



S U M M E R 2 0 0 8

Classnotes

PICTURED ABOVE: CLASS OF '58

1940s

Payson Jacobson, MD '43, writes: "We shall be unable to attend the reunion, but our happy thoughts shall be with

you. Shirley and I still have our full heads of hair and fortunately our minds are still fairly sharp. This June we shall have been married 60 years. A short resume: After Carlisle, I

was sent to Brooks Hospital in San Antonio, Texas, to be trained in anesthesiology. Why, I don't know since I didn't request this. When I finished, I was I chair of anesthesiology at the Yale Medical School general hospital in Saigon. By causing Hirohito to surrender, Truman probably saved my life since I was scheduled for the invasion of Japan. After this, I was in charge of anesthesia at the Tripler Hospital in Honolulu, Hawaii, and returned to the U.S. on emergency. My last assignment was at Fort Sills. After that I had my fellowship at the University of Minnesota in ophthalmology. I have

practiced in Portland, Maine, since then. I still have my medical license but this may be the last year since I no longer drive and can't attend the staff meetings at Maine Medical Center. Again, best wishes to all our medical school friends."

1960s

Edwin R. Lamm, MD '60, writes from Lakeland, Florida: "After retiring from active practice in January 2003, I worked performing Social Security evaluations for disability, which I continue to do today. Beginning in December 2006, I have been working part time

save the dates

JAMES PLATT WHITE SOCIETY
Donor Recognition Dinner

Thursday, August 14, 2008

TRANSIT VALLEY COUNTRY CLUB
8920 TRANSIT ROAD
EAST AMHERST, NY 14051

THE DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS DINNER

Friday, September 19, 2008

6:00 P.M. Honoring UB Alumna Nancy Nielsen,
ADAM'S MARK HOTEL MD '76, PhD, president of the American
Medical Association



What's Up Doc?

Classnotes can be submitted either by e-mailing them to bp-notes@buffalo.edu or by visiting *Buffalo Physician's* website at www.smbs.buffalo.edu/bp and clicking on Classnote Submissions.

1980s

Wesley L. Hicks Jr, MD '84, Roswell Park Cancer Institute (RPCI), was honored as one of "America's Leading Doctors" in 2007-2008 by *Black Enterprise (BE)* magazine for his leadership in the field of otolaryngology.

The criterion for selection was recognition as a national leader in their particular field and certification by the American Board



of Medical Specialties. *BE* editors also consulted and received

recommendations from a number of professional medical organizations.

Hicks is a professor of otolaryngology and head and neck surgery at RPCI, where he specializes in head and neck surgical oncology. He also serves as director of the Head and Neck Surgical Fellowship Program at RPCI and is a professor of neurosurgery at the UB School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.

His research interests focus on tissue engineering, wound healing and mechanisms involved in wound repair. His laboratory is studying novel work in bioengineered devices for enhanced wound repair, the cellular microenvironment and tissue remodeling.

Rubens Pamies, MD '86, vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, has been named a member the National Board



of Medical Examiners' (NBME) Test Committee.

Pamies, who also serves as dean for graduate studies at UNMC, has been involved in activities at the NBME since 1999. He currently serves on the Interdisciplinary Review Committee for the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE). USMLE is a joint program of the

NBME and the Federation of State Medical Boards.

Pamies is nationally known for his work on health disparities. He joined former United States Surgeon General David Satcher, MD, to co-author the medical textbook *Multicultural Medicine and Health Disparities*, published in 2005.

A native of New York, Pamies received his undergraduate degree from St. John's University and his medical degree from UB.

Adam Keller Ashton, MD '87, a Buffalo Medical Group psychiatrist, is the recipient of the Department of Psychiatry's 2007 award for outstanding contributions to medical student education.

Ashton, who joined

Buffalo Medical Group in 1995, has been a member of the UB faculty for 19 years. At the time of his appointment in 2003 as clinical professor of psychiatry, he was the youngest person, at age 42, in the department to hold that title.

Ashton is board-certified in geriatric and adult psychiatry by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology and teaches medical students and residents. A distinguished fellow of the American Psychiatric Association, he has published more than 60 book chapters, abstracts, posters and articles and has written for psychiatric journals on treatment-induced sexual dysfunction. **BP**



Pictured left: Mary (Berowski) Kaudererm, MD '06, of Snyder, New York, married James T. Kauderer on May 10, 2008. maryberowskimd@yahoo.com

at a Center for Wound Care and Hyperbaric Medicine at Lakeland Regional Medical Center, in Lakeland. This allows me to retain some of my skills and interests in clinical surgery. I am happy to observe my eight grandchildren growing and maturing. rslamm1@tampabay.rr.com

John R. Fisk, MD '69, writes: "I retired July 1, 2007, as professor emeritus at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine after 33 years of practice as a pediatric orthopaedic surgeon, medical educator and fellowship director for

spinal surgery. Received AAMC Humanism in Medicine award in 2006. Am vice president of the International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics, and serve on the board of directors of Health Volunteers Overseas and Post-Polio Health International. I currently direct a country wide program in Tanzania for teaching the Ponseti Method for the care of club feet. My wife, Diane, and I recently moved to Beaufort, South Carolina. We have six children and eight grand children." jfisk@siumed.edu

Dr. Beth J. Wutz Memorial Award

AT THIS YEAR'S HONORS CEREMONY, the first Dr. Beth J. Wutz Memorial Award was presented to Lauren Dunford, MD '08, by Michael Aronica, MD '93, program director of the UB combined internal medicine and pediatrics residency program, who made the following statement.

"It is my honor and privilege to introduce to you the Beth J. Wutz Memorial Award. Beth was a colleague of mine and a very esteemed friend. She graduated from the University at Buffalo in 1992, after which she completed her training in combined internal medicine and pediatrics in 1996. She remained on as a faculty member until starting her own private practice as both an internist and a pediatrician.

"Beth's life was cut short after a tragic illness, but her memory lives on in her patients, her colleagues and her family.

"Beth's career was a bright spot here in Western New York. She was a local girl who grew up and pursued her dream to become a doctor, and she went to school here locally and stayed here. She worked extraordinary hours as a dedicated, empathetic, intelligent and down-to-earth physician. While she cared for a number of complex adult patients, she was especially dedicated to her pediatric patients. Beth loved children. She was a great teacher and understanding colleague.

"There was one choice this year for the medical student who typifies Beth's qualities of intelligence, empathy, dedication and hard work. She was also a student



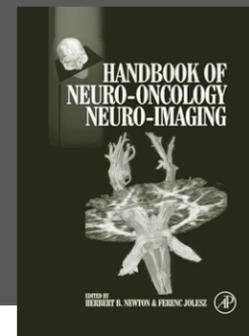
FROM LEFT: Michael Aronica, MD '93; Lauren Dunford, MD '08, who is training in medicine-pediatrics at UB; Joan Wutz, Beth's mother; and John Wutz, her brother. Laura Colca, Beth's sister, also attended the ceremony.

who grew up in Western New York. This medical student was honored in six of her third-year clerkships. She volunteered her time mentoring children with HIV/AIDS, working in the refugee center and the Lighthouse Free Medical Clinic. Like Beth, she also truly defines what it means to be a Buffalo Sabres' fan.

"I am proud to award the first Beth J. Wutz Memorial Award to Lauren Dunford."

Herbert Newton, MD '84, writes:

"I remain professor of neurology and oncology and the Esther Dardinger Endowed Chair in Neuro-Oncology at the Ohio State University Medical Center and James Cancer Hospital. I recently published a new book, titled *Handbook of Neuro-Oncology Neuroimaging*, which is now the most comprehensive textbook available regarding the imaging of brain tumors and other neuro-oncological illnesses. An update on my children: Alex continues to play soccer and is the lead guitar player for several bands. Ashley is heavily into YMCA swimming and also takes guitar and singing lessons." newton.12@osu.edu



DID YOU KNOW

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A charitable gift annuity with UB is a solid investment. It supports a cause you cherish and provides you with a great annuity rate in return. See the rates below.

Age	Rate
60	5.5
65	5.7
70	6.1
75	6.7
80	7.6
85	8.9
90	10.5

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Assistant Vice President for Gift Planning
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<http://giving.buffalo.edu/planned>





Health and Healing

BY S. A. UNGER

Brian French, MD '04, is an educator at heart

BETWEEN HIS SECOND AND THIRD YEARS of medical school, Brian French, MD '04, decided to take a year off and join AmeriCorps, a federal agency whose mission is to improve lives, strengthen communities and foster civic engagement through service and volunteering. While some of his friends and teachers were hesitant when he told them what he was going to do, French decided to follow his heart because he knew better than most that life is short—and precious.

When French was five years old, his older brother, David, died of a brain tumor at age 13; three years later, his father died of lung cancer at age 45.

French received no counseling at the time, nor did his mother or older brother and sister. Instead, he says, “We all shut down, not because we wanted it that way, but because we didn’t have the tools. We didn’t know how to help each other.”

A talented athlete, French focused his energy and unresolved anger on football at Williamsville East High School. Although he received several letters to play football

in college, he decided to concentrate on academics with the goal of becoming a doctor.

He began his undergraduate studies at Canisius College, and after two years transferred to the University of North

Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he majored in Asian studies and at age 20 gained entrance to UB’s medical school through its early assurance program.

He did well in medical school, but still there was the calling to join AmeriCorps, which he acted upon. While participating in the program, one of his four assignments involved his spending two months working at King-Chavez Elementary School in a poor, inner-city neighborhood in San Diego, California. There he met principal Dennis McKeown, who, French says, “changed my life.”

“I loved the school, I loved what they were doing and I loved the mission,” he explains. “This was about social justice and social reform and someone who was doing something about it, not just talking.”

After his 10-month commitment with AmeriCorps ended, French returned to UB and completed medical school. While serving a hospice rotation in Ireland during his fourth year, he says he “had an epiphany” that there was something else out there for him, although he didn’t know what it was.

In the intervening years, his mother had remarried and moved to California. On a trip out to see her after medical school, French again visited King-Chavez Elementary

School and met with McKeown, who not only offered him a job teaching physical education and coaching sports, but also held out the possibility that he could be principal of his own charter school.

Under Proposition 39 in California, anyone can start a school if they write a charter and have it approved by the local school district board. McKeown and French did this and were granted approval to take over operation of a neighborhood school that had been failing for more than 30 years. In 2005, the administrative transfer took place, at which time the school was renamed King-Chavez Athletics Academy, and French was appointed principal.

Today the academy has 150 students, grades three through five, 95 percent of whom are Latino and considered

“urban poor” (all qualify for free or reduced lunches).

“We teach to the mind, body and spirit of each child, all of whom have the same struggles and who experience the same social ills as do many children in every community, except that they are more pronounced here,” says French. “You have addiction, you have neglect, you have fathers and brothers and cousins who have been killed in gang shootings or who are in jail—any dysfunctional situation you can imagine is here. So this is a place where love is needed the most.”

Love and discipline, he emphasizes, with both grounded in mental and physical health. In addition to having 40 minutes of physical education and 40 minutes of free play every day, the students begin their day with warm-up exercises led by French. Staff pay special attention to nutrition and to teaching healthy eating habits, with a focus on preventing obesity and diabetes. Among other things, this has resulted in adjustments to the traditional Mexican-diet in school meals; for example, olive oil is substituted for lard in beans.

In the three years French has been principal of the school, test scores, as measured by the state, have improved 150 points, reflecting the highest gain made by any elementary school in San Diego County. French is the first to say that because the scores “started at the bottom of the barrel,” improvements still need to be made.

He is convinced this will happen with the extra tutoring, mentoring and counseling available to the students, all of

which have resulted in low absenteeism and tardiness.

When French began as principal, none of these support services was in place; instead, the former administration had hired a police officer to patrol the campus and had cut physical education, art and recess in order to allocate more time for test preparation. What little sports equipment and art supplies the school had at that time were later discovered in storage behind the auditorium stage.

Today, after-school clubs and activities abound—“Yoga, tae kwon do, soccer (two teams), music, dance, art, theater, service learning, peace makers, family wellness, jump rope, gardening, fitness arcade, lacrosse, modeling, academic support,” recites French.

“It’s like a private-school atmosphere in a public-residential neighborhood,” he adds. “We’re showing the larger systems that mountains can be moved with a more holistic, well-rounded program that makes for happier students and an environment where learning is positive, not punitive.”

As he looks to the future, French sees limitless possibilities for his student body and eagerly anticipates focusing his energy on new projects that involve even more nutritious student meals and medical advocacy.

In working to improve the health and well being of his students and their community, he acknowledges that a healing process has begun to take place within himself, as well.

“When I first started teaching, I was more of a drill sergeant. Now I’m just like this teddy bear of a guy,” he says. “But it’s taken me a long time to get there.” **BP**

I loved the school, I loved what they were doing and I loved the mission,” he explains. “This was about social justice and social reform and someone who was doing something about it, not just talking.

BRIAN FRENCH, MD '04

PICTURED LEFT: Brian French, MD '04, with students

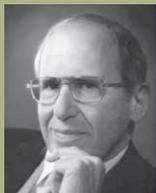
To view videos of the students at King-Chavez Athletics Academy working out in their fitness arcade, or on a recent field trip, go to YouTube.com and search “King-Chavez Athletics Academy” and see:

- “Childhood Obesity: King Chavez Athletics Academy Solution”
- “King-Chavez Athletics Academy—Chicano Park Field Trip”



In Memoriam

Norman Chassin, MD '45, associate clinical professor of medicine emeritus at UB and former chief of internal medicine at Kenmore Mercy Hospital, died April 15, 2008, in Millard Fillmore Suburban Hospital, Amherst, New York. He was 87.



Born in Buffalo, Chassin attended Bennett High School and earned his bachelor's and medical degrees from UB in 1942 and 1945, respectively.

He maintained a practice in internal medicine in Kenmore from 1951 to 1975 and during that time served on the staff at Kenmore Mercy, where he also was chair of the Internship Program and the Institutional Ethics Committee. He later helped found the fundraising foundation for the hospital.

Chassin also was an attending physician at E.J. Meyer Memorial Hospital (now Erie County Medical Center), where he served his residency; Millard Fillmore Hospital; and Buffalo Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

He began teaching in the UB Medical School in 1951 and was codirector of the program in bioethics and humanities from 1977 to 2000.

Chassin was instrumental in establishing the medical ethics program at the school and was president of the UB Medical Alumni Association, particularly involved in the annual Spring Clinical Days.

He was founder of the Western New York Network of Institutional Ethics Committees and founder and president of UB's Friends of the Health Sciences Library.

Chassin was honored by the American

College of Physicians for his lifetime achievements. At ECMC, an award is given annually in his name to the outstanding resident in internal medicine.

He received the Sister Mechtilde Memorial Award from Kenmore Mercy Hospital in 1989 and the UB Medical Alumni Association Career Achievement Award in 2000.

Surviving are his wife of 64 years, the former Charlotte Solotken; two sons, Dr. Marvin and David; a daughter, Joan Holmlund; and a sister, Lois Davis.

Joel Shugar, MD '85, 49, founder and medical director of Nature Coast Eye Care Institute & Regional Surgery Center in Perry, Florida, died May 26, 2008, in a skydiving accident in Eloy, Arizona. A fellow skydiver collided with Shugar about 80 to 100 feet above the landing zone, rendering him unable to control his chute.

Shugar is survived by his wife, Lindsey, and his 8-year-old son, Adam.



In addition to the ongoing care he provided his patients, Shugar was well known for performing cataract surgeries free of charge for uninsured patients each year prior to the Thanksgiving holiday.

Martha Ingraham Bennett, MD '94, died peacefully at her home in Silver Springs, Maryland, on March 3, 2008, after succumbing to brain cancer. She was 46. Bennett was born in Rochester, NY, and then moved to Buffalo, NY, where she attended Buffalo Seminary. She graduated from Princeton University before

spending three years in Zaire, now the Congo, as a Peace Corps Volunteer and returning to attend medical school at UB. After finishing medical school in 1994, she trained in family



medicine at Case Western Reserve Hospital in Cleveland, OH. She then moved to the Washington DC area in 1998 where she practiced medicine for seven years. She is survived by her devoted

husband, Francois Bikamba, and their two sons, Tai and Liam Bikamba. She also leaves her father, William B. Bennett, and his partner, Lee Eddy; her brother William M. Bennett; and sister-in-law, Itsuyo; a niece Mia; and a nephew Kio. Her mother, Geanette Bennett, preceded her in death.

Martha will always be remembered for her keen mind; open heart; love of family, friends and food; and her positive contributions toward making the world a better place for everyone.

Family, friends and classmates are invited to send a message for inclusion in a memory book for Martha's boys. Please write about a special moment you shared with Martha that might truly tell Tai and Liam how special their mother was and is. Mail your note to Francois Bikamba, 1712 Overlook Drive, Silver Spring, MD, 20903. **BP**

IN MEMORIAM CORRECTION

In the spring 2008 issue of Buffalo Physician, it was incorrectly stated that Daniel T. Gianturco, MD '60, was associate professor emeritus of psychiatry at Duke University. He was professor emeritus.

On February 22, 2008, the school was notified of the death of **Edward M. Tracy, MD '43**.

Stanley L. Cohen, MD '53, born on April 4, 1928, died on January 25, 2008.

On March 5, 2008, the school was notified of the death of **Harold Smulyan, MD '53**.

John A. Winter, MD '55, born on April 22, 1930, died on February 13, 2008.

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

Norbert W. Pohlman, MD '64, born in 1938, died on March 4, 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.

William Stratford, MD '75, born on November 11, 1949, died on January 15, 2008.