A
s my term as president of the Medical Alumni Association comes to the end, I am happy and proud to share with you the many highlights of this past year.

In February, we launched our newest program, UB HOST, which is designed to assist fourth-year medical students in their search for a residency program. See page 43 for information on how alumni from across the country can help by providing housing, transportation, or a meal. This year we also made a concerted effort to educate our students about the outstanding residency programs available here in Western New York by inviting department chairs, attendings and current residents from various specialties to speak about these programs. In the years ahead, we will continue expanding this successful series.

Congratulations to the Class of 2008! Events like Match Day and graduation were great to be a part of and served as a reminder of the quality of students we continue to graduate. We should also be proud of the local medical teams that achieved great things in their treatment of professional athletes, while under the scrutiny of the national media. Now everyone knows what we all already knew—Buffalo is a great medical community! Turn to page 36 to read about some of the positive coverage our medical community has received.

Building on Dr. Mahoney’s work last year, we also continued to add new features to our website, including events and job postings. As my term as president comes to an end, I welcome Charles Niles, MD ’83, as our incoming president, and thank fellow board member John Bodkin, MD ’76, for his commitment to the Practice Giving campaign to benefit the Medical Alumni Endowed Scholarship Fund, which helps UB enroll the best students. Please keep the next generation of physicians and scientists in mind when you think about ways to support the school.

During the next year, I plan to continue my work with representatives from the School of Public Health and leaders of the university community and Roswell Park to make UB smoke free. Inspired by smoke-free universities nationwide, area hospitals and the Wegmans grocery chain, which banned all tobacco products from its shelves, it seems time to make this happen at our university. As part of UB’s Greener Shade of Blue Campaign, we hope to keep the next generation of physicians and scientists in mind when you think about ways to support the school.

Finally, I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as your president. It has been wonderful to be a part of and served as a reminder of the quality of students we continue to graduate. We should also be proud of the local medical teams that achieved great things in their treatment of professional athletes, while under the scrutiny of the national media. Now everyone knows what we all already knew—Buffalo is a great medical community! Turn to page 36 to read about some of the positive coverage our medical community has received.

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Finally, I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as your president. It has been wonderful to work closely with our new administration and other members of the university community during this exciting time for our school. I am convinced that with the visionary leadership of our dean, Dr. Michael E. Cain, and vice president for health sciences, Dr. David Dunn, health care in Western New York will be taken to a higher level through the advancement of the university.

Sincerely,

HELEN M. CAPPUCCINO, MD ’88
President, Medical Alumni Association

Medical Alumni Association
UB HOST (Help Our Students Travel)

The UB HOST PROGRAM provides students with opportunities to connect and network with alumni volunteers while interviewing for residency. Hosts may offer assistance with any of the following for our students:

- Housing or overnight accommodations
- Transportation to and from airport
- Special meals and tours of city or hospital
- On-site interviews
- One-to-one advice about residency, the prospective medical center, and the community in which they are interviewing

If you are interested in becoming a UB HOST, please contact Jennifer Lobagh, director of special events and constituent relations, at (716) 824-3246 or email jlobagh@buffalo.edu.

1960s
Louis Drachman, MD ’65, writes: “On February 9, 2008, I had the honor of being installed as the 121st president of the Ochsner Fund Medical Society. I continue full-time work in pediatrics and preventive medicine with the Louisiana State Department of Health and Hospitals. Though still amazed at how badly Hurricane Katrina hurt New Orleans, my family and I are all coping well. My best memories of medical school are those shared hours of studying with fellow classmates, many of whom I have seen at class reunions. Lost my 1965 Delorean in the flood following the hurricane here, so if anyone has an extra copy, I would love to have it!” (Editor’s note: Staff in the Office of Advancement found a 1965 yearbook and sent it.) E-mail Louis777@juno.com.

1990s
Winston G. Douglas, MD ’94, and Dave Fintak, MD ’93, recently welcomed the arrival of Blake Zayden Fintak. Dave is doing a vitreoretinal surgery fellowship at the Barnes Retina Institute and Jennifer has taken a position as the assistant chief of Clinical Operations and Observation Unit Medical Director, Division of Emergency Medicine at Washington University in St. Louis/Barnes-Jewish Hospital.

2000s
James J. Mezhir, MD ’01, writes: “I married Sheila Watts in January 2008 and we are expecting our first child in February.”

Classnotes
H. Albin “Al” Leonhardt, MD ’55, died November 7, 2007, at his home in Honesdale, Pennsylvania. He was 81.

A World War II veteran, Leonhardt graduated from Hamilton College prior to attending UB medical school. Over the course of his career, he had a general practice in Florham Park, New Jersey, and was director of the emergency room and later orthopedic surgery at Overlook Hospital in Summit, New Jersey. He retired and moved to his home in Pennsylvania in 1994.

“He dealt with his difficult illness with grace and equanimity,” says Bertrand Bell, MD, a classmate and lifelong friend of Leonhardt.

Leonhardt is survived by his wife of grace and equanimity. “He dealt with his difficult illness with grace and equanimity.”

Al was a quiet and effective man and lifelong friend of Leonhardt. “Al was a quiet and effective man and lifelong friend of Leonhardt.”

A native of Buffalo, Gianturco went to Hamilton College prior to attending UB medical school. Over the course of his career, he had a general practice in Florham Park, New Jersey, and was director of the emergency room and later orthopedic surgery at Overlook Hospital in Summit, New Jersey. He retired and moved to his home in Pennsylvania in 1994.

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A native of Buffalo, Gianturco went to Duke in 1960 to complete his residency training after earning his medical degree at UB. After serving as chief resident, he was offered a faculty position specializing in geriatric psychiatry. As a math major in college, he had an interest in computer technology as it became available in the 1970s. Much of his academic career was devoted to developing the use of computers in psychiatric research and practice.

Gianturco assumed numerous leadership roles at Duke, both with the psychiatry department and in the medical center. He held the title of advisory dean for the medical center and became an associate professor emeritus in July 2000. A coauthor of approximately 50 scientific articles and book chapters, Gianturco was respected by students, residents and faculty. He had a reputation for helping others, and was selected to be on a committee to develop a campus-wide plan to address the life and rights of underrepresented minorities.

Joseph Cimino, MD ’62, died on July 5, 2007, from complications of prostate cancer. He was 73.

Cimino served as New York City’s health commissioner under Mayor John V. Lindsay from 1972 to 1974 and later as chief executive of New York Medical College in Valhalla, New York.

A New York Times obituary states: “As the city’s health commissioner . . . Dr. Cimino strengthened regulations and instituted the first mandatory course in environmental sanitation for all New York restaurants and food stores.”

“In November 1973, he saw New York’s sick and injured through a weeklong strike by 30,000 union workers at 48 hospitals and nursing homes in the metropolitan area.”


George J. Eckert, MD ’42, born April 15, 1915, died on June 29, 2007.

Peter Terczyn, MD ’45, born on March 21, 1922, died on October 28, 2007.

Hans F. Kipping, MD ’47, born January 3, 1924, died on February 1, 2008.

Julia Cullen, MD ’49, born on October 16, 1919, died on December 6, 2007.

Dominick Cultrara, MD ’56, born on February 26, 1920, died on October 29, 2007.

Beth J. Wutz, MD ’92, born September 15, 1966, died on October 4, 2007.

IN THE JANUARY 24, 2008 ISSUE of Nature, UB researchers describe a new chemical synthesis method based on a catalyst worth many times the price of gold and providing a far more efficient and economical method than traditional ones for designing and manufacturing extremely novel pharmaceutical compounds.

The chemistry is the basis of a new biotech startup company called Dirhodium Technologies LLC in Buffalo. It has the potential to dramatically improve the design and production of new drugs based on small molecule organic compounds, which comprise the great majority of new drug applications.

“If you tend to make things by methods that have been around for 100 years, there’s a decent chance that you’ll make something that’s already known or is very close to something that is,” says Huw M. L. Davies, PhD, UB Distinguished Professor in the Department of Chemistry and lead author on the Nature paper. “But if you use an entirely new strategy like the one we developed, virtually every reaction you run will result in a new structural entity. That’s critical to drug development.”

To read more about this new method and its potential implications, visit www.buffalo.edu/news and search “rhodium.”