MAKING OPPORTUNITIES

Polly Parsons, M.D. marks a decade at the helm of the Department of Medicine

ALSO FEATURED:

- Translational Research at the Cardiovascular Institute of Vermont
- An Alumnus’s Eye for Composition
- Match Day and Commencement 2015
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All gifts received before June 26, 2015, will count toward participation and will be recognized in our annual gift report.

Making Opportunities

“I believe that if you provide the right environment, people will flourish,” says Polly Parsons, M.D. After ten years at the helm of the Department of Medicine, the largest department at the College, Dr. Parsons reflects on a decade of achievement, and the work ahead.

By Erin Post

The Heart of Translational Research

Like the circulatory system itself, which branches through the human body, supporting its components literally from head to toe, the Cardiovascular Research Institute of Vermont has a subtle presence throughout dozens of laboratories across the UVM campus.

By Sarah Zobel

The Physician’s Art

To his fellow members of the Class of 1948, and to his friends and patients, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology Emeritus Herbert Durfee, M.D., has always stood out as a quiet, friendly man, and a consummate medical professional. But a chance discovery by a family member has allowed the world to see a new side to Dr. Durfee in his tenth decade: a talented photographic artist.

From the Dean

College News

Fighting Ebola in West Africa; a new master’s degree; echoes of the Great War; Match Day and Commencement, and more.

WebXtras in this issue:

- Teaching Academy Inductees
- Match Day coverage
- Commencement photos, videos, and reflections
- Additional Durfee photography

Go to: uvm.edu/medicine/vtmedicine

ON THE COVER: Polly Parsons, M.D., photograph by Andy Duback

Hall A
President’s Corner
Class Notes
Development News
Obituaries
Along with many other members of the College of Medicine community, I had the great good fortune to take part in the Commencement ceremonies for the Class of 2015 on May 17. Commencement is, of course, the highlight of our year. As I said to the assembled graduates, the conferring of their Doctor of Medicine degrees is the key reason we exist as a College. We are extremely proud of them, and of the recipients of the Ph.D. and those who earned the M.S. from our College this year.

I was touched by the comments of Class of 2015 member Peter Wingfield, the student speaker at the Commencement ceremony. Peter, who returned to his medical education after a hiatus of many years in a successful career in the arts, spoke of the welcoming atmosphere he found from day one at the University of Vermont, and the surprising diversity of life experiences among his classmates. Peter noted what he felt was a characteristically College of Medicine way of seeing the whole person. He spoke of the effect that has on producing physicians who in turn, while practicing medicine, may be more likely to take the time to see their patients in their fullest light, and be able to offer them the most fully compassionate care by doing so.

Our main commencement speaker, Vito Imbasciani, M.D.’85, also came to medicine after pursuing an earlier career. Commencement marked his thirtieth anniversary as a physician. Commencement was his thirteenth anniversary as a physician — the beginning of a career in which he has served his patients in southern California, and who of whose obituary I am sorry to say appears in this issue, frequently said throughout his life, “You know they were going to die. As a surgical intensivist, I’m trained to place large IV lines, provide intubation and all kinds of medications to save a patient’s life. In this situation, you cannot offer any of those.”

“Was it very difficult to see the sicker patients, because there was nothing you could do,” Tandoh wrote in January in an email from Brussels, Belgium, where she stayed during a quarantine period after she left Liberia. “You knew they were going to die. As a surgical intensivist, I’m trained to place large IV lines, provide intubation and all kinds of medications to save a patient’s life. In this situation, you cannot offer any of these.”

Tandoh and Majid Sadigh, M.D., an infectious disease expert and UVM associate professor of medicine, worked in Liberia for seven weeks this past November and December. They received Ebola-care training in Bong, then traveled to Buchanan to set up an Ebola treatment unit in that port city. Tandoh, a native Liberian, says she felt compelled to muster her skills against an epidemic in her home country.

“I kept reading how bad things were and kept saying to anyone who would listen that I wanted to go and help,” she says. Upon arriving in the country, she says she wondered, “Where are all the people dying of Ebola? It seemed just as normal as it was when we visited in March except for all the buckets of chlorine water at every place of business, homes, etc.”

Sadigh, director of the Global Health Center at UVM and clinical teaching partner at Danbury Hospital/Western Connecticut Health Network, says he deserves no glory for his work. Instead, he credits those fighting the disease in their home countries while he was at the epicenter of Ebola, their life continues. I learned so much from that nation.”

“I knew if my neighbors saw me around, they would be frightened,” Sadigh says. He didn’t want to cause anyone discomfort during the holidays. “Based on the science, I was almost 100 percent certain that I was not going to come down with Ebola disease,” he says of that time. “If you follow a protocol of safety in the hot zone, you should not be exposed to the virus. And we were very careful in the hot zone.”

Tandoh and Sadigh left behind much more than their sweat. The Ebola treatment unit they set up in Buchanan now has 151 beds. Tandoh and Sadigh left behind much more than their sweat; they left behind an infectious disease expert and UVM associate professor of medicine.

Dr. Sadigh (center) suited up to care for Ebola patients in Liberia. The Ebola treatment unit they set up in Buchanan now has 151 beds. Tandoh and Sadigh left behind much more than their sweat; they left behind an infectious disease expert and UVM associate professor of medicine.
New Master of Medical Science Degree Program Announced

Starting this fall, the University of Vermont will offer a new medical science master’s program for students with a limited background in science and those whose undergraduate grades may not reflect their true academic abilities.

UVM’s Master of Medical Science degree is a 30-credit, one-year, on-campus program, which includes a cohesive set of core courses that cover the major biomedical disciplines and provides a foundation of understanding how the human body works. In addition to biochemistry, cell biology, and physiology, the core curriculum includes six-credit human anatomy courses, something not offered in many similar programs across the country, and also covers the fundamentals of pharmacology and biostatistics. "This is a competitive, robust biomedical master’s program designed to help students who may not have considered medical school in their undergraduate years and are now refocusing their careers," says Program Director Chris Berger, Ph.D., associate professor of molecular physiology and biophysics at the College of Medicine.

The program complements the academic offerings of the UVM College of Medicine, providing a master’s degree program that prepares bright and motivated students for admission to medical school. On average, 50 percent of UVM medical students come from a non-science undergraduate degree background.

The new program directly supports the College of Medicine’s mission to educate a diverse group of dedicated physicians and biomedical scientists to serve across all the disciplines of medicine, and continues the expansion of educational programs that includes the 2014 introduction of a Masters of Public Health program.

Geared toward students whose undergraduate grades are not an accurate reflection of their potential in the medical sciences field, the program gives students the tools they need to not only be successful medical school candidates, but to succeed in a rigorous medical school curriculum once they are admitted.

A number of the College’s incoming class members have completed similar programs at other universities. By building this solid foundation prior to medical school, students will be able to focus on the clinical aspects of their training, which are now integrated within the first year curriculum at most major medical schools including UVM.

Twenty-five students will be enrolled in the program each year and will be taught by College of Medicine faculty. Admission into the program will require a B.S. or B.A. degree from an accredited institution, two semesters each of general biology, organic chemistry, and physics, MCAT or GRE scores from within the previous five years, and, for international students, TOEFL scores of at least 90.

Teaching Academy Hosts Member Induction Ceremony, Annual Mud Season Retreat

Inaugural Teaching Academy members and other College of Medicine faculty celebrated scholarship, medical education curricular innovations, professional development, and advancement at the 2015 Mud Season Symposium on March 26 with a dinner and Teaching Academy member induction ceremony. This was followed by a full-day symposium on March 27. The events took place at the Sheraton Burlington Conference Center.

Helen Lesser, M.D., professor of pediatrics at the University of California, San Francisco, opened the symposium with a keynote lecture on “Mentoring of Value: An Academic Necessity.” “Sunshine Nakai, Ph.D., M.S.W., assistant dean for admissions, recruitment and student life at Smith School of Medicine at Loyola University, also presented on “Exploring Stereotypic Threat in the Medical Education Curriculum.”

The event featured a Teaching Academy update from Interim Director Ann Guillot, M.D., and Senior Associate Dean for Medical Education William Jeffries, Ph.D., followed by which attendees participated in a variety of small- and large-group sessions led by College of Medicine faculty.

A total of 53 faculty members were recognized at the Teaching Academy induction ceremony, including 21 new members, 19 new Master Teachers, and 13 Distinguished Educators.

The Teaching Academy at the University of Vermont College of Medicine

See the full roster of Teaching Academy inductees. Go to uvm.edu/medicine/teachingacademy

Parsons Elected American Thoracic Society Secretary-Treasurer

The American Thoracic Society (ATS) has elected E.L. Amanda Parsons, Professor and Chair of Medicine Polly Parsons, M.D., to be the ATS secretary-treasurer for the 2015–2016 term. Parsons will then assume the role as ATS president for the 2018–2019 term. Founded in 1905, the American Thoracic Society is an international society with more than 15,000 members. Parsons, who also serves as chair of medicine at the University of Vermont Medical Center, was installed as secretary-treasurer in May at the ATS 2015 International Conference in Denver, Colo.

Fukugawa Named Director of USDA Human Nutrition Research Center

Professor of Medicine Naoms Fukugawa, M.D., Ph.D., has been named director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Baltimore Human Nutrition Research Center, the oldest and most comprehensive of the six human nutrition research facilities under USDA. Fukugawa will oversee a staff of 200 federal research scientists and support scientists and manage an annual budget of $22 million. After a 20-year career at UVM, Fukugawa will retire from the university to take on the new position. She will continue her current research program as professor emerita in the College of Medicine examining the impact of petroleum and biodiesel emissions on health and its interplay with food and nutrition.

Ades and Cipolla Recognized as 2015–2016 University Scholars

Professor of Medicine Philip Ades, M.D., has lengthened the lives of hundreds of heart patients, and Professor of Neurological Sciences Marilyn Cipolla, Ph.D., is working on ways to improve treatment of stroke and save women from suffering seizures during pregnancy.

Both College of Medicine professors have led extensive and internationally pioneering research in their fields — Ades in cardiac rehabilitation and Cipolla in blood vessel injury in the brain. They have now been honored as two of four University Scholars for 2015–2016 by the UVM Graduate College. This is the second year Vermont has been able to honor as many as two. Recognized with them was Marilyn Cipolla, Ph.D. and Philip Ades, M.D., part of the College of Medicine’s Office of Medical Student Education, to join its Advisory Committee on Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Sex Development.

CichoskiKelly will serve a two-year term on the committee.
For several days, Twitter feeds were filling up with “#iMatched!” as medical students at UVM and across the U.S. collectively approached Match Day — one of the most significant milestones in a medical student’s life — when soon-to-be physicians across the country learn where they will be doing specialty training for the next three or more years. The UVM Match Day celebration took place in the College’s Hoehl Gallery, beginning with the arrival of the Class of 2015 led by faculty member and alumnus H. James Wallace, M.D.’88, and his bagpipes. The final campaign tally of more than $100,000 set a huge success, raising more than $100,000 for the College of Medicine Fund. The original campaign (AEC) “2015 Match Challenge” fundraising campaign, held from March 1 through 20, was a huge success, raising more than $300,000 for the College of Medicine Fund. The original campaign goal was surpassed eight days early, on March 12. The final campaign tally of more than $100,000 was received from over 500 donors — setting a record for the highest number of donors for the College of Medicine in the month of March.

RESIDENCY MATCHES FOR THE COLLEGE OF MEDICINE CLASS OF 2015

ASPIRATIONAL

Whitney Creed
Jonathan Ellis
James Mulkey
Corey Shaheen
Peter Wingfield

DERMATOLOGY

Patrick Benson
Michael Cunningham
Julia Hobbson

EMERGENCY MEDICINE

Lipan Chen
Akira Furuki
Daniel Gersten
Jennifer Hughes
Calen King
Gunter Krauchmann
Canis Wilkinson

FAMILY MEDICINE

Zoe Agnon
Kristopher Arendt
Benjamin Clements
Amastasia Costich
Amanda Daulton
Jessica Faraci
Elyseanova
Charles Hackett
Whitney Hine
John Paul Kelada
Lauren Knecht
Eli Kim
Jabari Lawton
Andrew Nobe
Michelle Yarntonne

GENERAL SURGERY/INTERNAL MEDICINE

Kari Brown
William Crannell
Ryan Hendrix
 Coltsirr Kenneth
Elizabeth Landell
Jessica Lewis
David Mancini
Marissa Mendoza

GENERAL SURGERY

John Brown
William Beattie
Pennsylvania
Ryan Hendrix
Indiana University
Coltsirr Kenneth
Kathryn Schlosser
Jessica Young
Justin Van Bavel

INTERNAL MEDICINE

Raymond Al-Free
Logan Birtam
Sarah Gilbert
Calvin Kagen
Joseph Kilb
Michael Ma
Eric Min
Danillettow
Hank Nig
Jonathan Pan
Case Western Reserve
Amanda Powell
Vishal Shah
Cameron Sikora

INTERNAL MEDICINE/CLINICAL SCIENCE

Medtronic Basha
University of Cincinnati
University of Pittsburgh
Saint Louis University

INTERNAL MEDICINE/EMERGENCY MEDICINE

Jordan Portman
Memorial Hospital of Rochester/Strong

MEDICINE/PEDiatrics

Joshua Price

NEURODEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Tamar Golding

NEUROSURGERY

James Frank

OBSTETRICS & GYNECOLOGY

Hailey Mackinon

ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY

Griffin Baldor

PSYCHIATRY

David Harvey

RADIOLOGY — DIAGNOSTIC

Jason Hao

UROLOGY

Michael Urich

See Match Day photos and videos and hear student reflections. Go to uvm.edu/medicine/mtmedicine
PROFESSOR McCRAE AND THE POPPIES

New Admissions Interview Format Focuses on Teamwork, Core Competencies

Most aspiring physicians are well aware that character traits, such as a capacity for improvement, an ability to work together, and a sense of ethical responsibility, are key to success in their chosen field. This year, a new format for that ever-important day in the life of a medical school applicant — the interview day — is designed to give applicants to the College of Medicine even more opportunity to showcase their readiness for medical school as related to these and other key competencies.

Called Multiple Mini Interviews (MMI), the new interview format includes a series of six-minute interviews with nine different people drawn from the ranks of faculty, residents and current students. Applicants navigate through the stations, which each focus on a different scenario.

The College typically interviews between 600 to 650 applicants (about ten percent of the applicant pool), and this year is no different, says Medical Student Admissions Director Cary Jewkes. Students play an important role in the admissions process, says Jewkes. A team of about 20 student ambassadors who take part in the admissions process.

The College isn’t the first to switch to the MMI format. Jewkes estimates that roughly one-quarter of U.S. medical schools now use it.

Research Notebook

Doublé and Zahn’s 3-D Snapshot of Protein Highlights Potential Drug Target for Breast Cancer

The genome of a cell is under constant attack, suffering DNA damage that requires an array of repair mechanisms. Understanding the behavior of the enzymes defending these assaults helps determine how — and where — cancer gets its foothold and flourishes. New research published in Nature Structural & Molecular Biology shows that human DNA polymerase theta enzyme may be a promising drug therapy target for inhibiting breast cancer.

Karl Zahn, a life-long intellectual associate, is first author on the study. Structural biologist and Professor of Microbiology & Molecular Genetics Sylvia Doublé, Ph.D., is senior author on the paper.

Dostmann Contributes to Nature Study that Identifies Missing “Culprit” in Heart Failure

Nearly six million Americans are living with heart failure, a condition that occurs when the heart muscle cannot pump enough blood, rendering it unable to meet the body’s needs for blood and oxygen. New research by investigators at Johns Hopkins University and several U.S. and international institutions, including UVM Professor of Pharmacology Wolfgang Dostmann, Ph.D., has identified the missing culprit in the faulty molecular messaging system that leads to heart failure, offering hope for potential future treatments.

The study results appeared in the March 25, 2015 issue of the journal Nature. A newly discovered enzyme — called phosphodiesterase 9 or PDE9 — is the key. Naturally found in the brain, gut and kidneys, the new study shows a relationship between concussions and subtle changes in the cortex, the outer layer of the brain that controls higher-level reasoning and behavior. Advanced imaging showed that as the severity of concussion symptoms increased, the cortex of the subjects got thinner in areas where it should be dense at those players’ ages — areas that relate to attention, control, memory, and emotion regulation.

Study Links Mid-life Fitness with Cancer Incidence, Inclusion, and Survival

A study by Susan Lakoski, M.D., professor of medicine, and colleagues has found that higher levels of mid-life fitness provide a mortality benefit in older age even in the setting of a cancer diagnosis. Their findings appeared in the March 26, 2015 edition of JAMA Oncology. Lakoski’s study examines mid-life, cardiovascular fitness (CRF) and subsequent risk rates from prostate, lung, or colorectal cancers in men over age 65.

Cheung Study Links Mild Kidney Disease and Menopause Experience

Plenty of studies have established links between kidney disease and heart problems and kidney disease and diabetes. Now, researchers led by Katherine Cheung, M.D., a UVM postdoctoral fellow in nephrology, have drawn a connection between mild kidney disease and the way women experience menopause. Their study, published recently in the journal Menopause, found that women with mild kidney disease went through menopause earlier than normal age and had fewer menopause-related hot flashes and night sweats, known as vasomotor symptoms, than women without kidney problems.

Menopause Experience

Cheung Study Links Mild Kidney Disease and Menopause Experience

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V E R M O N T  M E D I C I N E  S U M M E R  2 0 1 5
MARKING THE GOAL, AND THE CHALLENGES AHEAD AT COMMENCEMENT 2015

At the May 17 Commencement Ceremony of the College of Medicine, held in the Ira Allen Chapel, commencement speaker Vito Imbasciani, M.D.'85, looked out at the rows of mortarboard-wearing Class of 2015 members and offered a heartfelt welcome to “the happiest 113 people on Earth.”

Imbasciani, a urologic surgeon and director of government relations at Southern California Permanente Medical Group and a retired colonel, medical corps, U.S. Army, was recognized by President Obama as a source of inspiration for his 2010 repeal of the military’s “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy. He congratulated the class on their achievement of the Doctor of Medicine degree.

“Few accomplishments in life require so many years of unwavering dedication to achieve a goal,” he said. And he took note of the societal need they were about to fulfill: “You are about to launch yourself into a world sorely in need of your brains, your helping hands, and your caring hearts.”

It had been thirty-four years since student address giver Peter Wingfield started on his quest to become a doctor. Prior to completing medical studies in the United Kingdom in the 1980s, Wingfield’s love of the stage led him to pursue a successful acting career. He returned to medicine at UVM in 2011, and begins an anesthesiology residency in San Diego this summer.

Wingfield noted the unreserved welcome he received as an older student, saying: “This school chooses people that have openness and empathy in their DNA — it’s what we’re made of. I urge us to remember that it is still there in us even when we don’t feel it or we’re too dog tired to feel it will still be there waiting for a little mindfulness to nurture it back to life. It’s what made us stand out as applicants and it will make us stand out as physicians.”

In addition to the medical degrees that were conferred at the ceremony, 10 students who earned a Ph.D. and six students who earned an M.S. degree from the College of Medicine were hooded at the Graduate College’s ceremony on May 16.
A ccording to the old phrase, opportunity comes knocking every now and then. It’s characteristic of a leader to welcome what that caller brings, and encourage future visits. As she looks back on ten years at the helm of the College of Medicine’s Department of Medicine, Polly Parsons, M.D., can chart a lengthy list of both the opportunities that have presented themselves, and those she’s found and invited in. In that time the department has flourished, with many new members, new innovative education initiatives led by faculty, and research across the department’s eleven divisions that continues to make its mark nationally.

That is no small feat considering today’s competitive research climate and the usual tug-and-pull clinician-scientists deal with when balancing careers in both patient care and research. For the Department of Medicine, this success has been built in large part on forging ahead into new territory.

Recruiting and retaining motivated and talented faculty members has led to a robust research program within her department. Despite the increased competition for decreasing research resources, her department’s extramural research support has maintained an annual funding level of approximately $20M per year for the last five years. Over the past decade, faculty have published over 300 manuscripts, reviews, chapters and books. Some travel the world for speaking engagements and to serve on high profile national committees. Parsons’ goal is to foster a department that nurtures new talent, and stays nimble enough to respond to rapid change.

“If you provide the right environment, people will flourish.”

— Polly Parsons, M.D.
Polly Parsons, M.D.

The Path to Medicine

Coming to UVM was a sort of journey home for Parsons, though with a long detour in between. She was born in Dorset, Vt., but her father’s career as a geologist kept her family on the move. They settled for a time in California and British Columbia, before they wound up in Bangor, Maine, where Parsons graduated from high school. She completed her undergraduate degree in biology at Radcliffe College. Medicine was one of several career options Parsons considered as an undergraduate at Radcliffe; for a time, she thought she would go to law school. She also considered a career as a field researcher in biology, but when she tried to picture living the life of legendary biologist Jane Goodall, it lacked the interaction with people she craved. Combining research and patient care seemed like an option that matched her scientific bent and desire to make a difference in the lives of patients. Volunteer work at a health clinic as an undergraduate sealed her decision.

She went west for medical school in 1975, to the University of Arizona College of Medicine. Although the program there had an outstanding reputation, the decision was in part pragmatic: Her parents were living there at the time. When she attended in the late 1970s the school had a three-year M.D. program, which she finished on time, despite a schedule she describes with a chuckle as “a little intense.”

After graduating from medical school in 1978, she headed to the University of Colorado Medical Center for a residency in internal medicine. She then spent one year as a research fellow at the National Jewish Hospital and Research Center in Denver, followed by three years as a fellow in pulmonary medicine at University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, an institution that is world renowned for its leading-edge research in pulmonary and critical care medicine. UVM Professor of Medicine Charles Irvin, Ph.D., who was on the faculty at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center when Parsons became a pulmonary fellow there, characterizes it as one of the most competitive programs in the country. In a field notoriously dominated by men, women were anomalies in such programs at that time.

“For her to get that fellowship put her apart from other people,” Irvin says. “She distinguished herself in so many ways during that training.” Parsons joined the lab of Peter Henson, DVM, Ph.D., who had a robust research agenda related to the basic cell biology of acute lung injury. She soon found herself in the thick of what was then a new field: Translational research. Her dual skill set — as a clinician and researcher — put her in a prime position to excel and help shape the field. It also provided leadership opportunities when she was quite young — including running a project and a clinical core for a large NIH grant while still a very junior faculty member. She rose to the challenge. Says Parsons: “As an M.D. scientist, I was able to engage on the clinical side and I had the expertise in basic biology. It was a nice niche for me.”

In 1985, she was invited to join the faculty at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. She also became a staff physician at Denver General Hospital (now Denver Health Medical Center), quickly rising through the ranks. By 1991, she was co-director of the Medical Intensive Care Unit (MICU), and took over as director of the MICU in 1993. She served in that role for seven years. Leading the intensive care unit for one of the major trauma centers in the country requires a certain knack for calm in the face of uncertainty, as well as a keen appreciation for colleagues’ abilities. She found a strong team in Denver.

Everyone in the hospital came together to make things happen,” Parsons says. “It was a spectacular place to practice clinical medicine.”

E.D. Amidon Professor and Chair, Department of Medicine, UVM College of Medicine; and Leader, Medicine Health Care Service, University of Vermont Medical Center, 2005–Present
Interim Chair of Medicine, 2005–2006
Professor, Department of Medicine, 2003–2005.

SELECTED HONORS

American Thoracic Society, President, 2012–2013
American Thoracic Society, Secretary, 1999–2000
American Thoracic Society, Secretary, 2000–2001

SELECTED HONORS

American Thoracic Society, Secretary, 1999–2000
American Thoracic Society, Secretary, 2000–2001
American Thoracic Society, Distinctive Advancement Award, 2013
Not only has Parsons served as an important sounding board for scientific questions but, Moss points out, she also helped at a critical juncture in his career, when he was deciding whether to move back to Colorado after eleven years at Emory University. It was a big move for him and his family, and her ability to balance listening with some quiet encouragement helped him to decide to make the move.

“She’s a good motivator,” he says. “She’s inspirational in that way.”

Marvin Schwarz, M.D., now the James C. Campbell Professor of Pulmonary Medicine at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, and division head for pulmonary sciences and critical care medicine when Parsons was there, says she’s seen as an outstanding alum who in many ways helped to pave a path for women in the field by virtue of her career trajectory as a researcher, physician, and academic leader.

“We personally brag about Polly as being one of our graduates,” he says.

Building a Program in Vermont

When Dr. Charles Irvin came to the UVM College of Medicine in the late 1990s to help build the research program for the Vermont Lung Center, he found himself on the look-out for a new chief for the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine. The “ideal person” for the job immediately sprang to mind from his days at the University of Colorado. After a national search, Parsons rose to the top of the list, and she accepted the position as director of pulmonary and critical care medicine at the College in 2000.

Her young sons, Alec and Chandler, gamely played host to a “million other kids,” Parsons laughs, as potential faculty members visited with their own children. She gives her sons credit for their patience and ability to “schmooze” the youngest recruits.

The work paid off — 15 years later the pulmonary and critical care division has increased in size from a handful of faculty to 25. Also noteworthy: ten of those division members are women, a far cry from her days as a fellow in Colorado, when women were almost non-existent in the field.

“I can think of no better person to lead us than her.” — Charles Irvin, Ph.D.

Parsons has made a point to foster the next generation of medical leaders. Renee Stapleton, M.D., Ph.D., met Parsons when she was a fellow in the University of Washington system, in part through a shared research focus on acute lung injury. Stapleton says she and her husband were looking to move out of Seattle to raise a family. UVM was at the top of the list in part because of the chance to practice medicine at a top notch medical center and improve how they work together in settings like the intensive care unit. And through her service on prestigious NIH review panels and national associations, she’s gone from a women’s caucus of, in some cases, one, to enough women to fill a board room. This year she is wrapping up a three-year term at the NIH’s National Heart, Lung and Blood Advisory Council, and this spring Parsons was elected secretary-treasurer of the American Thoracic Society (ATS) for 2015–2016. She will then assume the role of ATS president for the 2018–2019 term.

Adaptation & Innovation

Academic medicine faces some unique pressures at present, Parsons notes, including more of an emphasis on the clinical side of the mission, in large part because of financial challenges facing medical centers nationwide. This means that as chair of a large and diverse department like medicine, she’s often faced with helping physicians continue to deliver excellent patient care while making sure education and research stay at the fore. Parsons says her approach is to adapt from position from Parsons, say her leadership and service to the community. As word spread about the division, interest continued to grow, so much so that she created positions earlier than expected to accommodate some outstanding applicants.

Almost ten years into her tenure, Parsons says she has seen some promising changes when it comes to gender equity. At Radcliffe as an undergrad in the 1970s, she and her classmates had big goals, but encountered some pushback. “We were ready, but nobody told the world,” she says. “We had to let the world adapt.”

It has taken decades, but she sees significant progress. The world may be starting to catch up. Gone are the days of Parsons as the lone woman researcher. Now she sees the next generation of women here at UVM — like Stapleton, Dixon, and others — who are establishing careers and taking on leadership roles in significant numbers. And through her service on prestigious NIH review panels and national associations, she’s gone from a women’s caucus of, in some cases, one, to enough women to fill a board room. This year she is wrapping up a three-year term at the NIH’s National Heart, Lung and Blood Advisory Council, and this spring Parsons was elected secretary-treasurer of the American Thoracic Society (ATS) for start-up funding and milestone evaluation by the panel. The first year SPARK VT awarded $50,000 seed grants to two Department of Medicine faculty, and then expanded to two more departments in the UVM College of Medicine. Now, it is a University-wide program.

New education initiatives — including a masters of public health and two public health certificate programs — provide additional teaching opportunities for faculty, and multidisciplinary simulation-based education projects led by faculty are helping healthcare providers improve how they work together in settings like the intensive care unit. And there’s then the department’s pioneering work in high value and low cost patient care, piloting multidisciplinary clinics and screening programs.

Parsons is stouic as she thinks of the road ahead. For many years she kept notepads at her desk with the Chinese symbol for “crisis” printed on them — a character that combines those of both “danger” and “opportunity.”

“Seeing ‘opportunity’ at every turn in the road is easier when there’s a motivated and capable team with you moving forward,” she says.

Says her colleague Charles Irvin, “I can think of no better person to lead us than her. She’s the only person I’d want running the show.”
Though there’s cutting-edge research happening there, don’t look for the Cardiovascular Research Institute of Vermont (CVRI) on a map of the University of Vermont campus; you won’t find it, and not because it’s housed elsewhere in the state. Like the circulatory system itself, which branches throughout the human body, supporting its components literally from head to toe, the CVRI has a subtle presence throughout dozens of laboratories, supporting research across a wide range of disciplines at the University. Through the work of its affiliates, it is at the forefront of cardiovascular research — not only in the United States, but worldwide.

In 2002, Burton Sobel, M.D., with an $8 million endowment in hand, formed a nonprofit cardiovascular research organization under the aegis of the College of Medicine’s Department of Medicine. The CVRI was subsequently formed in 2008. Its mission was generally outlined by a dedication to reductions in the incidence, morbidity, and mortality of heart and vascular diseases through improving prevention, diagnosis, and treatment. In July 2013, David Schneider, M.D., F.A.C.C., F.A.H.A., was appointed director, shortly after Dr. Sobel’s death.

“Burt Sobel was a force, and the Cardiovascular Research Institute was really his baby to do cardiovascular research,” says Schneider. So as it has been rebirthed in this process there was a real direct effort to make the base less narrow. At the urging of the College’s dean, Rick Morin, that base has been redesigned “specifically to be broad, to reach out to many different areas and to different types of research and then to amplify that,” says Schneider. Today its reach extends across disciplines and research areas by providing funding and support to established senior investigators, as well as to those who are just beginning their careers. The CVRI encompasses the broadest possible definition of cardiovascular research, embracing everything from bench to translational research to clinical applications and including under its umbrella disciplines that range from cardiology to pharmacology, even psychology and engineering. While those who are associated with the CVRI are loosely referred to as “members,” there is no real membership per se, no application process or criteria other than the engagement in research that is related to cardiovascular health.

The first year of the revamped CVRI was outwardly quiet, but behind the scenes it was evolving and growing. That began with the formation of a board of directors, whose six members were chosen from across the University and appointed to three-year terms.
Professor of Medicine David Schneider, M.D., has directed the Cardiovascular Research Institute of Vermont since 2013, and is seen here in his laboratory at UVM’s Colchester Research Facility.

“WE REALLY WANT TO LIVE OUR MISSION, WHICH IS FOSTERING CARDIOVASCULAR RESEARCH... HIGHLIGHTING THE EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH THAT’S GOING ON HERE AND NURTURING THE NEXT GENERATION.”
—  David Schneider, M.D., FA.C.C., FA.H.A.

“WE’RE HAPPY TO HAVE PEOPLE WHO ARE IN OTHER COLLEGES AT UVM PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAMMING, BE ELIGIBLE FOR AWARDS, AND BE PART OF THE CORE CULTURE THAT’S INTERESTED IN CARDIOVASCULAR SCIENCES AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR HUMAN HEALTH.”
—  Ira Bernstein, M.D.

Their first task was to generate a charter that laid out the governance, mission, and initiatives of the CVRI, that was adopted in January 2014, and for Schneider and his board, it wasn’t just an item on a checklist. “We really want to live our mission, which is fostering cardiovascular research,” says Schneider. “And the two prongs to that, that are highlighting the excellence in research that’s going on here and nurturing the next generation.”

EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

Schneider first worked with Sobel while completing his cardiology fellowship at Washington University in St. Louis. That program was structured so that the first two years were spent on research and the second involved clinical work, a translational approach that appeals to Schneider to this day. At Washington University Schneider analyzed the fibrinolytic system, which makes the proteins that dissolve blood clots that form in response to injury, and then looked at the balance between the activator and plasminogen activator inhibitor-1 (PAl-1) in patients who are diabetic or have other insulin-resistant states. Schneider’s research became fully translational when clinical trials were used to look at how insulin, glucose and fatty free acids affect the production of the protein.

“The research I’m involved in today and the research of the cardiology division are really designed to improve care,” says Schneider. “There’s some research that just understands how things work, but as a clinician, it makes sense that I try to always connect mine to the clinical side, and that’s what I’ve tried really hard to do throughout my career.”

When Sobel moved to UVM, where he’d accepted the E. L. Amidon Chair of Medicine, he invited Schneider to come along. Schneider arrived in Vermont in mid-1994, and once here, his interests broadened to include thrombosis and platelet function, in the hopes of identifying an individualized therapy for patients. Working with Professor of Biochemistry Paula Tracy, Ph.D., Schneider developed an assay that used flow cytometry to look at platelet function and activation; in the years since, his focus has remained on platelets and their functioning. He’s now getting started on a project with Associate Professor Kathleen Brummel-Ziedens, Ph.D., and Professor of Biochemistry Kenneth Mann, Ph.D., to find novel ways to characterize the risk of forming thrombin and causing platelet activation. Schneider believes they may have identified a new method to characterize platelet function. Brummel-Ziedens and Mann have been developing assays to better characterize an individual’s likelihood of developing blood clots. Together these may someday be useful tools to best target therapies to the individual. Some of that work has evolved because of proximity — Schneider’s lab is next door to Mann’s — which is the kind of naturally occurring relationship the CVRI board would like to see more of.

For Marilyn Cipolla, Ph.D., F.A.H.A., a professor in the Department of Neurological Sciences and a CVRI board member, breaking down the “silos” that divide separate research efforts will be the continuing goal of the CVRI. She’s hopeful they will someday have a common lab, with researchers in adjoining spaces and equipment, animals, and trainees, all of which would allow them to integrate their work in potentially important ways. “So when I do cerebrovascular disease and stroke work, which is related to the heart, if there was somebody next door to me that I could step over and talk to about their findings in atherosclerosis, I could start looking at that in my models,” she says.

Cipolla’s own research is focused on three areas of cerebrovascular disease: the failure of blood vessels in the brain to reperfuse after ischemic stroke; hypertensive small vessel disease; and preventing brain injury in pre eclampsia and eclampsia, particularly in developing countries, where this disorder is the leading cause of maternal death. Cipolla has collaborated on studies of pre eclampsia with fellow board member Ira Bernstein, M.D., John Van Sicklen Masck Professor and chair of the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences, examining brain blood flow and brain water changes in pregnant women using MRI. Cipolla focuses on the bench end of translational research, using animal models, while Bernstein is engaged in a trial of 125 women to see who will develop pre eclampsia. Although pre eclampsia itself is restricted to women during pregnancy, it remains a very real concern for those who do develop it — within the last 15 years, research has found that women who have had pre eclampsia, especially early in pregnancy, are at high risk for developing cardiovascular disease later in life, whether ischemic heart disease, hypertension, or heart failure. Bernstein has hypothesized that some women develop pre eclampsia because they had a specific cardiovascular phenotype even before conceiving, and the hormonal and physiological challenges of pregnancy then expose that risk.

Bernstein is an example of the kind of nontraditional cardiovascular researcher Schneider has in mind when he talks about the CVRI’s broad base; he also engages in interdisciplinary work that is one of its hallmarks, collaborating regularly with colleagues in other departments. For one project Bernstein conducted research with Alessandra Rellini, Ph.D., associate professor in the psychology department, on the vascular aspects of female sexual response, in an effort to determine whether they are related to broader indices of cardiovascular health. “We’re happy to have people who are in other colleges at UVM participate in the programming, be eligible for awards, and be part of the core culture that’s interested in cardiovascular sciences and its implications for human health.”

The Cardiovascular Institute of Vermont’s 2015 celebration at the UVM Davis Center in May was an opportunity to publicly recognize the leadership and researchers of the institute.
INAUGURAL 2014–2015 GROUP
DISTINGUISHED INVESTIGATORS
CARDIOVASCULAR RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF VERMONT

Philip Ades, M.D.; Professor of Medicine
Dr. Ades is director of Cardiac Rehabilitation and Prevention at the UVM Medical Center. His research, which has had consistent NIH funding since 1988, focuses on the treatment and prevention of disabling in older patients with coronary artery disease and patients with chronic heart failure.

Joseph Brayden, Ph.D.; Professor of Pharmacology
Dr. Brayden’s laboratory investigates the ionic mechanisms of vasoconstriction, vasodilation, and communication between endothelial and smooth muscle cells in cerebral arterioles and is a pioneer in research on the electrical properties of vascular smooth muscle.

Martin LeWinter, M.D.; Professor of Medicine
Dr. LeWinter is director of the UVM Medical Center’s Heart Failure Program and principal investigator of UVM’s NIH-funded Regional Clinical Center for heart failure research. His work focuses on myocardial and ventricular functioning and remodeling in cardiomyopathy and heart failure. He was a 2007 University Scholar.

George Osol, Ph.D.; Professor of Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Medicine
Dr. Osol’s research is focused on vascular adaptations in pregnancy. He is program director for the NIH Center of Excellence in Women’s Reproductive Health Research and a 2010 University Scholar. His work has received NIH support for more than 25 years.

Russell Tracy, Ph.D.; Professor of Pathology
Dr. Tracy, interim senior associate dean for research, Laboratory for Clinical Biochemistry Research director, and 2009 University Scholar, is exploring genetic risk factors related to myocardial infarction and atherosclerosis, among other diseases.

Kathleen Trybus, Ph.D.; Professor of Molecular Physiology & Biophysics
Dr. Trybus is engaged in the study of molecular motors and their cargos — specifically, myosin regulation, and the mechanisms that cause mutations in smooth muscle actin to result in vascular disease, in particular, thoracic aortic aneurysms and coronary artery disease.

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and its implications for human health,” says Bernstein.

The CVRI also recognizes what it calls Distinguished Investigators, those who are “performing sustained, impactful cardiovascular research,” with a five-year award. The current roster is made up of Philip Ades, M.D.; Joseph Brayden, Ph.D.; Martin LeWinter, M.D.; George Osol, Ph.D.; Russell Tracy, Ph.D.; and Kathleen Trybus, Ph.D. Their research interests span heart failure, vascular adaptation during pregnancy, thoracic aneurysms and coronary artery disease, genetics of heart disease, and weight loss in obese coronary patients, and their work is widely recognized on the international stage.

Along with the Distinguished Investigators initiative that came out of the CVRI charter, there is a concerted effort to support up-and-comers in cardiovascular research — the junior investigators, trainees, and others who are still in the early stages of their careers.

THE NEXT GENERATION

With travel awards, research seminars, and an Early Career Advisory Committee available to them, junior investigators who are affiliated with the CVRI have plenty of rich opportunities at their disposal.

“We’re here to support young researchers through money and exposure,” says board member Harold Dauerman, M.D., professor of medicine. Dauerman conducts clinical trial and registry research and has worked with the American Heart Association on quality improvement initiatives, and has also led national trials developing new technology and pharmacology for interventional cardiology procedures. He’s an active enrollee in clinical trials at the College of Medicine and regularly instructs trainees in clinical trials and registries research, and says the ability to underwrite some of a young researcher’s expenses early in his or her career is crucial. That support comes in the form of travel awards and is supplemented by exposure to cardiovascular experts from outside the university.

The travel awards were established to cover educational travel costs for anyone early in their career who is a primary presenting author of an abstract at a regional or national meeting. It’s an honor, and it also means that money that would otherwise have to be used for them to participate can be earmarked for research funding instead. Since July 2014, thirteen $2,000 awards have been made, sending assistant professors, postdoctoral fellows, residents in internal medicine, and graduate and medical students to among other meetings, the International Society for Stem Cell Research’s 2015 Annual Meeting in Stockholm; the Society for Reproductive Investigation’s 62nd Annual Scientific Meeting in San Francisco; and the American Heart Association’s Epidemiology, Prevention, Lifestyle and Cardiovascular Risk 2015 Scientific Sessions in Baltimore. Katy Landry, a fourth-year medical student, received a travel award that allowed her to present her poster, “Association of stroke Risk Biomarkers With Stroke Symptoms: The Reasons for Geographic and Racial Differences in Stroke (REGARDS) Cohort,” at the latter this spring, something she says would have been impossible for her to do otherwise, given the financial constraints of school loans.

The newly established Cardiovascular Research Institute seminars, meanwhile, bring nationally established cardiovascular investigators to UVM to not only expose UVM investigators to their work, but promote interaction with UVM junior investigators and trainees. Through the Sobel Visiting Professorship and the Albert Visiting Professorship, two world-renowned researchers are invited for an extended stay, allowing time for colloquia, grand rounds, and one-on-one meetings.

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Ira Berstein, M.D., and Mary Cushman, M.D., M.Sc.

The Cardiovascular Research Institute of Vermont Board of Directors. From left: David Schneider, M.D., Harry Dauerman, M.D., Marilyn Cipolla, Ph.D., David Warshaw, Ph.D., Mark Nelson, Ph.D., Ira Berstein, M.D., and Mary Cushman, M.D., M.Sc.

“I’m definitely interested in a research career, and I know that these next four years are going to be focused on learning how to be a strong clinician,” she says. “But I also want to stay connected to research and basic sciences. Being part of this committee will allow that.”

The committee is shepherded by Mary Cushman, M.D., M.Sc., F.A.H.A., director of the Thrombosis and Hemostasis Program, professor of medicine in the Hematology/Oncology Division, professor of pathology, and a CVRI board member for whom mentoring has long been a professional passion. She says that inviting early career individuals to dinners with visitors and to research and progress sessions — where they are welcome to present their work and get feedback — is important on several levels.

“You want your trainees to have the opportunity to meet people who are leaders in their field,” says Cushman. “They might help them get their next job, or they could develop a collaboration. It also teaches them how to interact with scientists outside our institution.”

Cushman’s own work revolves around observations of substantial populations over time to identify risk factors for cardiovascular disease and stroke, particularly those related to genetic markers. As a steering committee member of the REGARDS (Reasons for Geographic And Racial Differences in Stroke) study, now in its twelfth year, Cushman has helped enroll and follow 30,000 individuals nationwide. She’s also an active investigator in the Multis-Ethnic Study of Atherosclerosis (MESA), and has had continuous NIH funding at the faculty level for 18 years.

Mark Nelson, Ph.D., F.A.H.A, University Distinguished Professor, chair of the Department of Pharmacology, and CVRI board member, also has NIH funding — a $12 million program project grant with Cipolla, Brajdem, and George Wellman, Ph.D., to look at the regulation of arterials in the brain in both healthy individuals and those who have suffered a stroke or subarachnoid hemorrhage.

Nelson also received a multi-million dollar Fondation Leducq Transatlantic Networks of Excellence grant in October 2012 and is the North American coordinator of an international study of the pathogenesis of small vessel disease of the brain, a major contributor to stroke and dementia.

Board member, David Warshaw, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Molecular Physiology and Biophysics, is also the recipient of an NIH program project grant.

“There aren’t many at NIH, and to have two of them within the CVRI is a feather in the cap of the university,” Warshaw says of such awards. Warshaw’s grant brings together private investigators from five institutions to study genetic mutations in cardiac contractile proteins. He was recently published in the inaugural issue of Science Advances for his findings on a critical protein that is responsible for the efficient functioning of the heart’s contractions. For Warshaw and Nelson and their colleagues who focus on elements of basic science, translational work is the only way to go.

“One of the big mandates is to try to move basic science into the clinics as quickly as possible,” says Warshaw. “The only way that will happen is if we have physicians and basic scientists communicating with each other and working hand in hand, both at the bench and at the bedside. And I think the Cardiovascular Research Institute is that connection.”

Nelson observes that the CVRI is the continuation of a long university tradition of outstanding cardiovascular research with premier investigators, many of whom received funding from the NIH’s National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, and notes that any grant proposal review that considers environment has historically found that cardiovascular research is a particular strength of UVM and the College of Medicine. Looking ahead, Warshaw would like to see a tenfold increase in the CVRI’s endowment, to allow the University to remain in the top ten percent of cardiovascular research areas.

“Our center is one instrument through which we can invest in the future by making things happen,” he says. “We need to be heavily investing in cutting-edge technology and people so we can keep the momentum going.”

Growth is continuing — as recently as March, the CVRI established a leadership council, composed of seven individuals who are community leaders but not directly affiliated with UVM or the Medical Center. They will be tasked with highlighting CVRI-related activities and raising money to fund additional research. Schneider says he’d like the leadership council to create forums for investigators to talk about their work with the community at large — locally, and then regionally and beyond.

“I think many of the investigators within the University of Vermont are classic New England in that they tend to do hard work, and they’re oftentimes respected and acknowledged more when they get on a plane and go somewhere else,” says Schneider. So the leadership council’s first step will be to get the word out “to let people in Vermont be proud of what they have going on here.” It’s nearly impossible to summarize the breadth of cardiovascular research that’s happening around UVM and the College of Medicine in a given day, the findings that are made at the microscopic and the clinical levels.

Heart disease remains the number-one killer both in the United States and globally, and, as people live longer, doctors will be seeing more of it. Heart failure, says Schneider, is essentially epidemic right now. But the new therapies continue to offer hope. By way of example, he notes that Dauerman’s work on aortic stenosis, the thickening of valves that occurs fairly commonly later in life. Improvements in technology using a catheter have made it easier to replace valves in people in their 80s and 90s who would otherwise likely have died.

One patient, he says, a 90-year-old, was headed for hospice care when she and her daughter heard a public service announcement about the new procedure. They made an appointment immediately, and three years later, she’s living independently. She stops by annually to visit with Dauerman and express her gratitude.

“The research that we’re doing has a tremendous impact,” says Schneider. “It’s pretty exciting stuff.” He looks down the road, but for now no further than maybe five years, when he hopes to see the junior investigators maturing and becoming part of the fabric of the CVRI, perhaps on their way to being named Distinguished Investigators.

Other initiatives on the horizon include grant reviewing; funding of cardiovascular work; and serving as a clearinghouse for departmental expertise, services and equipment, although on some levels that’s currently happening. With that broad new base established, the Cardiovascular Research Institute is already perfecting the art of collaboration.
To his classmates, friends, and patients, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology Emeritus HERBERT DURFEE, M.D.’48 has always stood out as a quiet and friendly man, and a consummate medical professional. But a chance discovery by a family member has allowed the world to see another side of Dr. Durfee — a visual artist with an outstanding eye.

From about 1951 to 1953, prior to beginning his decades-long clinical practice in the Burlington area, Dr. Durfee was stationed along with his wife, Elizabeth, at the U.S. Army Airbase in Wiesbaden, West Germany. On occasional trips to other parts of Germany, and to Paris, London, and Italy, Dr. Durfee brought along his Rolleiflex and Rolleicord cameras and photographed the people and places of a Europe where the scars of war were still fresh. An interest in photography ran in the family: his father and fellow College of Medicine alumnus and obstetrician, Herbert A. Durfee, Sr., M.D.’20 took a photograph of every baby he delivered.

After returning to the U.S., the negatives from those European excursions sat in a box for more than 60 years, until discovered by chance by the doctor’s son, Eleazer “Lea” Durfee. Working with Vermont photographer Don Ross, Lea Durfee resurrected the artwork that had been hidden for so long. A selection of Dr. Durfee’s work opened this year at the University of Vermont Robert Hull Fleming Museum.
Dr. Durfee’s black-and-white images show both his talent for composition — such as his striking photograph of the Eiffel Tower, where the colossal structure itself seems to be out for a stroll on the boulevard — and his deep interest in the people he met in his travels. Those people and places can be visited at length in “Travelers in Postwar Europe: Photographs by H.A. Durfee Jr., 1951–53,” running through June in the Fleming’s Wolcott Gallery.

In 1905, when the College of Medicine completed its third home at the corner of Prospect and Pearl Streets in Burlington, the main lecture room was named Hall A. For the next 63 years, students (such as the members of a class in the 1950s shown below right) learned the science of medicine while perched on those rows of steeply-raked wooden seats. When the College moved to the top of the hill in 1968, the designation of Hall A moved too: to a slightly more comfortable assemblage of orange-upholstered seats on the second floor of the Given Building.

Today’s learning environment fits today’s medical curriculum. Students take in lectures as a class in the Sullivan Classroom, and they work in teams in the new Larner Classroom. The settings have changed, but the mission remains the same: inspiring a lifetime of learning in the service of patients. This section of Vermont Medicine, named in honor of that storied hall, serves as a meeting place in print for all former students of the College of Medicine.
March 2015 was notable for another reason: It marked the UVM College of Medicine’s first-ever Match Challenge! Our goal was 112 donations of any amount—one for each of the Member of the Class of 2015—and if we met our goal by Match Day on March 20, our generous Alumni Executive Committee and several past presidents would pledge $12,500. Well, we reached 112 donors, and so much more. In the end, we had over 500 donors, a record for the month of March, and we raised over $100,000 to support current students! And what’s more, we had alumni from across the decades writing in memories of their own, and sharing words of encouragement. The Match Challenge was a great reminder of the strong community we have here at the College; I continue to be inspired by the generosity of our alumni every day.

Reunion 2015 is set to continue this tradition of giving back. Raymond Anton, M.D., ’70, a dedicated alum and former president of the UVM Medical Alumni Association, will be attending his 45th reunion this year. In celebration of this milestone, he issued a challenge to his classmates, asking them to collectively pledge $45,000 to the UVM College of Medicine. All signs point to success and we’re ready to have alumni like Dr. Anton who keep the College forever in their minds. His years of support have certainly made him a deserving recipient of this year’s A. Bradley Soule Award, the highest honor the UVM College of Medicine bestows on an alum. Congratulations to Dr. Anton and to all of the alums who received awards in 2015! We are so grateful that you are part of the UVM College of Medicine family.
Vermont in fall for the first time since it is truly a gift. We spent a week in spending time with grandchildren — youngest just started UCSF School in private practice and teaching. Our is “Still active in Putney. Thankful to the IOM for reports: “Got to see Cottage Hospital in Townshend.”

F. Kennedy Federal Leadership Award. In July, I was selected and won the John in July. I have had a wonderful career writes: “Believe it or not, our daughter Alexandria. Looking forward to grandchildren.”

University of Vermont. My practice has completely in 2012. Now doing locum work covering two two days a week to Rutland Regional Medical Center to do really interesting work as an ED physician.” Stephanie is married to Michael Lyons. 

Alum & Faculty Member’s Gift Supports Future Medical Students Michael Oupton, M.D., ’94, and members of his family have established the Upton Family Scholarship through gifts totaling $100,000. Dr. Oupton, an assistant professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the UVM College of Medicine, has been a staff psychiatrist at UVM’s Center for Health and Well-being since 2004. His roots at UVM are deep. His family includes four generations of UVM College of Medicine graduates dating back to the Class of 1956. Dr. Oupton — a 2013 recipient of the Service to Medicine and Community Award from the Medical Alumni Association — continues to take an active interest in the lives of medical students as well. Over ten years he has been a faculty member on the College’s wellness committee, and is faculty co-advisor for the College’s Gender and Sexuality Alliance. This endowed scholarship which honors the family’s legacy will help to fund the education of future Vermont medical students.

Faculty & Alums Create Pathology Student Fellowship Endowment An endowment for the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Student Fellowship will help the program continue to serve medical students who wish to pursue careers in medicine. The endowment will provide $250,000 in reserve funds to the Fellowship. Combined with gifts from alumni as well as faculty member, William Pendlebury, M.D., ’76, the endowment now totals just over $500,000. The goal is a $2 million endowment for the program, which would support two fellows annually.

Young Alum Grant Aids to Cincon UVM Professor of Medicine Mercedes Rincon, Ph.D., has received a $13,000 grant from the UVM Wellington Cabot Foundation to research how the inflammatory cytokine IL-6 affects cancer recurrence and metastasis. This work follows a 2010 study using mouse models, which showed that inflammation triggered by a biopsy of primary mammary tumors causes a drastic increase in the metastasis of breast cancer cells. The study also offered some hope. Treatment with ibuprofen after biopsy markedly reduced the development of lung metastases. The end of the current proposal is to address this same question in a human trial. May treatment with anti-inflammatory drugs at the time of biopsy decrease the risk of cancer recurrence? The University of Vermont Cancer Center served as the sponsor for the grant application to the Cabot Foundation, which is an organization seeking to benefit mankind through the practice of responsible philanthropy.

Gift Honors Colody’s Legacy as Pediatric Surgeon Arnold Colody, M.D.,’72, was a pioneer in the field of pediatric surgery, serving as an inspiration for generations of physicians. His memory is being honored at the UVM College of Medicine in his name with his endowed professorship in pediatric surgery, in which he took a three-and-a-half years of surgery in Newton, MA, and commuting two days a week to Rutland Regional Medical Center to do really interesting work as an ED physician.” Stephanie is married to Michael Lyons. 

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The Medical Alumni Association of the College of Medicine has, for four decades, honored the accomplishments of its members for their work caring for patients, creating new advances in the laboratory, and contributing to their communities. These 2015 awardees will receive their honors at the Celebration of Achievements during Reunion 2015 at the College on June 12.

A. BRADLEY SOULE AWARD

Raymond J. Anton, M.D. ’70
Anesthesiologist, Distinction Surgery Center; Past President of the UVM Medical Alumni Association

Dr. Anton has been a legal supporter and leader of the College of Medicine since his graduation in 1970. A devoted class agent since graduation, Dr. Anton serves on the Medical Alumni Executive Committee from 1993 to 2004, and was its President from 2002 to 2004. He was also a member of the Medical Planned Giving Committee from 1995 to 2005. During his tenure as President of the UVM Medical Alumni Association, he was instrumental in making sure the Medical Alumni Association was included in all graduates of the College. John Tampas, M.D. ’14, Executive Secretary of the Alumni Executive Committee notes, “Dr. Anton pushed hard to make sure his M.D.’s were included under the Medical Alumni Association umbrella.” With his fellow Medical Alumni Executive Committee members, Dr. Anton was also actively involved in the creation of the 21st Century Fund, a precursor to the CMD Fund, which encouraged increased alumni support. Since completing his term as President of the Alumni Association, he has continued his involvement and philanthropic support of the College at the highest level, and is a member of the UVM Wilbur Society. In 1997, his strong family legacy contributed to his desire to create, along with his mother, Evelyn, the Harry J. Anton, M.D. ’40 Memorial Fund at the College of Medicine in honor of his father, as well as the Harry J. Anton classroom. This well-funded endowed classroom continues to be a valuable resource for the College to this day. In 2014, Dr. Anton significantly added to the Harry J. Anton, M.D. ’40 Memorial Fund in honor of his 40th Reunion, a true testament to his commitment to the College. In addition to his services to UVM, Dr. Anton has served on numerous regional, state and national organizations which include the presidency of the Anesthesiology Section of the Massachusetts Medical Society, president of the Massachusetts Society of Anesthesiologists, and served on the board of directors of the American Society of Anesthesiologists. Dr. Anton was also a member of the speaker’s bureau for the American Society of Anesthesiologists. Dr. Anton continues to work full-time as an anesthesiologist in an outpatient surgical facility in Connecticut.

Distinguished Academic Achievement Award

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

Palmer D. Bessey, M.D. ’75
Anvian Foundation Family Professor of Burn Surgery; Associate Director, William Randolph Hearst Burn Center; Department of Surgery, Well Campus Medical College

Dr. Bessey is a trauma surgeon who focuses on burn care and serves as Associate Director of the William Randolph Hearst Burn Center at New York Presbyterian Hospital. He was a member of the surgical faculty and served in leadership roles in Trauma, Burns and Critical Care at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, Washington University in St. Louis, and the University of Rochester, before assuming his current position at Cornell in 2000. He later completed masters program in epidemiology at the Mailman School of Public Health of Columbia University. He has served as a State Chair and Region Chief on the Committee on Trauma of the American College of Surgeons, as a Director of the American Board of Surgery, and most recently, as President of the American Burn Association.

Richard V. Smith, M.D. ’90
Professor of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, Albert Einstein College of Medicine

Dr. Smith is an otolaryngologist and head and neck surgeon. He is actively involved in numerous research projects studying cancers of the head and neck. His research focuses on identifying genetic and biologic aspects of such cancers that correlate with a patient’s prognosis. His clinical investigation has focused on developing new techniques in trans-oral surgery, a less invasive form of surgery in which the surgeon gains necessary access to the surgical field through the mouth. At the same time, Dr. Smith seeks to assess the quality of life benefits for such treatments. His service to professional medical societies includes terms as President of the American Head and Neck Society and President of the New York Laryngological Society.

Service to Medicine and Community Award

Presented to alumni who have maintained a high standard of medical service and who have achieved an outstanding record of community service or assumed other significant responsibilities not directly related to medical practice.

Robert Lamer, M.D. ’42
Student Award

Presented to a current student(s) for his or her outstanding leadership and loyalty to the College and the College and the College and who embodies Dr. Lamer’s dedication to not only supporting his medical alma mater, but to reaping others to do so as well.

George A. Little M.D. ’85
Professor of Pediatrics and Professor of Otolaryngology and Surgery, Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center, General School of Medicine at Dartmouth

Dr. Little was a rotating intern at the University of Oregon before serving as a Peace Corps Physician in Africa. He completed a pediatric residency at what is now the UVM Medical Center and a neonatology fellowship at the University of Colorado. He joined the faculty at Dartmouth where he founded the neonatal intensive care unit and the NICU regional perinatal education program in collaboration with Dr. Jerald Lucey. He served for over a decade as Professor and Chairman of the Department of Maternal and Child Health at Dartmouth. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics and an Honorary Fellow of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists as well as the Alpha Omega Alpha. He has served in positions of membership and leadership with many organizations in the professional association, public, private and government sectors. He has maintained an active involvement in global health beginning with two summers in Tanzania when a UHM medical student and was co-chair of the Global Implementation Task Force for Helping Babies Breathe, a neonatal resuscitation program for resource-poor areas, that is being disseminated globally. He remains active at Dartmouth and with initiatives in Malawi, Nigeria and Kosovo.

Norman J. Snow, M.D. ’70
Academic Cardiologist, Surgeon (Retired), current Professor of Surgery, General School of Medicine at Dartmouth College

Dr. Snow has held academic appointments in Cardiothoracic Surgery at the University of Louisville, Case Western Reserve University, the University of Illinois as a tenured professor and, more recently, as Adjunct Professor of Surgery at the University of Vermont and Professor of Anatomist at the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth College. He has authored over 70 peer-reviewed publications, given over 125 presentations, and contributed eight book chapters. He not only has been a member in good standing of every major surgery and cardiothoracic surgery society, he has actively contributed to multiple committees and projects. Building on his interest in emergency medical services, for example, he chaired the Trauma and Emergency Care Committee of the Cleveland Academy of Medicine and was the inaugural medical director of Metro Life Flight, which at the time was the second largest helicopter EMS program in the country.

A. Bradley Soule Award

Presented to an alumni whose loyalty and dedication to the College of Medicine must emulate alumni as far as its first recipient, A. Bradley Soule, M.D. ’28.

2016 Nominations...

Do you know a class member deserving of recognition? Send in your nominations for the 2016 awards at www.uvm.edu/medicine/alumni.
case management beginning at the bedside, designed to shut the revolving door of violent the underserved. Ten years ago, Dr. Dicker patients, public health, and advocating for her work in the complex care of trauma She is known nationally and internationally for her efforts as a Global Surgical Studies Surgery and Anesthesia at Burlington, and the United Way. has done impressive community service as a delegate to the American Academy of Family Dr. Bolduc has routinely beyond her extensive faculty activity, Dr. Bolduc shepherding clients to risk reduction resources, and providing long-term follow up. The injury recidivism rate has fallen from 35% to 4% in San Francisco. When praised for her efforts, Dr. Dick always points to the team around her, many of whom are past victims of interpersonal violence who have joined her efforts at bettering their community. Recognized as a true public servant by her community, she was named one of the “Annual Heros” by the San Francisco General Hospital Foundation in 2013, and received the UCSF Chancellor’s Award for Public Service. Dr. Dicker is a Co-Director of the Center for Global Surgical Studies at UCSF which focuses on research and education for capacity building with partners in low and middle income countries to address the burden of injury and surgical disease globally. She is an active educator in UCSF medical school and residency programs and mentor for those fortunate enough to work alongside her.

John W. Durham, M.D., B.S.
Orthopaedic Surgeon, Northern Arizona Orthopaedics; Associate Professor, Northern Arizona Volunteer Medical Corps (NAVMC)

Chosen for his outstanding record of community-oriented medical service, Dr. John “Bull” Durham is a testament to how compassion for others can truly make a difference in the world. Dr. Durham is a board certified orthopaedic hand surgeon, with specialized training in trauma and fracture care and reconstructive techniques of the upper and lower extremities. Regarded highly by his peers for his knowledge, expertise and positive outcomes, his true craft lies in his undeniable compassion to help others. After the 2010 Haitian earthquake, Dr. Durham felt it his duty to help those affected by the destruction. A true pioneer in the efforts, Dr. Durham was among the first medical crews to arrive in Haiti after the disaster and was shocked by the devastation, suffering, and by how ill-equipped Haiti’s few hospitals were to treat even the most basic injuries. That first trip spawned 15 additional trips focused on facilitating medical care, implementing hospital infrastructure and supporting the swelling orphanages post-quake.

Today, Dr. Durham leads efforts with Northern Arizona Volunteer Medical Corps, a medical volunteer group founded in 1995 to help those in need all over the world. It is the people of Haiti, however, who still hold a very dear place in Dr. Durham’s heart — so much so, he recently adopted a child left orphaned from the deadly event of 2010.

Jack S. Long, M.D., M.B. Ch.B.
Pediatric Advisor, Partners in Health/Zanmi Lasante, Cange, Haiti; Pediatrics (Honors), Pediatric Medicine, South Burlington, Vermont; Director, Pediatric Medicine, UVM College of Medicine

In 1983 Dr. Long was introduced to Haitian Albert Schweitzer in Haiti. Subsequently, he and his wife, Delight Wing, volunteered annually to work on in- and out-patient pediatric service. In 2002, after over 32 years in pediatric practice in Vermont, they “retired” to work in Haiti with Partners in Health and its sister organization, Zanmi Lasante, in the Central Plateau of Haiti. As “accompagnateurs” they work with their Haitian colleagues to improve pediatric care at 11 clinical sites in the region. They provide direct care and support efforts to improve longitudinal programs such as malnutrition, HIV, neonatology and chronic diseases. With the recent opening of a new 300 bed teaching hospital they have been engaged with the development of a pediatric residency program.

Delight A. Wing, M.D., B.S.
Pediatric Advisor, Partners in Health/Zanmi Lasante, Cange, Haiti; Pediatrics (Honors), Pediatric Medicine, South Burlington, Vermont; Clinical Associate Professor of Pediatrics, UVM College of Medicine

With her husband, Jack Long, Dr. Wing spent her career as a general pediatrician in a practice in South Burlington, Vermont. As a member of the UVM and medical faculty she had the opportunity to work with medical students and pediatric residents, including serving, along with her husband, as UVM advisor for the College before earning her M.D. at the College of Medicine. She completed her residency at MGH/McLean Hospital followed by fellowship training in Psychosomatic Medicine at MGH. Dr. Smith is deeply committed to the care of those with comorbid psychiatric and medical illness and has served as attending on the MGH Consultation-Liaison Service as well as Director of Behavioral Medicine at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital. She also has a strong interest in improving emergency care of the mentally ill and, as Director of the MGH Acute Psychiatry Service, was privileged to direct one of the busiest psychiatric emergency services in New England before transitioning to her current role with residency education. As Director of the MGH/McLean Adult Psychiatry Residency Program, Dr. Smith leads one of the largest psychiatry residency programs in the country. Since starting this role in 2012, she has led curriculum redesign, revamped the evaluation and feedback process for both residents and faculty, and overseen the creation of a medical education track for residents. As an active teacher, Dr. Smith is the recipient of the MGH Philip I. J. Bergman Teaching Award.

Felicia A. Smith, M.D.
Psychiatrist, Program Director, Adult Psychiatry Residency Program, Massachusetts General Hospital/McLean Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts

Dr. Smith is Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School, and Pediatric Advisor of the Massachusetts General Hospital/McLean Adult Psychiatry Residency. She received her undergraduate degree from Middlebury College in Vermont, and graduated from Harvard Medical School and Program Director of the MGH/McLean Adult Psychiatry Residency Program. She received her undergraduate degree from Middlebury College in Vermont, and graduated from Harvard Medical School and Program Director of the MGH/McLean Adult Psychiatry Residency Program. She received the UCSF Chancellor’s Award for EARLY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Felicia A. Smith, M.D.
Psychiatrist, Program Director, Adult Psychiatry Residency Program, Massachusetts General Hospital/McLean Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts

Robert L. Lerner, M.D. ’42
Student Trustee

Raj K. Thakrar, Class of 2016
UVM Board of Trustees, Student Trustee

A Westford, Massachusetts native, Raj Thakrar received a B.A. in Neuroscience from Johns Hopkins University and an M.S. in Physiotherapy and Biophysics from Georgetown University. He is the first in his family to attend medical school. With a great rapport with his patients. Raj is a combination of brilliance, professionalism, pure hard work, and genuine personality. “One of his attending’s described him as “someone special” and undoubtedly one of the best students that has rotated on the service. Thakrar was elected to the UVM Board of Trustees — the highest leadership position offered to a student at UVM — in 2013. He has played a role in approving the construction of a new undergraduate STEM center, the new Lamar Team-Based Learning Classroom for health professions students, and the rebranding of affiliated medical sites to the University of Vermont Medical Center and UVM Health Network.

New Hampshire–Vermont Albert Schweitzer Fellowship. In the medical community, Dr. Wing enjoyed a long partnership in many advisory roles with the Division of Family and Children’s Services, VNA of Dordrecht and Broad Island Counties. In 1983, inspired by College of Medicine faculty members Charles Houston, M.D., and Renée Berger, M.D., Dr. Wing and her husband began a 30-year relationship with the Hospital Albert Schweitzer in Deschapelles, Haiti. In 2012, they retired from their practice in Vermont to devote more time to practice and teach in Haiti, where they work with Partners in Health and its Haitian partner institution, Zanmi Lasante, spending six months a year accompanying colleagues at the new University Hospital of Mirebalais and 10 other sites co-administered with the Haitian Ministry of Health.
John D. Deeman is the new medical director of The Anna Jacques Cancer Center, affiliated with Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center.

Karen LeComte writes: “Hello to all! Have spent last two years doing locum neurology at all over the U.S. I have to thank my camper ‘a la Beavis with Charley’ across this beautiful country and have been honored to meet and care for our patients. We are now in the Southwest where I hope to do outreach to the Native Nation. Our son Matt is an M.D./Ph.D. student at UVM. Our three other children are doing well and growing forward. Love to hear from you!”

Melanie Celler Lawrence is having “lots of fun doing international medicine in Kosovo, Honduras and Burkina Faso but the last five years have been focused on my private family practice and starting a non-profit Family Hope [Health Outreach Parenting Education] in my hometown of Reading, Vermont.”

Kelley Sall and Madaa Jakel are married and living in Somerville, Mass., with their two girls (Isabella [4] and Amelia [4]). Jakel has assistant professor of OB/GYN and director of Project Respect, Addiction in Pregnancy, Treatment Clinic at Boston University/Boston Medical Center. Madaa is partner in Pediatrics Association of Greater Salem.

Thuan T. Nguyen writes: “My wife, Sarah, and I moved to a new house in Fountain Hills Ariz. Our children, Rebecca [6] and Davis [4] have started school at the International School of Arizona, a Spanish-immersion elementary school, and are picking up the language. We have taken some great trips this past year, the most memorable was a two-week cruise to Australia and New Zealand. This past year, I was featured in an episode of the TV show ‘Travels with Charley’ across this beautiful country and have been honored to meet and care for our patients. We are now in the Southwest where I hope to do outreach to the Native Nation. Our son Matt is an M.D./Ph.D. student at UVM. Our three other children are doing well and growing forward. Love to hear from you!”

Erika C. Schumacher recently joined Franklin Health Pediatrics in Farmington, Maine.

Paul C. Algera has been appointed medical director of the Emergency Department at Cayuga Regional Medical Center in Crosby, Minnesota.

Patrick M. Boush writes: “Jessie and I got married in September 2014. We are avoiding a baby and moving to Sherbrooke, New Mexico to work with Indian Health Service on the Navajo Nation.”

William J. Kincaid is back in the madhouse land for a while—if you are in Madison for a conference come see us and we’ll cook you up a sizzling bratwurst (vegan on request, although it really defeats the purpose).”

David G. Hussar writes: “A year ago I merged EmUrgent Care into Deaconess Medical Center, affiliated with Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. I have started school at the International School of Arizona, a Spanish-immersion elementary school, and are picking up the language. We have taken some great trips this past year, the most memorable was a two-week cruise to Australia and New Zealand. This past year, I was featured in an episode of ‘Sex Sent Me to the ER’ on TLC. I am still working as chief of the Division of Urgent Care and Community Outreach. We have taken some great trips this past year, the most memorable was a two-week cruise to Australia and New Zealand. This past year, I was featured in an episode of ‘Sex Sent Me to the ER’ on TLC. I am still working as chief of the Division of Urgent Care and Community Outreach. We have taken some great trips this past year, the most memorable was a two-week cruise to Australia and New Zealand. This past year, I was featured in an episode of ‘Sex Sent Me to the ER’ on TLC. I am still working as chief of the Division of Urgent Care and Community Outreach. We have taken some great trips this past year, the most memorable was a two-week cruise to Australia and New Zealand. This past year, I was featured in an episode of ‘Sex Sent Me to the ER’ on TLC. I am still working as chief of the Division of Urgent Care and Community Outreach. We have taken some great trips this past year, the most memorable was a two-week cruise to Australia and New Zealand. This past year, I was featured in an episode of ‘Sex Sent Me to the ER’ on TLC. I am still working as chief of the Division of Urgent Care and Community Outreach. We have taken some great trips this past year, the most memorable was a two-week cruise to Australia and New Zealand. This past year, I was featured in an episode of ‘Sex Sent Me to the ER’ on TLC. I am still working as chief of the Division of Urgent Care and Community Outreach. We have taken some great trips this past year, the most memorable was a two-week cruise to Australia and New Zealand. This past year, I was featured in an episode of ‘Sex Sent Me to the ER’ on TLC. I am still working as chief of the Division of Urgent Care and Community Outreach. We have taken some great trips this past year, the most memorable was a two-week cruise to Australia and New Zealand. This past year, I was featured in an episode of ‘Sex Sent Me to the ER’ on TLC. I am still working as chief of the Division of Urgent Care and Community Outreach. We...
more about serving as a class agent, information to their far-flung friends about their classmates at the College of Medicine, volunteer their time to serve as the voice of Class agents are dedicated alumni who aim to keep the news and views of their classmates current.

Please email medclass.notes@uvm.edu if you'd like to serve as a class agent.

Class agents:

- George A. Little, 525 Northwest 31st Street, Waverly, PA 18471, (570) 563-2215, melvynhwolk@verizon.net
- Edward Crane, 470 South Pittsfield Ave., Pittsfield, MA 01201, (413) 499-0500, edwardcrane@verizon.net
- Susan Pitman Lowenthal, 200 Kennedy Drive, Moretown, VT 05660, (802) 496-2623, susan.w.pitmanlowenthal@gmail.com
- Susan C. Geise, 1041 Queen Street, Winooski, VT 05404, (802) 658-4805, ryan@jageon.com
- Diane Ripp, drripp@gmail.com
- Diane Geergergts, 210 Washington Park, Denver, CO 80206, (303) 438-7620, dianegeergergts@gmail.com
- Larry Coletti, 31410 (91 2) 777 1, jeselcow@comcast.net
- Susan W. Monaco, 13601, scott.goodrich1@yahoo.com
- JoAnne L. Monaco, 13601, jsgoodrich1@yahoo.com
- William C. Eward, 132 Wood Valley Corner, Durham, NC 27705, wceward@email.com
- Deborah Raborn材, 2777 Neil Wood Lane, Poulsbo, WA 98370, deboram@uwm.edu
- Allison Colleen Adams, allie15@icloud.com
- Scott Hillyard, ScottMcAuliffe@yahoo.com
- Allyson Miller Bolduc, allyson.bolduc@vtmednet.org
- Allyson Bolduc, 303 Third St. #204, Cambridge, MA 02142, jmcdonald@partners.org
- Amanda Barrett, 105 Pamunkey Turn, Suffolk, VA 23434, (757) 680-6258, darrellwhite@mac.com
- Brian E. Crowe, 213 Southgate Rd., Greene Village, CO 80111, (303) 771-1289, jeannecribbens@gmail.com
- James H. Kassler, 3504 Forest Lane, Hopewell, VA 23860, (804) 774-6252, janderson@cox.net
- Bruce Lawton, 3503 South Street, South Burlington, VT 05403, gilbertok@comcast.net
- Mark McLane Costello, 152 1 General Knox Road, Middlesboro, KY 40965, (606) 651-4125, pmcost@aol.com
- Melissa R. Shumaker, 22 North Nutting Ave., Middletown, RI 02842, melissa.m.houser@gmail.com
- John F. Brunel, Jr., 321 Evening Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93105, jfbunel@gmail.com
- Amanda Bonacasa, 30042, all5jaegers@earthlink.net
- Richard Nicholas Habbel, 105 Sunset Street, Burlington, VT 05401, (802) 843-5511, rchhabbel@uvm.edu
- Bruce Lawton, 3503 South Street, South Burlington, VT 05403, gilbertok@comcast.net
- Ladan Farhoomand, 35042, fabulous5lefebvre@hotmail.com
- Jillian S. Sullivan, dianegeergergts@gmail.com
- Jonathan M. Goodrich, 101 Wood Valley Corner, Durham, NC 27705, juliegoodrich@gmail.com
- Mark McLane Costello, 152 1 General Knox Road, Middlesboro, KY 40965, (606) 651-4125, pmcost@aol.com
Obituaries

Gerald Leon Haines, M.D., Ph.D.
Dr. Haines died unexpectedly December 28, 2015. Born in Cortland, N.Y., on July 23, 1920, he spent his early years on his family farm near Wells, Vt. He graduated from the University of Vermont for both his undergraduate and medical degrees, and was selected to Phi Beta Kappa. Dr. Haines completed his internship at the Worcester City Hospital in Worcester, Mass., and the United States Army as a transport surgeon and neuropathologist from 1945 until his discharge in 1947. He was a neuropathology fellow at UVM for one year before beginning a residency in neurosurgery at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. He completed a fellowship in neurosurgical and neurosurgical surgery at the Montreal Neurological Institute, and received his Ph.D. in neurosurgery from the University of Minnesota in 1956. After completing residency he served as assistant professor in Schenectady, N.Y., joining Thomas Mason, M.D., in the practice of neurosurgery. He served the neurological needs of the community for three decades, leading a practice that grew to incorporate medical neurologists and provided comprehensive modern care for neurological diseases. He served as instructor in neurosurgery at the Albany Medical College, and published 18 peer-reviewed academic articles. He served the community through leadership at Ellis and St. Clare Hospitals, and as president of the Schenectady County Medical Society. Dr. Haines was also instrumental in the development of the Mohawk Valley Physicians Health Plan.

H. John Malone, M.D.
Dr. Malone died January 25, 2015, at the age of 92. Born August 11, 1922, in New Britain, Conn., he graduated from Duke University in 1944, and received his medical degree from UVM in 1949. After his residency at Flower Fifth Avenue Hospital in New York City, he opened his pediatric practice in Manchester, Conn., in 1953. He devoted the next 47 years of his life to his pediatric practice.

Stanley Walter, M.D.
Dr. Walter died December 18, 2014. Born and raised in New York City, he graduated from Fordham University in 1969. Dr. Walter was George P. Gardner and Olga E. Monk Professor Emeritus at the University of Vermont College of Medicine, and psychiatrist-in-chief at Children’s Hospital, Boston. He also served as assistant professor of neurology in the U.S. Navy, and was director of the Judge Baker Children’s Center. Dr. Walter was a long-time camp director at Camp Powhatan in Oswefield, Maine and a supporter of Seeds of Peace International.

Wildil L. Fortin, M.D.
Dr. Fortin died January 19, 2015, at the age of 79, after an extended illness. Born in Manchester, N.H., he was an alumnus of St. Anselm College. He received his postgraduate training in anesthesia at the University of Vermont College of Medicine in Portland, Maine, before beginning his career as an anesthesiologist at St. Joseph Hospital in Nashua, N.H., in 1964. Dr. Fortin practiced medicine at St. Joseph’s for over 25 years, serving as chief of anesthesia, president of St. Joseph Anesthesia Associates, and Medical Director of Quality Assurance.

J. Donald Capra, M.D.
Dr. Capra died February 24, 2015, at the age of 77. Born in Burlington, Vt., to Italian immigrants, he spent his youth in Barre, Vt. He went on to the University of Vermont, earning a B.S. in 1971 and graduating with his medical degree summa cum laude in 1973. His internship years were spent at St. Luke’s Hospital in New York City. His research career continued at the National Institutes of Health. In 1967 he was a two-year guest investigator at the Rockefeller University. He then joined the University of Texas Health Science Center in Dallas, Texas, as a full professor. At age 60 he was asked to be the president of the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, a non-profit medical research institution in Oklahoma City. During his nine-year tenure he doubled the size of the institute and increased its NIH funding from $8 million to $27 million. For the last eight years of his life he consulted for pharmaceutical research and development at several pharmaceutical firms.

Howard W. Meridy, M.D.
Dr. Meridy died January 25, 2015, at the age of 74. He received his bachelor degree and medical degree from the University of Vermont. He served his country with the U.S. Army Medical Corps during the Vietnam War, before beginning his career as an anesthesiologist at Hartford Hospital. He continued his career at Charlotte-Flourtdge Hospital, where he served as director of medical affairs and president of the medical staff, and later served as vice-chair of a large practice and a professor at St. John’s Regional Medical Center and Bethesda Memorial Hospital. In 2003, he was ordained as a rabbi by the Rabbinical Seminary International in New York, and became the chaplain of Texas Innovative Healthcare and Hospice.

Alan D. Ayer, M.D.
Dr. Ayer died unexpectedly at his home on March 15, 2015. A native of Maine, he graduated from Bowdoin College and received his medical degree from UVM in 1771. He completed his residency and served four years in the U.S. Air Force before returning to Vermont to serve as a radiologist, where he practiced medicine for over 30 years. With his good friend, Dr. James Malcom, he established Addison Associates in Obstetrics and Gynecology, delivering over 5,000 babies in Addison County over multiple generations. He loved his work and his patients, and was still active in the time of his death at age 71.

Brock T. Ketchum, M.D.
Dr. Ketchum died at his home on October 24, 2014. Born in Rutland, Vt., he grew up on the family farm in Whitinsville. He attended the University of Vermont and UVM College of Medicine in Barre, Vt. He completed his internship at Harkness School in San Francisco, and then received his master’s degree in public health from the University of California at Berkeley. He worked for the U.S. Public Health Service and the U.S. Environmental Pollution Advisory. Dr. Ketchum returned to Vermont and assisted in residency in radiology. For the next 23 years worked as a diagnostic radiologist at the Northwestern Vermont Medical Center in Bennington.

Paul William Temple, M.D.
Dr. Temple, 64, died January 18, 2015, at home in Rome, N.Y. Born February 13, 1950, in Watertown, N.Y., he was a graduate of the University of Connecticut Class of 1972, and graduated from UVM with his medical degree in 1976. After his internship at Saint Joseph Hospital in Akron, Ohio, in 1980, he moved to Rome, N.Y. and opened his own practice, and went on to a career that spanned over three decades.

Andrew Jay Samach, M.D.
Dr. Samach died unexpectedly December 8, 2014, in an automobile accident. A board-certified pediatrician in obstetrics and gynecology, he was employed at Canton-Potsdam Hospital in New York state. Dr. Samach is remembered for his humor and quick wit, as well as his easy-going, kind character.

John Duncan Lloyd, M.D.
Dr. Lloyd died December 14, 2014, at his home in Helena, N.H. Born in Toronto, Canada, on February 27, 1947, he graduated from the University of Rochester in 1969. After raising a family and working as a finish carpenter in Vermont for 20 years, he was accepted into medical school in 1994. Dr. Lloyd moved to New Hampshire in 2002, where he was a primary care physician, most recently in Concord.

FACULTY

Paula Fores-Taylor, Ph.D.
Dr. Fores-Taylor, professor of microbiology and molecular genetics emerita, died on January 28, 2015. A prolific scientist with a national reputation as a preeminent researcher in the field of microbiology, her service to the scientific community began long before her thirty-five-year tenure as a UVM faculty member, when she was a Dominican nun named Dorothy Marie teaching high school science in Hartfield in New York City. During those years, she served on the New York City Science Council and was a science curriculum consultant for New York City. She began her UVM career as a graduate student, developing her dissertation in 1974, developing an expert in research on the link between dental plaque and disease. A pioneer in this field, her laboratory was the first to demonstrate invasion of epithelial cells by a periodontal organism. Teaching continued to play a large part in research and service throughout Fores-Taylor’s career, earning her numerous awards, including UVM’s prestigious Kiddar Outstanding Faculty Award for Teaching Excellence in 1999.

Carleton Raymond Haines, M.D., FACS
Dr. Haines, UVM associate professor of surgery emeritus, died March 25, 2015. He grew up in Cortland, N.Y. and earned his medical degree summa cum laude from St. John’s Regional Medical Center in Bennington.

Frank Hoagland, M.D.
Dr. Hoagland, former chair of orthopaedics at the University of Vermont College of Medicine and an expert on arthritis, died Sept. 27, 2014. He was born and raised in San Francisco, graduated from the University of California Berkeley, and Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. After finishing his internship he served two years in the U.S. Air Force, and completed his medical residency in Rochester, N.Y. He joined the UVM faculty in 1968 as an associate professor of orthopaedic surgery, rose to become head of the departments, then left Vermont in 1978 to return to his native San Francisco. He then joined the University of California, San Francisco Medical Center, where he remained until his retirement.

Sheldon Weiner, M.D.
Dr. Weiner, UVM professor of psychiatry emeritus, died January 22, 2015, in Rotas Spring, Fla., at the age of 76. Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., he received both his undergraduate and medical degrees from the University of Vermont. He distinguished himself in postgraduate training, and as a research associate at the National Center for the Prevention and Control of Alcoholism at the National Institute of Mental Health. Dr. Weiner then began his 32-year career as a faculty member at UVM, including service as chair of the Department of Psychiatry for 16 years.
UVM Professor of Surgery (and College of Medicine Class of 2018 parent) Seth Harlow, M.D., joins members of the Med Mentors Student Interest Group and 60 Vermont high school students for a day of exploration of the pathway to becoming a physician.

April 4, 2015 10:04 a.m.
This is a profile of hundreds of people who came together to make Match Day 2015 even more special than ever. The College of Medicine's Medical Alumni Executive Committee's first-ever "Match Challenge" fundraising campaign in the weeks leading up to Match Day was a huge success, raising more than $100,000 for current students, and surpassing its goal for number of donors by more than 400 percent.

Match Day featured the happy faces of each of the Class of 2015 members heading off this summer to the next phase of their medical careers. Behind them were the more than 500 alumni who came forward with their donations and messages of support.

Our heartfelt thanks goes out to everyone who helped meet and exceed the Match Day Challenge!

For more information about how you can support the College of Medicine and its faculty and students, 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/medicine/alumni