

## A CHANCE TO GIVE BACK



CHARLES NILES, MD '83, PRESIDENT OF THE MEDICAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (MAA), WAS RECENTLY INTERVIEWED BY ELIZABETH ABRAM, CLASS OF 2011, PRESIDENT OF THE MEDICAL STUDENT POLITY. ABRAM, WHO SERVES AS A GUEST MEMBER OF THE MAA'S GOVERNING BOARD, RECEIVED HER BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE IN ART HISTORY AT SMITH COLLEGE AND HER MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE IN EXERCISE SCIENCE AT UB. PRIOR TO MEDICAL SCHOOL, SHE WORKED FOR THE WOMEN'S SPORTS FOUNDATION, THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART AND UPSTATE NEW YORK TRANSPLANT SERVICES.

**Q: Why did you join the MAA board?**

**A:** I realized the importance of the MAA's work for the medical school and, especially, its work on behalf of the medical students and wanted to be a part of the association. I have been a board member for five years, which has offered me a chance to give back to an institution that has given me so much.

**Q: Why did you select a career in ophthalmology?**

**A:** For a number of reasons. As a child, I was keenly aware of eye disease because my father had bilateral retinal detachment surgery, which limited his participation in certain physical activities. Also, when I was in high school, I had an aunt who seemed to grow old before my eyes: Her personal appearance became unkempt, as did her home in general. After she underwent cataract surgery she recognized the changes that had taken place around her and quickly remedied them. Having her vision improved through cataract surgery really impacted her life for the better. Then in medical school I truly fell in love with ophthalmology because of the intricate nature of the surgical procedures I witnessed.

**Q: If you hadn't become a physician, what would you have done?**

**A:** I have never considered being anything other than a doctor. (Well, maybe at one point I thought about being a rock star, but I couldn't sing or play any instruments, which really limited my potential for success!) All kidding aside, I would have been a teacher.

**Q: Why did you choose to attend UB and stay to practice in Buffalo?**

**A:** Staying in Buffalo was an easy decision for me. At that time in my life, my prayers were answered with UB's acceptance. My entire family lived in Buffalo, and I really wanted to stay home. I had been accepted to a private school in New York City, which was beyond my family's financial capability. My father, in fact, was planning to take a second mortgage on our home in preparation to help pay the tuition, and that was very distressing for me. When I received my acceptance letter to UB, I was thrilled on many levels.

**Q: What are your favorite things that Buffalo has to offer?**

**A:** Buffalo has many great things to offer, including most of the "big-city" options regarding the arts and professional sports teams. On the other hand, we are also very "small town." One of the nice things about this area is that it gives residents the opportunity to pursue their passions at any level. For example, if art is your passion, you can work at your children's school or become a docent at the Albright Knox Art Gallery. Or, if you like drama, you can become involved at Shea's Performing Arts Center. There are many opportunities to really make an impact on the community.

**Q: Which do you prefer for local cuisine—Duff's or Anchor Bar?**

**A:** Believe it or not, I am allergic to poultry and have never eaten a chicken wing!

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AUTUMN 2008

# Classnotes

TO THE EDITOR:

I read with interest the notice in the spring 2008 issue of *Buffalo Physician* concerning the First Annual Oliver P. Jones lecture. It reminded me of something that happened over 50 years ago when I was a first-year medical student in Professor Jones' gross anatomy class. No doubt many will comment of Professor Jones' manifest academic and educational achievements. But I wonder how many will remember what it was like to be a student during his mandatory Saturday morning gross anatomy oral examinations; namely, the element of stark terror that usually filled the students. The particular examination that I remember occurred on October 4, 1957. I remember the date because that's the day that the Soviet Union launched the first artificial satellite—Sputnik. We now know that Sputnik engendered quite a little consternation and, yes, even fear at the most senior levels of our government. And yet I suspect that the fear was nothing compared to how we students felt that Saturday morning and every Saturday morning, for that matter, when Professor Jones started asking questions.

—RONALD F. BELLAMY, MD '61

## 1940s

**Jack Lippes, MD '47,** professor emeritus and internationally known researcher and gynecologist, is the recipient of the 2008 Department of Gynecology-Obstetrics Distinguished Alumnus Award. Lippes was honored at the department's resident graduation ceremony held on June 26, 2008, at the Buffalo Club.

A native of Buffalo, Lippes has made fundamental contributions in three distinct areas of research: intrauterine contraception with the invention of the Lippes Loop in 1959, quinacrine sterilization, and the physiology of human oviductal fluid indispensable for improving pregnancy rates with invitro fertilization pre-embryo transfer. His achievements and honors include consultant

to the Population Council of Rockefeller University, signatory in the "Golden Book of Paris" for contributions to the world's knowledge of medicine, author of 13 articles on human oviductal fluid, founder of the first invitro-fertilization clinic in Buffalo, and recipient of the UB Distinguished Alumni and Lifetime Achievement Awards.



FROM LEFT: John Yeh, MD, chair, UB Department of Gynecology-Obstetrics; Mrs. Inez Lippes; Jack Lippes, MD, '47, professor emeritus 2008 Distinguished OB-GYN Alumnus; and Ronald E. Batt, MD, '58 professor, Department of Gynecology-Obstetrics.

## David J. Weinstein, MD '64, RETIRED JULY 31, 2008

**AN ARTICLE** on Weinstein's 36-year career as a family physician was published in *The Sussex-Surry Dispatch* (Virginia). It reported that the town in which he had practiced (Wakefield) gave a reception for him, during which time the mayor presented him with a proclamation that honored his service. After the ceremony, Weinstein spoke to former patients and family and friends who had gathered, explaining that he had come to Wakefield "on a temporary basis, and I stayed 36 years," adding that it had been "an honor" to serve the community.

After graduating from UB medical school, Weinstein completed his internship at Akron General Hospital after which he entered residency there in orthopedic surgery. During the first year of his residency, however, he was drafted into the military and never completed his training in the field. He opened Family Medical Center in Wakefield in 1972 and Suffolk Family Medical Center in 1984. From 1975 to 2008, he served as a state medical examiner for his region. In addition, he has served as a delegate to the Medical Society of Virginia since 1985 and was on its board of directors for two terms.

He also has taught medical students, serving as a preceptor for the Medical College of Virginia and Eastern Virginia Medical School from 1985 to 2000.

In 2004, the Consumer's Research Council of America selected Weinstein for its *Guide to America's Top Physicians*.

"This has made me feel both proud and humbled," says Weinstein of the recognition he has received during his career and at the time of his retirement. "I owe so very much to the solid educational base that I received at UB."

He adds: "I am looking forward to our 45th reunion next spring."

—S. A. UNGER

## 1960s

**Jim Felsen, MD '66**, has published a book titled *De-Spamming Health—Reforming the Health System from the Bottom Up*.

In the book, Felsen gives an overview of how health care in the U.S. evolved to where it is today and describes how—despite decades of tremendous achievements in medical science—parallel gains in systems integration have stalled.

He also explains how most health systems exist locally and contends that reform will occur only when each community regains ownership and drives the agenda.

"Most reform initiatives are fragmented, incomplete and conceived within the wrong geopolitical jurisdictions,



and they primarily address health financing and insurance coverage, often not the most important issues," he says.

Felsen is a board-certified public health physician who worked for 40 years at the local, national and international levels to improve health systems. Early in his career he served as a health officer for Native American communities. This experience—coupled with advancements in health sciences, especially information technology—convinced him in the 1960s that the golden age of community health systems was just around the corner.

"I still believe it is," he says.

For more information on *De-Spamming Health—Reforming the Health System From the Bottom Up*, visit Felsen's website at [www.local-healthcarereform.com](http://www.local-healthcarereform.com).

## 1980s

**James Bronk, MD '81**, of Napa, California, has been inducted as a Fellow

in the American College of Radiology. Bronk is a partner of Solano Imaging Medical Associates of Fairfield, California, and chair of the Department of Radiology at Northbay Medical Center. He serves on the board of trustees for the California Medical Association and is a member of the American Roentgen Ray Society and the Radiological Society of North America. Bronk earned his medical degree from UB in 1981 and completed his residency training at Stanford University.

**Steven Teich, MD '81**, surgical director of the neonatal intensive care unit at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio, and assistant professor of surgery at The Ohio State University College of Medicine, has coedited a textbook titled *Reoperative Pediatric Surgery*.

The book is a resource that covers the full spectrum of pediatric reop-

eration, addressing the complications of common pediatric surgeries, including congenital defect repair, chest wall repair, orchiopexy, hernia repair, fundoplication and placement of ventriculoperitoneal shunts, as well as unique cases of tumor excision and reoperative oncology.

Teich and coeditor Donna Caniano, MD, surgeon-in-chief at Nation-

wide Children's, worked with experts to impart their understanding of indications for reoperative surgeries, radiologic evaluation and surgical procedures that may require complex, seldom-used techniques with the risk of the outcomes of reoperative pediatric surgery.

At Nationwide Children's, Teich coordinates the development of clinical pathways for pediatric

surgery and also serves as the surgical director of the Bariatric Surgery Program.

**Dennis Hollins, MD '87, PhD**, writes: "This spring I was named service line executive of the newly formed Rehabilitation Service Line of the Charlie Norwood



VA Medical Center in Augusta, Georgia. I am board certified in physical medicine and rehabilitation, having graduated with my MD from UB in 1987. I am also an alumnus of The Ohio State University, where I received my master's degree in journalism in 1974 and my PhD in communications in 1978. My wife, Suzette, and I live in Evans, Georgia." [Dhollins7@yahoo.com](mailto:Dhollins7@yahoo.com).

## 1990s

**Oren Fix, MD '99**, writes: "I left the University of Washington, and in October I will be starting a new position as assistant professor in transplant hepatology at UCSF." [orenfix@hotmail.com](mailto:orenfix@hotmail.com)

## 2000s

**Michael Jordan, MD '04**, has joined the physi-

cian team at Lifetime Health Medical Group and began seeing family medicine and sports medicine patients at the Amherst Health Center in July 2008.

Jordan completed residency training in family medicine and a fellowship in sports medicine at UB. He holds professional affiliations with the American College of Sports Medicine, the Medical Society of Erie County/State of New York, American Medical Society for Sports Medicine and the American Academy of Family Physicians.

**Matthew C. Aboudara, MD '05**, writes: "I was married to Lucy F. Petelin, UB School of Nursing, Class of 2006, on August 23, 2008." **BP**

**Matthew C. Aboudara, MD '05**, writes: "I was married to Lucy F. Petelin, UB School of Nursing, Class of 2006, on August 23, 2008." **BP**

**Kathryn T. Starkey, MD '86**, writes from Skaneateles, NY: "In 2007 I retired from private gynecology practice in the Finger Lakes region and began a new career in international medical locums work to 'see the world.' I also rejuvenated my career by returning to obstetrics, which I love! Coincidentally, I worked alongside another UB medical grad—Torben Iversen, MD '88—in New Zealand. Currently, I am working in the Cayman Islands for the summer before heading to Australia for a year. I find it all very liberating, and it has renewed my interest in the practice of medicine. I no longer have the worries of the business side of private medical practice.

Medical School Memory: Studying in the absolute quiet of 'the pit,' a windowless, airless room in the bowels of the old medical school. The sun could be shining when you entered and a blizzard raging when you exited late at night. This cement bunker allowed you to focus on the subject at hand. The faculty were always so kind and approachable, which enhanced learning." [kiwi2go@yahoo.com](mailto:kiwi2go@yahoo.com).

Torben Iversen, MD '88, and Kathryn Starkey, MD '86, cross paths doing medical locums work in New Zealand.



## In Memoriam

**Samuel Cassara, MD '44**, born on May 29, 1919, died on May 23, 2008.

**Herman Edelberg, MD '44**, born on May 3, 1920, died on March 1, 2008.

**Edwin J. Lenahan Jr, MD '47**, born on September 4, 1925, died on December 2, 2007.

**Hallie E. Mont, MD '47**, born on May 9, 1922, died on June 14, 2008.

**Anthony P. Prezyna, MD '47**, born on February 8, 1925, died on March 6, 2008.

**Raphael S. Good, MD '48**, born on July 5, 1921, died on March 28, 2008.

**Bernard Smolens, MD '51**, born on June 2, 1921, died on August 16, 2008.

**Thomas E. Comerford Jr, MD '53**, died on June 11, 2008.

**R. Clay Burchell, MD '54**, born on March 10, 1928, died on August 8, 2007.

**Gary J. Mastman, MD '55**, born on July 6, 1930, died on December 22, 2007.

**Robert Goldstein, MD '62**, born on September 8, 1937, died on September 6, 2007.

**Frank V. DeLaus, MD '63**, born on August 6, 1937, died on July 23, 2008.

**Seamus E. Carmody, MD '64**, born on February 7, 1932, died on June 20, 2008.

**Norman A. Gerber, MD '64**, born on August 11, 1938, died on June 14, 2008.

On June 3, 2008, the school was notified of the death of **Eli Germanovich, MD '65**.

**Richard L. Sylvan, MD '72**, born on August 8, 1943, died on April 6, 2008.

**Howard R. Goldstein, MD '74**, born on November 7, 1948, died on March 18, 2008.



# Residents Honored

## 2008 Student Clinicians Ceremony

Six University at Buffalo residents were presented with the Arnold P. Gold Foundation Humanism and Excellence in Teaching Award at the sixth annual Student Clinician's Ceremony held on July 6, 2008, at Roswell Park Cancer Institute's Hohn Lecture Hall.

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.

This year's keynote address was delivered by Martha Jane Parmington, MD, and the 2007-08 recipient of the Humanism in Medicine Award. Additional remarks were made by Dean Michael E. Cain, MD, Charles M. Severin, MD '97, PhD, David A. Milling, MD '93, and Michael Freitas, Class of 2010.

The 2008 Humanism and Excellence in Teaching Awards were presented by Paul Albini, Class of 2009. 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 about them by nominating students.

—S. A. UNGER



PHOTOS BY NANCY PARISE

### Dean Cerio, MD Surgery

Dean Cerio graduated in 2008 from the UB general surgery residency program as an administrative chief resident. He earned his bachelor of arts degree in economics from Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana, and his medical degree from St. George's University School of Medicine in Grenada. He

is the recipient of the Siegel Excellence in Teaching Award (resident category) in both 2006 and 2008. He recently began a fellowship in plastic surgery at the University of Alabama School of Medicine in Birmingham, Alabama.

#### STUDENT COMMENTS:

Dr. Cerio gave us lectures everyday and made learning fun and interactive and not intimidating. He didn't judge us if we were wrong, but instead placed emphasis on effort. He encouraged learning not through fear, but by inspiring us. He was nice to everyone, placing no emphasis on hospital status or position. It is people like him who give courage to those of us who have doubts about continuing on this long and arduous path.

### Ahmad Fora, MD Internal Medicine

Ahmad Fora is a second-year internal medicine resident. In 2003 he earned his MBBS at the Jordan University of Science and Technology in Irbid, Jordan, and completed a transitional year internship at the Ministry of Health in Jordan in 2004. His future plans include applying for an oncology fellowship after completing his residency training.

#### STUDENT COMMENTS:

Dr. Fora has a natural kindness about him. He treats extremely complicated cases and handles patients with heart. He makes time to talk and laugh with his patients and cares for them as if they were his own family. I hope I can be as tolerant, kind and compassionate as he when I'm a resident.

### Isabelle Chughtai Harvey, MD '04 Family Medicine

Isabelle Chughtai Harvey is currently completing family medicine residency training at UB, as well as a master's degree in public health. In 2000 she earned a bachelor of arts degree in English at UB, graduating magna cum laude as an honors scholar, after which she earned a medical degree from UB. Her future plans include participating in locum tenens work in New Zealand beginning this fall.

#### STUDENT COMMENTS:

Dr. Harvey is very enthusiastic about both the care she gives to her patients and the teaching she provides to medical students. She discussed teaching points on every patient I had with her over six weeks, a feat that is hard to accomplish given the fast-paced and fluctuating nature of third year. She not only cares about helping people medically, but also about helping to improve the knowledge of those with whom she is surrounded.

### Jin Hwa Song, MD Internal Medicine

Jin Hwa Song is currently a third-year internal medicine resident. In 2003 she earned a medical degree from Ewha Women's University in South Korea. Before beginning residency here, she worked as a

physician in South Korea from 2004 to 2006. Her research interests include cardiology, neurology and microbiology.

#### STUDENT COMMENTS:

Dr. Song demonstrates a superior ability to communicate difficult medical concepts, diagnoses and potential avenues of treatment with interns and medical students, as well as with patients and their families. Despite managing multiple clinical tasks on the three or more wards at a time, she never said she didn't have time to teach students. Dr. Song's patience, kindness and clinical acumen during the learning process helped me become increasing confident—even confident enough to ask for help.

### Ji Yong Lee, MD, PhD Obstetrics and Gynecology

Ji Yong Lee earned a medical degree and completed residency training in obstetrics and gynecology at Hallym University in South Korea, while also working toward a PhD. She came to the United States to complete postdoctorate studies at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, researching ovarian cancer. She then came to Buffalo to train in OB/GYN at the Sister's of Charity Hospital, where she is currently chief resident.

#### STUDENT COMMENTS:

Dr. Lee is a model to live by. Her daily functions in the hospital demonstrate that humanism is not lost through increased efficiency. Her friendly interactions with house staff improve the quality of her work while improving team productivity. Dr. Lee exemplifies leadership, an open approach and compassion in her daily work.

### Paul Young, MD '07 Otolaryngology

Paul Young is currently a first-year otolaryngology resident. After earning a medical degree from UB, he completed a bachelor of arts degree in rabbinics at Rabbinical College in London, England, Brussels, Belgium, and Brooklyn NY. While in medical school, he was a recipient of the Maimonides Award for Academic Excellence and Humanism. He has several publications in the field of otolaryngology.

#### STUDENT COMMENTS:

Dr. Young single-handedly taught me medicine in four weeks of surgery. From EKGs to operating techniques, he never made surgery dull or boring. Even at 3 a.m. he enjoyed teaching concepts in medicine, and it's clear he truly loves being a doctor. Furthermore, Dr. Young has extreme compassion for his patients, always wanting the best for them. **BP**



### In Memoriam correction

IN THE SUMMER 2008 ISSUE of *Buffalo Physician*, we incorrectly reported the passing of **Harold Smulyan, MD '53**. We learned of our error when we received the following note from him shortly after the issue was distributed:

*"Hi! I am Harold Smulyan, MD, Class of '53. Today I received my current copy of Buffalo Physician and noticed my name on the 'In Memoriam' page. I assure you that I am very much alive and still in reasonable health. The notice was a source of some merriment among my colleagues, and I wondered if it would exclude me from future alumni dues. . . .?"*

Thank you for your note, Dr. Smulyan (and sense of humor). We are pleased to report that you are "alive and well."

—S. A. UNGER, EDITOR

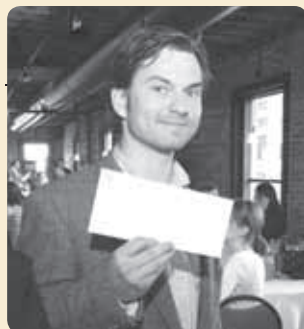
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director of special events and constituent relations, at  
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### Mistaken identity

IN THE MATCH DAY LISTING in the summer 2008 issue of *Buffalo Physician*, the student pictured here was incorrectly identified as Paul Taglienti.

The picture is of **Michal Glinianski**, who is training in anesthesiology at Pennsylvania State University, Milton S. Hershey Medical Center.

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## LOUIS A. AND RUTH SIEGEL AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

THE LOUIS A. AND RUTH SIEGEL AWARDS for Excellence in Teaching are the foremost means for recognizing extraordinary teachers in the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.

A student award committee composed of representatives from each medical class reviews nominations provided by students and selects awardees in four categories. Considerations for this prestigious annual award include instructional skill, ability to stimulate thinking and develop understanding, demonstration of sensitivity toward the human condition, and serving as a role model for students.

FROM LEFT: Naz Zulqarni, MD, Cynthia Dlugos, PhD, Murray Ettinger, PhD, Elias Khawam, MD, Raphael Blochle, MD, V. Jeevan Errabolu, MD

### Full-Time Teaching in the Basic Sciences:

Perry M. Hogan, PhD, *physiology*

HONORABLE MENTION: Cynthia Dlugos, PhD, *anatomy and pathology*; Mark O'Brian, PhD, *biochemistry*; James Fallavollita, MD, *medicine*; Murray Ettinger, PhD, *biochemistry*

### Full-Time Teaching in the Clinical Sciences:

Naz J. Zulqarni, MD, *pediatrics*

HONORABLE MENTION: Stephen Turkovich, MD, *pediatrics*; Bernhard Rohrbacher, MD, *orthopedics*; Thomas Polisoto, MD, *rehabilitation medicine*; Dori Marshall, MD, *psychiatry*

### Volunteer Physician:

Mary M. Weiler, MD, *medicine*

HONORABLE MENTION: Joseph Ralabate, MD, *surgery*; Kenneth Eckhart Jr, MD, *surgery*; Robert Burns, MD, *pediatrics*; Drucy Borowitz, MD, *pediatrics*

### Resident Teaching:

Dean Cerio, MD, *surgery*

HONORABLE MENTION: Raphael Blochle, MD, *surgery*; Nita Thapa, MD, *gynecology/obstetrics*; Elias Khawam, MD, *medicine*; V. Jeevan Errabolu, MD, *family medicine*