WOUNDS OF WAR

Bruce Leavitt, M.D.'81 treats the aftermath of the Sri Lankan conflict

ALSO FEATURED:

> Women in medicine
> A history of Vermont surgeons
> Students research, learn, and advocate

SPRING 2010
Beyond the Borders

After a quarter-century of war, hundreds of thousands of the Tamil people of Sri Lanka sat in Internal Displacement Camps in the island nation. Bruce Leavitt, M.D.’81 shares photos and diary entries from his month-long experience working in a Doctors Without Borders clinic serving thousands of patients still nursing the wounds of war.

Paying it Forward

Fifty years ago, few women rose to leadership positions in medicine. Today, women who’ve made the long, hard climb mentor the next generation of physicians and scientists.

By Lynda Majarian

Two Centuries of Vermont Surgeons

Seven years after his retirement, an emeritus professor of surgery draws on fifty years of memories, plus mountains of research, to produce a history of the practice of surgery in Vermont. Vermont Medicine presents a sampling of Catamount Surgeons, the new book by David Pilcher, M.D., and co-author Michael Carran, M.D.

Research, Advocate, Change

Perhaps only in Vermont can medical students help to effect change so rapidly: this winter, a group produced new public health knowledge, and quickly propelled their findings into the public forum.

By Jennifer Nachbur


The UVM Medical Alumni Association invites you and your family to plan now to join your classmates for Reunion 2010 — June 11–13, 2010. Come back to Burlington and the UVM campus, your home during medical school. You may have lost contact with your classmates and former teachers, but Reunion will give you the chance to reconnect, rekindle old friendships, check out favorite places, talk with faculty, meet the medical students of today, and experience first-hand the growth and evolution of your medical alma mater.

EVENTS INCLUDE: Medical Education Today Session • Tours of the College, including the Medical Education Center and new Courtyard Building • Alumni Awards and Reception • Medical Alumni Picnic • Nostalgia Hour • Class Receptions
Vermonters Respond to Haiti Earthquake

Late in the afternoon of January 12, 2010, a magnitude 7.0 earthquake struck the island nation of Haiti. The quake killed up to 230,000 people, injured 300,000 and displaced at least a million Haitians.

In the hours and days immediately following the disaster, health care professionals from across the world descended on Haiti to assist in caring for the injured, and Vermonters were there as part of that effort. At Vermont’s academic medical center, a team of nurses, doctors, and other medical personnel began forming within hours. Associate Professor of Surgery William Charash, M.D., was among that first group. “The earthquake happened on a Tuesday, and by the following weekend we were organized,” says Charash. The nature of the disaster had created a particular need for trauma surgeons such as Charash. In addition to Charash, the team consisted of five nurses, a respiratory therapist, two paramedics, an emergency medicine technician, and a third-year surgery resident, David Greenhouse, M.D.

The team eventually found their way into Haiti’s neighboring country, the Dominican Republic, which was largely unaffected by the quake. “There weren’t the usual agencies on the ground directing things,” Charash says, “so a large part of our initial effort was spent just finding the place where we could help the most.” That led eventually to work at a makeshift clinic in Jimani, a Dominican border town that received large numbers of injured Haitian refugees. After the initial team’s two-week stay was over, more teams from Vermont continued the effort in the following weeks. “The need will be long term, for years,” says Charash. “And the needs have already shifted, from trauma care initially to people who can deal with the recovery and rehabilitation of patients.”

A College of Medicine alumna, Eva Lathrop, M.D. ’99, who has worked with the Portland, Maine-based Haitian service group Kombt Sans since 2001, travelled to Haiti in the days following the quake and worked in Haiti’s second-largest city, Cap-Haïtien. In a letter printed in the Portland Herald in February, Lathrop told of the struggle of her coworkers and patients as the disaster drew all vital resources to the Haitian capital. “ Somehow they still manage to smile,” she wrote. “They share small moments of hope, and find strength to persevere. It is remarkably humbling. It is a privilege to be among them.”
VCHIP Model Earns Vermont and Maine a New Children’s Health Improvement Grant

The Vermont Child Health Improvement Program (VCHIP) at the College of Medicine is a partner in a five-year, $11.3 million federal grant jointly received by Vermont and Maine to help establish a national quality system for children’s health care through the Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Programs. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced the grant awards, which are funded by the Children’s Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (CHIPRA) of 2009, on February 22. Vermont was one of 18 states to win the award.

“We all have a stake in the health of our nation’s children,” said Secretary Sebelius. “Expanding new technologies and initiatives will help ensure our kids get the high quality care they need and deserve.”

The grant, which will be used to help states implement health information technologies such as pediatric electronic health records and health information technologies, will help ensure the quality of care for children. “Exploring new improvement technologies and initiatives will help ensure our kids get the high quality care they need and deserve,” said Secretary Sebelius.

An Improvement Partnership is a statewide collaboration of multi-disciplinary public and private partners that uses quality improvement science to improve child health care systems, practice, and child health outcomes. VCHIP — the first Improvement Partnership in the nation — founded and provides leadership to the National Improvement Partnership Network, a rapidly growing network of over 15 active and developing Improvement Partnership states. Utah and New Mexico, two members of the National Network, were also awarded CHIPRA Demonstration Grant. All the states serve as frontrunners in the Improvement Partnership effort.

“Improvement Partnerships are taking off around the country,” said Judith Shaw, Ed.D., M.P.H., R.N., FAAHPM, executive director of VCHIP and research associate professor of pediatrics and nursing at UVM. “This funding will allow us to take the practice-based improvement model that has achieved great success in improving child health care quality in Vermont and continue to extend it to a national level.”

Specific goals of grant activities in Vermont include enhancing the state’s health information technology infrastructure to support improved communication between providers and strengthen pediatric patient-centered medical home models; automating Bright Futures; the guidelines for health supervision co-edited by Shaw, in primary care practices; and using Vermont’s leadership role in the National Improvement Partnership Network to increase the number of participating states and to evaluate the impact of Improvement Partnerships in improving child health care quality.

In Vermont, funds from the grant will be used to expand the nationally recognized Blueprint for Health by extending the Blueprint to children and to expand and study the Improvement Partnership model as a promising innovation for improving the quality of health care provided to children.

Better Training Through Simulation

U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy and his wife, Marcelle, visited Fletcher Allen Health Care on March 5 to experience first-hand the Simulator Training Program, where Leahy announced a $750,000 appropriation from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration that will enable the program to expand its training in the coming year. Previously, Leahy had secured $1 million for the program, which prepares a wide range of medical caregivers, as well as more than 80 members of the Vermont National Guard. Demonstrating the simulator to Michael Rice, M.D., professor of surgery and director of clinical simulation at UVM/Albany Medical College, Dr. Rice is a flight surgeon in the Vermont Air National Guard.

Health Care at Home and Abroad

Dean Bob Morris, M.D., congratulated U.S. Senator Bernard Sanders and Frits Arne Peterson, Ambassador of Norway to the United States, to the College’s Solomon Chairmen on March 22 for a meeting presentation and discussion on the health care system in Norway. The event, which drew a standing-room-only crowd of over 200 students and faculty, was particularly relevant, coming-only-hours after the U.S. House of Representatives passed landmark health care reform legislation and the day before the bill took effect. In his remarks before introducing the ambassador, Dean Morris underscored the need for students in the audience to consider a career in primary care medicine.

Research Milestones

Carney Co-Authors Academic Medicine Article

In 1920, a time devoid of medical licensing laws and trust in science, education expert Abraham Flexner published a Carnegie Foundation-commissioned study on physician training that promoted serious reform in the medical education process. To commemorate the Flexner Report’s centennial anniversary, a collaborative group of U.S. and Canadian community health experts, including Associate Dean for Public Health Jan Carney, M.D., M.P.H., conducted a review of the progress American medical schools have achieved in addressing needed reforms in public health-related education over the past 100 years. Their findings and recommendations were featured in an article in Academic Medicine in February.

Study Finds Less TV Equals More Calories Burned

Reducing your time in front of the television could reap weight loss benefits with little effort, according to a UVM study reported in the Archives of Internal Medicine in December. The researchers found that adults who reduced their television time by half, using an electronic lock-out system, did not change their calorie intake but did expend more energy over a three-week period. The average adult watches almost five hours of television per day, according to the article’s authors. Some efforts to prevent and reduce obesity have focused on modifying diet and physical activity, but newer strategies have involved reducing sedentary behaviors such as TV watching.

Not only may reducing TV time allow for more active endeavors, it may also help alleviate chronic sleep deprivation, potentially linked to obesity. (Jennifer J. Otten, Ph.D., R.D., a former UVM doctoral student now at Stanford University School of Medicine, and colleagues Jean Harvey-Berino, Ph.D., UVM professor and chair of nutrition, and Benjamin Littenberg, M.D., UVM professor of medicine, conducted the randomized controlled trial of 36 adults who had a body mass index between 25 and 50 and reported watching at least three hours of TV per day.

UVM Holds Neuroscience Research Forum

The UVM Neuroscience Graduate Program, with support from the Vermont Chapter of the Society for Neuroscience (SfN), began its 5th Annual Neuroscience Research Forum on January 28 with a keynote lecture by Johns Hopkins University neurosurgeon Alfredo Quinones-Hinojosa, M.D. at UVM’s Davis Center, titled “Brain Cancer: Current Paradigms.” The Forum, which was organized by Rae Nishi, Ph.D., president of the Vermont SfN and UVM professor of anatomy and neurobiology and director of the Neuroscience Graduate Program, attracted more than 100 scientists from across the nation.

UVM ARRA Funding Surpasses $15 Million

To date, the University of Vermont College of Medicine has received National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding for more than 40 projects, bringing in more than $15 million through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. A Front-page December 14 Burlington Free Press article highlighted the College’s success. To view an updated list of NIH grants funded by the ARRA, go to: report.nih.gov/recovery.
Collège's Community Connection
Brings First “Brain Bee”

A traumatic brain injury incurred 24 years ago piqued Middlebury, Vt., resident Lisa Bernardin’s fascination with the brain. “I feel fortunate to be alive and functioning with my brain intact,” says Bernardin, who initiated the concept of a Vermont Brain Bee after reading about the 2009 International Brain Bee winner in the Brain Injury Association of America’s quarterly magazine The Challenge. She contacted the Vermont Chapter of the Society for Neuroscience outreach coordinator Rachael Hannah, a doctoral candidate in UVM’s Neuroscience Graduate Program, and the event became a reality.

Thanks to Bernardin’s and Hannah’s efforts, as well as the support of UVM neuroscience faculty, graduate students, the Vermont Chapter of the Society for Neuroscience and several contributors, the University of Vermont hosted the First Annual Vermont Brain Bee on February 13. Nineteen high school students from Champlain Valley Union, Middlebury, Mount Abraham, Harwood and Vermont Academy participated in the competition at the College of Medicine’s Medical Education Center. Contestants took a written test, participated in brain anatomy tours, listened to a presentation on stem cell treatments for stroke and a panel discussion on working in the field of neuroscience, followed by the live competition and an awards presentation.

Middlebury High School senior Sarah Longchamp was the winner of the Vermont Brain Bee. She went on to participate in the National Brain Bee, held in Baltimore, Md., on March 19 and 20 in conjunction with national Brain Awareness Week.

In addition to Hannah, other UVM members of the Vermont Brain Bee organizing team include Diane Jaworski, Ph.D., associate professor of anatomy and neurobiology, and Holly Stradecki, research technician in anatomy and neurobiology.

Community Leaders Gain a First-Hand Look

For more than a decade the Community Rounds program at the College of Medicine and Fletcher Allen Health Care has helped educate over 300 legislators, community and civic leaders, and other policy makers about the workings and accomplishments of Vermont’s academic medical center. Community Rounds is one of 21 Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) “Project Medical Education” programs held at 15 AAMC member institutions during 2009. The UVM/Fletcher Allen program was featured prominently in the AAMC’s Project Medical Education 2009 Year in Review publication. This past February, Michael Townsend, Jonathan Bloom, and Jay Fayette (at right) were part of a group of twelve people who donned white coats to participate in the two-day program. Here they learn about a research project from Kelly Carsdens, research assistant in the Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology.

New Vermont Cancer Center Leadership

As of April 1, two new co-directors are leading the Vermont Cancer Center, as Interim Director Richard Brandt, M.D., steps down.

David McFadden, M.D., and Nicholas Heintz, Ph.D., chair of surgery at the College of Medicine and physician leader of surgery at Fletcher Allen, has expanded his role to serve as the Interim Director for Clinical Cancer Care and Research, with oversight for multi-disciplinary clinical cancer care and clinical cancer research initiatives.

In addition to Brandt, other UVM members of the Vermont Cancer Center organizing team include Diane Jaworski, Ph.D., associate professor of anatomy and neurobiology; Holly Stradecki, research technician in anatomy and neurobiology; Michael L. Ricci, M.D., professor of surgery at the College of Medicine and physician leader of surgery at Fletcher Allen; and Nicholas Heintz, Ph.D., chair of surgery at the College of Medicine and physician leader of surgery at Fletcher Allen.

Forehand and Bates Accept Leadership Roles at UVM

Two senior members of the University of Vermont College of Medicine faculty recently accepted leadership roles at the University. In February, Jason Bates, Ph.D., D.Sc., professor of medicine and molecular physiology and biophysics, was appointed interim director of the School of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences. Bates, a world-class researcher with significant scientific publications and an excellent record of external funding, will split his time between his continuing research activities in the College of Medicine’s Vermont Lung Center and his new role as the interim director.

Cynthia Forehand, Ph.D., professor of anatomy and neurobiology and director of the Foundations course in the Vermont Integrated Curriculum, has been appointed associate dean of the Graduate College, effective July 1, 2010. In her new role, Forehand will work with the graduate faculty and staff on recruitment and retention of a highly diverse, world-class graduate student population — with new emphases on UVM leadership in emerging transdisciplinary research areas.

Ricci Named Director of Clinical Simulation

In February, Michael Ricci, M.D., professor of surgery at the UVM and director of clinical simulation at Fletcher Allen Health Care, was named director of clinical simulation at UVM/Fletcher Allen. Dr. Ricci has provided leadership for the development of clinical simulation programs and other innovative educational initiatives at Vermont’s academic medical center for the last several years. He joined UVM/Fletcher Allen in 1999 and, as director of the Center for Clinical Simulation at Fletcher Allen Health Care, led the project team that developed the state-of-the-art surgical simulation technology that is now used in surgical education programs throughout the world.

Notables

David McFadden, M.D.

Nicholas Heintz, Ph.D.

Cynthia Forehand, Ph.D.

Michael Ricci, M.D.

Jason Bates, Ph.D., D.Sc.
Thanks for a Strong Foundation

“Foundations” is the name of the first of three levels in the Vermont Integrated Curriculum (VIC), the course of study followed by every aspiring physician at the College of Medicine. The Class of 2012 held an awards ceremony and reception on January 29 in honor of their completion of Medicine. The Class of 2012 held an awards ceremony study followed by every aspiring physician at the College

The Silver Stethoscope Award: Lewis First, M.D., professor and chair of pediatrics. This award recognizes the faculty member who had few lecture hours, but made a substantial contribution to students’ education.

Above and Beyond Award: Ellen Cornbrooks, Ph.D., lecturer in anatomy and neurobiology. This award recognizes the faculty member (not necessarily a lecturer) who went above and beyond the call of duty to help the students in their learning objectives.

Best Support Staff (Non-teaching): Mike Cross, custodial maintenance worker. This award recognizes the staff member who best supported students in areas besides teaching.

Outstanding Department Award: Department of Pathology

Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award: Michael Goedeke, M.D., Class of 2009; clinical instructor and resident in psychiatry at Fletcher Allen Health Care.

In addition, student representatives of the American Medical Student Association (AMSA), American Medical Women’s Association (AMWA), Student Chapter and Class of 2012 Wellness Committee presented the following awards:

AMSA Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching: William Hopkins, M.D.

AMWA Gender Equity Award: Jean Saliva, M.D., lecturer in anatomy and neurobiology. This award honors a male or female faculty member who promotes a gender-fair environment for the education and training of physicians.

Wellness Award: Melissa Morotta, Class of 2012. This award recognizes a student who demonstrates sincere dedication to helping his/her classmates. Morotta “embodies wellness and caring for others,” stated her classmates.

3 Questions for William Hopkins, M.D.

Q: You have a deserved reputation as an outstanding teacher. What’s your approach to effective teaching?

A: Most importantly, I really love to teach, and I take it very seriously. I’m very interested in the tripartite mission of our academic medical center — great clinical care, great research and excellence in teaching, not only for medical students, but for residents and fellows as well. I don’t know exactly what my teaching style is, but what I do try to do is make what I teach real and relevant. I also try to figure out my audience. I’ve taught preschool, grade school, and high school classes, and I’ve taught undergraduate, graduate and medical students. I try to determine if they understand the material. Sometimes we have to convey some very serious information to patients. Patients come to us with tremendous variations in their background and their ability to understand medical information. I think it’s very important that we convey what we’re trying to explain. Whether we’re teaching about the tripartite mission, or something that’s so?, I constantly learn from students. Why do you think that’s so?

A: As a course, we always try to keep CRR real and relevant. Also, we have a dedicated and interested faculty that also loves to teach and do it very well. One of the advantages we have in the CRR course is that we have three very interesting organs to teach the students about. I think that people have always been fascinated with the heart, so the heart is an easy one. The heart ties in directly with the lungs and if either one of those organs quits, you die. The kidney is such a complicated organ, and it is fascinating from the physiologic perspective. If it’s taught properly, it always pulls the students in, but it’s very difficult to teach it properly. Fortunately, we have excellent nephrologists who are interested in renal physiology and who are very good at teaching the fundamentals of the kidney. The original CRR course director, the late Joe Putlak, had a very good concept for how he wanted to organize the class, and he was a great teacher. I was able to sit in lectures those first couple years and watch and learn from him.

Q: You’re a very active clinician, as well as a course director. Does seeing patients all the time continue to hone your skills as an educator?

A: Definitely. I constantly learn from patients as I teach them about their disease. Sometimes we have to convey some very serious information to patients. Patients come to us with tremendous variations in their background and their ability to understand medical information. I think it’s very important that we convey what we’re trying to explain. Whether we’re teaching about the tripartite mission, or something that’s so?, I constantly learn from patients. Why do you think that’s so?

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They Look Wonderful in White

Universally considered a symbol of the medical profession, the white coat represents an individual’s responsibility and commitment to providing care for others. On February 19, 211 students in the College of Medicine’s Class of 2013 received their first doctor’s coats in a ceremony held at the Ira Allen Chapel on the UVM campus. Robert C. Macauley, M.D., medical director of clinical ethics at Fletcher Allen and UVM clinical associate professor of pediatrics, delivered the main address at the ceremony. U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders also addressed the class and noted the importance of UVM’s role in producing new physicians.
Residency Matches for the College of Medicine Class of 2010

A N E S T H E S I O L O G Y
Rebecca Osnos
Lyle Gently
Elvis Health

D I A G N O S T I C  R A D I O L O G Y
M. Jake Carlson
Daniel Geidt
Jeffrey Kaye
Michael Salmela
Eastern Virginia Medical School
Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital
Hardford Hospital
Univ of Minnesota Medical School

E M E R G E N C Y  M E D I C I N E
Caitlin Bailey
K. Grant Christian
David Florey
Katherine Dolyec
John Finkbein
Kari Gaston
Anna Liberator
Sarah Logan
Joseph Pave
Trevor Pue
Joseph Roever
Sarah Schlen
Nicholas Weinberg
Loma Linda Univ Medical Center
Baystate Medical Center
Bingham and Women's Hospital
Maine Medical Center
Baystate Medical Center
UMDNJ/ Cooper Hospital
Orlando Health
Stanford Hospital and Clinics
Boston Univ Med Center
Mount Sinai Medical Center
Harbor-UCLA Medical Center
Univ of Utah Medical Center
Albany Medical Center

F A M I L Y  M E D I C I N E
Julian Brennan
Michelle Cango
Cortney Hayes
Catherine Awerter
David Longstroth
Bryan Mason
Amy Savoy
Elena Siman
Justin Smith
Ventura County Medical Center
Univ of Utah Medical Center
Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island
National Medical Center (Gafl)
Centro Costal Health Services (Gafl)
Memorial Hospital South Bend (Ind)
Univ of Utah Medical Center
Univ of Utah Medical Center

G E N E R A L  S U R G E R Y
Shafin Frazzina
Vanessa Hui
Inez Stromberg
Aja Whitehead
San Joaquin General Hospital
Monsanto Medical Center (NY)
National Naval Medical Center Bethesda
Univ of Utah Medical Center

I N T E R N A L  M E D I C I N E
Gilka Babu
Glady Balardino
Jessica Boleyn
Jennifer Susmarose Boryski
Michelle Guionn Burke
Pei Chen
Lisa Chiu
Ammon Fager
Matthew Greene
Jason Halpern
A. Shams Helminski
Hui Shanying Hsu
David Bern
Niel Kappas
Joseph Kauman
Peter Lloyd
Joseph Speranzo Jr
Elizabeth Lynn
Melinda Miyako
Aki Nishiyama
Justin Stennett-Dennelly
St Luke’s-Roosevelt Hospital (NY)
Santa Clara Valley Medical Center
Oregon Health & Science Univ.
Univ of Utah Medical Center
Univ of Utah Medical Center
Beth Israel Deacness Medical Center
California Pacific Medical Center
Duke Univ Medical Center
Vanderbilt Univ Medical Center
Tulane Univ Health Science Center
Univ of Hawaii Burn’s School of Medicine
Santa Clara Valley Medical Center (Gafl)
Stanford Hospital and Clinics
Univ of Washington Affiliated Hospitals
Rhode Island Hospital
Univ of Chicago/North Shore
National Naval Medical Center Bethesda
Univ of Rochester Medical Center
Oregon Health & Science Univ.
Yale New Haven Med Center
Univ of Utah Medical Center

M E D I C I N E  —  P R I M A R Y
Gaurish Bau
E. Boye Hill
Cambridge Hospital-Cambridge Health (Mass)
Univ of Utah Medical Center

M E D I C I N E  —  P A T H O L O G Y
Sarah Mulligan
Maine Medical Center

N E U R O L O G I C A L  S U R G E R Y
Chih-Tzu Chi Lin
Univ of Utah Medical Center

N E U R O L O G Y
Joseph Cheung
Shirley Hsu
Joanna Halfmann

O B S T E T R I C S & G Y N E C O L O G Y
Stephanie Bakayua
Jessica Deane
Max Huang
Adeline Louis-Jacques
Audrey Merriman
Andrea Pelletier

O P H T H A L M O L O G Y
W. Benjamin Kunz
Omar Ozgur

O R T H O P A E D I C  S U R G E R Y
Nicholas Amberg
Jesse Janowsky
Jeffrey Maclean
Andrew Old

P A T H O L O G Y
Juli-Anne Gardner
Isabella Martin
Liza Quintana
Akeshia Sharpe
Miriam Sharma
Kremen Thrall
Elizabeth Williams

P E D I A T R I C  S U R G E R Y
Kris Castor
Amy Cali
Mark Gubser
Meghan Gunn
Kelsey Walls
Hesl Schumacher

P H Y S I C A L  M E D I C I N E  &  R E H A B I L I T A T I O N
Anessa Mason

P S Y C H I A T R Y
Noren Flanagan
Sanjit Marani
Kelly Melvish

R A D I A T I O N  O N C O L O G Y
C. Matthew Bradbury
Washington Univ Med Center/Barnes Jewish

S U R G E R Y  —  P R E L I M I N A R Y
Christopher Randall

T H O R A C I C  S U R G E R Y
Watson Detmold

U R O L O G Y
Michael Aloi
Yale New Haven Med Center

C O L L E G E  N E W S

It's a spring milestone activity.

Students were poised at their mailboxes to rip open their medical students — learned where they will be training for the next three or more years, depending on their specialty field.

During the hour before the match, medical students gathered with friends and family at the College. As noon drew near, the anticipation heightened when Associate Dean for Student Affairs G. Scott Waterman, M.D. carried the match envelopes down the hall to the College of Medicine’s mailbox in the Given Building. Some students were seeing at their mailboxes to rip open their letters, while others took their time to complete this milestone activity.

NOTE: For two-part residencies, the final location is listed here.
A mid-February sky looms outside the window of the brightly lit small-group classroom on the Medical Education Center’s second floor. Eight first-year medical students surround a table, their scheduled discussion on profession in full swing. The group’s faculty leader, associate professor of surgery Mario Trabulsy, animatedly quizzes the students on their respective interpretations of the white coat, an item of clothing they will each add to their wardrobe at a ceremony the next day. “What does the white coat mean and how do you want to use that?”

The coat is a symbol, maybe not as a statement of ‘I’m so powerful,’ but ‘I’m here to help you, hear your story,’” offers Trabulsy, looking intensely at the students in the room. An emergency medicine specialist, she often draws on compelling, yet not always flattering, personal stories to encourage students to more thoughtfully consider challenging topics. This technique helps her highlight the bare truths of medicine, that doctors are human, have human emotions, and might not always like their patients. “You must still treat patients humanely and with respect,” she counsels, “because of what you have chosen to do professionally.”

“Capacity to animate students and engage them in the pursuit of knowledge and understanding

Serving as a Medical Student Leadership Group mentor for first-year students at the College of Medicine is only one of three vastly different types of teaching Trabulsy, a 2009–2010 Kroepsch-Maurice Excellence in Teaching Award, provides. A 1991 graduate of the UVM College of Medicine and faculty member since 1996, she also delivers didactic lectures and teaches medical students “on the job” during clinical rotations in the emergency department (E.D.). Her willingness to share, challenge and motivate students makes her popular, as well as an important mentor, to students often struggling with the weight of the medical school workload.

Class of 2011 student Kanayo Tatsumi considers Trabulsy, who led her MSLG 1 group in 2006–2007, a mentor and much more. “She was always real with us and held nothing back. She let us go at it when we discussed controversial topics, called us out when we were being indecisive, embraced our naïveté and encouraged us to discover our potential, not only as medical students training to become competent physicians, but also to become compassionate and respectful members of society.”

Mr. Chawla, UVM Med Photo

“Another of Trabulsy’s strengths, as cited in her students’ course evaluations and touted by one of her teaching award nominators, is her ability to teach critical thinking and reasoning, one of the primary objectives of the MSLG 1 course.”

“She is one of the few attendings who provide the immediate feedback that is so crucial to clinical education,” says Mason, whose training in the clinical setting allowed her to both observe and interact with Trabulsy. “She listened to each presentation, challenged me to formulate a work-up and/or treatment plan on my own and consistently invited me to see the patient with her — demonstrating appropriate interviewing, breaking bad news, and physical exam skills — and would then work through her reasoning for accepting or altering my initial plan,” Mason explains.

Trabulsy’s dedication to teaching extends to curriculum development as well. A 2005–2006 Frymoyer Scholar, she developed a standardized program of study and supplemental online module that is delivered on the College of Medicine’s electronic platform COMET for students’ required Emergency Medicine rotation. A colleague who nominated her for the Kroepsch-Maurice award noted that “this program has standardized and greatly improved the curriculum for the medical students and the module is an outstanding example of the power of COMET and is a model for other curricula.”

Lauded for her ten-plus years of service as an advisor for senior medical students, Trabulsy has an impact that continues to reverberate with alumni like Jonathan Hall, M.D. ’98. “She cares about each of her students and takes the time to get to know them and their motivations,” says Hall, an orthopaedic resident at Fletcher Allen who works with her frequently.

Trabulsy’s honest, straightforward communication style, like her teaching approach, is another of her gifts. “She possesses a unique ability to relay complex information in a manner that is understandable by both medical students and patients,” says Class of 2012 medical student Susan Varga, who completed MSLG 1 and an E.D. preceptorship with Trabulsy. Varga is also a fan of what she calls Trabulsy’s “safest disclosures,” those examples of the less-glorified medical experiences that help hit home a point, like the importance of what the white coat represents.

Back in the small-group classroom, Trabulsy tells her Class of 2013 MSLG group one of the main reasons why she wears a white coat in the E.D. — to show she’s the supervising doctor to patients and family members who are expecting a man. “It differentiates you and you’ve earned that differentiation,” she says, adding, “it’s part of the profession — the coat symbolizes that honor and that trust that you are doing what is right for them.”

Not surprisingly, Varga has been inspired by Trabulsy to pursue the field of emergency medicine. “Through example, Dr. Trabulsy created an open space for us to freely share our ideas without reservations, challenged us, consistently showed interest in our thoughts and demonstrated respect for our input in all facets of the course,” says Varga, offering proof that an excellent teacher also makes an outstanding role model.
For cardiothoracic surgeon Bruce Leavitt, M.D.’81, most days are busy rounds of caring for patients and teaching residents and medical students at the UVM College of Medicine and Fletcher Allen Health Care. But for one month last summer, Leavitt traveled to the island nation of Sri Lanka, in the Indian Ocean, to help staff a clinic run by Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), known to many people in English-speaking countries as Doctors Without Borders. The camp was located next to a huge Internally Displaced Person (IDP) camp run by the Sri Lankan government. In May of 2009, a quarter-century-long civil war in Sri Lanka finally ended. Hundreds of thousands of Tamil people who had been displaced by the war continued to be held in vast camps. Many of these people had serious war-related medical problems, including gunshot wounds, that had received cursory treatment, or none at all.

With the enthusiastic support of his family and academic medical center colleagues, Leavitt set out from New York in late June to Sri Lanka via Dubai. Following are excerpts from his diary from this time, illustrated by his own photographs.

**M O N D A Y, J U N E  2 2 ,  2 0 0 9**

Awake at 5:30 AM to roosters, dogs and all sorts of noises. 79 degrees at wake up. Slept outside with a mosquito net. Very comfortable. Quick breakfast — eggs, pineapple jam on bread. Traveled one hour to IDP camp and hospital. Saw the camp with barbed wire that holds upwards of 300,000 people. It is a concentration camp of our generation. Every 100–300 yards there was a soldier with a big gun. Even on the rural roads.

Arrived at hospital at 8:00 AM. Made rounds. 8 tents holding 15 or so people in each tent. Most have injuries from the war: burns, fractures, fragments, etc. All patients was patiently for the doctor to come by and see them.

I was the first to operate. 3 cases. First case a 9 month old female with a inner thigh abscess. Drained it with an incision and a perineal drain.

Second case was a 25 year old male with a left infected 5th toe. Did an amputation and debrided the foot.

Third case was a woman in her mid 20’s with a shrapnel wound in her left palm.

At 5 PM a bus with 32 injured people showed up from zone 5. All had injuries. It was truly unbelievable: they all unloaded from the bus. It was very busy for 2 hours. I admitted a 24 year old female with a previous left BKA [below-knee amputation] from a land mine and with new wounds of her right arm and leg. I saw a boy of 15 with an infected wound that was apparent through a hole in his cast. Probable pseudomonas. Placed on an oral cipro, sent back with a recheck in one week. Saw another man with shrapnel in his left BKA stump and pain. Admitted for surgery on 6/25 to remove the F.B. Debrided many other wounds. Nurses and doctors were great.

Took the 7 PM bus back to the new house. No room for me in the house or roof. Slept on a cot on the lawn.

**J U N E  2 3**

Today I was wound dressing king. 50 wounds cleaned and dressed. Burns, bullet injuries, infected surgeries. Debrided stumps from amputations. Debrided an eye socket — the man lost his eye and arm in an explosion. Very busy day. Worked until 6 PM. Lunch is tepid water, coke or 7 UP with a plastic bag coating. I think I will have enough of these in 5 weeks.

Debarked from amputations. Debrided many other wounds. Nurses and doctors were great.

**J U N E  2 4**

Today I was OPD doctor. Made rounds from 7–10 AM. Saw lots of patients in the day. Admitted one woman who lost her left leg to a land mine and had a recent war injury to her right arm and leg. Her husband carries her around. He really loves her.

In tent 8 there is the cutest girl. Her mother is a patient. She walks around with me during rounds in the tent.

(Above) The young girl above became attached to Dr. Leavitt’s Boston Red Sox mascot, Wally. Wally eventually stayed in Sri Lanka with her.

The nearly 250,000 mostly Tamil occupants of the camps were allowed out only to receive medical care at the MSF clinic on the other side of the wire. She young girl above became attached to Dr. Leavitt’s Boston Red Sox mascot, Wally. Wally eventually stayed in Sri Lanka with her.

Problem with obtaining x-rays. We have no x-ray machine. We can send a few patients a day to the India Hospital, which is close to our hospital and in the IDP camp. X-rays often denied or sent back without taking the x-ray.

I was surgeon of the day. Lots of cases. Two skin grafts, one bullet removal. One 4 year old girl with a foreign body (nut) in her left nose. Put her to sleep. I could not pull the bullet out. While trying to push or pull the nut out. While trying to push the nut with a Kocher clamp, I accidentally pushed it in!!! Thought I may have really hurt the kid — she did well. Performed 2 skin grafts. I used an old fashioned hand operative knife. Pie crust the graft and sutured it with 3-0 prolene.

Also did an ORIF (open reduction) of a humerus — no electric drill or x-ray — very difficult. Tried to relocate a dislocated shoulder after external fixation. Could not reduce it, but I wondered if the humerus was not repaired correctly. Removed a bullet from a woman’s thigh. Did a plastic surgical revision of wound to a calf. Also debrided 2 bullet holes.

Came home at 7 PM. Tired. Checked by the military guards daily.

Planning to work the night shift. Had the day off. I went to Vanuviya. Took the bus with the local staff from Vavuniya. The bus did not start, we had to push the large bus to start it. Drove one hour to Vanuviya — spare tire fell off the bus and the tire became a passenger. Took many back roads. Dropped off the local staff. Made it to Vanuviya MSF house. Took a tuk-tuk to Vanuviya, 200 rupees. The military had closed the main road. Took back road to town. Bought a phone, SIM card and necklaces and clothes. The clothes were bought at a store ran by a family. I showed pictures of my daughters to get an idea of the size. Took tuk-tuk back to MSF-Vanuviya. Got a ride back to camp.

The worthy scribe was not diligent in his duties. Worked very hard this week. I operated every other day, sharing the surgery. The OT days are the best. Surgery starts when you want it. You start around 9 AM and finish in the early afternoon. Often times you switch between OT 1 and 2. The OT tents are air conditioned, a bit small. The floor is rubberized canvas. The lighting is pretty good. There is electric cautery. No mechanical ventilation, if the patient requires ventilation, the anesthesiologist hand bags the patient. I helped out ventilating the patients while the anesthesiologist charted, drew up meds, etc.

The days I was the ward surgeon were very busy. Forty to fifty dressings a day. Nurse, translator, and Sri Lankan nurses were great. Patients were very patient and understanding. Now all patients are out of tents and into wards.

A couple of patients: one is a 30-year-old male who lost his left arm and eye in an explosion. First MSF surgeon cleaned up the wounds and skin grafted his medial canthal area. I did the dressing daily and took him to the OT for a non-healing

Most have injuries from the war, burns, fractures, fragments, etc.

— Bruce Leavitt, M.D.’81
area. I thought I felt a bone floating in that area. I was correct. I removed the biggest piece of bone (infected). I think it was a frontal bone (under eyebrow). It was huge. Follow up skull films showed possible air in skull. Today (July 8) there was some CSF leakage. I asked to transfer the pt to Vanuviya or Colombo.

T oday (July 8) there was some CSF leakage. I asked to transfer the pt to Vanuviya or Colombo. This is a man-made lake. The stumps of the flooded trees are still present. Locals came down to the lake to wash their bodies, clothes and motorcycles. While swimming a peacock strolled the shore. That was a first.

J U L Y  1 2
At 1 PM 8 of us went to the lake, 20–30 minutes outside of Vanuviya. This is a man-made lake. The stumps of the flooded trees are still present. Locals came down to the lake to wash their bodies, clothes and motorcycles. While swimming a peacock strolled the shore. That was a first.

J U L Y  1 4
Best day yet. Today I felt like a real MSF surgeon. Worked from 7–4:50 PM. I was the OPD surgeon. That means the ER surgeon. I changed 14 dozen of my patients’ dressings. All skin grafts had made it, some better than others. Said goodbye to my 15 year old male who lost his mother in a shell blast. Lost ½ his foot. Treated with sugardine. Went back to the camp without shoes. I gave him my card and told him to write me a letter in a year telling me what he was doing.

J U L Y  1 8 — L A S T  D A Y
One day shy of one month. Woke up to a beautiful morning. Took my last bucket shower. Quick breakfast. Took my suitcase to work, started rounds at 7:30. Then 2 ½ hours solid of dressing changes. I did all of my patients’ dressings. My last dressing was the largest burn that I did. I was also the OPD surgeon today. Saw quite a few patients. Wrote several letters. Attended the 2 PM meeting. After the meeting I said goodbye to one of my favorite patients. Young man with bilateral amputee (both legs, I revised the L AKA) and a mid 20s man with a loss of left eye and arm. I was quite emotionally upset. I gave each of them a picture of me from my album. I signed the back of each photo.

Took my last ride to Cheddikulam house, then the one hour ride to Vanuviya.

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The best was the OPD tent. Saw 20+ patients. Admitted eight. Four for surgery the next day. Saw a 16 year old female with a huge bullet in her knee. No treatment or x-ray for 2 ½ months. Saw a 14 year old male with a severe col’s fracture of the wrist. Untreated, now has malunion with osteomyelitis. Saw an 8 month old girl with scalp abscesses. An 8 year old girl with a shell piece in her neck (posterior). Her arm had a clavicular fracture with a chronic anterior shoulder dislocation. She cannot lift her arm to her shoulder. I was kneeling on the ground examining patients from the camp who got off an ambulance. I was the first doctor they saw in 3 months with war wounds.

Took the 4:50 bus back. Got off in Cheddikulam. Had a haircut at a little Asian hair salon. 250 rupees ($2) for a haircut and head and neck massage. Not one word was understood by either party. They thought I was from Japan. That was a first! Took some photos. Had a shirt made, should be ready tomorrow. Walked home to find out the barbed wire was put back up in our shortcut to our home.

I should comment about the New York Times article [“Tamils Now Languish in Sri Lankan Camps,” published July 12, 2009 in the Times]. The town listed was Cheddikulam, the town we live in. Very accurate article. The world pays the money for the IDP camps thinking they are a “transition” village. In reality they are supporting our generation’s concentration camps. No change in the security so far.

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Dr. Leavitt arrived home in Vermont on July 28. He has given presentations based on his diary and photos to audiences throughout the state, including this spring’s Community Medical School at the College of Medicine, and is making plans for another MSF experience in the near future. As of April, roughly 100,000 Tamils remained in the IDP camps.
Women who helped forge career paths lend a hand to the next generation of scientists and physicians.

Perseverance has always been key. Back in the 1920s, the first generation of women at the UVM College of Medicine persevered to be the first of their gender to be admitted to the school. The late Harriet Dustan, M.D. ’44 overcame challenges to build an outstanding career in hypertension research at the Cleveland Clinic. And two decades later, Medical Alumni Association President Ruth Seeler, M.D. graduated as, in her words, “100 percent of the women in the Class of 1962.”

Thanks to these women and their colleagues, perseverance and immeasurable hard work brought about important change in the field of medicine and biomedical science, both long dominated by men. According to the National Science Foundation, in 1978 only 23 percent of doctorates in the life sciences were awarded to women. By 2008, that number had grown to 53 percent. In 1970, just over 11 percent of the nation’s matriculating medical students were female. Today the Association of American Medical Colleges reports that nearly 48 percent of first-year medical students are women. In addition, women comprised 71.5 percent of first-year college students nationwide in 2008, as reported by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. That means tomorrow’s doctors and scientists are just as likely to be female as male — a significant gender shift that has been growing slowly but steadily over time.

Here at UVM, women comprised about a quarter of College of Medicine students by the 70s, growing over the years to 62 percent of the Class of 2010. Three departments are chaired by women (Polly Parsons, M.D., in Medicine, Paula Tracy, Ph.D., in Biochemistry, and Susan Wallace, Ph.D., in Microbiology & Molecular Genetics) and Melinda Estes, M.D., serves as president and CEO of Fletcher Allen Health Care, the College’s academic medical center partner. While ninety years of effort have changed the landscape for women in the biomedical sciences, the work of these pioneers is far from done. Continuing to balance priorities while forging ahead in their own successful careers, today’s role models are also lending a helping hand to the women (and men) who choose to follow in their footsteps.
Get What You Need

“There’s definitely still a glass ceiling,” says Polly Parsons, M.D., E.L. Amidon Professor and Chair of Medicine. “Even today only 15 percent of medical school department chairs are women.” According to the AAMC, in 2009, 20 percent of women in the basic sciences were full professors; in the clinical sciences, that figure was 17 percent.

As a college student at Radcliffe, she and her female colleagues didn’t think twice about pursuing both a career and a family. “It was the 70s, the ‘we can do it all era’, and many of us went to medical school, where it didn’t seem foreign to be in a male environment,” she says. Parsons forged a reputation as an outstanding investigator, a leader, and scholar in pulmonary and critical care medicine, and an exceptional clinician and teacher. She joined the College of Medicine faculty in 2000 as professor of medicine, director of pulmonary and critical care medicine, and chief of critical care services at Fletcher Allen. In 2005 she was named interim chair and physician leader of medicine, after a national search in 2007.

Since her student days, Parsons says, there’s been a smaller percentage of women in the basic sciences were full professors; in the clinical sciences, that figure was 17 percent.

Throughout her career, Parsons has made it a priority to mentor other women — and men — who wanted to pursue medical careers. “I have always mentored men and women the same,” she says. “And I give the same advice to everyone: Have an idea about what you want to do. Get resources, get what you need to be successful. Be in a collaborative, nurturing environment. Don’t fly solo. Asking for help is the best way to go forward. The key is to assume you can do anything. If there’s a bump in the road make sure to find someone to bounce things off of. Make sure you have a mentor.”

Since becoming Chair of Medicine, she has hired 35 faculty members, about half of them women. “We pick the best candidates for the job,” she says. “A number of outstanding women have risen to the top, with a vast range of job descriptions from clinicians to research scientists. They are showing today’s medical students what’s possible.”

“Polly is always there when I need her,” says Renee Stapleton, M.D., an assistant professor in the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care who joined the UVM/Fletcher Allen in September 2007. She has a ton of experience, she’s very supportive and encouraging, but more than that — she’s fun, kind, and a great role model.”

Be Seen and Heard

“Mentoring for me starts with a personal connection to an individual,” says Brooke Mossman, Ph.D. ’77. “I tell them to pay attention to their grades and courses, but also to pay attention to research, and to get their names as first author on as many papers as possible. Because that’s what it takes to be successful.”

Mossman, professor emerita of pathology and director of the Environmental Pathology Program, is internationally known for her work studying the effects of asbestos on cells in the lungs. She received the Alumni Achievement Award from the UVM College of Medicine in 2004. In 2008, she received the Wagger Medal Award from the International Mesothelioma Interest Group for her contribution to mesothelioma research. A funded investigator since the 1970s, she also recently authored a paper on Asbestos, Lung Cancers and Mesotheliomas in the American Journal of Respiratory Cell and Molecular Biology, or “Red Journal,” that has elicited interest from all over the world.

That paper “is really a tribute to the work in my lab,” attests Mossman, as it was a follow up to a paper by a former student, Yvonne Janssen-Heininger, Ph.D., who is now a professor of pathology in the College. “Yvonne’s article was one of the most highly regarded articles ever published in that journal,” Mossman says with pride.

Sherrill Lathrop, a third-year doctoral student in Cell and Molecular Biology, is a member of Mossman’s lab team. “She is capable of handling it all, and taking it all in stride,” Lathrop says of Mossman, with whom she has weekly meetings and nearly daily email exchanges. “I enjoy her approach to mentoring, and I feel comfortable sharing my ideas with her. I really feel I’ve found a home in this lab.”

Mossman earned her undergraduate degree in zoology, her M.S. in physiology and biophysics, and her Ph.D. in cell biology at UVM, where her mentor was Mary Jane Gray, M.D., D.M.Sc. As an undergraduate, Mossman did an honors thesis with Gray, a prominent researcher on cervical cancer.

“Out of one hundred grad students, four of us were women. It was the era of mini-skirts and we found men, even some of the faculty, were very biased,” says Mossman.

At conferences, she says, “I didn’t go to the bar with male colleagues at night, which is too bad, because a lot of science is discussed there. Yet a lot of women, even today, won’t go into that situation. I think in the field of science, politics are still dictated by men, but women are becoming more powerful. We’re organizing events, we’re picking women to lead meetings. I see more women going on to higher levels.”

Like Parsons, Mossman admits it can be hard to balance a career and family. She says, “It helps to have a supportive husband who will give a little and realizes it’s not a nine-to-five job. I’ve been lucky.”

Make Opportunities

After a quarter century at the UVM College of Medicine, Professor and Interim Chair of Biochemistry Paula Tracy, Ph.D., also considers herself lucky. She and her husband, Russell Tracy, Ph.D., professor of medicine and former senior associate dean for research and academic affairs, were both able to find positions at the same institution. “And we were able to make those positions into things we really enjoy,” she says. “Having a supportive spouse is crucial,” she says. “Women want to be able to do it all, and to do that as a couple calls for communication and teamwork. I always tell students

U.S. Medical School Faculty Distribution: (by Gender and Rank)

- 7% Men Instructor
- 24% Men Assistant Professor
- 17% Men Associate Professor
- 20% Men Professor
- 15% Male Full Professor
- 6% Male Associate Professor
- 7% Women Instructor
- 20% Women Assistant Professor
- 15% Women Associate Professor
- 4% Women Full Professor
- 17% Women Associate Professor

(Spring 2010)
to move a plane ride away from their families and learn to make things work as a two-person team.

Tracy received her Ph.D. in biology, with an emphasis in biochemistry, from Syracuse University in 1977. She was one of fifteen graduate students, only five of whom were women. Only two of those women finished the program.

“Never felt I was any different than the men at that time,” she says. “I had a fabulous study committee, all male, who knew I could do the job well, and I relied on them to guide me. I was also influenced by the senior people in my mentor’s lab.”

Her current interests in how platelets regulate blood clotting reactions and how the blood clotting system contributes to cardiovascular disease developed as a result of five years of postdoctoral training in the Special Coagulation Laboratory at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. In 1985, she joined the College as a research assistant professor of medicine and biochemistry and member of the Thrombosis Research Center. She became a tenured professor of biochemistry in 1995. She received the UVM Chapter of the American Medical Women’s Association Gender Equity Award in 2005, the same year she accepted the position of interim chair of the Department of Biochemistry. Recently, Tracy became the University’s representative to a new group in the AAMC dedicated to women in science and medicine.

Tracy mentors graduate students, medical students and postdoctoral students, and can’t recall ever turning down anyone in need of a mentor. One of those graduate students was Beth Bouchard, Ph.D. ’96. “While I was a graduate student in her laboratory, Paula provided a supportive learning environment during my development into an independent research scientist,” says Bouchard.

Today, Bouchard is a research assistant professor of biochemistry at UVM, where she returned to join the faculty in 2000. “As her colleague, I’ve seen Paula continuing to provide this level of support for her current students, and I look forward to carrying on the tradition,” says Bouchard.

“It’s so important that people have someone to listen to and understand what they see as important,” says Tracy. “I try to offer advice regarding the priorities students need to succeed, and I try to give them an opportunity to understand who they are. I tell all of them, though, that a strong work ethic is extremely important to be successful, so they must know how to work effectively and well.”

“Communication skills — oral and written — are important. You have to be a little bit of a showman to grab your audience, and make them realize you have the greatest thing to say.”

In her early career, Bouchard says, her mentor expected her to balance career and family. “If I’m eighty, I’m not going to remember the best thing in my life being a grant — it will be my family, says Bouchard.

With her mentor, Stapleton says enthusiastically, “I have a huge amount of respect for her. Polly has had a great deal of experience in pulmonary care, and somehow she manages not only to excel at a demanding job but even finds the time to have those of us in her division over for dinner.”

Women with her degree in Cell and Molecular Biology freshly printed, and only one year of medical school to go before being an M.D.-Ph.D., Wendy Mason is looking forward to both practicing medicine and continuing her work as a research scientist. “Returning is the right path, toward pathology,” she says, “I’m not something we know a lot about, and we need to know “which vitamins and minerals are most important to critically ill patients.”

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She started her career in Cell and Molecular Biology by working in Brooke Mossman’s lab, got her bachelor’s degree in Biology at St. Michael’s College but choose the College of Medicine for its “strong, diverse program” in environmental pathology, where her research is mesothelioma-related.

A U.S. veteran who served in Kuwait and Iraq, she is planning a wedding next year and is in the planning stages of building a home with her fiancé in Chelsea, Vt. Right now, she is planning on pursuing a postdoctoral fellowship but is “from between research and industry” for her future career. “No matter where she future takes her, though, she says, “I’m confident in what I’m doing, and I know this is an outstanding example of how you can balance career and family.” And in the end, as these women see it, balance may be what it’s all about.

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Revolutionary War surgeons, more often than not, were self-proclaimed “doctors” trained under the time-honored but inconsistent apprenticeship method. They were assisted in their treatments by a “surgeon’s mate.” The mate was usually an industrious soldier with a steady hand, a calm stomach, and an interest in medicine. John Pomeroy of Middleboro, Massachusetts, was one such soldier turned mate. He had left the family farm at age 15 in 1779 to join the 9th Massachusetts Regiment. Within three months, he had become the regiment’s mate beneath surgeon John Thomas. Pomeroy resumed farming following his military service, but devoted all of his spare time to the acquisition of knowledge. In 1784, he apprenticed himself to one of Thomas’ surgical colleagues from the Siege of Boston, James Bradish of Cummington, Massachusetts.

After completing his apprenticeship in 1787, Pomeroy moved to the recently chartered town of Cambridge, Vermont. There he started what soon became a large and lucrative practice. But the remote setting presented many logistical challenges. During one spring thaw, Pomeroy was summoned to help with a difficult pregnancy. The patient lived deep in the woods near a stream, three miles from her nearest neighbor. By the time Pomeroy reached the brook, it had risen so high that his horse could barely cross it. The patient’s house, in the meantime, had been engulfed by the torrent and was filling with water. With the help of the woman’s husband and a nurse already on the scene, the industrious physician built a temporary shelter on higher ground where he conducted the delivery.

Although Cambridge was no smaller than any other Vermont town of the time, relative isolation and poor soil limited its potential for future growth. Perhaps sensing this, Pomeroy decided it was time to make another move. He relocated to Burlington, a town of 332 residents, in 1792. Access by stagecoach was limited and the arrival of the railroad was still 56 years away! But as a lumber port on the Lake Champlain inland waterway, the city soon benefited from increased trade and travel. Pomeroy’s business immediately flourished. In 1797 he built the town’s first brick house on Water Street.
Pomeroy Helps Establish UVM and Becomes Its Second Faculty Member

Burlington was in need of both a minister and a church when, in 1799, the Unitarian church in nearby Vergennes relieved its pastor, the Reverend Daniel Clarke Sanders, of his duties. Upon hearing the news, Pomeroy and an associate rode south and persuaded the reverend to come to town. The two agreed to pay his wages for the next year. They also suggested that he take an academic appointment at the new school.

Although Sanders, a Harvard graduate, started preaching in the county courthouse the next year, his real interest lay in the establishment of the University. He was elected its president and sole professor within months of its opening. Meanwhile, Pomeroy helped conduct a public campaign that raised $2,300 for the purchase of building materials, books, and other supplies. In addition, he supported an endowment to cover the president’s salary for the next three years. Reverend Sanders pitched in by clearing trees from the site of the future College Building (completed in 1804) and by holding Burlington’s first classes in his house in 1800.

Pomeroy was conducting classes of a sort at the same time. Having been in practice for more than a dozen years, he had started teaching pupils the basics of medical and surgical care. Some stayed only a few days or weeks, but others completed months of training. Pomeroy took pleasure in giving lessons and saw this as a way to help his students.

His actions were not undertaken for financial gain, as “it was considered extravagant on the part of the students to pay and undignified on the part of the professors to receive.” Pomeroy’s next step was to bring some legitimacy to his medical instruction. He approached the University’s board of trustees in 1804 and presented his case. His argument must have been persuasive, since the trustees unanimously voted to make Pomeroy the school’s second faculty member.

The Journal of Erastus Root

One of Pomeroy’s students during the fall of 1815 was Erastus Root. He had obtained his bachelor’s degree from UVM in 1811 and was apprenticed with Willard Arms of Brattleboro. He returned several years later to study with Pomeroy on Arms’ recommendation. Root kept a detailed diary from October 10, 1815 to February 10, 1816 describing his time in northern Vermont. Excerpts from 1815 give an insight into the nature of Pomeroy’s instruction at UVM:

**Thursday, October 19, 1815**

“Having the aid of a scarred thigh-bone by Dr. Pomeroy. The subject was a boy about 12 years of age who had fallen from a horse and fractured his thigh. It was very perniciously reduced according to Benjamin Bell’s principles. Five splints and the nine tailed bandage were used.

Wednesday, November 8, 1815

Dr. Pomeroy returned from a patient in Westminster who had fallen from his horse and fractured badly both the tibia and fibula ... it is both compound and comminuted, and several ribs have been extracted. Dr. Pomeroy says he shall amputate the leg tomorrow or the next day.

Friday, November 10, 1815

The medical student with Dr. Pomeroy started by 6 o’clock... our journey [one way, was] 18 miles... though we had paid a dollar each, we had to walk half the way... we did not arrive until 2 o’clock.

All things were ready for the operation in a few minutes. Dr. Pomeroy then performed it in less than three minutes. The limb was off, and neatly dressed in five minutes more. We returned to Burlington the same evening, we arrived about half past eleven.”

**William Beaumont — Vermont’s First Famous Research Surgeon**

In 1811, Truman Powell, UVM’s first medical graduate, moved thirty miles north to take a job with Benjamin Chandler of St. Albans. A distinguished physician in his own right, Chandler had been the recipient of the University of Vermont’s second honorary M.D. in 1810. Powell arrived to find an apprentice in his new partner’s study. After signing his first by Chandler, the former student was sent to Fort Mackinac in Michigan. It was there, in 1812, that French-Canadian voyageur Alexis St. Martin (in Beaumont’s words) “was most dangerously wounded by the accidental discharge of a heavily loaded musket. The wound was received just under the left breast, and supposed at the time to have been mortal. A large portion of the side was blown off, the ribs fractured, and openings made into the cavities of the chest and abdomen, through which protruded portions of the lungs and stomach, much lacerated and burnt, exhibiting altogether an appalling and hopeless case. The diaphragm was lacerated, and a perforation made directly into the cavity of the stomach, through which food was escaping at the time.”

During an era when abdominal wounds were usually lethal, St. Martin’s survival was unexpected. Beaumont studied the workings of the human stomach through his patient’s gastrointestinal fistula over the next decade. In 1833, he published his findings and conclusions in the book Experiments and observations on the gastro-intestinal and the physiology of digestion. The work was a landmark in experimental physiology that contributed greatly to the science of gastric digestion. Although his research was conducted a decade after he left the state, his roots were from Vermont. Perhaps he can be considered Vermont’s first surgical researcher.

James L. Little, the Big Surgeon

James Lawrence Little, the College’s professor of surgery from 1875 to 1885, was a giant in both size and vision. Standing well over six feet tall and weighing at least 250 pounds, he made major contributions to both UVM and the practice of surgery. Born in Brooklyn, New York, on February 19, 1836, he became a bookkeeper at age twenty, but was fired after spending too much time reading the store’s medical books. Interested in learning anatomy, he purchased a pauper’s skull from a gravedigger for twenty-five cents. Upon unwrapping the package, however, he found that it contained a decomposing head. Horrified, he threw the entire lot into the East River and chose another course of study. Little attended the Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons, graduating in 1860. He became a junior assistant surgeon at the New York Hospital the same year. Little won the rank of Surgeon-in-Chief to New York City’s 14,000-bed Parks Barracks Hospital during the Civil War, even though he did not serve in the military.

It was during this time that Little came up with his first major breakthrough — the invention of the plaster-
but his most notable brush with fame came during his surgery from Bernhard von Langenbeck in Berlin. Wheeler from Wilhelm von Waldeyer in Strasbourg, and operative from Friedrich von Recklinghausen, microscopic anatomy the next two years, he studied under some of the most Wheeler set sail for Europe in July of 1879. Over the Massachusetts General Hospital — a relatively novel his M.D. in 1878, he completed a one-year internship at extensive education. He graduated from UVM in 1875 Wheeler made the most of his background by pursuing an on August 13, 1853. He was the son of a prominent lawyer the first succinct description of the location in which the majority of all nosebleeds originate. Recognition of this discovery in the United States, ironically, has since fallen to a German laryngologist who reported similar findings in 1884. Thus, the region still known as Little’s area in Greater Britain is called Kassellbach’s plexus in the United States.

John Brooks Wheeler Becomes Professor of Surgery UVM’s trustees rearranged the College of Medicine’s entire faculty in July of 1900. Former assistant John Brooks Wheeler took A. M. A. Phillips’ place as professor of surgery. Another native Vermonter, he was born in Stowe on August 13, 1853. He was the son of a prominent lawyer and the grandson of the University’s former president. Wheeler made the most of his background by pursuing an extensive education. He graduated from UVM in 1875, then attended medical school at Harvard. After receiving his M.D. in 1878, he completed a one-year internship at the Massachusetts General Hospital — a relatively novel accomplishment at the time.

Wheeler set sail for Europe in July of 1879. Over the next two years, he studied under some of the most important physicians and surgeons of the era. He learned operative surgery from Theodor Billroth, surgical anatomy from Emil Zuckerkandl in Vienna, pathological anatomy from Friedrich von Recklinghausen, microscopic anatomy from Wilhelm von Waldeyer in Strasbourg, and operative surgery from Bernhard Langenbeck in Berlin. Wheeler studied alongside William S. Halsted while in Vienna, but his most notable brush with fame came during his time in Edinburgh. While there, he not only met Joseph Bell, the real life inspiration for Arthur Conan Doyle’s Sherlock Holmes, but also had the opportunity to watch him operate. Bell was the grandson of Scottish surgeon Benjamin Bell whose text was used by John Pomeroy at the start of his Burlington teaching saga.

Wheeler’s greater exposure to Listerism occurred in Austria and Germany (rather than in Lister’s home of Scotland) due to widespread European acceptance of antiseptic. At the completion of his studies, Wheeler was as well trained as any of UVM’s previous professors of surgery. Unlike his predecessors, though, he decided to return to Vermont rather than settle in a large metropolitan city. In the fall of 1881, he opened an office on Main Street in Burlington. Within two years, he was an instructor at the College and an attending surgeon at the Mary Fletcher Hospital. Despite lecturing before classes of more than 200 students a year, Wheeler did not enjoy the substantial salary of a full professor. In order to make ends meet, he initially practiced both general medicine and surgery since his patients were poor and surgical cases were few. Even though Mary Fletcher’s hospital had been open for several years, operations were still carried out in patient’s homes. Wheeler recalled, “There was a feeling that nobody but paupers were treated at hospitals.” The populace was “filled with the idea that hospitals existed for the sole purpose of ‘experimenting’ on people.” As a result of this mindset, Wheeler was often obliged to travel up to thirty miles or more by horseback, carriage, or even sleigh to make a “house call.”

The general public had about as much regard for physicians’ advice during this time as they had for hospitals. An incident involving one of Wheeler’s first patients (an elderly woman with burns over her lower abdomen and thighs from an overturned lantern) was typical. Wheeler applied gauze soaked with linsed oil and lime water to the burned skin, covered it with a thick layer of cotton, and then changed the entire dressing every day for the next ten days. Just as the surface began to heal, the patient’s sister informed him that his services were no longer needed. She felt that the “young doctor” had done his best, but that it was time to switch to a better remedy — a hen manure poultice. Appalled, Wheeler pleaded his case to no avail. “In about a week more this treatment by fertilizer bore the fruit which I had expected, in the shape of a funeral.” Wheeler continued his association with the Department of Surgery for decades afterward, till his death in 1942. Later that year A.G. Mackay became the chair.

Julius Jacobson Brings Surgical Research to UVM Upon completing his fellowship in 1959, Julius Jacobson was recruited by A.G. Mackay to start a research program at UVM. He accepted the offer, and was soon appointed Associate Professor of Surgery and Director of Surgical Research. Not bad for someone only a few months out of training! He was generously funded by the College of Medicine, the Department of Surgery’s clinicians, and the United States Public Health Service, which “was pouring money in to upgrade the smaller schools.”

Jacobson drew upon his interest in thoracic surgery and his prior experience with the operating microscope. The Department of Pharmacology asked him to help with a study that involved denervation of the canine carotid artery. “It became clear that the only sure way to achieve this was to divide and reanastomose the artery.” After working on the 3 mm arteries, however, “It became obvious, that the problem was the eye not being able to see well enough to guide the hand properly.” Experimentation with magnifying loops was undertaken in short order. “Suddenly the epiphany occurred, preparing a microfork to be inserted into an ear, nose, and throat operating room at Presbyterian Hospital and peering through the microscope during a stapes mobilization.” The rest unfolded as follows:

“I immediately went to the Mary Fletcher Hospital to borrow an operating microscope. The resistance to moving an expensive piece of equipment and contaminating it in the animal laboratory was monumental, even as it might be today. However, that same day we did the first canine carotid anastomosis with the microscope.”

Jacobson was given a wing in the basement of the new Medical Alumni Building. It contained an office for himself, an office for a secretary, an office with several divided carrels for students, and three rooms that could function as animal laboratory operating rooms. There was enough cage space for 160 dogs, a luxury unheard of today.

Jacobson hired Clement Comeau, a Mary Fletcher O.R. assistant, and Rodney Larrow, who had been working for a local veterinarian, as his laboratory technicians. He recruited Ernesto L. Suarez, a gifted young physician from Argentina, to be a research associate before him, eventually developed superb skills operating under the microscope.

During the summer months, medical students were paid $500 apiece to work in the new lab. The 1960 crew included two students from UVM, Robert Guiduli (who later became a South Burlington-based ophthalmologist) and Charles Pitman; and one from the University of Rochester, myself [David B. Pilcher], thanks to my family’s summer connections in the greater Burlington area. Guiduli and I worked with the operating microscope under Jacobson and Suarez’s tutelage.

Get Your Copy

Drs. Pilcher and Curran contributed years of work on their labor of love, Catamount Surgeons, and a generous gift from Joan and Julius Jacobson, M.D., helped defray costs of printing. For information about how to obtain a copy of the book, please contact Ben Fuller in the Medical Development & Alumni Relations Office — (802) 656-4029 or email benjamin.fuller@uvm.edu

Julius Jacobson Brings Surgical Research to UVM

UVM College of Medicine

Spring 2010
Students at the College of Medicine learn that it’s not enough to just uncover new knowledge about public health. Here, they need to take the findings to a public forum that will help bring about needed reforms.

The State of Vermont is unique in many ways; but from the perspective of a medical student, one of the key aspects of that uniqueness must be the ability to effect change so early in one’s medical career. This situation was demonstrated this winter by one group of second-year UVM medical students who completed their collective research on an important topic of environmental health, and within days presented their findings in testimony before the Vermont House of Representatives’ Committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

College of Medicine Class of 2012 members Melissa Marotta and Brett Porter spoke to the committee at the State House in Montpelier on January 22 in support of Bill H.97, which proposes to prohibit a heavyweight vehicle from idling while stopped for more than five consecutive minutes in any 60-minute period.

Marotta and Porter are two of seven members of a Medical Student Leadership Group that conducted a survey last fall to determine whether Vermont diesel vehicle operators were aware of the health effects of diesel exhaust and whether or not they were concerned about it. The group’s public health project, titled “Assessing Health Concerns and Obstacles to Diesel Exposure Reduction in Vermont Diesel Vehicle Operators,” was completed in conjunction with the American Lung Association of Vermont. Additional group members include Renee Brutis, Maria Farman, Joseph Yared, Will Timbers, and Quillan Huang. Gerald Davis, M.D., UVM professor of medicine and Vermont Lung Center member, and Jan Carney, M.D., M.P.H., associate dean for public health, served as the group’s faculty co-mentors.

Seventy-five percent of drivers reported that they have not been educated about the health effects of diesel exposure.

(At left) Vermont state representatives William Carney, left, and Mark Mitchell examine research data presented by College of Medicine students in January before the House Committee on Natural Resources and Energy on “Assessing Health Concerns and Obstacles to Diesel Exposure Reduction in Vermont Diesel Vehicle Operators.” (Above) Melissa Marotta ’12 testifies before the committee.
With a long-term goal of identifying the best methods for reducing diesel idling in Vermont, the students’ study sought to determine several things: whether or not Vermont diesel vehicle drivers have been educated about exhaust exposure; if these drivers are concerned about potential health effects of diesel; the level of the drivers’ satisfaction with their understanding of the health impact of diesel fuel; and what these drivers found to be obstacles to idling reduction.

The group targeted Vermont businesses that employed a diesel fleet of more than ten drivers and lacked a no-idling policy. During November and December of 2009, surveys were administered to drivers who worked at seven diesel fleets in the Burlington and Rutland areas. Drivers surveyed ranged in age from 24 to 67 years.

The students found that two-thirds of the drivers who completed surveys reported that they would “almost always” or “always” follow employer-set policies if they were in place and 75 percent of drivers reported that they had not been educated about the potential health effects of diesel exposure. Only 15 percent indicated that they were “very satisfied” with their understanding of this issue.

Slightly more than two-thirds of drivers reported extensive idling in order “to keep myself warm or cool.” Only 5 percent reported idling their rigs in order to keep their truck’s contents warm or cool.

“While our sample does not report an overwhelming concern about health effects of diesel exposure,” say the project’s authors, “this may be a function of limited education, so driver education may be an effective target for idling reduction.” The students also believe that physician advocacy could assist in improving drivers’ education as well as reducing idling, as drivers by a wide margin report their doctors are their prime trusted source of health information.

The legislative committee members complemented the medical students on their informative testimony. Bill H.97 was later forwarded to the House Transportation Committee for further action this spring.

Vermont Drivers on Most Credible Sources of Health Information

Second-year medical students’ research showed the Vermont state legislators that information on the negative effects of breathing diesel exhaust fumes is most likely to be deemed credible by diesel rig drivers if it comes to them via the driver’s physician or employer.
University of Vermont College of Medicine

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Jane Aspinall

Ben Fuller

James Gilbert

HALL A

Vermont Medicine,

Jim Hebert has his own roots in that tradition, and I know that the MAA will be well served during his presidency. Jim has been a member of the executive committee of the MAA for years, and has participated directly in the education of hundreds of students and residents during his three decades as a UVM faculty member. He is the MacKay-Dage Professor of Surgery (named in part after our old teacher H. Gordon Page). Jim is also something of a historian, and has researched many topics on the development of medicine in the Green Mountain State. I know he has a deep understanding of where we’ve come from, and a great ability to help chart where we’re going.

That same feeling of relating past and present can be found in this issue of Vermont Medicine, which describes the growth of women as a part of the faculty, administration, and student body. I’ve long been proud to note that I was 100 percent of the women in the graduating class in 1962. I’m even prouder of my alma mater now, where women make up over 50 percent of the student body, and have done so for more than a decade.

One of those women is a prime example of why we need to always keep hope for the future, and I encourage all of you to keep this most wonderful things about the Medical Alumni Association is its mission to help advance the goals of the University of Vermont College of Medicine.

Ruth Andrea Seeler, M.D.’62

Medical Alumni Association President

University of Vermont Medical Alumni Association

ALUMNI EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Officers (Two-Year Terms) through FY2010:

President

Ruth A. Seeler, M.D.’62 (2009–2011)

President-Elect

James C. Hebert, M.D.’77 (2009–2011)

Treasurer

Paul B. Stanislaw, M.D.’65 (2009–2011)

Secretary

Mark Pinson, M.D.’92 (2009–2011)

Executive Secretary

John Tamayo, M.D.’14 (ongoing)

Members-At-Large (Six-Year Terms):

Mark Allegretta, Ph.D.’90 (2003–2010)


Jacqueline A. Noonan, M.D.’54 (2006–2012)


Leslie S. Kerzner, M.D.’95 (2009–2014)

1943

Francis Arnold Caccavo (M.D. Dec. 1943)

51 Thibault Parkway

Burlington, VT 05401

(802) 862-3841

drnc@verizon.net

1946

Howard MacDougal reports: “Along with my apparent inheritance of genes for old age I’ve also inherited those for obstinateness. Even though I know the outcome I’m still fighting old age. Dourly and I occasionally see Pat Enos’s widow.”

1947

George H. Bray

110 Brooks Road

New Britain, CT 06052

Tom Holcomb says that he is “still ambulatory and reasonably sound of mind.”

1948

S. James Baum

1790 Fairfield Beach Road

Fairfield, CT 06430

(203) 255-1013

baum@optonline.net

1949

Joseph C. Foley

10 Farms Street

Burlington, VT 05401

(802) 862-0040

ejfley@adelphia.net

1950

Simon Dorfman

8256 Noyes Way

Sarasota, FL 34238

(941) 926-8126

M.D. Class Notes

If you have news to share, please contact your class agent or the Development & Alumni Relations office at medalumni.relations@uvm.edu or (802) 654-1014. If your email address has changed, please send it to medalumni.relations@uvm.edu.

Upcoming Events

May 23, 2010

UVM Commencement Weekend 2010

College of Medicine Commencement at 2:30 p.m. in Ira Allen Chapel

June 10, 2010

Medical Alumni Association Award Dinner

Burlington Country Club

June 11–13, 2010

Medical Reunion Weekend 2010

August 9–14, 2010

Class of 2014 Medical Student Orientation

October 2, 2010

Vermont Reception at the American Academy of Pediatrics National Conference

San Francisco, Calif.

October 4, 2010

Vermont Reception at the American College of Surgeons/Annual Clinical Congress

Washington, D.C.

October 30, 2010

Fall Alumni Executive Committee Meeting

UVM Campus (date TBA)

November 30, 2010

Vermont Reception at the Radiological Society of North American Annual Meeting

Chicago, Ill.

For Updates on Events: www.med.uvm.edu/alumni
He was often ready to play a joke on

Ed Kamens recalls

and hotel reservations! Fran continues to

exam in radiology, Louis invited them to

in Chicago, where she took her board

When Fran and her husband, Jack, were

the house she lived in and gave it to her.

evicted from her home Louis bought

in a house with his wife. They had a maid.

the son of a European ambassador and

Phillips Conklin remembers him as

concerning the late Dr. Bartlett. Fran

nephew of a classmate, Louis Bartlett,

(918) 492-7960

Tulsa, OK 74136

1951

Edward W. Jenkins

7460 South Pittsburg Ave.

Tulsa, OK 74136

918-492-7960

Edward W. Jenkins reports: “The

nephew of a classmate, Louis Bartlett,

604

V E R M O N T  M E D I C I N E

H A l l  A m .  d .  C l A s s  n o t e s

used to be a very gracious man. Unfortunately, his

disease was advanced and I could offer

nothing to his management. I must

pass on the disturbing news that Murdo

cancer of the lung. I complied and met

a very gracious man. Unfortunately, his

disease was advanced and I could offer

nothing to his management. I must

pass on the disturbing news that Murdo

1953

Richard N. Fabricius

17 Fairview Road

Old Bennington, VT 05230

(802) 442-2274

1954

John E. Mazuzaun Jr. 

16 South Cove Road

Burlington, VT 05401

(802) 844-3682

mazuzaun@burlingtonantelecom.com

1955

REU N I O N ’ 5 5

Marshall C. London

162 Summit Street

Burlington, VT 05401

(802) 848-4921

marshall1954luanne@gmail.com

Eugene D. Jacobson writes: “Our first

grandchild graduated from Cornell

University this year. My wife and I moved

into a retirement facility two years ago,

and we are still enjoying the change.

Our health is still holding up.”

1956

Ira H. Geiser

1306 Northwest 31st Street

Gainesville, FL 32607

(352) 378-1820

giisr1@ufl.edu

1957

Larry Coletti

34 Gilliver Circle

Norwich, CT 06360

(860) 887-1450

lcoletti@weshb.org

1958

Peter Ames Goodhue

Stamford Gynecology, P.C.

70 Mill River Street

Stamford, CT 06902

(203) 559-5340

1959

Jay E. Selcow

27 Roosevelt Road

Bloomfield, CT 06002

(860) 845-1359

jayselcow@comcast.net

1960

REU N I O N ’ 6 0

Marvin A. Norenberg

15 West 81st Street

New York, NY 10024

(212) 874-6484

mhorenberg@lagbanon.net

Melvyn H. Walk

Clintond Street

PO Box 772

Waverly, PA 18471

(717) 563-2215

mellemart@aol.com

Richard Narkewicz reports: “Got a

still should and went for a constance

shot here in Fort Myern, Fl., and to my

surprise, I saw John Fenning, M.D. ’60!

I had not seen him for 50 years! We had a

great reunion and are looking forward to

our formal 50th reunion this year.”

Email: crakes@yahoo.com

Rudy Kelmowitz writes: “I passed my

certification exam for hospice and palliative

medicine in November and continue to

work full-time as a palliative medicine

consultant at the University of Minnesota

Medical Center. I am also on the

staff of the Department of Internal

Medicine and Hematology/Oncology/Transplantation.”

1961

Wilfred L. Fentin

17 Chapman Street

Nashua, NH 03060

(603) 882-6211

wilfy410@aol.com

1962

Ruth Andrea Seefeld

2411 North Orchard

Chicago, IL 60614

(773) 472-3432

seefeld@uic.edu

Robert C. Mondino is “Completely

recovered and spending most of my time

on the Cape. I have nine grandchildren,

ages 7 to 17.”

1963

John P. Murray

PO Box 607

Colchester, VT 05446

(802) 865-9190

jackmurray@aol.com

H. Alan Walker

229 Champlain Drive

Plattsburgh, NY 12901

(518) 561-8991

Arnold and Joan Kerzner write: “We

continue to live a full life trying to keep

just ahead of our two granddaughters,

Elana and Adriana. Still practicing child/

family psychiatry with whatever energies

remain.”

1964

Anthony P. Belmont

211 Youngs Point Road

Wiscasset, ME 04578

(207) 882-6228

apb8229@pol.net

Lester Wurtele

290 Chapman street

Bloomfield, CT 06002

(860) 243-1359

jeselcow@comcast.net

Jamie Jacobs writes: “Wishing the best of

everything to my classmates in 2010

and beyond. At a live auction fundraiser for

the Red Cross this past summer we purchased use of a vacation home

in the western Virginia mountains for ten days. We spent our time there fly fishing,

hiking, playing golf and just relaxing with our two sons and their families (three

grandchildren ranging in age from 12 to 20). For Jean and I, unfortunately, these
ten days encompassed Reunion. We are both well and I am fully retired from my

cardiology practice. Best regards to all.”

Email: j3jacobsmd@aol.com

Fred Lippert writes: “Working two days a week doing foot and ankle orthopedics.

Involved in the integration of Walter Reed into the Naval Hospital Command. New

Title: ‘Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.'”

Wooly Doane reports: “Pat and I

continue to enjoy good health. Wooly

retired fully on December 31, 2009. We

spent half our time in Maine and half in Florida. Can’t take the northern New

England winter anymore.”

Melvyn Wolk, M.D. ’60 Honored

The non-profit youth organization Junior Achievement of Northeastern Pennsylvania recently recognized Melvyn Wolk, M.D. from the class of 1960 by inducting him into the organization’s Business Hall of Fame. Wolk has served the northeastern Pennsylvania area since 1963, when he and his wife, Marilyn, settled there to start his pediatric practice after Dr. Wolk completed his residency and a two-year stint in the U.S. Army. In honoring Dr. Wolk, Junior Achievement noted his founding of the Asthma and Allergy Program in Pennsylvania, which engages asthmatic children and their parents in active winter sports.

Melvyn Wolk, M.D.’60

VT: 604

Oh, the Places We’ve Gone!

The nearly 4,000 medical alumni of the College of Medicine alive today have spread out across the country, and are serving patients in nearly every state of the union. Concentrations are heavy on both coasts and, not surprisingly, in New England. Not represented here are graduates practicing outside the U.S.

V E R M O N T  M E D I C I N E

S P R I N G  2 0 1 0

38
**Lerner Endowment Challenge Doubles Effect of “Giving Back”**

Giving back has been a key focus of Helen and Robert Lamer, M.D.’s for decades. In 1985 the Larners established the Lerner Endowment Fund at the College of Medicine. They were guided by some very clear goals: to provide significant support for financially needy and meritorious students at Dr. Larner’s medical alma mater, to help as many students as possible, for financially needy and meritorious students at Dr. Larner’s medical alma mater, to help as many students as possible, and their families. “We’re very excited and grateful to the Larners for this additional effort,” says Sarah Keblin, Director of the Larners Endowment. Now, the Larners have generously provided a new matching challenge: the Lerner Endowment Challenge, a program that will match gifts made by students and their families. “We’re very excited and grateful to the Larners for this additional effort,” says Sarah Keblin, Director of Annual Giving. “We hope that all of my classmates are well. I will always have fond memories of our time together at UVM.” Email: rmccgoirish@aol.com

**Starr Foundation Funds Endowed Scholarship**

For more than 50 years the CV Starr Foundation has financially supported worthy causes. This fall the foundation established the Starr Foundation Endowed Scholarship Funds to assist students studying medicine and nursing at UVM. The $100,000 CV Starr Medical Scholarship Fund will provide assistance to one or more medical students each year in perpetuity. The $50,000 CV Starr Nursing Scholarship Fund will assist nursing students in need in perpetuity.

**UVM Basketball, Hockey, Lacrosse Score Big for VCC**

The UVM Women’s and Men’s Basketball teams participated in a breast cancer fundraising walk late in 2009, raising $5,000 for VCC breast cancer research and education programs, and bringing the total amount raised for VCC by the UVM Men’s and Women’s Hockey East Association charity events, “Skating Strides for Breast Cancer,” sponsored by Green Mountain Coffee Roasters, took place on January 15 and January 22, respectively. The UVM Men’s Catamounts fell to the Northeastern Huskies 3–1, while the Catamount Women scored a power-play goal in overtime to win over Boston University 2–1. The UVM Skating Strides hockey games raised additional money.

Additionally, the UVM Women’s Lacrosse team participated in a breast cancer fundraising walklate in 2009, raising $5,000 for VCC breast cancer research and education programs, and bringing the total amount raised for VCC by the UVM Men’s and Women’s Hockey East Association charity events, “Skating Strides for Breast Cancer,” sponsored by Green Mountain Coffee Roasters, took place on January 15 and January 22, respectively. The UVM Men’s Catamounts fell to the Northeastern Huskies 3–1, while the Catamount Women scored a power-play goal in overtime to win over Boston University 2–1. The UVM Skating Strides hockey games raised additional money.

**Marathon Team Begins Third Year of Fundraising**

Last year, the College of Medicine Marathon Team raised more than $10,000 for medical research. This year, for the third year in a row, students at the College have fielded a growing slate of runners who will ultimately compete in the KeyBank Vermont City Marathon this May, and by doing so also raise money from supporters for the Peneo & Sam Fund for Neuroblastoma Research at the Vermont Cancer Center. To learn more visit: www.med.uvm.edu/marathonteam.
Since the 1980s, the College’s Medical Alumni Association has honored members for their achievements in the clinic, in the laboratory, and in their personal lives. The 2010 awardees will be honored this June at Reunion 2010, and will take their place on the award display in the Given Building.

### A. Bradley Soule Award:

Presented to an alumnus whose loyalty and dedication to the College of Medicine most emulate those qualities as found in its first recipient, A. Bradley Soule, M.D.’28.

**Robert N. Cooney, M.D.’85**

Chair and Professor of Surgery, Upstate Medical University

Dr. Cooney is a surgeon in Syracuse, New York, whose academic work, which has produced nearly 60 peer-reviewed papers, focuses on bariatric surgery. Prior to accepting his current position in November 2009, he was a faculty member at Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center, where he served as the Charlene J. Smith Professor of Surgery and Cellular & Molecular Physiology, chief of the Division of Surgery, vice-chair for research, and co-director of the Penn State Institute for Diabetes and Obesity.

### Distinguished Academic Achievement Award:

Presented to alumni in recognition of outstanding scientific or academic achievement.

**Marvin A. Nierenberg, M.D.’60**

Clinical Associate Professor of Psychiatry, New York University School of Medicine

Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, Albert Einstein College of Medicine

Psychiatrist, NYU Psychoanalytic Institute

Dr. Nierenberg, a psychiatrist in New York City, has served the College tirelessly for more than 50 years, including 14 years as a member of the Medical Alumni Executive Committee, culminating in a term as President from 2006 to 2008. He is a longtime class agent for the medical class of 1960, and he and his wife, Judith, an alumna of the undergraduate class of 1960, are members of UVM’s Willbur Society. Following Dr. Nierenberg’s undergraduate (1957) and medical educations at UVM, service in the U.S. Army medical corps, and residencies in New York City, he established his psychiatric practice in New York, where he continues to practice today. In addition to his standard patient care responsibilities and his activities as a teacher of medical students and psychiatry residents, Dr. Nierenberg serves as a board member and volunteer for the Project for Psychiatric Outreach to the Homeless, through which he has provided free psychiatric care to the homeless on a weekly basis since 1990.

**Stephan J. Haines, M.D.’75**

Lyle H. French Chair and Professor in Neurosurgery, University of Minnesota

Dr. Haines is a neurosurgeon in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where his research, which has resulted in more than 100 publications in academic journals, focuses on the application of evidence-based medicine to neurosurgery. He is a past president of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons and past vice-president of the Neurosurgical Society of America, and has served as Chair of the FDA Advisory Council on Neurologic Devices and the Institute of Medicine Committee on Safe Medical Devices for Children.

### Early Achievement Award:

Presented to alumni who have graduated within the past 35 years in recognition of their outstanding community or College service and/or scientific or academic achievement.

**Gary W. Gallagher, M.D.’84**

Medical Director, Columbia County Volunteers in Medicine Clinic

Dr. Gallagher is an oncologist and internal medicine physician in Millinocket, Pennsylvania. As volunteer medical director of a free clinic, his activities have ranged beyond administration to include making house calls, recruiting volunteer providers, and personally applying 23 buckets of sealant to the clinic parking lot. In June 2009, Dr. Gallagher received the “Rural Health Hero of the Year” award at the Pennsylvania Rural Health Conference. Dr. Gallagher also serves as President of the local chapter of Kiwanis International.

**Ronald R. Striar, M.D.’55**

Pediatrician (retired), Eastern Maine Medical Center

Dr. Striar is a retired pediatrician in Bangor, Maine. In 1958, with the mother of a child with cerebral palsy and other health care professionals, he co-founded a day school for children with cerebral palsy. For more than 25 years he served as pediatric consultant to the State of Maine’s crippled children’s clinic and to the Bangor Area Congenital Activity Clinic, activities for which he earned an award of appreciation from the State of Maine. Over the last four years, he and Posie, a registered pet therapy Sheltie dog, have been twice-weekly visitors to the pediatric and palliative care wards of Eastern Maine Medical Center.

**Lyle H. French, M.D.’60**

Lyle H. French Chair and Professor in Neurosurgery, University of Minnesota

Mr. French has served in other military initiatives, Dr. Chin has received both an Army Achievement Medal and a Navy Achievement Medal.

### Extraordinary Service to Medicine & Community Award

Presented to an alumnus/a whose loyalty and dedication to the College of Medicine and to the medical profession in general is outstanding.

**William K. Chin, M.D.’00**

Associate Emeritus Professor of Surgery, Rush Medical College

Dr. Chin is an internal medicine physician in the U.S. Navy, and is currently completing an allergy fellowship at the Scripps Clinic in San Diego, CA. From Sept 2007–Sept 2008, Dr. Chin deployed with the U.S. Army to Western Afghanistan, where he was in charge of logistical planning and medical training to help build a health care system for the Afghan police. He started a vaccination program for the Afghan National Police and their beneficiaries, and served as a staff internist and mentor to the Afghan Army Hospital. For his contributions and service in Afghanistan, the U.S. Army awarded Dr. Chin the Bronze Star Medal. For medical care and leadership in other military initiatives, Dr. Chin has received both an Army Achievement Medal and a Navy Achievement Medal.

**Kerry W. Crowley, M.D.’80**

Medical Director, Eleanor Widenner Dixon Memorial Clinic

Dr. Crowley is a family and geriatric physician in Gouldsboro, Maine. A native of rural Hancock County, he served as the Town Health Officer of Gouldsboro, Maine, from 1990 to 2008, and in 2008 was recognized as the “Family Physician of the Year” by the Maine chapter of the Academy of Family Physicians. Dr. Crowley serves as a trustee of Maine Coast Memorial Hospital, and is also known locally as an assistant soccer coach and a scorekeeper and referee for YMCA basketball games.

**Melanie C. Lawrence, M.D.’00**

Family Medicine Physician, Little Rivers Healthcare

Dr. Lawrence practices family medicine in Bradford, VT. She helped establish Little Rivers Healthcare, a Federally Qualified Health Center that incorporates three local practices, to better meet the needs of the medically underserved in her rural Orange County community. In 2005 she cofounded the Mentoring Project of the Upper Valley, and since 2005 has served on the Community Board of Valley Vista Substance Abuse Treatment Center. In 2009, she established the Teddy Tiger initiative, a local dental-health program in which fourth grade students act as dental coaches to kindergarteners. Since 2000, Dr. Lawrence has made annual medical service trips to locations such as Kosovo, Honduras, and Burkin Faso. She is also Medical Director and a board member of the Dartmouth Research Coop Project.
Scott Macdonald writes: “We are still here in Las Vegas (23 years now). Scler with a 20 person cardiology group and working a lot. However, we enjoy the extended RV trips to all the great places out West. Will try to make our 35th in 2012. Email: barron4@comcast.com

1987

Please email modulandes_relations@uvm.edu if you’d like to serve as 1987 class agent.

2010 Conference Schedule

Vermont Medicine for Health — Chronic Care Conference April 26, 2010 Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center Burlington, Vt.


College of Medicine alumni receive a special 10% discount on all UVM Continuing Medical Education conferences.

Continuing Medical Education


Advanced Dermatology for the Primary Care Physician October 7–8, 2010 Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center Burlington, Vt.

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: University of Vermont Continuing Medical Education 128 Lakeside Avenue Suite 100 Burlington, VT 05405 (802) 656-2392 http://cme.uvm.edu
Freeman Legacy Scholarship Announced

The College of Medicine is pleased to announce the first recipients of the Freeman Foundation Legacy Medical Scholarship, who will be the first to benefit from this new program that carries forward the legacy of the Freeman Foundation, generous supporters of scholarships at the College of Medicine for more than a decade. Beginning with one recent gift, the program seeks funding for scholarships to support students just as the Freeman Foundation has funded students in pursuing their medical education with the goal of practicing here in Vermont. To learn more about the Freeman Foundation, please visit FreemanMed.org.

1995

Alison Miller Bouldin at Standing Hill Road South Burlington, VT 05403 (802) 668-7402 alison.bouldin@vtmednet.edu

Donna Gamage writes: “Can you believe my son, Ray, who was born after first year just graduated from high school? I remember everyone doing the Bobbiki song when he was a new born (guess that’s why his feet are not ticklish). He’s going to be a chemistry major like his mom. abhhhh. Time sure flies doesn’t it?” Email: digamache@yahoo.com

1996

Anne Marie Valente 16 Winchester St. Apt. 503 Brookline, MA 02446 ann.valente@dartmouthhealth.org

Patricia Ann King 832 South Prospect Street Burlington, VT 05401 (802) 862-7705 patricia.king@uvm.edu

Lisa Bellofi reports: “I am practicing integrative medicine and acupuncturist in Yarmouth, Maine. I continue to write and edit as a medical advisor for the Maine Health System. My husband and I have three children: Campbell (16), Abby (14), and Sophie (9).” Email: belli@mdc.org

1997

Mary Valvano writes: “John and I are happily busy keeping up with our two girls and three dogs. I am the chairman of the emergency department at Concord Hospital in New Hampshire. We keep tabs on Ann and Cliff Adams in Maine and try to spend time on their boat.” Email: mvalvano@gmail.com

1998

Jaime Smail 390 Bridge St. South Hamilton, MA 01982 (978) 468-1341 chris441@hotmail.com

Steven Battaglia reports: “Steven Yerid rode his mountain bike from Boston to Key West on a journey of self discovery. He bussed blisters, fumes storms, froze his toes, and rode road rage, but made it. His next step is going to be a cross-country ride on a tandem bicycle with Michael Binetta.” Email: ShaneY@gmail.com

Laurie Montague is “In private practice in New Hampshire! Stop by anytime!” Email: Lm honda@aol.com

Amy & Jonathan Martin write: “We’re settled in Avon, Conn. I am staff neonatologist at Connecticut Children’s Medical Center in Hartford, and Amy is doing plastic surgery’s imaging in a private practice group in town. Life is good.” Email: martindocs@comcast.net

Wendy Gerstmar reports: “Neal and I are still living in Albuquerque, N.M., both working at the university. We have twin boys, Abe and Hugh, 19 months old. We are taking them on their first camping trip this fall! Hope everyone is well and happy!” Email: wegerstin@hotmail.com

2000

Jay Edmund Allard UWMC Vasc Surg PSC 475 Box 1577 FPO APO FSS 96350 jeallard@jes.net

Michael Jim Lee 71 Eves Lane Irvine, CA 92620 michael_c_lee681@yahoo.com

2001

Ladan Farhoomand 3915 Regatta Road Burlington, VT 05403 (802) 324-7528

2002

Jonathan Vih Mal 15 Meadow Lane Dartmouth, PA 17821 (570) 275-4681 jvmal@march21.com

Kerry Lee Landy (919) 732-9876 landy005@mckeude.com

Mary O’Day Murphy mary@dhc.org

Maureen C. Sarle maureenrsarle@yahoo.com

Thuan Nguyen reports: “I am working at several different emergency departments in the Phoenix area as well as serving as the medical director for the fire departments in the cities of Tempe and Goodyear. My wife, Sue, works as a RN, and I celebrated our son Recco’s first birthday in November. We saw Mariah and Grace in Boston this past October during ACES. It was a great!” Email: Nusa@ym.com

2003

Omar Khan 33 Clearwater Circle Shelburne, VT 05482 (802) 985-1131 omar.khan@vtmednet.edu

Scott Goodrich 309 Barren Avenue Waterston, VT 05401 scott.goodrich1@yahoo.com

2004

Jillian S. Sullivan jillianslider@gmail.com

Steven D. Lefebvre fabulous5lefebvre@hotmail.com

2005

Julia A. Albi jula@vtmednet.edu

Richard, Parent richparent@gmail.com

See Facebook: “University of Vermont class of 2005 5 Year Reunion”

2006

William C. Eaward 105 Woodville Drive Durham, NC 27713 eaward0105@gms.duke.edu

Deborah Rabinsztajn Abrams 58 Chestica Place Wilmington, VT 05485 debra.rabinsztajn@gmail.com

Jasen Meliner is now finishing up an emergency medicine residency in the State of Washington at Madigan Army Medical Center. It has been a fortunate past few months for Jason, with three national honors coming his way. He was awarded first place in the U.S. Army 2009 Arts and Crafts Contest for a sculpture he made depicting soldiers during the battle of the Bulge. In addition, he is now in the Army Medical Corps and was awarded the U.S. Army 2009 Nursing Scholarship to help fund his studies.

2007

Allison Colleen acollen15@gmail.com

Scott Milloy Scott.Milloy@bhs.org

2008

Mark Hunter 211 Leonardwood Drive South Burlington, VT 05403 mark.hunter@uvm.edu

Alyssa Wittenberg 7649 Briarcrest Lane Orange, CA 92869 alyssa.wittenberg@gmail.com

Ashley Zucker 2106 Albany Street Durham, NC 27705 azucker@uvm.edu

2009

Rebecca Braheiny rebecca@krray@gmail.com

Kate Murray Mitchell kathymitchell@uvm.edu

Campbell Stewart campbell.stewart@uvm.edu

Freeman Legacy Scholarship Announced

The College of Medicine is pleased to announce the first recipients of the Freeman Foundation Legacy Medical Scholarship, who will be the first to benefit from this new program that carries forward the legacy of the Freeman Foundation, generous supporters of scholarships at the College of Medicine for more than a decade. Beginning with one recent gift, the program seeks funding for scholarships to support students just as the Freeman Foundation did with extraordinary gifts to provide scholarships for hundreds of UVM medical students beginning in 2000. While the original Freeman Medical Scholarships are ending and the final Freeman Scholars will graduate in 2012, the College intends this new program to honor the Freeman Foundation for the impact their generosity has had at the College of Medicine and throughout the state of Vermont. Future gifts to this new program will continue to assist UVM medical students in pursuing their medical education with the goal of practicing here in Vermont, following in the tradition of the Freeman Foundation scholarships.

This first Freeman Foundation Legacy Medical Scholarship, funded by a personal gift from program co-founder Mildred Bouldin, M.D., is being awarded to Krie Fat, a third-year medical student who has demonstrated a passion for, and commitment to, meeting the health care needs of Vermonters, particularly in rural and underserved areas.

For information about supporting the Freeman Foundation Legacy Medical Scholarships, contact Sarah Kebbin, Director of Annual Giving, at 802-656-4104 or Sarah.Kebbin@uvm.edu.
Obituaries

Bernard Weiss, M.D.'39
Dr. Weiss died at his home in West Orange, N.J. on January 15, 1910, at age 90. He was born in New York City, N.Y., and lived for most of his life in Brooklyn, N.Y. before moving to West Orange 15 years ago. He graduated from the University of Vermont in 1939 and was a doctor in private practice in Brooklyn for 50 years, retiring 20 years ago. Dr. Weiss was a captain in the United States Army, serving his country during World War II. He was a member of the American Medical Association, the New York County Medical Association and the American Academy of Family Practice.

Albert H. Fregosi, M.D.'43
Dr. Fregosi died December 24, 2009, at Emory Hospital in Georgia following complications from Alzheimer’s disease. He was 91. He was the son of Italian immigrants from Proctor, Vt. His father and uncle were molar sculptors. After earning his medical degree from the College of Medicine, he enlisted in the U.S. Army in a captain during World War II. He served as an infantry physician in the South Pacific. Dr. Fregosi received a Purple Heart for injuries he suffered after a grenade exploded. He also survived malaria that left him in coma for two months. After the war, he completed his residency at Crawford W. Long Hospital in Atlanta. Dr. Fregosi was a general physician and surgeon in his hometown of Atlanta and for a time was chief of staff at DeKalb General Hospital, now known as Atlanta Medical Center. He was a member of the Georgia Medical Association and the American Medical Association.

Lawrence Janoff, M.D.’43
Dr. Janoff died peacefully on September 25, 2009, at his residence in Durham, N.H. He was born May 21, 1920, in West Rutland, Vt., where he attended local schools. While a student at the University of Vermont and a member of ROTC, he was called to duty during World War II and fought in Italy, Germany, France and North Africa from 1943 to 1945. He was awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star Medal. After returning to Vermont and earning his medical degree, he moved to Portsmouth, N.H., in 1953. He practiced there until his retirement in 1985. During this time he delivered over 6,000 babies. After retirement, he moved to Kittery, Maine.

Murdo Glenn Macdonald, M.D.’51
Dr. Macdonald died February 6, 2010, at his home in Chatham, N.Y. He was a graduate of the University of Vermont in 1953, and was employed by Salem County General Hospital. For many years he worked as a pathologist in Southern New Jersey where he had privileges in medicine and was employed by Salem County Memorial Hospital, Elmers Community Hospital, Camden County Hospital, Cooper Hospital and Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital. He also served as the medical examiner for Salem County and Gloucester County in the 1970s. He was also an associate professor at Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia and published several professional articles in medical publications. Buzz served as a medic in the 104th Infantry Division, a unit from Vermont that was part of the U.S. Army Ground Forces. He was awarded the Order of the Purple Heart at the Battle of the Bulge in 1944.

Edward C. Nash, M.D.’53
Dr. Nash died February 6, 2010, three days before his 85th birthday, at his home in Chatham, N.J. He grew up and attended High School in North Bennington, Vermont. He practiced family medicine in Chatham for 20 years, working side by side with his wife, Marian, and was also an associate at Morristown Memorial Hospital. Prior to that, he was a pathologist with both Baysonne Hospital and Greenville Hospital. He received his bachelor’s degree from Princeton University before coming to the College of Medicine. During his early career, he practiced family medicine in Woodbury, New Jersey, where he had privileges in medicine and obstetrics at Underwood Memorial Hospital. For many years he worked as a pathologist in Southern New Jersey and was employed by Salem County Memorial Hospital, Elmers Community Hospital, Camden County Hospital, Cooper Hospital and Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital. He also served as the medical examiner for Salem County and Gloucester County in the 1970s. He was also an associate professor at Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia and published several professional articles.

Joseph C. Pomponio, M.D.’53
Dr. Pomponio died on September 24, 2009, at St. Luke’s Hospital in Bethlehem, Penna., at age 82. He was born in Compasso, Italy, and came to the United States in 1936. Dr. Pomponio served in the U.S. Navy during World War II as a seaman aboard a destroyer. He was a Medical Officer during the Korean War, stationed in Redbank, N.J. and Paranet River Naval Air Station. Dr. Pomponio later served as a medical officer in the Naval Reserve and retired as a Commander after 20 years of service. After a short time period he joined the National Guard and became the colonel in charge of the 103rd Medical Battalion of the 26th Infantry Division, where he served eight more years.

Thomas C. McBride, M.D.’57
Dr. McBride died January 4, 2010, at his home in Camden, Maine, after a brief illness. He was 77. Born in Chicago, he was educated in Chicago schools and was awarded the Daniel Webster scholarship to attend Dartmouth College, graduating in 1953. After medical school, Dr. McBride did postgraduate training at the University of Rochester Medical Center. From 1959 to 1961 he served in the U.S. Navy during World War II as a seaman aboard a destroyer. He was also a Medical Officer during the Korean War, stationed in Redbank, N.J. and Paranet River Naval Air Station. Dr. Pomponio later served as a medical officer in the Naval Reserve and retired as a Commander after 20 years of service. After a short time period he joined the National Guard and became the colonel in charge of the 103rd Medical Battalion of the 26th Infantry Division, where he served eight more years.
of Massachusetts Health Services in Amherst as staff physician and medical director. Dr. McIlhiney was also a professor of family and community medicine at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. He retired and moved to Canandaigua in 1996.

David E. Doniger, M.D., ’78
Dr. Doniger died December 24, 2009, after a long illness. Originally from New York City, he received three degrees from the University of Vermont, including his M.D. He completed his residency at Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York. He was Chief of Neology at United Hospital Medical Center in Westchester, N.Y. He established a school of E.R.G. there. Dr. Doniger was an Emeritus Member of Sigma Xi.

Bernard Passman, M.D., ’59
Dr. Passman died December 25, 2009, after a brief illness. He was a prominent physician in obstetrics and gynecology in the greater Hartford area. Born in Portland, Maine, he received his B.A. at Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine, in 1957, and completed his medical school, Dr. Passman trained in both general surgery and specialty training in obstetrics/ gynecology at the Medical Center in New York City from 1959 to 1963. He enrolled in the U.S. Air Force Berry Plan for Physicians with the rank of Captain, and was stationed in Alconbury, England, and Izmir, Turkey. Upon his return to the United States, Dr. Passman practiced internal medicine in Rye for the next 26 years.

Andrew Stewart, M.D., ’91
Dr. Stewart died November 7, 2009. He was 80 years old. He grew up mostly in Hanover, N.H. After graduating from Dartmouth College in 1952, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps. He served as a naval gunfire spotter for the 1st Marine Division in Korea. After the war he came to the College of Medicine, and then did a pediatric residency at the Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital in Hanover, where his father was the founding pediatrician at the Hitchcock Clinic. In 1964 he then family relocated to Massachusetts, where he established a pediatric practice in Amherst. In June 1977, he sold his practice and joined the U.S. Air Force to follow his passion for adventure and to experience European travel and skiing. In 1983, after living in Germany, then England, the Stewarts returned to New Hampshire, where they made their home in Bay for the next 26 years.

Donald M. Ford, M.D., ’70
Dr. Ford died July 29, 2009, at Winchester Medical Center (N.Y.) after a brief battle with cancer. He was 73. Most of his professional career was with St. Francis Hospital as a radiologist. He retired in 2000. He then practiced radiology with V.A.M.C. Castle Point from 2005 to 2009. Dr. Ford served in the U.S. Air Force from 1963 to 1966.

Wilhelm H. Kawai, M.D., ’81
Dr. Kawai, who lived in Springfield, Ohio, died unexpectedly on November 7, 2009. He was flying alone in his ‘Air Cam’ when undetermined causes brought him down his plane. He was born in Lake Beck, Germany, on May 3, 1955, and his parents moved the family to the United States in 1956. He grew up on a dairy farm in West Chazy, New York, and attended the State University of New York at Plattsburgh before coming to the College of Medicine. Dr. Kawai did his internship and residency at the Medical Center Hospital of Vermont in Burlington. In 1985, he moved to Dayton for a Cardiology Fellowship at the Palestinian Authority. The Palestinian Authority and the Government on medicine and healthcare development. He also served on the Council of Deans for the American Medical Association.

Edward C. Andrews Jr., M.D.
Dr. Andrews, of Yarmouth, Maine, former president of the Maine Medical Association and the University of Vermont, died February 19, 2010. He was born in Rockland, Maine, in January 1925, and grew up in Plainfield, Vt. He was a veteran of the Navy V-12 program, graduating from Middlebury College in 1946, and John Hopkins School of Medicine in 1947, prior to his internship in pathology. He also received honorary doctoral degrees from Middlebury College, Bowdoin College, the University of Vermont and the University of Dakar in Senegal. In 1951, he began his career at Johns Hopkins Hospital and Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine as Chief Resident and instructor in medicine. In 1958, he moved with his family to Jericho, Vt., and continued his career at the College of Medicine, where he served as professor of pathology, associate dean from 1964 to 1966, and dean from 1966 to 1970. He became president of the University of Vermont in 1970. In 1975, he moved to Maine to become president of the Maine Medical Center in Portland and served in that role until his retirement in 1988. During his professional career as chief of medicine at Mount Sinai, he participated on many boards and commissions focusing on higher education, medical education, hospitals and health care planning, including Dr. Charles A. Dana Foundation, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Green Mountain College, Maine Hospital Association, American Hospital Association, the Vermont Higher Education Council, and St. Joseph’s College of Maine. He continued to serve as a consultant to the U.S. State Department, the Agency for International Development, and the Pakistan Government on medicine and healthcare development. He also served on the Council of Deans for the American Medical Association.

Charles S. Houston, M.D.
Dr. Houston died peacefully at his Burlington, Vt. home on September 13, 2009, at the age of 96. Born in 1913 in New York, he was educated at Harvard University and earned his M.D. at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. During his college and medical school years he began his lifelong interest in mountain climbing and climbed extensively in Alaska and the Himalayas, making first ascents of Mt. Foraker in 1954 and Mt. Dickey in 1956. In 1938, he made an exploratory trip to K2, during which time his group came close to reaching the summit. Following medical school he joined the Navy, where his studies of high altitude physiology contributed to the ability of pilots to fly at higher altitudes, giving the Air Corps a tactical advantage. After World War II he practiced internal medicine in Exeter, N.H. where he also started his family and continued his climbing. In 1950, he went with his father on an exploratory trip to the south side of Mt. Everest through the kingdom of Nepal, then newly opened to westerners. In 1953, in his most legendary expedition, he returned to K2 and after over 25,000 feet, nearly died in a horrific rescue to save the life of an injured teammate. In 1956, he moved to Colorado where he continued to practice medicine in an isolated community while also doing some pioneering work in the development of an artificial heart. He was based during a mountain rescue that he recognized high-altitude pulmonary edema. In 1962, he married by marriage to a former Peace Corps Volunteer in India. Following two and a half years of more than 40 years, serving in the United States Navy, the United States Naval Reserve and the Vermont Army National Guard. He received numerous medical and military awards including the Legion of Merit. He was also awarded Vermont’s highest military honor, the Vermont Distinguished Service Medal.

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February 18, 2010
9:50 a.m.

Adrienne Pahl (left) from the class of 2011 checks out newborn Dustin Abbott during pediatric clerkship nursery rounds in Fletcher Allen Health Care with Clinical Instructor Elizabeth Hunt, M.D. (right).

photograph by Raj Chawla

The Giving Connection

Led by the College of Medicine’s Schweitzer fellows, medical students continue their community service on COM Cares Day, supported by funding from alumni and friends. Burlington’s Committee on Temporary Shelter (COTS) was one of the agencies to which students provided help.

Your annual donation to the UVM College of Medicine Fund makes many things possible for today’s students. Every year, scholarship support, student research support, programming such as the White coat Ceremony and new student orientation, and community service activities such as COM Cares Day are made possible because of support provided by the UVM College of Medicine Fund. The need is constant and growing; thanks to the continued generosity of alumni and friends, students will be supported as they continue to pursue careers in service to medicine and community.

The Giving Connection

Make your annual fund gift online today at www.med.uvm.edu/giving or call Sarah Keblin, Director, Annual Giving at (802) 656-0802

University of Vermont College of Medicine
Medical Development & Alumni Relations Office
(802) 656-4014 | medical.giving@uvm.edu
www.med.uvm.edu/giving
Making an Impact

William Street, M.D. ’59 dedicated his career to anesthesiology at medical centers in Vermont and in Massachusetts. Now retired, Dr. Street and his wife, Lorraine Hassan-Street, gave great thought to decision to support medical student scholarships at the College. “Although I have tremendous regard for my undergraduate school,” says Dr. Street, “it generates ‘captains of industry’ who eventually tend to leave enormous gifts. A medical school, on the other hand, has far fewer graduates in the first place, and as physicians they are not in a position to give like captains of industry. I thought that donations I made to my medical alma mater would have a greater impact. And I have to say, I was also attracted to the availability of matching funds.”

In fact, the Streets have now given two $100,000 scholarship endowment gifts, each matched dollar-for-dollar to double the impact of the Street endowment. As a result, UVM medical students will forever benefit from significant Street scholarships.

For more information about how you can support the College of Medicine, please contact the Medical Development and Alumni Relations Office.

University of Vermont College of Medicine
Medical Development & Alumni Relations Office
(802) 656-4014 | medical.giving@uvm.edu
www.med.uvm.edu/giving