mailto:brainman52@aol.com).

**Ira Salom, MD '77,** has been appointed medical director of Kirby Forensic Psychiatric Center, New York, NY. He has also been promoted to clinical associate

professor of geriatrics and medicine at Mount Sinai School of Medicine. In March 2005, he was reappointed to a second term on the New York State Board of Medicine, conducting licensure and relicensure hearings.

E-mail address is [ira.salom@mssm.edu](mailto:ira.salom@mssm.edu).

## 1980s

**Deborah Ann Richter, MD '86,** and her husband, former *Buffalo News* editor Terry Doran, and Cornelius Hogan, chair of Governor Howard Dean's 2001 Bipartisan Commission on Health Care Availability and Affordability, have written a book titled *At the Crossroads: The Future of Health Care in Vermont*, which was published in March 2005.

In a review he wrote of the book, David Moats, a Pulitzer Prize-winning editorialist for the *Rutland*



*Herald*, states: "As Vermont legislators confront the burdens and the irrationality of Vermont's health care system, they face numerous obstacles. One of the most fundamental obstacles is conceptual. A new book written by three Vermonters . . . goes a long way to clarifying the conceptual

## Dear Editor:

I read the responses to the "From the Dean" column in the autumn 2004 issue of *Buffalo Physician* and was intrigued by the letters regarding the question: "Could you have learned from a computer what you learned from your anatomy professor?"

Many of the letters reminded me of my own experiences as a student and teacher in the Department of Anatomy. I first took gross anatomy from O. P. Jones as a dental student in 1952, which was the last time the course was taught in the old medical school on High Street. Being in that building was an experience in itself. In those days the anatomy courses for the medical and dental students were virtually identical and O.P. Jones's famous "anxiety-producing" seminars were conducted collectively with no distinctions being made between the classes. As a result, many medical and dental students, including me, studied together.

I not only survived gross anatomy, but also liked the subject as well as the other anatomy courses in embryology, histology and neuroanatomy. And it is worth noting that the teaching modalities consisted only of lectures and seminars supported by books, atlases, 2 x 2 slides, projections, microscopes and, most importantly, by "hands-on" dissections, all effectively used by very skilled and dedicated teachers.

This positive experience led me to begin studies as a graduate student in the Department of Anatomy in 1963 while still conducting a full-time dental practice and teaching part time. As a graduate student, I came to know the "feared" O. P. Jones quite well. He was a wonderful man and a dedicated teacher as were his department colleagues Russell Hayes, Frank Kallen, Joseph Lee and Harold Brody, all of whom served on my PhD "prelim" and dissertation committees.

As to the question, "could you have learned from a computer what you learned from your anatomy professor," I can only answer "partly yes and partly no." In my view, although computers can be very adept at providing immediate factual information in a straightforward and unemotional manner, they cannot assimilate, interpret and motivate as readily as live teachers and direct contact with the subject matter. And, in the case of gross anatomy, computers cannot substitute for the symbolism and the emotional effects of actually dissecting the human body.

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Sincerely,

Norman D. Mohl, DDS, PhD  
SUNY Distinguished Service Professor  
Department of Oral Diagnostic Sciences



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confusion and pointing the way to meaningful reform.” Moats further states that the book has “unusual clarity and insight” and notes that “It comes at a crucial moment in Vermont history and ought to be read by every member of the Vermont Legislature.”

## 1990s

**Zhijian “James” Chen, PhD '91**, associate professor of



molecular biology at the University of Texas Southwest-ern Medical Center, recently received the prestigious Norman Hackerman Award in Chemical Research in recognition of his work.

The Welch Foundation presents the \$100,000 award annually to honor up-and-coming scientists at Texas institutions who are age 40 or less. Recipi-

ents are recognized for expanding the frontiers of chemistry through their innovative research endeavors.

Chen is the second UT Southwestern recipient of the award, which pays tribute to Norman Hackerman, longtime chair of the Foundation’s Scientific Advisory Board.

**Howard S. Podolsky, MD '91, JD**, writes: “As a proud member of the Class of 1991, I would like to pro-

vide my classmates with a personal and professional update.

Having the privilege of being involved in primary care medicine (internal medicine), I had the opportunity to return to my roots in graduate education and completed my juris doctorate in health law at St. Louis University School of Law. Two days prior to my graduation, my wife, Gina, and I were blessed with the birth of our son,

Maxwell Philip Podolsky, whom we welcomed into our family on May 12, 2004.

On a professional note, over the past two years I have transitioned from my role as a primary care physician into the position of vice president of medical affairs and chief medical officer of SSM–St. Mary’s Health Center, in St. Louis, MO. My direct responsibilities include quality improvement initiatives, direct

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## Ann Tracy, MD '58, Is Alive and Well

*“The reports of my death have been greatly exaggerated.”*

—MARK TWAIN

The winter 2005 issue of *Buffalo Physician* incorrectly announced the passing of Ann Tracy, MD '58, bringing to mind Mr. Twain’s gentle rejoinder.

We were alerted to our error when an alumnus called our office and said, “I played golf with Ann last week. She’s alive.”

I called Dr. Tracy at her home in Florida and apologized for the error. She was kind and gracious and promised she would call her sons, Charles (MD '78) and Donald (MD '76), and let them know what to expect when their issue of *Buffalo Physician* arrived.

She also reported that, at the time of our conversation, she was “reigning golf champion at her local course.”

Indeed, our report was exaggerated.

—S. A. UNGER, EDITOR

liaison between the administration and our medical staff, instruction of internal medicine residents, strategic and financial planning, utilization review, and chairman of various SSM—St. Louis Health Care Network initiatives. I truly enjoy the opportunity to combine my direct medical experiences with my health law background in such a manner that I feel challenged each and

every day. Recently, I was named a Fellow of the American College of Legal Medicine. What's next? Perhaps an MBA before little Maxwell gets too big!"

**Pascale Kerlegrand, MD '92,** writes from Jersey City, NJ: "I recently sold my solo family medicine practice after five years. I currently work as medical review officer at the Metropolitan Transit Authority and am pursuing a

master's in public health at Columbia University, my alma mater. My husband, Muhammad Younas, and I just celebrated our twelfth wedding anniversary. We have two sons, Assad, age 9, and Saif, age 3." E-mail address is: pascalle4@verizon.net.

**Tracey O'Connor, MD '97,** see *Thomas O'Connor, Jr, MD '01.*

**Michael Melman, MD '99,** writes: "I completed residency in pediatrics at Emory University in Atlanta in July 2003. I am now board certified and have joined a group practice in Los Angeles." MPMcrew@aol.com.

## 2000s

**Thomas O'Connor, Jr, MD '01,** writes: "After finishing my internal residency at Rochester General

Hospital in Rochester, NY, I have started my fellowship in hematology/oncology at George Washington University. This will complete the O'Connor trifecta in oncology: Tom Sr, MD '67, radiation oncology, and Tracey O'Connor, MD '97, breast cancer oncology."

E-mail address is: oconnor\_tp@yahoo.com.




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# In Memoriam

## C. Philip Lape, MD '43

Philip Lape died in Portland, ME, on January 16, 2005, at age 83.

A native of Buffalo, NY, Lape graduated from Miami University in Oxford, OH, before attending the UB School of Medicine. Upon graduation in December 1943, he became a surgical intern at Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, where he met Mary Lemoine. Shortly after the couple was married, Lape was deployed for active duty in the U.S. navy aboard the destroyer the USS *Mayrant*.

After the war Lape's surgical training continued at Peter Bent Brigham and Carney hospitals in Boston, and then at Maine General Hospital and Mercy Hospital, both in Portland.

Lape participated in founding the first intensive care unit at the Maine Medical Center and served as the Maine delegate on the Executive Committee of the New England Surgical Society. In the early 1970s, he became

interested in the relationship between patient care and physician training. This concern motivated him to join the staff of Regional Medical Programs in Augusta, ME, where he assisted in developing plans for an innovative medical school and became the founding director of the Central Maine Family Practice Residency.

In 1975 Lape returned to Brunswick, ME, where he practiced general and vascular surgery until his retirement in 1986.

Lape is survived by six children: daughters, Holly L. Lord of Portland, ME; Gretchen Lape of Hood River, OR; Martha MacDougal and her husband Jeffery of Portland; Kristen Lape and her husband Jamie Isaacson of Wayne, ME; and the Reverend Amanda Lape-Freeberg and her husband Bruce of Windsor, VT; son, Charles Philip Lape, II, and his wife Lori of Kennebunk, ME; and nine grandchildren. **BP**

- Myron G. Rosenbaum, MD '34**, died on July 13, 2004.
- Hubbard K. Meyers, MD '36**, died on November 13, 2004.
- John F. Montroy, MD '39**, died on February 5, 2005.
- Berten C. Bean, MD '41**, died on November 18, 2004.
- Burton L. Olmsted, MD '41**, died on September 23, 2004.
- Frances A. Maltese-Gulliksen, MD '42**, died on September 4, 2004.
- Robert E. Good, MD '43**, died on November 17, 2004.
- William K. Nowill, MD '44**. (Notification of death received November 17, 2004.)
- William C. Stein Jr, MD '50**, died on January 12, 2005.
- Kent E. Durfee, MD '51**. (Notification of death received December 20, 2004.)
- William M. Burleigh, MD '67**, died on November 5, 2004.
- James J. McCoy Jr, MD '71**. (Notification of death received November 22, 2004.)
- Margaret J. Lin, PhD '85** (biochemistry). (Notification of death received December 23, 2004.)



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