



PHOTO BY NANCY PARISI

## 2008 DISTINGUISHED MEDICAL ALUMNA NANCY H. NIELSEN, MD '76, PHD

**Nancy H. Nielsen, MD '76, PhD, president of the American Medical Association and senior associate dean for medical education in the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, is the recipient of the University at Buffalo's 2008 Distinguished Medical Alumna Award.**

A DINNER IN HER HONOR, hosted by the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences and the Medical Alumni Association (MAA) was held September 19, 2008, at the Buffalo Club. In attendance were MAA officers and other alumni; Dean Michael E. Cain, MD; faculty; and friends and family of Nielsen.

A native of West Virginia, Nielsen earned a doctorate in microbiology at Catholic University in Washington, DC, and a medical degree from the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, where she currently is a clinical professor of medicine. She has served as a State University of New York trustee and as a member of the board of directors of Kaleida Health.

Nielsen was elected president of the American Medical Association (AMA) on June 17, 2008, previously serving four terms as speaker of the AMA House of Delegates

(HOD) and three terms as vice speaker. She is a delegate from New York and served two terms on the AMA Council on Scientific Affairs to help formulate policy positions for AMA-HOD debates on the diagnosis and treatment of depression, alcoholism among women, Alzheimer's disease, priorities in clinical preventive services, colorectal cancer screening, asthma control, nicotine content of cigarettes and safety in dispensing prescriptions.

Among other AMA positions, Nielsen has served as a member of the National Patient Safety Foundation board of directors, the Commission for the Prevention of Youth Violence, and the Task Force on Quality and Patient Safety. She currently serves as a delegate to the AMA Medical School Section and is a liaison to the Council on Medical Education. She is the AMA representative on several quality initiatives, including the

National Quality Forum, the AMA-convened Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement, and the Ambulatory Care Quality Alliance. She serves on the Institute of Medicine's Roundtable on Evidence-Based Medicine, and on the Consumer Empowerment Committee of America's Health Information Community.

In 2002, Nielsen was appointed to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Advisory Committee on Regulatory Reform. She was chief medical officer at Independent Health until 2007, having served eight years as associate medical director for quality. She was speaker of the Medical Society of the State of New York House of Delegates and a member of the board of directors of the Medical Liability Mutual Insurance Company—one of the largest malpractice carriers in the country. She also has served as president of the Erie County Medical Society.

**FROM LEFT: MAA president Charles R. Niles, MD '83, Nancy H. Nielsen, MD '76, PhD, and Dean Michael E. Cain, MD**