UVM medical students are a critical part of emergency care.

ALSO FEATURED:
› The Human Genome at 20
› A Physician-to-be in Haiti
› Reunion 2010 coverage
Defining the Revolution

“Genome science … will revolutionize the diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of most, if not all, human disease.” So said then-President Bill Clinton in 2000 when the successful sequencing of the human genome was announced. Ten years later, two College of Medicine faculty members share their views on the revolution.

Learning on the Front Line

In increasing numbers, both in Vermont and across the country, medical students are choosing emergency medicine as a specialty. Vermont Medicine follows a group of fourth-year medical students as they complete their rotation in the Emergency Department at Fletcher Allen Health Care.

Shaken

A medical student shares his recollections on a recent rotation in post-earthquake Haiti.


The UVM Medical Alumni Association invites you and your family to plan now to join your classmates for Reunion 2011—June 10–12, 2011. Come back to Burlington and the UVM campus, your home during medical school. You may have lost contact with your classmates and former teachers, but Reunion will give you the chance to reconnect, rekindle old friendships, check out favorite places, talk with faculty, meet the medical students of today, and experience first-hand the growth and evolution of your medical alma mater.

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

Register today for your reunion! www.med.uvm.edu/alumni
The last few months have seen the broad process of fulfilling our missions played out here on campus. In May we sent 106 new physicians out into Vermont and states across the nation. In August we welcomed 111 new medical students to the campus — a class that continues our trend of both increasing academic performance while at the same time enhancing our diversity. The College has now by far the most diverse student body of any school at the University. And, in between, we welcomed back hundreds of our dedicated graduates at Medical Reunion. I don’t think there is a better span of time to get a feeling for how deeply affecting this College is on so many of the people whose lives are changed here, and who go on to change so many other lives for the better.

A new chapter in our educational mission began this summer and is broadening throughout the fall. In addition to the clinical education experiences with our partner, Fletcher Allen Health Care, some of our students will now be able to pursue clerkships at Danbury Hospital in Connecticut, St. Mary’s Medical Center in West Palm Beach, and Eastern Maine Medical Center in Bangor. These new programs will offer our students increasingly diverse educational opportunities that will help them practice better medicine in an increasingly diverse world.

We’ve also had successful collaborations here at home, and the new Clinical Simulation Laboratory, which began construction this summer, is a prime example. When it opens early next year in its new quarters in the Rowell Building, the laboratory will offer a greatly enhanced educational experience to our students, as well as students from the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, Fletcher Allen staff, physicians in Vermont and around the region, and members of the Vermont National Guard.

Our clinical faculty are the living embodiment of the collaborative relationship between the University and Fletcher Allen. So I am very pleased that the formal affiliation agreement that governs this relationship was signed last month, setting the stage for an even stronger partnering of medical care and medical education that improves the lives of patients today and ensures continued improvement in the future.

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Fredrick C. Morin III, M.D.
Dean, University of Vermont College of Medicine

College News

College Hits $89.3 Million in Research Funding

At the close of the 2010 fiscal year this summer, the College of Medicine posted a record level of research funding from the National Institutes of Health and other sources — $89.3 million, representing a more than $11 million increase over the fiscal 2009 total.

“While a good amount of that increase can be credited to the hard work done by our faculty to secure funds under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, what’s notable is how strong and widespread our research growth is across the College,” said Senior Associate Dean for Research Ira Bernstein, M.D. ‘82.

“This is a 35 percent increase in funding over the last three years,” noted Dean Rick Morin. “And that is due to the outstanding efforts by all our departments.”

Peterson Named Family Medicine Chair and Clinical Leader

Thomas C. Peterson, M.D., has been named as chair of family medicine at the College of Medicine and physician leader of family medicine at Fletcher Allen Health Care.

Peterson joined UVM/Fletcher Allen in 1986 and has served as interim chair and physician leader of family medicine since July 2006. He was twice voted Family Practice Teacher of the Year, honored as Family Physician of the Year in 2003 by the Vermont Academy of Family Physicians, and named one of the 2009–10 Best Doctors in America.

“Tom is an outstanding teacher, leader, and clinician who has earned the admiration and respect of his students, his colleagues and his patients,” said Morin. “He is a strong advocate for primary care, and has mentored hundreds of medical students and residents on the path to becoming caring, compassionate physicians.”

Peterson is a board-certified family physician practicing at Colchester Family Practice. He is past president of the Vermont Academy of Family Physicians, and continues to serve on the Board and as Vermont Delegate to the American Academy of Family Physicians.

Peterson earned his medical degree from the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry, followed by a residency in family medicine at the Medical Center Hospital of Vermont, where he was chief resident in his final year. He joined the faculty at UVM/Fletcher Allen in 1986, rising to full professor in 2002. He served as director of the Family Medicine Residency Program from 1993 to 2004, and was named the Department’s Vice Chair for Clinical Affairs in 2004. He became acting chair and physician leader in 2006, and assumed interim leadership in 2008.
Medical Class of 2014 Welcomed to Campus

On August 10, the College of Medicine welcomed 111 new members of the Class of 2014. The class has a collective academic standing that ranks among the best entering medical classes ever. Vermonters make up the largest component of the Class of 2014 — 29 students—with previous health care experience, though only 72 percent were science majors. Nearly 100 percent of these new first-year students participated actively in extra-curricular activities while completing their undergraduate work and achieving an average GPA of 3.66. A total of 5,516 applications were received for spots in the College’s Class of 2014.

Orientation topics and activities included learning about professionalism; meeting “Your First Patient” on day one; getting familiar with the Vermont Integrated Curriculum and the College’s laptops and COMET system; finding out about student groups, how different learning styles impact managing a medical school workload, career planning, campus safety, global health, financial services; and touring the campus.

A “Pediatrics Perspectives” article in the July 26 online edition of the journal Pediatrics by William Rasika, M.D., professor of pediatrics and director of the first-year “Attacks & Defenses” course, underscores the value of medical student orientations. Rasika and his co-authors maintain that providing an enthusiastic welcome, introduction to how the health care team works, and describing the education process, objectives and goals helps students feel valued and supported and sets the stage for a positive learning experience.

Courtyard at Given Gains LEED® Gold Certification

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), the internationally recognized green building certification system, has awarded the College of Medicine’s Courtyard at Given its gold level status. LEED was developed by the U.S. Green Building Council, a non-profit trade organization that promotes sustainable building design. LEED provides design guidelines that aim to reduce energy usage, water consumption, solid waste, air pollution, and building toxicity.

The Courtyard building project began in June 2008 and was completed in July 2009. Among the environmentally friendly features of the 35,000 square feet structure are the use of plentiful natural day lighting, lighting with infrared motion occupancy sensors for energy efficient, and a raised floor air system that reduces energy use.

Research Milestones

Kien Examines Effect of Dietary Fats on Fat in Body

The type of fat you eat — and how that fat is stored in your body — may be an important key to understanding the link between obesity and type 2 diabetes, which affects more than 24 million people in the United States. C. Lawrence Kien, M.D., Ph.D., the Mary K. Davidson Green and Gold Professor of Pediatrics and Medicine, recently published a paper in the journal Obesity that demonstrated, for the first time in humans, that a one-week change in dietary fatty acid composition produced corresponding changes in the fatty acid composition of skeletal muscle fats and in the fatty acids found in blood.

Since the completion of these studies, Kien has been awarded two National Institutes of Health grants to pursue these findings in much greater detail with emphasis on measurements of insulin sensitivity using the approaches of genomics and metabolomics. His collaborators at UVM on the latest grant are Janice Bunn, Ph.D., research associate professor of mathematics and biostatistics and research associate professor of rehabilitation and movement sciences; Naomi Fukagawa, M.D., professor of medicine; Dwight Matthews, Ph.D., professor and chair of chemistry and professor of medicine, Matthew Poynter, M.D., associate professor of medicine; and Richard Pratley, M.D., professor of medicine, who compared the effectiveness of injections of the recently FDA-approved drug tiraglutide to sitagliptin, a commonly-used oral treatment, in controlling blood glucose levels in type 2 diabetes patients who have inadequate control on the standard treatment metformin. The study results appeared in the April 24 issue of the journal Lancet.

Carr Investigates Thyroid Cancer Development and Diagnostics

UVM Professor of Pharmacology and Vermont Cancer Center scientist Frances Carr, Ph.D., is working to identify biomarkers that could make follicular thyroid tumor diagnoses easier for physicians and less invasive for patients. Her team’s work recently identified a panel of candidate biomarkers from human thyroid cancer cell lines that may reveal the pathways involved in the transformation of normal cells to malignant cells. “We’re interested in identifying biomarkers that can help accurately diagnose thyroid nodular diseases without surgical biopsy, sparing patients unnecessary procedures,” says Carr. “Our studies will also help explain the cellular processes involved in the transformation to cancer cell types.”

Carr and pharmacology research associate Elzbieta Zakraiezewska have funding support from the Lake Champlain Cancer Research Organization. To translate their findings to a clinical setting, Carr and her colleagues are collaborating with VCC/Fletcher Allen physician-scientists Muriel Nathan, M.D., and Scott Anderson, M.D., as well as with endocrinologist Whitney Goldner, M.D., of the University of Nebraska, and that institution’s Thyroid Cancer Collaborative.

Pratley Seeks Better Therapy for Hard-to-control Blood Sugar in Type 2 Diabetes

An estimated 28.5 million people worldwide and 24 million in the United States currently have type 2 diabetes, a condition accompanied by a higher risk of vascular and heart disease, death, and excessive health care costs. If blood sugar levels are controlled, this risk is reduced, but many people with type 2 diabetes are unable to achieve blood sugar goals, partly due to the low efficacy and adverse side-effects of available drugs. New findings reported by Richard Pratley, M.D., professor of medicine, compared the effectiveness of injections of the recently FDA-approved drug tiraglutide to sitagliptin, a commonly-used oral treatment, in controlling blood glucose levels in type 2 diabetes patients who have inadequate control on the standard treatment metformin. The study results appeared in the April 24 issue of the journal Lancet.

Dana Medical Library Receives Outreach Award

An award from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine New England Region will allow UVM’s Dana Medical Library to conduct an assessment of the information needs of Vermont’s community health care providers. The project also includes two surveys — one focused on Vermont hospitals’ knowledge-based information resources and services, and a second survey conducted in collaboration with the Area Health Education Centers and Office of Primary Care at UVM regarding the information needs of primary care providers throughout the state. In addition, the grant will allow Dana faculty to offer classes on campus and around the state on how to find free and low-cost clinical information resources to support evidence-based practice. Marianne Burke, M.L.S., A.H.I.P., director of the Dana Medical Library, is principal investigator of the grant.
Celebrating the Freeman Legacy

Many of the recipients of Freeman Scholarships at the College of Medicine gathered on May 18 at UVM’s Billings Center with faculty members and administrators from hospitals across the state of Vermont to honor the wide-reachng effect of the Freeman Medical Scholars program, funded for more than ten years by the Freeman Foundation of Stowe and New York City. At the event Dean Rick Morin also announced that Class of 2011 medical student Kira Fiset was the first recipient of the Freeman Foundation Legacy Medical Scholarship. This new program carries forward the legacy of the Freeman Foundation, seeking funding for scholarships to support students just as the Freeman Foundation has done with scholarship support for hundreds of UVM medical students since 2000.

While the original Freeman Medical Scholarships are ending and the final Freeman Scholars will graduate in 2012, the Freeman Foundation Legacy Scholarship will honor the Freeman Foundation for the impact it has had, throughout the state of Vermont. Gifts to this new scholarship fund will continue to assist UVM medical students in pursuing their medical education with the goal of practicing here in Vermont, following in the tradition of the Freeman Foundation scholarships.

This first Freeman Foundation Legacy Medical Scholarship was funded by a gift from program co-founder Mildred Reardon, M.D.,’67, professor emerita of medicine. Fiset was chosen for her demonstrated passion for, and commitment to, meeting the health care needs of Vermonters, particularly in rural and underserved areas.

Notables

Hudziak and Osol Named University Scholars

Two College of Medicine faculty members have been named 2010–2011 University Scholars. James Hudziak, M.D., professor of psychiatry, pediatrics, and medicine, and George Osl, Ph.D., professor of obstetrics, gynecology, and reproductive sciences, were honored at an awards ceremony and reception for the new Scholars earlier this year. The University Scholars program recognizes distinguished UVM faculty members for sustained excellence in research and scholarly activities. The Scholars are selected by a panel of prominent faculty, based upon nominations submitted by UVM colleagues.

Five Emeriti Honored

Five retiring members of the College of Medicine faculty were honored at Commencement 2010 as emeriti. Richard Bernstein, M.D., was Associate Professor of Psychiatry for 33 years; Kenneth Brown, M.D., was Professor of Medicine for 25 years; Jerold F. Lucey, M.D., was Professor of Pediatrics for 54 years; Arthur Levy, M.D., was Professor of Medicine for 47 years; and Susan K. Sobel, M.S.W., was Associate Professor of Psychiatry for 15 years.

Simpatico and VPT Earn NAMI National Media Award

Fred Friendly Seminars and Vermont Public Television (VPT) jointly received the National Alliance on Mental Illness’ Outstanding Media Award for Public Service in July at the closing banquet of the NAMI annual meeting in Washington, D.C. Professor of Public Psychiatry Thomas Simpatico, M.D., was both a panelist in the nationally-aired Fred Friendly Seminars “Minds on the Edge: Facing Mental Illness” public television program, and co-led a series of statewide activities organized in collaboration with Vermont Law School and VPT.

Mann Receives Chaigneau Prize

Professor of Medicine Kenneth Mann, Ph.D., was awarded the Henri Chaigneau International Prize of the Association Française des Hemophilie. The annual, juried award was presented for the impact of Dr. Mann’s “seminal work on phenotype and genotype on future therapeutic interventions for hemophelic patients.” The announcement was made during an awards ceremony by the president of the association during the Congress of the World Federation of Hemophilia, which was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from July 10th to July 14th.

VCC Confers Jackett and Pilot Awards

Professor of Pathology Yvonne Janssen-Heininger, Ph.D., has been named the Vermont Cancer Center’s 2010 Jackett Scholar. The two-year, $75,000 award is funded by the Lake Champlain Cancer Research Organization in memory of its founder, philanthropist J. Walter Jackett. Three other UVM researchers, Alan Howe, Ph.D., Karen Lounsbury, Ph.D., and Mercedes Rincón, Ph.D., received one-year, $50,000 Pilot Project Awards, also funded by the LCCRO.

Sobel Recognized with Distinguished Scientist Award

The Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine (SEBM) presented Burton Sobel, M.D., professor of medicine and biochemistry, with an inaugural Distinguished Scientist Award at its annual meeting this spring in Anaheim, Calif. The new award was created to recognize biomedical scientists who are leaders in the field of biomedicine, and who have made significant contributions to SEBM.
Skelly One of Six Lambaréné Schweitzer Fellows

The Albert Schweitzer Fellowship (ASF) has announced that University of Vermont medical student Kathryn Skelly ’11 has been selected as one of six U.S. medical students to serve as a 2010 Lambaréné Schweitzer Fellow. ASF’s mission is to develop “Leaders in Service” who are dedicated and skilled in meeting the health needs of underserved populations, and whose example influences and inspires others. Skelly joins a select group of the more than 100 senior medical students who have been competitively selected as Lambaréné Schweitzer Fellows since 1979 — each traveling to the iconic Schweitzer Hospital in Lambaréné, Gabon, Africa. Founded in 1913 by Nobel Peace Laureate Dr. Albert Schweitzer, the Schweitzer Hospital has served as the surrounding region’s primary source of health care for nearly 100 years. As one of only three Lambaréné medical fellows, Skelly will spend three months acting as a junior physician, working with an international staff of the hospital’s Gabonese and expatriate professionals, helping them to provide skilled care through over 35,000 outpatient visits and more than 6,000 hospitalizations annually for patients from all parts of Gabon. Upon her return to the U.S., she will become a Schweitzer Fellow for Life, committed to working with vulnerable populations throughout her professional career.

ASF also announced that eight UVM medical students have been selected as 2010–11 New Hampshire-Vermont Schweitzer Fellows. They join the nearly 200 other 2010-11 Schweitzer Fellows across the country in conceptualizing and carrying out service projects that address the health needs of underserved individuals and communities.

Irina Archipova-Jenkins ’13 and Vicky Dendwall ’13 will be working with the Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program. Their aim is to empower refugees in the Burlington, Vermont, area by creating a culturally competent health literacy workshop series at the Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program.

Krista Buckley ’13 and Kuang-Ning Huang ’13, plan to improve the maternal and reproductive health of Burlington’s Somali-Bantu refugee population by creating a culturally competent Mothers-to-Mothers network. The network will pass on information and advice relating to maternal and reproductive health.

Delfa French ’13 and Erica Pascuillo ’13 plan to address refugee health by conducting a medical orientation program for a target group of refugees living in Vermont’s Champlain Valley region. The program will cover six basic topics pertaining to health care in America. Sessions will be led by first-year medical students and will empower marginalized refugee groups to participate in their own health care and navigate the American system, while also providing medical students with an opportunity to develop the skills necessary to communicate with patients across cultural and language barriers.

Matthew Graf ’13 aims to address pediatric health and literacy by improving and expanding “Bedside Brainiacs,” a program established by 2009-10 Schweitzer Fellow Piyush Gupta ’12 that offers daily school work tutoring to pediatric inpatients receiving treatment at Vermont Children’s Hospital at Fletcher Allen Health. Graf will pursue expansion of the program into the gynecologic population.

In order to address the health of children with special health needs, Cristine Velasco ’13 plans to develop an extracurricular community-based program providing organized recreational activities for this population. The program will provide opportunities for the children to take part in activities, such as art or music, that are adapted to their unique needs, and to interact with their peers through the help of volunteers. The program will also seek to encourage participation from an interdisciplinary group of UVM undergraduate and graduate students in nursing, physical therapy, social work, as well as medical and pre-medical students.
High School Student’s Stem Cell Research Earns Accolades

Extra-curricular school and sports activities fill the lives of many teens, but South Burlington High School student Pooja Desai has an additional, less-typical pursuit — studying stem cells at the College of Medicine. Since January 2010, Desai has spent two to three afternoons per week working in the laboratory of Daniel Weiss, M.D., Ph.D., associate professor of medicine and pulmonary and critical care medicine specialist, with support from laboratory/research assistant Amanda Daly. The results of her work — research titled “The Effect of Injecting Stem Cells into Cadaveric Decellularized Lungs” — earned a gold medal at the Vermont State Science and Mathematics Fair this spring, as well as the privilege to attend the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in San Jose, California — and event that brings together 1700 high school students from around the world.

Inspired by a lack of lung transplant donors for patients with Cystic Fibrosis and other lung diseases such as emphysema, Desai’s general hypothesis was to determine whether or not functional lung tissue could be generated by injecting stem cells into decellularized lungs. The two main aims of her work are first to determine whether she could decellularize cells and lung disease.

Desai, who began her senior year this fall, also received a Society for In Vitro Biology award, Naval Science award and Next Generation Scholarship from St. Michael’s College at the State Science and Mathematics Fair. She plans to continue working in Dr. Weiss’ laboratory throughout this current school year.

Clinical Simulation Laboratory Construction Underway

Late this summer work commenced on the new Clinical Simulation Laboratory on the second floor of the Rowell Building. The new facility is a cooperative project of the College of Medicine, the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, and Fletcher Allen Health Care.

When completed in January 2011, the laboratory will contain surgical skills stations, simulated patient rooms and control stations, and a multi-purpose suite that can simulate an intensive care unit, trauma unit, or post-anesthesia care unit. The new facility will provide state-of-the-art simulation learning experiences to medical and nursing students, Fletcher Allen providers, and members of the Vermont National Guard.

A second later phase of the project will connect the laboratory directly to the second story of the Given Building with a glassed-in corridor.

AHEC and Office of Nursing Workforce Merge

The UVM Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) Program announced in July that the Office of Nursing Workforce Research, Planning, and Development would formally become part of AHEC. The statewide Office of Nursing Workforce was established in December 2001 to implement the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Nursing Commission to respond to Vermont’s nursing shortage with support from the Vermont Agency of Human Services and other state and federal grants.

“We are pleased to make official this interdisciplinary approach to Vermont’s healthcare workforce development needs,” said Elizabeth Cote, director of the UVM AHEC Program. “Primary care and nursing are intricately linked and adding these nursing workforce activities helps strengthen our program. This merger formalizes and streamlines the team approach to health education and healthcare workforce research that AHEC and the Office of Nursing Workforce have collaborated on for the past nine years.”

Mary Val Palumbo, D.N.P., A.P.R.N., director of the Office of Nursing Workforce and associate professor of nursing, said “becoming a part of AHEC will provide a sustainable and efficient framework that will allow us to continue to build on the education, research, and development programs for Vermont’s nursing students and nurses. The biggest change for our stakeholders will be higher efficiency and greater synergy since we can leverage the grant writing opportunities, resources, reach, and programs available through AHEC.”

In addition to nursing workforce research, Palumbo will continue to teach UVM nursing students, and serve as AHEC’s liaison to both the UVM College of Nursing and Health Sciences and the UVM Center on Aging.
This year marked the 10th anniversary of the completion of the draft sequence of the human genome. On the day in June of 2000 when the sequencing was announced, then-President Bill Clinton was quoted as predicting that “Genome science will have a real impact on all our lives — and even more, on the lives of our children. It will revolutionize the diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of most, if not all, human disease.”

Vermont Medicine asked two College of Medicine faculty experts to share their perspectives on the scientific value that has been realized by the sequencing of the human genome, and the biomedical advances that have been achieved over the past ten years, as well as a look ahead to what might be expected in the scientific future.

Russell Tracy, Ph.D.
Professor of Pathology and Biochemistry, and Director, Clinical Technologies, Center for Clinical and Translational Science

An ABCC-Board certified clinical chemist, Tracy is the former senior associate dean for research at the College of Medicine and served as director of the Laboratory for Clinical Biochemistry Research, which currently uses a wide variety of assays in the research settings of molecular and genetic epidemiology, particularly in the areas of vasculature, fibrosis, thrombosis, and inflammation. His research interests include the pathophysiology of, and influence of genes on, atherosclerosis and coronary heart disease, other chronic diseases, and aging.

“In my experience, when biomedical scientists and clinicians think about genome sciences, they tend to fall into one of two camps. Most of the people in both camps feel that the publicity which has accompanied the various milestones to date (the first human genome sequence, the HapMap, and more recently, the spate of Genome-Wide Association Studies, or GWAS), has been overstated. In addition, one camp feels the process has been a ‘bust’, and that little of real significance has been found. The other camp believes that genome science is a long process, one which we have just begun; therefore, it’s not surprising we haven’t yet made many — some might say any — major breakthroughs.”

“T’m in the second camp. Genome sciences take a lot of resources, so justifiably it’s a target for criticism; those resources could have gone to other projects, other science. However, I believe the process should be driven considerably further than it has been, and strongly support it. I believe we will, one day, understand how genes and the environment interact to affect human health and disease, but that it’s going to take time. The systems are far more complex than was originally thought. As we peel back each successive layer of the onion, we find the complexity has gone up by another order of magnitude. Nonetheless, I feel this work must be done, and the complexity will ultimately yield to hard work. The reward will be enormous.”

Yandell, who established a Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory at UVM in order to enhance the University’s capacity to perform research in cancer genetics, served as director of the Vermont Cancer Center from 1995 to 2006 and created the Familial Cancer Program of the VCC. His research focuses on the molecular genetics of familial cancer predisposition. Yandell played a key role in the identification and sequencing of the gene for retinoblastoma — a hereditary cancer that causes tumors of the retina and typically afflicts 250 to 300 children per year. With Alan Guttmacher, M.D., a former Vermont Regional Genetics Center director and former acting director of the National Human Genome Research Institute, Yandell helped establish a statewide Vermont Human Genetics Initiative.

“So far, predictions that sequencing the entire human genome would revolutionize medical care for the masses have not come true, but it’s important to understand that most geneticists and genome scientists never said this would happen. The revolution that has occurred from sequencing our genome — and that of other species, including many pathogenic organisms that cause disease in humans — has been in our understanding of exactly how many of these human diseases occur. So far, the revolution in new treatments hasn’t materialized, but there certainly has been a revolution in the number of targets and strategies that can be exploited by future treatments. This work is not finished.”

“Our health care system has taught us to demand magic bullets for our ailments, but the human body is a complex system. Complex systems can fail in complex ways that don’t always respond to simple solutions. Our understanding of the human genome from the last 20 years tells us that most very common human diseases, for the most part, have no simple single genetic basis or mechanism that will be fixable with a magic bullet. This is especially true of the most common diseases associated with aging, which occur as a complicated dance between our environment, time, and the natural genetic variation that occurs in our species. For these diseases of aging, there seems to be many possible routes to arrive at the same endpoint that we call ‘disease’, but which in fact may be a natural and necessary by-product of the need for biological variation in evolution. It’s also very important to understand that, while sequencing the human genome has so far led to no major revolution in medical care for the most common human diseases, there has been a true revolution in treatment and in hope for many, many people with rare disorders that have a simple genetic basis — literally thousands of disorders affecting millions of people worldwide. The human genome project has been massively successful in finding the causes of these simple genetic diseases, revolutionizing both diagnosis and treatment options for those who are affected.”

David Yandell, Sc.D.
Professor of Pathology and Medicine

David Yandell, Sc.D., who also directs the Vermont Center for Children, Youth and Families, is spearheading a genomic study of more than 4,700 twins and their families. He and his co-investigators Robert Althoff, M.D., Ph.D., and Davis Rettew, M.D., are searching for clues to the possible genetic factors that contribute to Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, and other behavioral conditions such as anxiety and depression. By examining over one million small sequence variations in the DNA of twins, they hope to find the one thing that changes in the genome to contribute to specific childhood disorders.

Mercedes Rincón, Ph.D., is using genomic science to study the mechanism at the molecular level that controls the development, activation, differentiation, and survival of T-cells, also known as T-lymphocytes, cells that play a key role in the fighting of infection by the body’s immune system. Rincón’s work has already resulted in important findings published in the top-tier journal Science.
Class of 2010 Receives Degrees

With health care reform and its effect on the physician workforce supply high on the list of critical issues in the news, 104 new doctors — graduates in the College of Medicine’s Class of 2010 — officially joined these ranks on May 23. A total of 45 of these graduates have headed into residencies this summer in the primary care fields of medicine, internal medicine, and pediatrics, and 15 members of this class will stay in Vermont for specialty training. Darrell G. Kirch, M.D., president and CEO of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), which represents the nation’s medical schools, teaching hospitals, and academic societies, delivered the keynote address at the College’s Commencement ceremony in UVM’s Ira Allen Chapel.

A member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies, Kirch joined the AAMC as president in 2006. Medical students began residencies this summer in a wide range of subspecialties, at many of the top medical institutions across the country. Four of the members of the College of Medicine’s Class of 2010 completed UVM’s M.D.-Ph.D. program (see sidebar at right). An additional group of 16 students earned doctoral degrees, and four others earned master’s degrees from the College of Medicine.

Every member of the Class of 2010 has a unique story; here are just a few profiles of some of the most recent Vermonters now beginning their careers as physicians.

Theodore Pour

of West Glover, Vt., native Darrell G. Kirch, M.D. organized sessions on issues ranging from proper nutrition to the dangers of cigarette smoking for teens at Burlington’s King Street Center and later conducted research on the CATamount Health Plan and FACE Vermont while attending medical school.

Now working in emergency medicine as a resident at Mt. Sinai Medical Center in New York City, Pour would like to play a future role in developing health care policy, focusing on ways to cut spending while improving patient safety and standards of care, as well as studying unique payer-systems.

Jessica Janowski

of West Glover, Vt., brought to the close-knit community and passionate local teachers who instilled in her a love of science and sense of civic duty. A quantitative economics major of science and sense of civic duty. A quantitative economics major.

Of West Glover, Vt., and a member of the Class of 2010, Janowski attended Champlain Valley Union High School and Williams College in Massachusetts. In 2004, she returned to Vermont, where she coached soccer at CVU, worked at NRG in Hinesburg, and coached soccer at CVU, worked at NRG in Hinesburg, worked in the lab of George Osol, Ph.D., UVM professor of obstetrics, gynecology and reproductive sciences and volunteered at Vermont Children’s Hospital and on the oncology floor at Fletcher Allen. She has begun serving a three-year residency in pediatrics, joining her husband Greg, a 2007 alumnus of the College of Medicine who now practices pediatrics in Burlington.

Kristen Van Woert Connolly

grew up in Shelburne, Vt., and graduated from Champlain Valley Union High School and Williams College in Massachusetts. In 2004, she returned to Vermont, where she coached soccer at CVU, worked at NRG in Hinesburg, worked in the lab of George Osol, Ph.D., UVM professor of obstetrics, gynecology and reproductive sciences and volunteered at Vermont Children’s Hospital and on the oncology floor at Fletcher Allen. She has begun serving a three-year residency in pediatrics, joining her husband Greg, a 2007 alumnus of the College of Medicine who now practices pediatrics in Burlington.

Four Physician-Scientists

Four members of the Class of 2010 spent more than the usual four years on the medical campus: Christopher Bradbury, Ammon Fager, Whitney Barkhuff, and David Curley all completed their M.D./Ph.D. programs.

“We had a lively group, with great personal chemistry and real enthusiasm,” said Stephen Lidofsky, M.D., Ph.D., professor of medicine and pharmacology, who oversees the M.D./Ph.D. program. Christopher Bradbury spent several years working in a National Institutes of Health laboratory studying radiation and biology. This experience, plus a longstanding interest in cancer research, dovetailed into his work at UVM on the function of genes thought to suppress melanoma. He is now in a radiation oncology residency program at Washington University Medical Center.

Ammon Fager spent several years working in a cancer biology lab after college. At UVM he found a home in the lab of Interim Chair of Biochemistry Paula Tracy, Ph.D., where he studied proteins and blood platelets interact to bring about coagulation. He is now in a special residency at Duke University Medical Center that will allow him to segue into a hematology fellowship in two years.

Whitney Barkhuff worked at a small biotech firm that made patient-specific vaccines for b-lymphoma before coming to UVM and beginning her work with Professor of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics Cary Ward, Ph.D., studying the biology of Toxoplasma gondii, a parasite that can cause serious infections in persons with compromised immune systems; as well as severe pregnancy complications. She is now a resident in pediatrics at Massachusetts General Hospital.

After working at the Harvard Nature Genetics Laboratory, David Curley came to the College of Medicine and investigated the biology of proteins linked to aggressive melanoma as part of his M.D./Ph.D. work. In 2009, he won the Warshaw Scholarship Award. His research, along with an interest in emergency medicine developed at UVM, have led him to an integrative emergency medicine residency at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston that will also allow him protected research time.
A mix of beeps, hums and voices fills the air down the hallways that wind past curtained-off treatment areas, clinical stations, and exam rooms. Scrub-clad, Croc-footed nurses, attending physicians, physician assistants and emergency medical technicians scurry back and forth. A small nurses station and set of physician cubicles are separated by a row of WOWs (computer Workstations On Wheels) where three University of Vermont medical students stand, busily scanning electronic medical records for test results and calmly entering patient notes amid the flurry of activity.

Nearing the end of a required month-long emergency medicine rotation in June, these fourth-year students are working in the Acute Care Center of Fletcher Allen Health Care’s Emergency Department (E.D.). “We’re not allowed to sit on chairs,” jokes Matthew Meyer ’11 as he looks up information on a case through the Access Medicine portal on the PRISM electronic health record system. On either side of him, classmates Heather Viani and Mary Guillot update patient records, selecting symptom information like “no chest pain” from the electronic chart’s menu, checking boxes that allow students — like providers — to quickly enter critical information, such as when the patient came into the unit, what type of complaint or symptoms the patient is experiencing and any medicines they might be taking.

Around the corner in a separate hallway, M.D.-Ph.D. student Michelle Shepard stands at the door of an exam room and talks to a patient and family...
The patient, who has already undergone urine testing, needs a finger stick before she can leave the E.D. In her friendly manner, Shepard informs the patient that a nurse will be in to do the stick and counsels her about health issues that can cause glucose in the urine, then returns the patient’s chart to a room-number-ordered inbox system at the nearest nurses’ station.

“PRISM helps us keep track of who we’re seeing,” says Shepard, who has completed her Ph.D. and is now finishing the “fourth year” of her M.D. “We don’t have to chase down people for results.” The electronic system also alerts the E.D. about patients arriving by ambulance, which helps ensure that students get the chance to experience a variety of training opportunities, including imaging and diagnostics.

“You get to see a lot of different things here. There’s definitely a learning curve, but it’s a great training ground,” says Heather Viani, who is using one of the WOW stations to access information about hyponatremia, an electrolyte disturbance in patients with low sodium levels.

“It wasn’t busy in the morning, but it picked up at noon,” says Shepard who, earlier in the day, had an opportunity to view a lumbar puncture with attending physician David Clauss, M.D., associate professor of surgery. Fourth-year medical student Alan Frascoia has been busy suturing a laceration in the E.D.’s Orthopaedic Treatment Area.

Both Frascoia and Shepard admit that they will miss the E.D. when their Emergency Medicine rotation ends. Their feelings are shared by many other UVM medical students. In the past four years, Emergency Medicine residency matches at UVM have risen from five students in 2006 to 14 in the 2009 Match and 13 in the 2010 Match. And that trend is mirrored across the country. According to the National Resident Match Program, the number of U.S. medical school seniors headed to Emergency Medicine residencies increased for the fifth consecutive year in 2010.

So what is Emergency Medicine and why do students find it so appealing? According to the American Board of Medical Specialties, it focuses “on the immediate decision-making and action necessary to prevent death or any further disability both in the pre-hospital setting by directing emergency medical technicians and in the emergency department.” An emergency physician is responsible for providing “immediate recognition, evaluation, care, stabilization and disposition of a generally diversified population of adult and pediatric patients in response to acute illness and injury.”

During any given month, as many as six UVM students are rotating in Fletcher Allen’s E.D., the state’s only Level One Trauma Center. Stephen Leffler, M.D.’90, chief of emergency medicine and professor of surgery, believes the popularity of Emergency Medicine at UVM is linked to two major factors. First, the rotation is part of the core curriculum, so every medical student is exposed to the specialty. Second, in a curriculum that stresses extensive clinical exposure, the Emergency Medicine rotation packs an extra promise: here, the student typically gets to see the patient before anyone else does.

“When the students rotate down here, they go see patients first. Then, afterwards, they have an attending go back in with them and verify their findings. There’s a lot of mentoring that goes on here,” he says. “That’s often one of the first times in medical school that they’ve had the opportunity to be the first person in,” explains Leffler. “We’ve done this a long time, so we know which rooms it’s OK for them to go in first. Sometimes I’m following them in, and sometimes they’re following me in. They’re getting procedures here; they’re actually part of the care team from the beginning.”

For 15 years, while most current medical students were growing up, the television series ER was among the top ten weekly programs. Is there a correlation between ER’s
success and the rise in Emergency Medicine’s popularity? “That show probably had a positive effect on our specialty, because people got to see what it’s like,” says Leffler. “But I think that people going into this specialty because we have a really good group of docs here—we’re very accessible,” he says. Many UVM students are exposed to Emergency Medicine prior to the clerkships through the mentorship of Mario Trabulsi, M.D., an associate professor of surgery and E.D. attending who leads a first-year Medical Student Leadership Group and invites students to shadow him in the E.D.

At UVM, students interact directly with attending physicians rather than residents, since UVM/Fletcher Allen does not yet have an Emergency Medicine residency graduate medical education program, though Leffler is actively working on a future program. In the meantime, Leffler notes that “students might get a little more frontline exposure to patients here than they would in a place where there are second- and third-year residents.”

Students come to the E.D. every morning, Monday through Friday, from 8 to 9 o’clock for a group lecture during their rotation. Students are assigned to different shifts like the clinical staff — some work during the daytime, some work evenings. When seeing a patient, the student conducts a physical examination first, and then reports to the attending physician for guidance.

Having the opportunity to learn to take care of all kinds of problems — from pediatrics to geriatrics and trauma cases to the common cold — also holds special appeal, according to Leffler. “Here you get broad-based exposure to all of medicine,” he says. “You have to have skills across the full spectrum of medicine, and enjoy the challenge of diagnosing and thinking on your feet.” This means both the excitement of life-saving medicine, and the more prosaic procedures, too. “You can go through three to four shifts with no action,” says Leffler. Students see as many or more sore throats as trauma cases. To help prepare students — and especially future Emergency Medicine specialists — for the health care system’s increasing dependence on E.D.s, Leffler wants to ensure they are able to make critical decisions, and to control the number of tests they rely on — and not have the tests control them. “Clinical thinking helps no matter what specialty,” he says. “If a test won’t change case management, our philosophy is ‘don’t get the test.’”

Class of 2010 graduates Trevor Pour, M.D., and Sarah Logan, M.D., were among Leffler’s most recent mentees. Their experiences prompted unexpected decisions to pursue the specialty, but for distinctly different reasons.

An active public health and health policy advocate, Pour was leaning toward neurology or psychiatry when he began an emergency medicine rotation in the first month of his fourth year in his hometown at Rutland Regional Medical Center (RRMC). “I got hooked on it a little bit,” he says, and after a month-long rotation in neurology and another month doing psychiatry at Fletcher Allen, he struggled to determine which specialty to pursue. “I got hooked on it a little bit,” he says, and after a month-long rotation in neurology and another month doing psychiatry at Fletcher Allen, he struggled to determine which specialty to pursue.

Research and Learning from Emerging Cases

By their very nature, emergency medicine cases present some daunting barriers to effective medical research. They appear in front of the physician anytime of day or night and, of course, their immediate and effective treatment is of paramount concern. But, by planning carefully and using the educative possibilities of research to the best advantage, investigators such as Kalev Freeman, M.D., are increasing the ability to gain knowledge from emergent cases.

A research assistant professor of surgery, Freeman came to the College of Medicine three years ago. “It’s not easy to find a place that will offer an emergency medicine physician the chance to have a sizeable piece of time devoted to research,” Freeman explains. “So I was thrilled Dr. Leffler and Dr. McFadden, the chair of surgery, offered me this chance.” Freeman now devotes 75 percent of his time to research, with the remainder spent treating patients in the Fletcher Allen Emergency Department.

One important part of Freeman’s current research is the study of traumatic brain injury (TBI) and the related negative effects of the body’s stress response to TBI. “It’s amazing to see the range of conditions that can come from the stress response that follows even a small TBI,” he says. “You can get a heart attack as an outgrowth of sustaining a TBI. And yet we know relatively little about this whole process.”

Fellow student Alan Frascoia agrees. “Here we get to try and diagnose,” he says. He appreciates the way Emergency Medicine provides different perspectives of the patient than students usually see on an inpatient floor. “Being able to see patients first gives you an idea of what patients really look like when they come in, rather than later on when they’re more stable,” he says.

For current student Michelle Shepard, the E.D. is like night and day compared to the lab where she completed her Ph.D. work. While she finds the pace tiring, she admits the work is satisfying. “A lot of people come in, get better, and leave,” says Shepard, who also appreciates the rewards that come with the Emergency Medicine rotation. You get to assess patients first and use your knowledge of physiology and pathology. And you see the things you’ve studied for through three years actually show up,” she says.

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In an editorial for the May 2010 AAMC Reporter, Angela Gardner, M.D., president of the American College of Emergency Physicians, summed up both the broad responsibilities and the broad appeal of emergency medicine: “We also see every side of humanity and every segment of society. We treat rich and poor, old and young, the whole soup of human existence. One of emergency medicine’s pioneers used to say ‘no shoes, no socks, no shorts, no shirts, no sanity, no sobriety, no problem. I’m an ER doctor. I’m your physician. We’re always here. We always care.’”

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The young boy’s eyes were wide with anticipation and his mouth open as I handed him the piece of chocolate I had been carrying in my backpack for days. I wished I could offer him more, knowing that his life was already filled with poverty and disease, and his next meal was anything but planned. He was four, but had the height and weight of a two year old. His failure to thrive had rendered his naturally curly black hair a tinted shade of red. His naked feet were covered in blisters in the absence of shoes and his ribs were protruding through his skin as if desperate to escape. The earthquake had left his mother a widow who struggled to care for him and his siblings in the remnants of their home town. The same earthquake that had shattered the buildings and what remained of the economic structure in Port-au-Prince and its surrounding provinces on January 12, 2010, had also shattered whatever hope he had left. The boy lived in what used to be a beautiful city, Leogane, now only known worldwide as the epicenter of the Haitian earthquake. I watched as he ate the piece of chocolate, careful to leave no crumbs, as if it were the last piece he’d ever see.

I traveled to Port au Prince two months after the earthquake that registered 7.0 on the Richter scale, and its more than 50 aftershocks that shook the small Caribbean country. This was my second trip to the island of Hispaniola, having been here three years earlier with a group from the Department of Surgery. The journey transformed my view of healthcare and humanity, and further confirmed my belief that we as humanitarians can never do enough. Once the richest colony in the New World, Haiti now ranks as the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. Fourteen of every 100 children die before the age of two, and the majority of children under five are malnourished. The inhospitable conditions, inadequate health care, and lack of proper nutrition cultivated disease in Haiti unlike anything I had ever seen. More remarkable and memorable, however, were the children I met during my stay. Seeing them made it obvious that disease and malnutrition had extended its grasp to even the smallest and most vulnerable. Were it not for the meals provided by various relief groups and militaries, a large portion of the children would surely have perished. As it was, an estimated 230,000 people had died, 300,000 had been injured and over a million had been left homeless. The majority of the children were excited to see visitors. Others were sad and lonely, longing to be comforted, but timid to ask for the privilege.

My time in Haiti was divided among multiple hospitals and locations throughout Port-au-Prince and the surrounding provinces on an as-needed basis. I arrived with my team at Quisqueya Christian School, which was originally constructed for foreign missionary and diplomats’ children, and now was converted into a command center for medical disaster relief. Following the earthquake, the school closed due to dwindling numbers of students, high numbers of teachers returning to the U.S., and a large portion of the children of foreign professionals who’d left the country with their families. Struggling to stay in

“I have learned during my upbringing in Vermont and from the education and experiences I’ve had in school that, no matter how far you travel from home, problems still exist on your own doorstep.”
part to help, the school’s remaining teachers reached out to various groups and organizations and offered their facilities as a base camp. Before they knew it, teams from all over the world were setting up camp in their backyard, including the United States military. With an intact structural foundation, and an even stronger emotional and spiritual foundation, the teachers of Quisqueya used their knowledge of Port-au-Prince and the surrounding areas to disperse the various organizations and groups in their backyard to locations with the most need. So the Vermont Federation of Nurses and Health Care Professionals team I arrived with were able to reach out and help as many as we could in the small amount of time we spent in the country.

With three years of medical school under my belt, and a little over a year away from graduation, I was pretty sure I would be able to handle any crush injury or infected wound that came my way. And for the most part, minus the experience and medical confidence to handle some situations, I was right. Additionally, I lacked out and was fortunate to have an amazing team to work with. Medically, we performed some amazing acts: removing rebar from a photographer’s leg, setting fractures, treating tropical infectious diseases, and even aiding a young woman who was hemorrhaging following a spontaneous abortion. Working with his team members from Vermont, Nicholas Aunchman ’11 treated patients at numerous hospitals and other locations throughout Port-au-Prince and the surrounding areas.

In the ever-powerful, industrialized United States, situations such as the starving children I witnessed in Haiti are not as common, but still present. Adults and children in developing countries are often faced daily with starvation, HIV, poverty, and death. Countless children must fend for themselves, orphaned or left for dead by their parents. My goal as a future physician is to assist in caring for these children and find ways of preventing their conditions. Having grown up in small rural towns in Vermont, the aim of my medical career is toward underserved regions. My everyday experiences, connection, and enthusiasm for the healthcare system, and how it affects those it encompasses, but I have yet to understand how it misses so many. During my clinical years of school I had the opportunity to work in various offices throughout the state, and I’ve learned that neglect, poverty, malnutrition, and subsequent disease still exist even here in Vermont. It seems to me that the question we as physicians (and those of us soon to be physicians) have to ask ourselves is: How can this happen? How can we learn to prevent it, and how can we make it easier for those who seek to help themselves?

Haiti is an area where I was able to see first-hand the effects of neglect and poverty. Most importantly, I want to understand how we as physicians, or future physicians, can best utilize our resources and knowledge to follow the time-honored tenet of medical ethics: salus aegroti suprema lex—always, no matter what the cost, act in the best interest of the patient.

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 the Class of 1935 (shown above listening to the legendary Prof. Ellsworth Amidon, M.D. ’32) spent much of their time in the hall. Today’s students take in lectures in the Sullivan Classroom or in the recently renovated Carpenter Auditorium, but the College’s educational mission of inspiring a lifetime of learning in the service of the patient remains the same. The Hall A magazine section is a meeting place in print for all former students of the College of Medicine.
As a “local doc” — a professor of surgery at the College and Fletcher Allen Health Care — I look forward to being involved on a regular basis with the needs and concerns of my fellow alumni. I may be a local now, but there was a time nearly 40 years ago when UVM and I were new to each other. I came here from Maine, with my newly minted undergraduate degree from Holy Cross in hand, and not much money in my wallet. But thanks to funds from the state of Maine and from a New York Life scholarship I’d won, a medical education was within reach. I grabbed hold and worked hard, and in return I’ve been fortunate to have a deeply rewarding vocation. Even now, as a professor at my alma mater, I continue to depend on the support and inspiration of others to reach my goals. Through the generosity of my mentor Dr. Gordie Page, I am a recipient of the Gordon H. Haines Professorship in Surgery — a daily reminder of the many gifted and altruistic people who apply and come to our medical school. But as a surgical oncologist, I continue to depend on the support and inspiration of others to help increase scholarship and involve alumni, including using the Web to greater advantage, and helping to foster a greater regional presence for alumni across the country. This magazine is filled with opportunities for you to see what students are doing today here on campus. If it’s been a while since you’ve visited, I hope you’ll make plans to get back soon to see for yourself what a special place the College of Medicine remains.

Jim Hebert, M.D.’77
Albert C. Mackay, M.D.’32 and H. Gordon Page, M.D.’45 Professor of Surgery

Send Us Your Stories!
If you have an idea for something that should be featured in Vermont Medicine, please email vmstories@med.uvm.edu.

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Jane Aspinall
Ben Fuller
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University of Vermont Medical Alumni Association

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Officers (Two-Year Terms)
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Paul B. Stanilonis, M.D.’85 (2010–2012)
Secretary
Executive Secretary
John Tampas, M.D.’14 (ongoing)

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Ellen Andries, M.D.’77 (2010–2016)
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Carlen R. Haines, M.D.’44 (2006–2012)
Naomi B. Leeds, M.D.’00 (2010–2016)
Frederick Mandell, M.D.’64 (2009–2015)
Jacqueline A. Noonan, M.D.’54 (2010–2012)
Suzanne C. Parker, M.D.’73 (2010–2016)

M.D. Class Notes

If you have news to share, please contact your class agent or the Development & Alumni Relations office at medalumni.relations@uvm.edu or (802) 656-4114. If your email address has changed, please send it to medalumni.relations@uvm.edu.

1943
Francis Arnold Caccavo (M.D. Dec. 1943)
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drnc@verizon.net

1944
Carleton R. Haines (M.D. Dec. 1943)
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(802) 878-1115

1945
Wilton W. Coney
157 Weybridge Street
Middlebury, VT 05753
(802) 898-1555

1946
Robert E. O’Brien
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dreobrien@aol.com

1947
Please email medalumni.relations@uvm.edu if you’d like to serve as 1947 class agent.

1948
S. James Baum
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baum@sapphireonline.net

1949
Joseph C. Foley
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Burlington, VT 05401
(802) 862-0040
ejfoley@adelphia.net

1950
Simon Dorfman
2356 Nice Way
Saratoga Springs, NY 12863
(941) 926-8126

Upcoming Events

October 2, 2010
Vermont reception at the American Academy of Pediatrics National Conference
San Francisco, Calif.

October 4, 2010
Vermont reception at the American College of Surgeons Annual Clinical Congress
Washington, D.C.

October 9
Fall Alumni Executive Committee Meeting
UVM Campus

October 14
Graduate Student Research Day and 2010 Graduate Alumni Award
UVM Campus

October 20, 2010
2010 Frymoyer Scholars Reception
Hodl Gallery — UVM Campus

November 30, 2010
Vermont reception at the Radiological Society of North America
Chicago, Ill.

March 16, 2011
Medical Class of 2011 Dinner
Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center, South Burlington

April, 2011
Spring Alumni Executive Committee Meeting
June 10–12, 2011
UVM Reunion 2011

For updates on events see:
www.med.uvm.edu/alumni

b a l l  a
Robust Giving by Reunion Classes
Reunion 2010 was a time for classes from across the past six decades to come together to recall old times. But these College of Medicine alumni were not just looking back during their reunion; they were also actively supporting the College’s current and future efforts with their generous donations in honor of reunion. All told, by the end of the weekend these classes had contributed over $21,900, with the total continuing to climb even after the event. Dean Morin accepted a check from all the reunion classes presented by two members of the 50th anniversary class of 1960, class agents Marvin Nierenberg and Melvyn Wolk.

Marathon Fundraising Hits New Record
Captained by College of Medicine Class of 2013 students Lauren Giglio, Katherine Irving and Erica Passiulli, the 2010 UVM Medical Marathon Team had over 100 participants in the KeyBank Vermont City Marathon (VCM) on May 30. The group raised a record amount of over $40,000 for The Penelope and Sam Fund for Neuroblastoma Research at the Vermont Cancer Center (VCC) at UVM and Fletcher Allen. The UVM Medical Marathon Team was launched by members of the Class of 2012 for the 2008 VCM and in the past three years, has raised about $80,000 for The Penelope and Sam Fund, which was established by the parents of two neuroblastoma patients. This often-fatal cancer affects very young children and has only a 30 percent five-year survival rate. The Fund supports research led by Giselle Sholler, M.D., Northwestern Interfraternity Conference Outstanding Foundation Volunteer Award. The group raised a record amount of over $40,000 for The Penelope and Sam Fund, which was established by the parents of two neuroblastoma patients. This often-fatal cancer affects very young children and has only a 30 percent five-year survival rate. The Fund supports research led by Giselle Sholler, M.D., Northwestern Interfraternity Conference Outstanding Foundation Volunteer Award. The group raised a record amount of over $40,000 for The Penelope and Sam Fund, which was established by the parents of two neuroblastoma patients. This often-fatal cancer affects very young children and has only a 30 percent five-year survival rate. The Fund supports research led by Giselle Sholler, M.D., Northwestern Interfraternity Conference Outstanding Foundation Volunteer Award.

Schwendler Trust Supports Cardiac Research
A trust established by the late Alice Schwendler of Watsfield, Vt. has made significant contributions to support cardiac research at UVM. A $100,000 donation from the Alice Schwendler Charitable Lead Annual Gift Trust (CLAT) is supporting the work of two senior investigators selected through an internal competitive process. Philip Ades, M.D., has clinical and research expertise in rehabilitation cardiac care, which focuses on the care of patients after heart attacks to help prevent recurrences. He will use his award to expand research on high-calorie-burning exercise. Peter Van Buren, M.D., ’87, Professor of Medicine in the division of Cardiology, is interested in heart failure and why obese patients develop heart failure at high rates. He will study the heart structure of obese patients and examine the ways in which these structures might be modifiable.

Alumni Memorials
His career in medicine cut short by a tragic swimming accident off the coast of Hawaii in 1980, Michael Neil McKee, M.D. ’79 will always have a place in the hearts and memories of his family and classmates.

Now, in recognition of a gift to the Dean’s Fund from his mother, Maxine McKee, an alumnus in the Health Science Research Facility has been named in Dr. McKee’s memory. The McKee Alcove is located just steps away from one of the large conference rooms used on a daily basis by faculty, staff, and students, who often use the adjacent alcoves as places to meet and study between classes.

Above: Plaque in the Michael Neil McKee, M.D. ’79 Alcove

Jewett Gift Supports Diabetes Research
When Melissa Jewett of Burlington passed away in June at age 43 after a thirty-year struggle with Type 1 diabetes, she left an indelible positive influence on so many people in her community, including the hundreds of students she taught and mentored throughout her 20-year career as an elementary school teacher. Theodore and Mina Jewett, her parents, have made a gift to the College that will help Professor of Medicine Richard Pratley, M.D., in his work to find answers to some of the key questions surrounding diabetes. Pratley is the Director of the Diabetes & Metabolism Unit at the College.

Development News
1966

**R E U N I O N ' 6 6**

Robert George Sellig
51 Omar Inn Drive
Quintonbury, NY 12804
(518) 793-7914
rsellig@aol.com

G. Millard Simmons
3265 Gross Smith Drive
Mount Pleasant, SC 29466
milli@comcast.net

If you’d like to help plan for our 50th reunion, please email us at alumni@uvm.edu.

Joe Beauregard reports: "My wife, Bobbie, and I are still spending seven months in Florida and summers in Winstead, Vt. (Sugarbush). Our son, Ed Read, owns Mad River Garden Center in Winstead, so I spend some time helping him in the greenhouses and volunteering at the library. We also play a good amount of golf both in Vermont and in Florida."

Email: johnbea2k3@gmail.com

1967

John F. Dick II
P.O. Box 69
Saratoga, NY 12869
(502) 351-6625

Urshel Danielson reports: "Dear Classmates — how time flies! I just returned from L.A., where I attended the graduation of USC of my oldest grandson, Ross. He majored in computer science. Next will be Rachel, who is finishing her freshman year at U.C. Irvine. She plans to major in Biology — maybe a budding physician? Best to all."

1968

David Jay Keller
4 Deer Run
Mendon, VT 05701
(802) 732-2420
dkeller66@comcast.net

Timothy John Fournier
14 Deerfield Road
South Burlington, VT 05403
(802) 892-8995

Todd Gladstone
100645@aol.com

B. R. Olson is "still retired, working with a former resident three days a week. Life is good in the mountains." Email: olsonpri70@gmail.com

1969

Susan Pitman Lowenthal
200 Kennedy Drive
Tarrytown, NY 10591
(860) 597-8996
susanmpitmanlowenthal@pfazer.com

1970

Raymond Joseph Anton
1521 General Knox Road
Russell, MA 01071
(413) 568-8659
ray@aolyonanton.com

John K. Beavis, Jr.
1288 Kipling Ave.
Hollis, NY 11610

1971

Wayne E. Pasanen
117 Dagget Street
North Andover, MA 01845
(978) 681-9393
wpasanen@lowellgeneral.org

If you’d like to help plan for our 40th reunion, please email us at alumni@uvm.edu.

1972

F. Farrell Collins Jr.
205 Page Road
Pinehurst, NC 28374
(910) 281-2429

Richard Houle writes: "I’m working in both Florida and Rutland Vermont. I miss Vermont, think I’ll become a snow-bird."

1973

James M. Betts
715 Harbor Road
Alameda, CA 94502
(510) 223-1820
jbetts@mail.cho.org

Philip L. Cohen
431 Lakewood Drive
Winter Park, FL 32789
(407) 624-0221
phil Cohen@aol.com

Mark Novotny reports: "After completing nine months as an intern, I’ve moved to VPMA and Goslee Dickinson Hospital in Northampton, Mass. I also achieved Fellowship in Hospital Medicine and the American college of Healthcare Executives this year."

Email: drmark@gmail.com

Phil Cohen writes: "I’m completing my 15th year as an assistant clinical professor at the U of South Florida School of Medicine. I have recently enjoyed mentoring our young future doctors."

1974

Douglas M. Eddy
5 Tarbar Road
Windham, NH 03087
(603) 434-2164
dhakody@att.net

Caja Schumacher
78 Lucid Avenue
Albury, NY 12510
cajaschu@yahoo.com

Walter H. Jacobs reports: ‘Graduated from Law School and sworn in as an attorney along with my son, Trevor, June 2008. Daughter Alexandra completing second year of Law School. Happily engaged and soon to be married.’ Email: Walterhj111@gmail.com

1975

Ellen Andrews
195 Midland Road
Pinehurst, NC 28374
(910) 281-6464
elland@midnstream.com

How the practice of obstetrics has and is continuing to change is often times surprising. Email: plexmed@gmail.com

Continuing Medical Education 2010–2011 Conference Schedule

- **Advanced Dermatology for the Primary Care Physician**
  - October 7–10, 2010
  - Sheraton Hotel & Conference Center
  - Burlington, Vt.

- **Neurology for the Non-Neurologist**
  - October 22, 2010
  - Portland Regency Hotel
  - Portland, Maine

- **Bridging the Divide: A Conference Fostering Collaboration among Primary Care, Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and Behavioral Health**
  - November 5, 2010
  - Sheraton Hotel & Conference Center
  - Burlington, Vt.

Collage of Medicine alumni receive a special 10% discount on all UVM Continuing Medical Education conferences.
1976

Don R. Chan
Cardiovascular Associates of New Hampshire
Suite 103
246 Pleasant Street
Concord, NH 03301
(603) 224-6070

dpch@aol.com

If you’d like to help plan for our 35th reunion, please email medalumni.relations@uvm.edu.

Matthew Zetumer

“My wife, Lynn, and I plan on hiking this summer with Anita Fein and Steve Lampert in Northern Italy. Steve and I will finish up with a climb of Mount Vesuvius.” Email: mzet@san.rr.com

1977

Mark A. Popovsky
22 Hauan Road
Sharon, MA 02067
(781) 784-8824
mppopovsky@hauannet.com

1978

Paul McLean Castelloe
Eisen Pediatrics, Ltd.
89 Main Street
Eisen, Junction VT 05452
(802) 879-6516

Anita Henderson

“My husband and I are now living in Blowing Rock, N.C., in the northwest North Carolina mountains. Bill does product liability settlements and I work three days a week in a Boone Family Practice. We are active in the outdoors community. Son Stephen and his wife, Deb, are in Providence, R.I. and I am still living in Rochester, N.Y. I recently became program director for the neurosurgery residency at the University of Rochester. Emily is now 18, a freshman at Boston University. Scott is 16, a sophomore in high school.” Email: hublbers@gmail.com

1980

Richard Nicholas Hubbell
80 Summit Street
Burlington, VT 05401
(802) 862-5551
rich.hubbell@vtmednet.org

1981

If you’d like to help plan for our 35th reunion, please email medalumni.relations@uvm.edu.

David Meeker

“Now chief executive officer of Genzyme in Cambridge, Mass. He was previously an executive vice-president, and has been with the company in a number of roles for 16 years.”

1982

David and Sally Murdock
murdock@cyberport.net

Ronald D. Blatt

“Happily living in New Canaan, Conn. Three children, ages 2, 4, and 8. Hello to all!” Email: RBlatt28@yahoo.com

1985

Vito Imbasciani
vito.uromd@gmail.com

Suzy Frisch
ufisch@uvm.edu

Howard Silverstein

“Nancy and I are still living in Rochester, N.Y. I recently became program director for the neurosurgery residency at the University of Rochester. Emily is now 18, a freshman at Boston University. Scott is 16, a sophomore in high school.” Email: hublbers@gmail.com

1986

Darrell Edward White
3913 Lincoln Road
Bay Village, OH 44140
(216) 892-4883
darrellwhite@mac.com

If you’d like to help plan for our 25th reunion, please email medalumni.relations@uvm.edu.

1987

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

1988

H. James Wallace III
415 Marlton Lane
St. George, VT 05495
(802) 672-8533
hjw@vtmednet.org

Lawrence L. Walk

5724 South Home Street
Greenwood Village, CO 80111
(303) 772-1289
larry@correctcarenc.com

1989

Richard C. Shumway
34 Coventry Lane
Avon, CT 06001
(860) 673-6629

246 Pleasant Street
Suite 103
Cardiac Associates of New Hampshire

1990

If you’d like to help plan for our 20th reunion, please email medalumni.relations@uvm.edu.

Barbara Angelilka Dill
330 Hapley Road
Norwood, NJ 07648
(201) 767-7778
dillsmith@goldtongline.net

Susan A. Apton

“After 15 years at Children’s Hospital in Denver, I moved further west. In September I took a new position as director of rehabilitation medicine at Seattle Children’s Hospital. I’m enjoying my new role as well as being close to the water again.”

1991

John Dewey

11 Eagle Street
Cooperstown, NY 13326
jdewey@billyten.com

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1992

Mark Elliot Pasanen
1234 Sugar Street
South Burlington, VT 05403
(802) 861-3241
mark.pasanen@vtmednet.org

1993

Joanne Taplin Romeo

22 Patterson Lane
Durham, CT 06422
(860) 349-6941
Brad Watson

rthewatson@yahoo.com

1994

Holiday Kane Rayfield

12 Barry Drive
West Hartford, CT 06107
(860) 521-6120

Darrell Edward White
3913 Lincoln Road
Bay Village, OH 44140
(216) 892-4883
darrellwhite@mac.com

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1995

Brian Levine

“Avoider-in-chief for the 2011 EMRA antibiotic guide, we look forward to publishing the 3rd straight edition at Christiana Care’s Emergency Residency in Newark, Del.,” Email: blevinemd@comcast.net

Caroline Gutmann

“My working in Bend, Oregon, as a pediatrician. My husband Stan and I have a 9-year old son, Reed, who’s very entertaining and who keeps us on our toes. Reed no longer believes me when I tell him he’s one rides their mountain bike through these rocks. Everyone watches! I’m in trouble now. I’ll never be able to keep up with him again.” Email: ddgummans@yahoo.com

While earning her medical degree Laura Tuite became fascinated with preventing bliss before it emerges. Her interest in natural food’s effect on health has carried her all across the globe, and she became certain that healthy snacks don’t necessarily need to taste like cardboard. She started Laura’s Wholesome Junk Food, and her tasty treats are now being enjoyed all across the US, distributed in retailers like Whole Foods Markets and Harry Teeters. Her recipes are now available to everyone in The Wholesome Junk Food Cookbook: More Than 100 Healthy Recipes for Everyday Snacking, just published by Running Press.
Steven Ryder, M.D. ’97, sends this photo and news: “From June 24–27, 2010 eleven well-established, middle-aged men from the College of Medicine Class of 1997 gathered in the mountains of the Sierra Nevada and the shores of Lake Tahoe to commemorate events of yesteryear and to forge new memories. In absentia was Steven Ryder. In attendance were: (left to right): Paul Kinn, Dan Dangl, Mike O’Brien, Mike Binette, Dave Smail. Middle row — (left to right): Dan Cordas, Jason Zemmel-D’Amore, Steve Ryder, Steve Battaglia, Brett Gingold. Front — Chris Twombly.”

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Good Doctoring, and Detecting

Adriane Cross Trout, M.D. ’03

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Good Doctoring, and Detecting

Adriane Cross Trout, M.D. ’03
Amore Del Giudice, M.D. ’39  

Dr. Del Giudice died February 5, 2010, at the Clinton Hospice in South Clinton, Conn. He was born in Salem, Mass., entered the University of Vermont in 1940, and later dropped out of the program. After World War II, he settled with his wife and two children in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., after his graduation from the College of Medicine. He was a veteran of World War II and the Korean War, and served as captain of a field hospital. He was trained in tropical medicine at Walter Reed Hospital before being stationed in Australia, New Guinea, and the Philippines. After his service in the U.S. Army, Dr. Del Giudice worked as a psychiatrist at Binghamton State Hospital from 1961 until 1966. He then relocated to Middletown where he took the position of director of the Middletown State Hospital until 1979, when he retired.

Abraham Jack Moshkovitz, M.D. ’39  

Dr. Moshkovitz died April 4, 2010, in Lynnfield, Mass., at the home of his daughter Gad, following a long illness. He was 94 years of age. He was born in Boston and grew up in Burlington, Vt., where he attended Burlington High School, and received his undergraduate degree from UVM before entering the College of Medicine. Following his internship at the former Bishop Feehern Hospital in Burlington and a brief stint in the Army, he continued his medical training at the former Belmont Hospital in Worcester, Mass. Dr. Moshkovitz then went on active duty in the Army, joining the 7th Armored Medical Battalion of the 4th Armored Division. He served with 4th Armored through training in the U.S. and England, in France as part of General Patton’s 3rd Army, from shortly after D-Day through the Battle of the Bulge. He earned a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart, and was discharged with the Army with the rank of major. After World War II, he settled with his family in Bennington, Vt., where he practiced medicine for 32 years, retiring in 1977. Shortly after retiring, he moved to Florida, where he lived for twenty years before moving to Lynnfield.

George H. Bray, M.D. ’47  

Dr. Bray died after a long illness on May 21, 2010. He was a leading surgeon in the New Britain, Conn., area from 1952 until his retirement 1991. Dr. Bray was born in 1922, and set his sights on a career in medicine from an early age, after the untimely death of his father, who was a physician. He graduated from the University of Notre Dame before receiving his medical degree in 1947 from the College of Medicine. He interned at St. Francis Hospital in Hartford, Conn., fulfilled the first year of his surgical residency at Long Island College Hospital, then spent three years as a flight surgeon at Oka Air Force Base in Falkom, Mass. He finished his residency at New Britain General Hospital. He began his practice in New Britain in 1956. In 1997 he was honored for 40 years of membership in the Connecticut State Medical Society. Dr. Bray was a well-respected surgeon who joined with three other physicians to create the New Britain Surgical Group in 1960. He served as associate chief of surgery and chief attending surgeon prior to assuming the position of chief of staff of the New Britain General Hospital from 1977 to 1986. (Dr. Bray’s father had been the first chief of staff at New Britain.) He served as president of the New Britain branch of the American Cancer Society; a volunteer and supporter of the CT BHI Race in the Park; board member of the Community Council; on the board of directors of the Hartford County Medical Association; a supporter of the New Britain chapter of the American Heart Association; and a Founder at Mount Sinai Mill Hill School. In 1992, the hospital board of directors dedicated the George Bray Cancer Center at the hospital.

Alde L. Bellucci, M.D. ’74  

Dr. Bellucci died May 27, 2010, at Hartford Hospital in Connecticut. He was 86. During his undergraduate years at the University of Vermont, Dr. Bellucci was elected to Sigma Xi and Phi Beta Kappa. Prior to his career as a physician, he served in the United States Army with the 106th Infantry Division in the Communications Corps from 1943–1945. Severely injured by a landmine in Germany, he was left paralyzed and spent nine months in an army hospital. He lived with the remnants of painful shrapnel for the rest of his life. He received many awards for his scholarship as well as a Combat Infantry Badge, a Purple Heart, and a Bronze Star. After graduating from medical school, Dr. Bellucci entered the Hartford Hospital Residency Training program in internal medicine. Strongly urged to apply for fellowship by the then governor of the American College of Physicians, Dr. Bellucci decided instead to pursue private practice, primarily in Glastonbury, Conn., from 1958 to 1969. In 1969, Dr. Bellucci was invited to join the Hartford Hospital as a full-time physician. While there, he became interested in the Research Program and became the Program Director. From 1980 until his retirement in 1994 he was the Associate Director of the Department of Medicine. During his tenure at Hartford Hospital, he also served as director of the Cardiovascular Program. Other appointments included physician consultant, Newington VA Hospital (1977–1994), consultant in medicine, University of Connecticut Hospitals, McCook Division (1970–1972) and assistant professor of medicine, University of Connecticut School of Medicine (1970–1994). During his career, Dr. Bellucci was responsible for recruiting interns and residents, and the administrating of the teaching program in Medicine—a program that was well-known nationally and attracted large numbers of highly qualified applicants. After his “official” retirement, he continued to be a valued member of the teaching staff, holding a bedside Teaching Assignment from 1995 to 1996, and was a consultant in the Medical Outpatient Department from 1995 to 2005. In 1999, he received the Distinguished Service Award from Hartford Hospital. In 2003, Dr. Bellucci was honored with the Laureate Award, given by the Connecticut Chapter of the American College of Physicians. The “Alde L. Bellucci, M.D. Award” is awarded by the graduating Internal Medicine residents of the University of Connecticut to the Hartford Hospital attending who is deemed to be outstanding in unselfish dedication of knowledge, ideals, and time toward the education of the house staff.

Norman F. Dennis, M.D. ’54  

Dr. Dennis passed away unexpectedly on March 25, 2010, at St. Peter’s Hospital in Albany, N.Y. He was 82. A member of the American Academy of Pediatrics, he was the first fellow in Adolescent Medicine at Children’s Medical Center of Boston, Mass. He then practiced pediatrics for 26 years in the Albany area and later retired from S.U.N.Y. Albany as the medical director in 1991.

Michael L. Micciche, M.D. ’81  

Dr. Micciche died May 15, 2010, at home in West Springfield, Mass. Born in Burlington, Vt., he was a graduate of Montpelier High School and did his undergraduate work at UVM in biology before earning his medical degree at the College of Medicine. He did his surgical residency at the University of Pennsylvania Graduate Hospital in Philadelphia, Pa. Dr. Micciche was an associate professor of clinical surgery at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, a surgeon with Medical West Associates, and also was the assistant medical director for Cigna in Worcester, Mass. He was the medical director for the Fallon Community Health Plan in Worcester, and iHealth Technologies in Atlanta, Ga. He was a member of the American College of Surgeons, a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, a Fellow in the College of Physicians Executives and USGCA.

Herbert Martin, M.D.  

Dr. Martin died in his home in South Burlington, Vt., on May 24, 2010, at the age of 88, following a long battle with leukemia. Dr. Martin was a renowned neurologist and received his M.D. degree from Boston University School of Medicine. He did his internship and residency in neurology at Bellevue Hospital in New York City, and was then appointed to the staff of the Veterans Administration in Manhattan. Dr. Martin was a professor of neurology at the College of Medicine from 1954 to his retirement in 1991. He received his board certification in neurology and psychiatry in 1959. Dr. Martin and Dr. George Schumacher developed the neurological service at the Bishop DeGeerbrandt Hospital in Burlington. He was also interested in new treatments for Parkinson disease and stroke patients. Dr. Martin was a consultant in neurology to a dozen hospitals in Vermont and New York, and retired a clinical practice for several years following his retirement from UVM. His honors included Phi Beta Kappa, president of his medical school class at R.U., and a member of the Regg Society (B.U.S.M.). Herb was actively involved with an extraordinary number of community and professional organizations including the New Hampshire-Vermont Neurological Society, Lake Placid Sports Medicine Society, the Lake Placid Winter Olympics as Chief of Neurology, Vermont Health Care Review, and the Northeast Medical Society. He also served the Rand Children’s Center, United Community Services, the South Burlington School Board Advisory Committee, Friends of the Late Series, Vermont Symphony Orchestra, the Board of the Stern Center for Language and Learning, and the Ethan Allen Club.
Making connections seemed to be the dominant theme for hundreds of alumni of the College of Medicine who converged on the UVM campus over the weekend of June 11–13.

Graduates from decades past mingled with today’s medical students for a session Friday morning in which class mates Melanie Lawrence, M.D.’00 and William K. Chin, M.D.’00 discussed their specific experiences, and the process of choosing specialties, with tomorrow’s physicians. The weekend afforded many opportunities for old friends to meet up and for some people to be introduced to the campus for the first time. The “Legends and Leaders” celebration was a time to hear Dean Rick Morin’s update on the state of the College, and an opportunity to honor the members of the 50th reunion class of 1960 and the recipients of the Medical Alumni Association’s 2010 awards. Nostalgia Hour drew many alumni from across the years who recalled old times, including class agent Melvyn Wolk, M.D.’60. Dr. Wolk also met up with some of his classmates in the Atrium Cafeteria during reunion. Alumni from the 1980s through the early 21st Century were happy to see the familiar face of former staff member Collette Ozarowski at reunion.

If your class year ends in a 6 or a 1, mark your calendars now for Reunion ’11 June 10–12, 2011.
A member of the new Class of 2014 enjoys one of the last few hours before four years of medical school classes begin, during the class picnic on campus.

photograph by Raj Chawla, UVM Med Photo

August 13, 2010
1:19 p.m.

This year, while cleaning out the house that her late parents Bartlett H. Stone, M.D.’41 and Mable L. Stone had shared for over 50 years, Pam Stone Kennedy, their daughter, found a yellowed envelope that fluttered out of an old book of poetry. “It was from the UVM Admissions Office,” Kennedy explains. “Inside it I found a notice of a $100 scholarship given to my father for medical school in 1939.”

Dr. Stone received both his undergraduate and medical degrees from UVM. After graduation from the College of Medicine he served his country in World War II, and then became an Ob/Gyn surgeon in the Boston area. “His years at UVM were extremely important to him, and he tried his best to attend every reunion,” his daughter recalls. Both Kennedy and her daughter are also UVM graduates.

“Because my father held such affection for UVM,” says Kennedy, “It was important for him to find a way to thank the school for the opportunities that it provided him, and to help others to experience the type of education he felt so fortunate to have received. Throughout their lives my parents worked tirelessly to build my father’s medical practice — a practice he truly loved, and which allowed him to leave a sizable endowment to the College of Medicine to aid Vermont students in pursuing their dreams of becoming doctors. Looking back on it now, the $100 scholarship my father received in 1939 may not look like much. But that money allowed him to pursue his dream to become a physician. He saved the lives of soldiers in World War II, delivered thousands of babies and provided surgeries to many women through his practice and missionary work in Puerto Rico, and inspired his own children and grandchildren to pursue their dreams and educational goals.”

For more information about how you can support the College of Medicine and its 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/giving

Return on Investment
Your Generosity Helps Shape Careers

Heather Provencher ’11 came to the College of Medicine with the dream of one day practicing in a rural, underserved area, a dream that stands a greater chance of becoming reality thanks to the generosity of those who give to the UVM College of Medicine Fund.

Heather’s own words of appreciation in a letter to the Medical Alumni Association say it best: “Being accepted into the UVM College of Medicine was one of the greatest moments of my life. One of the greatest challenges that I will face will be trying to figure out how to finance my medical education while holding onto the hope of pursuing a career as a physician in a rural area. Your generosity helps lessen this concern. As I am faced with challenges each day and take on the task of learning the intricacies of the human body, [because of this scholarship] I do not have to be as concerned with the challenge of financing this dream. The College of Medicine provides the opportunity for me to obtain an excellent medical education while my scholarship affords me the opportunity to enter into a field that I could not pursue without financial assistance. Thank you for your generosity and support.”

There are many reasons why alumni and friends of the College of Medicine give annually to support students. What is your reason? We’d love to hear. Email us at medical.giving@uvm.edu and we may use your words to inspire others!

For more information on supporting scholarships through the UVM College of Medicine Fund, contact Sarah Keblin:

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