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.


In October, Elizabeth Olmsted Ross, MD '39, was honored as this year’s Distinguished Medical Alumni 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 membership. To do so, visit www.alumni.buffalo.edu, or send your membership invoice by mail.

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Classnotes

In Memoriam

John W. Martick, MD '46, died on April 21, 2006.
Raymond E. Moffett, MD '58, died on July 14, 2006.
On June 29, 2006, the school was notified of the death of John A. Moreyloha, MD '54.
Donald M. Wilson, MD '54, died on July 10, 2006.
Ramon E. Buchau, PhD '79, died on May 30, 2006.
Bruce E. Donley, MD '70, died on May 15, 2006.
On August 4, 2006, the school was notified of the death of Robert E. Johnson, PhD '52.

Autumn 2006

1970s

William Ballestreri, MD '70, has been awarded the University of Cincin-
vani School of Medicine's highest honor, the Daniel Drake Medal. The medal recognizes distin-
ghuished living faculty or alumni who have made outstanding or unique contributions to medical
education, scholarship or research. It commemorates the frontier physician who founded Cincin-
nati's original medical school in 1819. Ballestreri is profes-
sor of medicine at UC and medical director of the Pediatric Liver Care Center at UC and
director of the liver-transplant program at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center.

Roger Forsten, 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 Medi-
cal Society. He is also the editor of the New York Pediatrician, published by District II, NY, of the American Academy of Pediatrics. In addition, Forsten is an associate medical director for Inde-
pendent Health in Buffalo, NY.

2000s

Tall Friedman, PhD '04, is chief knowledge officer at
Washington, DC-based New Economy Strate-
gies. He currently guest lectures for the MS/MBA program in biotechnol-
gy at Johns Hopkins University. The second

Save the Dates

Reunion Weekend and Spring Clinical Day 2007

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 accommoda-
tions or the events, call the medical school’s Office of Advancement at (716) 829-2773, or 1-877-826-3246, or email Jennifer Lobough at jlobough@buffalo.edu for details.
David Nichols Award

Each 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 ’92. 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 Albany Medical Center. Many of the improvements in maternal and child health in the Capital Region in OB/GYN at Albany Medical Center for 15 years and longtime chief of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the 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 recognized program and with establishing the subspecialty that had become a standard part of residency training in U.S. medical schools by the time of this death in 1998.

A review of the book states: “As biotechnology changes paradigms in medicine, agriculture, and industrial processes, there is a pressing need for cross-trained individu-als capable of developing innovations and bringing them to market. Build- ing 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 biotechnol-ogy industry and define its scope.” More details about the book, and sample chap-ters, are available at www.BuildingBiotechnology.com.

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

Things your fellow alumni tell us they would like to read about:

■ Family updates
■ Interesting ‘trip and travel’
■ Happy occasions, humorous interactions
■ Movies/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 ’85, 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 profes-sor in the UB Department of Family Medicine.

Helen M. Cappuccino, MD ’90, 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.

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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.

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 members were invited to reflect on their experiences in medicine to date. They also called upon the students to resist the oath they took during the White Coat Ceremony as a means to underscore the challenges and imperatives that 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 of the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. Charles M. Severino, 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 to 23 residents who were nominated by third-year students based on their work with and in the presence of patients. Final selection among the nominees was based on comments made by about them by nominating students:

Mark Falvo, MD ’01
Surgery
Mark Falvo graduated from the UB School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences in 2001. He completed general surgical training in June 2006 and has begun a colorectal surgery fellowship, also at UB.

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 discussions 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 anesthesiostia. 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 was also very 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 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, MD
Internal Medicine
Dr. Khan earned his medical degree from Dow Medical University in Karachi, Pakistan in 2001. He will complete 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 medicine at UB.

Dr. Ninan was a great team leader who supervised our educational experiences without micromanaging. She would often pique my interest in an interesting procedure or to take part in an interesting patient who 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 on that paralleled, and often exceeded, scheduled course lectures in their quality and breadth of presentation.

Residents Honored

Student Clinician’s Ceremony

—S. A. Unger

ZAFAR
Christopher 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.”

Why did you choose UB?

I wanted to learn basic sciences in an organ-based curriculum and to attend medical classes in a city with only one medical school so that I could learn without undue competition for access to doctors and facilities. I also wanted the option of a student-run free clinic like the Lighthouse Clinic on Buffalo’s east side. I wanted to explore an unfamiliar city, and Buffalo has an interesting history and beautiful architecture.

How did your scholarship make a difference?

The deciding factor of where to attend medical school was financial; I was determined not to leave medical school with loans that would limit my ability to work in humble communities. When UB offered me the Greco scholarship I realized that it was an institution that would support me to achieve my goals.

When did you decide to become a physician?

I decided to become a doctor while working for the late Dr. Ronald Davidson who showed me that a physician is responsible for the health and well being of all people, insured or not; and that the intellectual, moral, and emotional challenges of medical practice make up a fulfilling career. I realized that a physician is in a privileged position as a cornerstone of the community, intimately involved in the lives of people.