

Thursday, August 10, 2006

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## To the Editor,

I read with great interest your article on John Wright in the [autumn 2005 issue] *Buffalo Physician*. I had just begun as an assistant professor of medicine on the full-time faculty, based at the Buffalo General Hospital, when Charlie Brennan and John Wright came to town. Since I was in charge of the department's program in diabetes and since that was a particular interest of Charlie's, I had contacts with both Charlie and John over various teaching programs. From those early days of John's career, I was not surprised to learn of the outstanding career that he had in Buffalo.

Sincerely,

J. David Schnatz, MD '57  
Full-time faculty, Department of  
Medicine, January 1963 to  
November 1977

## 1990s

**Ngozi Osuagwu, MD '90**, a board-certified obstetrician/gynecologist, has published a book titled *Letters to My Sisters* [letterstomysisters.com] in which she addresses some of the common problems and conditions that make women visit their obstetrician/gynecologist. The letters, all educational, are supple-

mentary, and am also the vice chairman of academic affairs for the Department of Neurology. In addition, I have just recently had a book published by Elsevier Medical Publishers titled *Handbook of Brain Tumor Chemotherapy*. I continue to play basketball and scuba dive whenever possible (most recently, the Cayman Islands). E-mail address is newton.12@osu.edu.

to children of families in need. Rosen is the founding partner and medical director of the Plastic Surgery Group in Montclair, NJ. He resides in North Caldwell, NJ.

### Herbert B. Newton, MD '84,

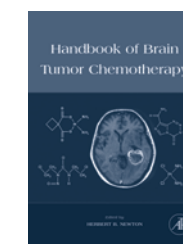
writes: "My family and I continue to live in central Ohio and are enjoying another year filled with Big Ten football and basketball.

"Cheryl is busy with her duties as the clinical nurse specialist for the Surgical Intensive Care Unit at Ohio State University Medical Center.

"Alex continues his sports activities (soccer and Tae Kwon Do) and is now a budding guitar player. He has joined a band and has participated in the 'School of Rock' and the 'School of Jazz' so far.

"Ashley continues to enjoy the swim team with the YMCA, dance lessons, and piano.

"At the OSU Medical Center and James Cancer Hospital, I have been promoted to professor of neurology and



an award from Clinton County Medical Society for dedicated service over the last 22 years. In 2005, I served as the society's president."

**Bruce D. Rodgers, MD '79**, has co-authored a book on obesity and pregnancy titled *Your Plus-Size*

*Pregnancy* (Barracade Books 2005).



Rodgers is associate clinical professor of Ob-Gyn and director of Maternal-Fetal Medicine at UB. E-mail address is: brodger@buffalo.edu.

**Peter Silberstein, MD '79**, completed the Tour of Hope ride with professional cyclist and seven-time Tour de France winner

Lance Armstrong. The ride from San Diego to Washington, DC, promoted cancer research.



He is division chief of hematology-oncology at Creighton University in Omaha, NE, and resides in Bellevue, NE.

## 1980s

**Allen Rosen, MD '83**, has been named "Healing the Children Honoree" for his outstanding contributions to Healing the Children, a nonprofit organization that provides medical care

been in practice at Scripps Hospital since 1979, specializing in the surgical management of inflammatory bowel disease. He lives in San Diego with his wife and his 16-year-old identical twin sons. His 19-year-old daughter attends Westminster College in London, and his 18-year-old daughter is a freshman at University of California at Davis. E-mail address is: launer.dana@scrippshealth.org.

**Jane Dorval, MD '76**, has joined the medical staff at Crozer-Chester Medical Center in Upland, PA, as chief of the division of physical medicine and rehabilitation. Previously, she was the medical director and senior vice president of medical affairs and quality oversight at Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Hospital.

**Genevieve Losonsky, MD '77**, has been promoted to vice president, clinical development, infectious disease at MedImmune Inc. Previously, she served as project director for several clinical programs at the company.

**Ronald A. Vidal, MD '77**, writes: "I have moved my practice from Clinton, Iowa, to Quincy, Illinois, and have joined another otolaryngologist and the staff of Blessing Hospital in otolaryngology and head and neck surgery. I was recently honored with

ball went to the 12 counties of Western New York and the Finger Lakes region for leukemia, lymphoma and blood cancers research, patient aid, advocacy, educational and community service programs and to fund five researchers in Roswell Park, UB, Niagara University and University of Rochester.

**Craig R. Smith, MD '72**, has been elected to the board of directors for the Adams Express Company and Petroleum & Resources Corporation. He retired in 2004 as chair, president and CEO of Guilford Pharmaceuticals, which he cofounded in 1993. Smith has since established and serves as president for Williston Consulting LLC, a firm providing advisory services to the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries. He resides in Naples, FL.

**Dana P. Launer, MD '73**, has been elected chief of staff at Scripps Hospital in La Jolla, CA, for 2006-2008.

Launer has been involved in medical staff leadership

for many years and has previously held positions as chair of the Department of Surgery and chief of surgery at Scripps. He is board certified in general surgery and colon and rectal surgery and has

Physicians and spent seven years as a member of the board of directors of the Medical Society of Virginia. He resides in Suffolk, VA.

## 1970s

**Martin Brecher, MD '72**, received the 2006 Service to Mankind Award from the Western New York and Finger Lakes Chapter of

the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society at the chapter's annual Diamond Ball on February 25, 2006.

Brecher is associate professor of pediatrics in the UB School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, chief of the Division of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology in Women and Children's Hospital of Buffalo, and chair of the Department of Pediatrics in Roswell Park Cancer Institute.

He recently completed a research study on the long-term effects of chemotherapy on survivors of childhood acute lymphocytic leukemia with a 25-year follow up. All proceeds from the



ber of the departments of surgery at Buffalo General Hospital, Mercy Hospital and the Women and Children's Hospital of Buffalo.

Currently, he serves as a member of the School of Medicine and Biomedical Science's Dean's Advisory Council, Medical Emeritus Faculty Group's steering committee, and *Buffalo Physician* editorial board.

He formerly served as a member of the school's Faculty Council. In addition, he continues to sit on the Political Action Committee of the New York State Medical Society.

## 1960s

**David Weinstein, MD '64**, has been selected by the Consumer's Research Council of America to be included in the *Guide to America's Top Physicians 2004-2005 Consumer Guide* edition. He has been practicing medicine for more than 30 years and is founding physician of Wakefield Medical Center and Suffolk Family Medical Center. Weinstein is a charter member of the American College of Emergency

representing New York State. Zeplovitz served in this capacity from 1998 through 2005, during which time he chaired a number of NYS committees, including the Private-Sector Advocacy Committee.

He also received a Certificate of Appreciation

and plaque from the Erie County Medical Society in recognition of his years of service in numerous capacities, including past president. (In 2001, the society presented him with its Distinguished Service Award.)

Both certificates were presented in November 2005 in conjunction with the AMA's annual meeting in Dallas, TX.

Zeplovitz, a surgeon, is retired from private practice but continues work as an independent medical examiner and private consultant. He was affiliated for many years with Our Lady of Victory Hospital, where he was chief of staff, vice president of medical affairs and a member of the Department of Surgery. He also was a mem-



# Classnotes

SPRING 2006

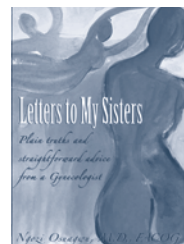
## 1950s

**Melvin Dyster, MD '52**, has been honored by the Western New York Region of the National Conference for Community and Justice for his service to others in the Buffalo area. Dyster has been chief of the Department of Family Practice at Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center for more than a quarter of a century and is founder of the Hamilton B. Mizer Primary Care Center for the uninsured and needy.

**Franklin Zeplovitz, MD '58**, received a Certificate of Appreciation from the American Medical Association (AMA) for his years of service as an alternate delegate to the AMA House of Delegates,

mented with illustrations and poems.

The latter half of the book includes brief summaries of common medical conditions that affect women



and lists reliable Internet resources.

Osuagwu grew up in Brooklyn, NY, and completed high school at Brooklyn Tech. She attended The Johns Hopkins University as a undergraduate and earned her medical degree from UB in 1990. She is a Fellow of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and a certified yoga instructor. She resides in central Ohio with her husband and three children and presently divides her time between

teaching resident physicians at Doctors Hospital in Columbus, OH, and maintaining a private practice.

**Nizam Razack, MD '90, FACS**, was elected president of the Florida Neurosurgical Society by his peers. He is actively involved with medical liability issues in Florida from a political and legislative standpoint.



Currently, he is medical director for Neuro-

Oncology at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center of Orlando.

Razack completed his residency at the University of Miami and has been fellowship trained in complex spine surgery at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. In addition, he completed a fellowship in surgical neuro-oncology at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. His research interests include the use of deep-brain stimulation and bionic technologies in human performance. He has a patent for a new

neuromodulation device for movement disorders developed with the University of Central Florida.

Razack is president and chief executive officer of the Spine & Brain Neurosurgery Centers based in Orlando, FL. He was formerly associate professor of neurological surgery at the University of Miami, Jackson Memorial Hospital. E-mail address is nrzk@yahoo.com.

**Craig Cheifetz, MD '95**, has been named "Young

Internist of the Year 2005" by the Virginia chapter of the American College of Physicians. Cheifetz is the co-section chief for general internal medicine for the department of medicine at Inova Fairfax Hospital and also serves as the assistant dean of medical education for Virginia Commonwealth University. He is one of only 100 physicians licensed by Stanford University School of Medicine to train physicians in how to become better educators.

## 2000s

**Timothy B. Curry, MD, PhD '00**, writes: "I completed my residency in anesthesiology at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN, and started as a consultant in anesthesiology at the clinic in 2005. My clinical work focuses on anesthesia and orthopedic trauma, but I see all kinds of interesting cases covering call. Seventy-five percent of my time is devoted to research and I have been

conducting studies on the control of blood flow in exercising muscle. I recently received funding to begin an independent research project on the physiological effects of weight loss (through exercise and/or bariatric surgery). I have stayed involved in hyperbaric medicine and was part of the group working on the new hyperbaric chamber project on which we will be breaking ground this fall. My personal life is

going incredibly well. My wife, Elizabeth, is the coordinator for the busy Mayo Clinic Center for Humanities in Medicine. Our son, Jacob, is now a very active five year old and has started skiing. We miss Buffalo, but I get to travel frequently for work and even made it back for the Ellicottville Fall Fest this year." E-mail address: curry.timothy@mayo.edu.

**Cristine M. (Connery) Adams, MD '02**, writes, "I finished my residency in emergency medicine and got married last year. Currently, I am six months into practice with Professional Emergency Services, a group that staffs the Millard Gates and Suburban Emergency Departments. All is very busy but going very well."



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# In Memoriam

## John D. Mountain, MD '33



**John D. Mountain, MD '33** died on February 1, 2006, at his home in Plandome, NY. He was 97.

Mountain was one of the first surgeons on staff at North Shore University Hospital in Manhasset, NY, where he worked for the majority of his 60-year career.

He is credited with building the hospital's emergency department, both expanding its facilities and developing its residency training program. As a tribute to these accomplishments—as well as to his surgical skills, warm bedside manner and mentoring of several generations of young physicians—a street outside the hospital's emergency room is named Dr. John D. Mountain Way.

A native of Olean, New York, Mountain came from a family of surgeons. His father and uncle were ENT surgeons who founded the Mountain Clinic in Olean. In their later years the Mountains transformed that clinic into a home for retired physicians.

Mountain completed his medical degree from UB in 1933. After World War II, he married his high-school sweetheart and first love, Louise Orien Wright, and together they raised her two children from a previous marriage. Those children came to love him as much as their own father and remained devoted to him.

Mountain retired seven years ago, at 90, at which time he devoted his time to growing roses and caring for his wife, who died in 2003 at age 95.

Mountain's greatest joy was derived from the many generations of surgeons that he trained over the years. He took pride in teaching surgery and the lessons of life. There are successful physicians and surgeons across the nation whose lives have been profoundly influenced by him. Each of them is fond of telling "Mountain Stories."

His influence and power were legendary. Procuring the best seats in the house on opening night of the New York Metropolitan Opera took a telephone call. He once arranged for a Pan Am flight from Rome to New York to make a non-scheduled stop in Ireland to pick up a senior surgical resident who had been in an automobile accident.

Dana P. Launer, MD '73, chief of staff at Scripps Hospital in La Jolla, CA, recalls, "I met Dr. Mountain for the first time in 1973, shortly after I arrived at North Shore Hospital for my internship. He was a gruff old man who was feared by many and respected by all. Initially, our only connection was that we graduated from the same medical school 40 years apart. At first he was my teacher, but he became a mentor and ultimately a dear friend and confidante. I visited him every time I returned to New York and spoke with him several times a week until the day before he died. He deeply influenced every aspect of my life, always pushing me to be the best that I could be. The lessons that he taught me will guide me forever."

Dennis Bordan, MD '70, chair of surgery at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center, writes of Dr. Mountain: "For those of us who had the great fortune and distinct pleasure of knowing and working with Dr. John Mountain, his passing represents the loss of a 'father,' a best friend, a mentor, a role model, and the person you would first turn to in times of trouble or strife.

"He was a man of contrasting natures who, on the surface, seemed to be uncomplicated, but was unbelievably complex: A little 'thorny' on the outside, but a heart of gold on the inside. Always with a question, but never without the answer. Comfortable working in his rose garden in grimy overalls, but the epitome of well-dressed man the next hour.

"He had a mind like a steel trap—never forgetting, never unsure, always aware of all the variables.

"I cannot begin to describe how much I and many others whose lives he touched, influenced and even molded will miss him."

He is survived by his stepdaughter, Gay Sachse, of Maryland, many grandchildren and great grandchildren and countless grateful surgeons and friends.

A memorial service in his honor was held in April at North Shore University Hospital.

## James A. Werick, MD '49



**James A. Werick, MD '49**, died on January 6, 2006, in a house fire that destroyed the home where he had lived since 1958. A graduate of St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute, he began college as an industrial arts major at Buffalo State College. He enlisted in the Army during World War

II and, following standardized testing, the Army sent him through an accelerated pre-med curriculum and then to medical school at Loyola University Chicago. He transferred to UB Medical School after his first year, where he excelled academically and was elected to Alpha Omega Alpha. He completed a medical internship at E. J. Meyer Memorial Hospital, and a residency in internal medicine at the Buffalo Veterans Administration Medical Center (BVAMC). He served as a captain in the Army Medical Corps during the Korean War, and subsequently served as a staff physician at the BVAMC.

In 1958, Werick opened a private practice in internal medicine and noninvasive cardiology at 143 Linwood Avenue. He practiced at St. Francis Hospital, where he served as chief of medicine. He also practiced at Emergency Hospital (now Sheehan Memorial Hospital), where he served as the educational director for Sister's Hospital Internal Medicine residents doing rotations at Emergency Hospital. In 1988, Werick closed his private practice to assume a position as a medical specialist

at Buffalo Psychiatric Center (BPC). He retired in 2001.

Max A. Schneider, MD '49, says, "As one of his classmates, I remember Jim as a bright, serious, yet very humorous gentleman. He was a great story teller and fun to be with."

Werick was a Knight of St. Gregory and Eucharistic minister. He was an avid supporter of nursing education and set up medical staff funds to further nursing education at St. Francis Hospital and BPC.

Werick briefly dated medical-school classmate Jacqueline LoGrasso, MD '49. They went their separate ways, and LoGrasso later married Paul Paroski, DDS. Werick and Jacqueline Paroski became reacquainted years later, when their respective children, Margaret W. Paroski, MD '80, and the late John S. Paroski, MD '80, began dating in college and married during medical school. Werick is also the step grandfather of Peter S. Martin Jr., a third-year medical student at UB, and the great uncle of Mary Werick, a first-year medical student at UB.

Memorial contributions can be made to University at Buffalo Foundation, designated for the Clinical Competency Center (UBF, P.O. Box 1232, Buffalo, NY 14240). The funds will be used to develop a standardized patient exercise to train the medical students how to counsel their patient on lifestyle modifications such as smoking cessation, weight loss and exercise.

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## Eugene V. Leslie, MD '51



**Eugene V. Leslie, MD '51**, of Williamsville, NY, died at home on January 19, 2006, after a long illness. He was 78.

A native of Buffalo, Leslie was drafted into the Army after high school and was sent to the University of Pennsylvania to study Japanese language and culture before being stationed as an investigator in Japan during the post-World War II occupation.

After leaving the service, he earned bachelor's and medical degrees from UB.

He completed his residency at E. J. Meyer Memorial Hospital (now Erie County Medical Center, ECMC), after which he went to London as the recipient of the National Institutes of Health's first fellowship in neuroradiology outside the United States.

Leslie became director of radiology at ECMC, and was a professor and chair of the department of radiology at UB.

He served as president of the Buffalo Radiological Society and organized its weekly case reviews for many years.

Leslie was medical staff president at ECMC, a member of the Radiological Society of North America and the British Institute of Radiology and a founding member and secretary of the American Society of Neuroradiology.

After retiring from ECMC and the UB School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, he joined a classmate and several former residents as a partner with Southtowns Radiology Associates. He retired from the practice in 1996.

Survivors include his wife of 32 years, Faith; four daughters, Joyce of Ithaca, NY, Lynn of Aptos, CA, Denise of Nyack, NY, and Kathleen Quinn-Leslie of Williamsville, NY; and a son, Gregg, of Fort Worth, TX.

## Andrew Gage, MD '76


**Andrew Gage, MD '76**, died on December 10, 2005. He was 55. Gage had been critically injured in a motorcycle accident September 28 and was home recovering, according to his wife, Mary. He became ill at his birthday party and was taken to Millard Fillmore Suburban Hospital, where he died.

A general surgeon, Gage was a member of the American College of Surgeons and the Western New York Vascular Society.

He was a founder of Doc's Day for Kids, along with Keith Morgan, owner of Buffalo Brew Pub in Amherst, NY.

"Doctors would serve as bartenders, and the nurses would create huge gift baskets of all sorts to be auctioned off," his wife said of the event. "It was a wonderful effort by them. The money would go to buying neonatal incubators for Sisters Hospital. They raised enough each year to buy one."

Gage's classmate and long-time friend, Dan Wild, MD '76, said, "Andy was a wonderful physician and colleague. He loved his work, his patients, and his family. He was enormously enthusiastic about everything he did and he invited everyone he met to come along and join him."

In addition to his wife, Mary, of 33 years, Gage is survived by five daughters, Jaime, Jillian, Jenna, Julie and Joelle; a son, Andrew, all of East Amherst; his parents, Andrew (MD '44) and Pat of East Amherst; and three sisters, Patricia Wind of Williamsville, Susan Klimek of the Town of Tonawanda and Margare Rusert of Grand Island. 

**John H. Remington, MD '39**, died on November 2, 2005.

On December 5, 2005, the school was notified of the death of **Bradley Hull Jr, MD '41**

**Raymond W. Osgood, MD '46**, died on February 10, 2005.

**John B. Fenger, MD '53**, died on February 7, 2006.

**Frank S. Cascio, MD '54**, died on December 2, 2005.

**Italo A. Evangelista, MD '57**, died on November 9, 2005.

**Richard D. Wasson, MD '58**, died on December 20, 2005.

**Burt W. Richardson, MD '59**, died on January 9, 2006.

A G I F T O F A L I F E T I M E



Above: Edward Rayhill, M.D. '54, clinical associate professor emeritus in the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, and his wife, Joanne

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Edward Rayhill, M.D. '54

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