the work (and play) of Russell Tracy, Ph.D.

A L S O  F E A T U R E D:
- Doctors Without Borders Records
- The Pulse at 50
MEDICAL IRA ALLEN SOCIETY

History in the making

The Medical Ira Allen Society has a long history, beginning with the Century Club, initiated by medical alumni in the late 1950s. For more than three decades the College of Medicine has recognized hundreds of donors each year. These benefactors have been the mainstay of philanthropy, and their gifts have greatly impacted students, faculty, and research. Just as UVM founder Ira Allen shaped UVM’s earliest legacies, today’s Medical Ira Allen Society members continue to mold the College of Medicine.

The new Ira Allen Society at UVM, and new Medical Ira Allen Society at the College of Medicine, will recognize annual gifts of $2,500 and lifetime giving of $100,000 or more, with special recognition for donors of $1 million.

Read more about the new Medical Ira Allen Society at uvmfoundation.org/IraAllen or call the College of Medicine Development and Alumni Relations office at (802) 656-4014.

MEDICAL IRA ALLEN SOCIETY

A Medical Development and Alumni Relations officer can tell you more about how members of the new Medical Ira Allen Society are recognized on student lockers throughout the Medical campus.
Two of those Class of ’62 members, Michael Grady, M.D., and Sherwin Ritter, M.D., tell the story in this issue of their “extra credit” medical school project: the world served by the organization Doctors Without Borders. Nick Wilkie’s remarkable scientist and scholar record is a remarkable use of technology in service to the art of healing. It is research experience at the College of Medicine than Russell Tracy, Ph.D. I had rare, the members. And there is probably no professor with a deeper knowledge of the efforts to provide physicians with a simple but effective mobile electronic health effect made by the more than 4,000 living alumni of this College.

There was one moment during this summer's Medical Reunion when the powerful effect of our College’s existence really hit home. During the Celebration of Achievements, on the first night of reunion, Carlton Haines, M.D.’43 stood to receive his A. Bradley Soule Award from the Medical Alumni Association. Here was a physician who had graduated nearly seven decades earlier, who had spent his life ever since in service to medicine and his community, and whose family members had deep and extensive connections to the College, and to the health care of their fellow Vermonters. Those feelings were echoed in each of the introductions to the members of the 50th anniversary Class of 1962 as they were honored that night. You can't hear such a range of stories about careers that span decades of healing without thinking of the tremendous effect made by the more than 4,000 living alumni of this College.

Two of those Class of 62 members, Michael Grady, M.D., and Sherwin Ritter, M.D., tell the story in this issue of their "extra credit" medical school project: the birth of the College’s yearbook, the Pule, which celebrated in half-century mark as a publication this summer. At a time when such annual productions are becoming rare, the Pule continues, and it is a testament to the enthusiasm of each of our senior classes. It is also, I'd submit, a sign of the special experience students find here, and their desire to keep the memory of those good times alive.

Just as our alumni represent a deep well of experience, so do our faculty members. And there is probably no professor with a deeper knowledge of the research experience at the College of Medicine than Russell Tracy, Ph.D. I had the good fortune to work closely with Russ during my early years as dean, when he was senior associate dean for research and academic affairs, so I know this first-hand. I'm glad that with the profile in this issue many people who have never had the pleasure of Russ's company will be able to learn more about this remarkable scientist and scholar.

I’m also glad that we can shine a light on a student project that will soon bring better care to thousands of patients in some of the poorest places of the world served by the organization Doctors Without Borders. Nick Wilkie's efforts to provide physicians with a simple but effective mobile electronic health record is a remarkable use of technology in service to the art of healing. It is fitting to note that the genesis of this project was a lecture Nick attended given by a alumna, Bruce Leavitt, M.D. ’81, at his 50th reunion last year. We're a community whose members learn from each other, and spur each other onward.

Bernstein Named OB/GYN Chair and Women's Health Care Service Leader

Ira Bernstein, M.D. ’83, professor of obstetrics, gynecology and reproductive sciences and senior associate dean for research at the College, and a specialist in maternal fetal medicine at Fletcher Allen, has been named the John Van Sicklen Maehr Chair of the UVM Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences and physician leader of the Women’s Health Care Service at Fletcher Allen.

Bernstein, whose three-year term began July 1, succeeds Mark Phillippe, M.D., who will return to his role as professor, clinician, principal investigator, and mentor in the department. Bernstein will continue as senior associate dean for research, as well as maintain his clinical practice and pursue his active research projects. "Dr. Bernstein’s experience as a clinician and significant clinical/translational research and administrative background will bring depth and breadth to this important role at our academic medical center," says Dean Rick Morin.

A native of New York, N.Y., Bernstein graduated magna cum laude with a B.S. degree from Union College in Schenectady, N.Y., before earning his medical degree from UVM. He completed his residency training in obstetrics and gynecology at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., followed by a maternal fetal medicine fellowship at UVM. He subsequently joined the UVM/Fletcher Allen faculty in 1987 and in 2001 was named a full professor.

Tandan and Parsons Lead Neurological Sciences Department

In 2011, the University of Vermont Board of Trustees approved the merger of two longstanding departments — Neurology and Anatomy and Neurobiology — in order to create the new Department of Neurological Sciences. On August 1, Rodney Parsons, Ph.D., professor and chair of anatomy and neurobiology, and Rup Tandan, M.D., professor and vice chair of clinical affairs in neurology, became leaders of the new department, as the national search for a chair and physician leader continues. Mark Phillippe, M.D., professor of obstetrics, gynecology and reproductive sciences, is serving as chair of the search committee. Professor Robert Hamill, M.D., who has served as chair and physician leader of neurology at UVM/Fletcher Allen for the past 19 years, has stepped down from this role to focus on his commitments to patient care and teaching as he prepares for retirement in 2013.

Tandan, who joined UVM/Fletcher Allen in 1993, has served as vice chair of clinical affairs for neurology since 2001. He has directed the neurology residency program and also currently directs the National AIS Clinical & Research Center, the Muscular Dystrophy Association Clinic, the Neuromuscular Disorders Section, and the Neuromuscular Fellowship Program. Tandan earned his medical degree from King George's Medical College at the University of Lucknow in India, trained in internal medicine in England and is a member of the Royal College of Physicians (UK). Parsons received his Ph.D. in physiology from Stanford University and completed a National Institutes of Health postdoctoral fellowship in physiology at Columbia University. He joined the UVM faculty in 1967 and was appointed chair of anatomy and neurobiology in 1979. His scientific research focuses on the mechanisms that control the excitability of parasympathetic cardiac and sympathetic neurons inside cardiac tissue. Since 2001, Parsons has served as the director of the UVM Center of Biomedical Research Excellence in Neuroscience.

The new Department of Neurological Sciences will be closely aligned with the Neuroscience, Behavior and Health spine, one of three spheres of excellence selected in 2010 through the UVM-wide Transdisciplinary Research Initiative.
Three Key Appointments in Dean’s Office

This summer, three new appointments in the Office of the Dean have focused on better serving students, faculty, and staff at the institution.

Dean Rick Morin and Senior Associate Dean for Medical Education William B. Jeffries, Ph.D., announced the appointment of Christa Zehle, M.D., 1999, associate professor of pediatrics and pediatric hospitalist at Fletcher Allen Health Care, as associate dean for student affairs. Zehle succeeded G. Scott Waterman, M.D., who retired from the faculty and will continue in an advisory role to the Office of Medical Student Education for the next year.

A 1999 alumnus of the UVM College of Medicine, Zehle joined UVM/Fletcher Allen in 2003 as assistant professor of pediatrics and was promoted to associate professor in 2011. She successfully launched the Pediatric Hospitalist Program at Fletcher Allen, and will continue to have a clinical role at Vermont Children’s Hospital along with her responsibilities as associate dean.

Professor of Medicine Charles Irvin, Ph.D., has been named assistant dean for faculty at the College. In this role, he is responsible for faculty development and advancement and reports directly to Dean Morin. As assistant dean for faculty, Irvin, who will continue to direct the Vermont Lung Center and serve as vice chair of research in the department of medicine, will be responsible for managing the orientation and education of new faculty, establishing a program to guide and assist faculty in developing their academic careers, and overseeing the promotion and tenure process.

College of Medicine Director of Admissions Tiffany Delaney, M.A.Ed., has been appointed interim assistant dean for diversity and inclusion. In addition, Delaney is serving as co-chair with Janice Gallant, M.D., associate dean for admissions, of the newly-established Dean’s Advisory Committee on Diversity and Inclusion (DACDI). Delaney will continue her role in admissions while overseeing the plans, policies and initiatives for diversity and inclusion at the College.

Delaney’s position and the DACDI are part of organizational changes initiated by the dean to help expand and focus college-wide efforts on diversity and inclusion for College of Medicine faculty, staff and students.

After earning a master’s degree in higher education administration from the George Washington University, Delaney joined the College of Medicine admissions office in 2003. She was named director of admissions in 2005, and has since been instrumental in the College’s very successful recruitment and outreach efforts.

Notes

Mann Honored for Research Achievements

Recognized as one of the world’s most foremost authorities on blood coagulation, Kenneth Mann, Ph.D., professor of biochemistry, was recently presented with the 2012 Hemostasis & Thrombosis Research Society of America Achievement Award. A 1967 Ph.D. alumnus of the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine, Mann was also presented with the Distinguished Alumni Award this summer at the College’s Medical Alumni Reunion.

American Cancer Society Recognizes Skin Cancer Advocates

Advocacy efforts by Kathryn Schwarzenberger, M.D., professor of medicine and chief of dermatology, and Claire Verschraegen, M.D., professor of medicine, chief of hematology and oncology and co-director of the Vermont Cancer Center, have been recognized with awards from the American Cancer Society. Schwarzenberger and Verschraegen, along with Vermont State Representative Janet Ancel, a skin cancer survivor, received recognition from the American Cancer Society in July for their leadership in skin cancer prevention and commitment to reducing the burden of cancer. Each of the women was instrumental in the public campaign and passage of 2012 legislation to ban the use of tanning beds to children under the age of 18 in Vermont.

Irvin Chairs National IDEA Symposium of Biomedical Research Excellence

Charles Irvin, Ph.D., professor of medicine and director of the Vermont Lung Center, served as chair of the 4th Biennial National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) National IDEA Symposium of Biomedical Research Excellence (NISREB), held in June in Washington, D.C. Irvin has served as chair of the NISREB executive steering committee since 2003. A program of the National Center for Research Resources (NCRR) at the National Institutes of Health, NISREB showcases the scientific and training accomplishments of the IDEA (Institutional Development Award) program of NCRR. IDEA develops scientific centers of excellence and trains biomedical scientists in the IDEA-eligible states (which includes Vermont).

UVM Alumni Co-Author Emergency Reference Book

What circumstances define a major versus a minor medical emergency? A just-released third edition of Minor Emergencies, co-authored by Stephen Leffler, M.D., 1990, and Phillip Buttaravoli, M.D., 1970, provides details on how to handle non-life-threatening emergencies. Leffler is professor of surgery and chief medical officer at Fletcher Allen, and Buttaravoli is an adjunct assistant professor of surgery and emergency medicine physician at UVM’s clinical training site, St. Mary’s Medical Center in West Palm Beach, Fla. In addition, a total of 15 UVM emergency medicine faculty members contributed to the publication.

Vermont Alzheimer’s Association Honors Pendlebury

The Alzheimer’s Association, Vermont Chapter, recognized the work of William Pendlebury, M.D., 1976, professor of pathology and neurology and medical director of the Memory Center at Fletcher Allen Health Care, with the Community Activist and Leadership Award at the organization’s third annual Reason to Hope Dinner in June at the Hilton Burlington. The Community Activist and Leadership Award is the Alzheimer’s Association’s highest honor given to a community leader. Pendlebury co-founded The Memory Center at Fletcher Allen Health Care in 1991 and is also the director of the UVM Center on Aging.

Budd Inducted as Member of National Honor Society for Physician-Scientists

Ralph Budd, M.D., professor of medicine, director of immunology, and director of the Vermont Center for Immunology and Infectious Diseases, was inducted this spring into the Association of American Physicians, the national honorary society for physician-scientists. A nonprofit, professional organization founded in 1885 by seven physicians, including William Osler, the Association of American Physicians has more than 1,300 active members and approximately 600 emeritus and honorary members from the U.S., Canada, and other countries.

Rincon and Vizzard Named 2012–13 University Scholars

Two College of Medicine faculty members have been selected as University Scholars this year. Mercedes Rincon, Ph.D., professor of medicine, and Margaret Vizzard, Ph.D., professor of neurology. The University Scholars program recognizes distinguished UVM faculty members for sustained excellence in research and scholarly activities. The Scholars are selected by a faculty panel based upon nominations submitted by UVM colleagues.
Colletti and ImproveCareNow Team Publish IBD Study

A new study by a national quality improvement and research network demonstrates that a collaboration by physicians led to marked improvement in the outcomes of patients with inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), without introducing new drugs in treatment. Published online in Pediatrics, the journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the study was conducted by ImproveCareNow, a national quality improvement and research network based at the University of Vermont and directed by Richard Colletti, M.D., professor and vice chair of pediatrics and a pediatric gastroenterologist.

Science Publication Reveals a Novel Mechanism to Regulate Blood Flow

UVM researchers Swapnil Sonkusare, Ph.D., an American Heart Association and Pulmonary Hypertension Association postdoctoral fellow, University Distinguished Professor and Chair of Pharmacology Mark Nelson, Ph.D., and colleagues, shed light on a major facet of an important communication system at work in this process in a study published in Science this May. Their study highlights attributes of the endothelial cells, which line each vessel in the circulatory system and play an important role in regulating blood flow. Nelson, who is senior author of the study, first author Sonkusare, and colleagues were able to define a direct connection between two different classes of endothelial cell ion channels — pore-forming molecules that allow selective passage of a subset of ions across the cell membrane. This link creates a powerful circuit for the endothelial control of smooth muscle contraction. The group’s findings provide new and important information for the development of pharmaceutical treatments for endothelial dysfunction in cardiovascular disease.

Dauerman Leads TAVI Clinical Trial

Vermont’s academic medical center is one of 45 sites in the United States participating in the Medtronic CoreValve U.S. Pivotal Trial evaluating the safety and effectiveness of a new technology that enables aortic valve replacement without traditional open-heart surgery. Many patients with severe aortic stenosis are unable to receive surgical valve therapy. For patients at high-risk for open-heart surgery, this trial will study the efficacy of a less-invasive, percutaneous treatment option. The study leader is Professor of Medicine Harry Dauerman, M.D., director of the Cardiovascular Catheterization Laboratories at Fletcher Allen.

ASC0 Presentation Focuses on Family History

Clinical trial findings presented at the American Society for Clinical Oncology (ASCO) annual meeting — attended by roughly 30,000 cancer specialists from around the world — often impact the current standards of care for cancer patients. Research presented by Marie Wood, M.D., professor of medicine and director of the Familial Cancer Program at the Vermont Cancer Center, was highlighted at this year’s meeting. Wood is lead author of a study, sponsored in part by ASCO, titled “Quality of Cancer Family History and Referral for Genetic Counseling and Testing among Oncology Practices.” More than 200 doctors’ offices and treatment centers associated with ASCO’s Quality Oncology Practice Initiative participated in the study. Based on their findings, the group recommends provider education to help make significant, needed improvements in the practice of cancer family-history-taking and appropriate referral.

Study Finds Brain Networks Connected to Teen Drug Abuse

Why do some teenagers start smoking or experimenting with drugs while others don’t? In the largest imaging study of the human brain ever conducted — involving 1,896 14-year-olds — scientists have discovered a number of previously unknown networks that go a long way toward an answer. Robert Whelan, Ph.D., and Hugh Garavan, Ph.D., a University of Vermont postdoctoral researcher and associate professor of psychiatry and psychology, along with a large group of international colleagues, report that differences in these networks provide strong evidence that some teenagers are at higher risk for drug and alcohol experimentation — simply because their brains work differently, making them more impulsive. The findings were presented in the journal Nature Neuroscience.

Stapleton Receives K23 Grant to Study Sepsis Treatments

Renee Stapleton, M.D., Ph.D., assistant professor of medicine and a critical care specialist at Fletcher Allen Health Care, was awarded a four-year, $683,532 National Institutes of Health K23 grant to conduct translational research on nutrition and pharmacometrics in critically ill patients with sepsis, which is the leading cause of death in critically ill patients in the U.S. K23 awards, which are directed for mentioned career development for patient-centered research, provide research funding and protected time to further career development through expert mentoring and a specific educational plan. As part of the grant, Stapleton, who is trained in epidemiology, will also pursue additional training in pharmacokinetics and translational research to establish herself as an expert in nutrition and pharmacometric therapy in critical illness.

NIH Shared Instrument Grant to Bring Multi-photon Microscopy to UVM

UVM neuroscience investigators can anticipate a clearer view of cell-to-cell interactions thanks to a $600,000 Shared Instrument Grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) secured by Rodney Parsons, Ph.D., UVM professor and co-chair of the new Department of Neurological Sciences and co-principal investigator of the Neuroscience Center of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) at UVM. Supported by the NIH National Center for Research Resources (NCRR), the Shared Instrument Grant (SIG) program encourages applications from groups of NIH-supported investigators to purchase or upgrade a single item of expensive, specialized, commercially available instrumentation or an integrated system that costs at least $100,000. The maximum award is $600,000. UVM’s award provides funding for the purchase of a multi-photon microscope, which will be housed in the multi-user Neuroscience COBRE Imaging and Physiology Research Core.

James Named Director of Clinical Simulation and Macy Scholar

Associate Professor of Surgery and attending oncology surgeon Ted James, M.D., has been named director of clinical simulation for the UVM Clinical Simulation Laboratory (CSL). The CSL is jointly supported by the UVM College of Medicine, the UVM College of Nursing and Health Sciences and Fletcher Allen Health Care. As clinical director, James will provide administrative and academic leadership for the laboratory, promoting health professions education through simulation throughout UVM, Fletcher Allen Health Care and the community. James has also been selected as one of five 2012 Macy Faculty Scholars by the Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation. More than 70 medical and nursing educators from across the country were nominated for the award, which is designed to identify and nurture the careers of educational innovators in medicine and nursing. James was recognized for his accomplishments to date and future promise as an educational leader and innovator.
Two Grants, Two Scientific Careers

Biomedical research at UVM is a continuum, with new researchers joining the faculty mỗi year, and more and more scientists working on large projects as their careers deepen. Examples of this process are two faculty members, over a span of more than 30 years in the lab, another who just joined the faculty last year.

Mark Nelson, and the Fondation Leducq Grant

UVM Distinguished Professor and Chair of Pharmacology Mark Nelson, Ph.D., will co-lead a research effort by UVM investigators and colleagues from France, Germany, Massachusetts, and Iowa that will focus on small vessel disease of the brain, funded by a five-year, $6 million grant from the Fondation Leducq Transatlantic Networks of Excellence Program. Anne Joutel, M.D., Ph.D., research director of INSERM at the University of Paris, France, is the other co-leader and the grant's European coordinator. The group's award was one of only four grants given by the Fondation. The team's research will focus on uncovering details regarding the mechanisms that cause cerebral small vessel disease of the brain, a condition that accounts for roughly 25 to 30 percent of ischemic strokes, is a leading cause of cognitive decline and disability, and is linked to high blood pressure. Nelson is an expert in the contractility of small arteries inside the brain. This is the second Fondation Leducq award received by UVM researchers in the past eight years. Professor and Chair Emeritus of Pathology Edwin Bovill, M.D., received one of the first four such awards in 2004, which focused on blood-clotting disorders.

New Pew Biomedical Scholar Alimeen Shen, Ph.D.

In June, the Pew Charitable Trusts announced that Aimeen Shen, Ph.D., assistant professor of microbiology and molecular genetics, is among 22 of the nation's most innovative young researchers to be named a 2012 Pew Scholar in the Biomedical Sciences. As a Pew Scholar, she joins a prestigious community that includes Nobel Prize winners, MacArthur Fellows, and recipients of the Albert Lasker Medical Research Award.

Shen is among three College of Medicine faculty members to have received this award, including Ralph Budd, M.D., professor of medicine and director of immunobiology, and Sylvie Dubilhe, Ph.D., professor of microbiology and molecular genetics.

Launched in 1985, the Pew Scholars Program in the Biomedical Sciences identifies and invests in talented researchers in medicine or biomedical sciences. By backing them early in their careers, this program enables promising scientists to take calculated risks and follow unanticipated leads to advance human health. The program is rigorously competitive, and recipients receive $240,000 over four years to pursue their research without restriction.

Shen has studied how temperature is sensed at the molecular level of bacteria. She determined a novel method for regulating the gene expression of the flagella that help these bacteria move. As a postdoctoral fellow, she switched to a new organism and different approach and devised a procedure for isolating bacterial pili that share a particular activity, providing a new landscape for drug discovery.

3 Questions for Ramin Ahmadi, M.D., M.P.H.

Chair of Medical Education and Research at Danbury Hospital/ Western Connecticut Health Network and Associate Professor of Medicine at the UVM College of Medicine.


VM: How does the presence of UVM medical students add to Danbury Hospital?

RA: Our relationship with the College is a key part of Danbury Hospital's evolution into an academic medical center. I think it enriches the professional lives of everyone here. We're attracting more academic faculty who provide education and research in their work. We have 164 physicians involved in teaching who are now faculty members. Research has also increased. In the last three years the number of original research projects at our institution has grown sevenfold. The number of peer-reviewed publications has increased tenfold. It's good for our patients, too. As medical educators, we believe intrinsically that medical education and research have positive impacts on patient care. Students and residents keep us "on our toes," and constantly thinking about the decisions we make. Patients feel this, I believe, and see Danbury as a place that's in touch with the latest in research and education and care.

VM: Have you found UVM students well prepared to enter the clinical environment at Danbury?

RA: The integrated curriculum and the thorough use of simulation make them ready to contribute in the clinic right away. The adjustment comes into play in lifestyle issues, as Danbury is a very different place from Vermont. We've found that we need to take action to provide UVM students with a lifestyle and a lively environment around their clinical activity. That has been a process. I think the students who come here in the future will know a lot more about Danbury and where to find what they need. At the same time, Danbury's differences are a key strength. Our diverse clinical population increases cultural competency and provides the students with a much more diverse pathology than they may see in Burlington alone. And we offer the perspective of a different culture within the daily operations of the hospital. That's important for students to absorb as they plan their future residencies and careers.

VM: We've heard a lot about a new global health initiative at Danbury. How is that going?

RA: Yes, we've really excited about our new global health program. One of the founders of the Yale global health program in Africa, Majid Sadigh, M.D., has just joined us to direct the program. Dr. Sadigh has worked in the past in Africa with a number of faculty from UVM. He's built an exciting program with sites in Haiti, Uganda, and Russia; and we're hoping to subsequently expand that to China and Argentina. Students can take part in our tropical medicine and global health lecture series, then start working with Dr. Sadigh and other UVM mentors to develop a global health project. They'll gain field experience in another part of the world, and then work with their mentors to put the project in manuscript form and publish it. These experiences can be transformative for the students and their mentors, no matter what career path the students may eventually choose.
At this year’s Commencement in Ira Allen Chapel, 113 students — 63 women and 50 men — in the College of Medicine’s Class of 2012 strode across the stage to receive their medical degrees. A large part of the College’s Class of 2012 — 19 students — are pursuing pediatrics as a specialty; 17 students have gone into internal medicine; 14 into family medicine; and 11 are in emergency medicine residencies. The remaining 52 students are training in a wide range of other specialties, including anesthesia, surgery, and obstetrics and gynecology. A total of 14 students are serving their residencies at Fletcher Allen Health Care. The Commencement speaker was G. Scott Waterman, M.D., associate dean for student affairs and professor of psychiatry, who has served in the Office of Medical Student Education for eight years and was among 19 faculty members retiring from the College of Medicine. Prior to the hooding and conferring degrees of the medical students, Ira M. Bernstein, M.D., senior associate dean for research, recognized the College’s doctorate and master’s degree recipients. William Jeffries, Ph.D., senior associate dean for medical student education, announced the names of Class of 2012 awards and honors recipients. Student speaker Melissa Marotta Houser presented an address to her classmates.
Russell Tracy, Ph.D., stands in the “freezer farm” of the Laboratory for Clinical Biochemistry Research, where millions of blood samples are safely stored.

Russell Tracy, Ph.D., directs the UVM Laboratory for Clinical Biochemistry Research; lectures in pathology and biochemistry; travels regularly to meet with collaborators on the countless multicenter, multidisciplinary studies in which his lab has a role; and routinely writes and reviews grants and articles for publication. Yet he describes his days as nothing more than play.

“Humans don’t want to work,” Tracy explains. “Play is being able to spend your day doing something you think of as productive, and being very comfortable in how your day goes. If you can do that, then you’re playing, not working, and the output is almost always much better than if you’re cutting against the grain and working all day.” When speaking with graduate students today, he tells them to focus not so much on the content — whether it’s cancer, cell biology, or heart disease matters less than that each person finds work that lets his or her brain function the way it’s most able to, which he says is one definition of play.

According to Tracy, however, most people have no idea how their own brains work. So he suggests to the graduates that they ask themselves, “What would ten people who know me say about why I’m smart?” He’s not looking for a list of accomplishments; rather, he wants them to consider what they’ve done as a process to demonstrate intelligence. Using himself as an example, he often shares with others a binder filled with his elaborate doodles, dated and titled with the meetings at which he drew them.

“I keep [the binder],” Tracy says, “because I find it illustrative to say to people, ‘There’s lots of ways to be productive and smart.’” The doodles, he explains, don’t mean he’s not paying attention — on the contrary, he

idea

man

Russell Tracy, Ph.D., followed his own special path to build a distinguished research and administrative career, and in the process has helped foster the work of many others.

by Sarah Zobel | photographs by Mario Morgado
listens intently, and creating the drawings helps him stay focused on the discussions. But like most people with a mild to moderate attention deficit hyperactivity phenotype, it took a while for Tracy to figure himself out.

As an undergraduate at LeMoyne College, a Jesuit school in Syracuse, New York, Tracy was “the smart guy in class who never did well on tests.” He majored in biology, thinking he should go to medical school, and minored in philosophy and theology. But it was in the latter classes that he earned his best grades, while barely passing biology and chemistry. His senior year, he dropped his genetics course to focus on Teilhard de Chardin, a Christian philosopher, much to the dismay of the chair of the biology department, who called to point out what he deemed to be Tracy’s mistake. Tracy didn’t care that he wouldn’t be accepted by a medical school. At that point, he wanted to engage in pure thought.

“I remember taking a week off from classes to work on decision making,” he says. “Who does that?”

After graduating with his degree in biology in 1971, Tracy considered joining the Navy, until he realized that he’d have to undergo three years of schooling before even being allowed on a submarine. Feeling a sense of aimlessness, he took jobs selling Oriental rugs and tending bar. It was only by chance that he saw a poster announcing graduate biochemistry work at Syracuse University.

Because his grades wouldn’t have allowed him to matriculate, Tracy decided — “a little bit impulsively” — to buy a few credit hours’ worth of biochemistry courses. It was 1972, and though his ponytailed fellow students were walking around campus in combat boots, Tracy cut

“A lot of modern cardiovascular research... would not have evolved without Russ playing such a big role in stimulating investigators to work together.”

— Lew Kuller, M.D., Dr. P.H., Distinguished University Professor of Public Health Department of Epidemiology University of Pittsburgh
Russell Tracy, Ph.D.

**Professor, Departments of Pathology and Medicine**

1997–present

Member of the University of Vermont Faculty since 1984

Senior Associate Dean for Research & Academic Affairs, UVM College of Medicine, 2001–2009

Interim Associate Dean for Research, UVM College of Medicine, 2000–2001

Associate Director of Clinical Chemistry, Fletcher Allen Health Care, 1995–1997

Core Laboratory Director, General Clinical Research Center and Slims Obesity and Nutrition Research Center, UVM College of Medicine, 1993–1995

Assistant Professor of Pathology, University of Rochester (N.Y.) 1983–1984

Postdoctoral Research, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn., 1978–1983

Consultant, Molecular Anatomy Program, Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne, Ill.

**EDUCATION**

LeMoyne College, Syracuse, N.Y.

B.S., Biology, 1971

Syracuse University, Syracuse, N.Y.,

Ph.D., Biochemistry, 1978

Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn.,


**University Scholar, University of Vermont, 2009**

**Author of more than 400 published peer-reviewed articles.**

**SELECTED HONORS**

2006–2015 AHA Council on Epidemiology & Disease Prevention Leadership Committee

Authorized article listed in the “most overall cited articles since 2012” in New England Journal of Medicine, two articles in “Top 50 Cited Articles in Circulation.”

The Bernie Zaw Award for Research — Lipoproteins and Vascular Disease, American Association for Clinical Chemistry, 2005

The Kelly West Lecture, University of Oklahoma Medical Center, 2005

Advisory Board member, journal of Thrombosis and Haemostasis, 2004–present

Fellow, American Heart Association Council on Arteriosclerosis, Thrombosis and Vascular Biology, 2001

Editorial Board Member, Arteriosclerosis, Thrombosis and Vascular Biology, 2000–present

**THE TRACY FILE**

Russell Tracy, Ph.D.

**OFFICE OF THE EDITOR IN CHIEF:**

**VOL. 49, ISSUE 2 • 2012**

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

TRACY INTERACTS WITH MANY MEMBERS OF THE LABORATORY FOR CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTRY RESEARCH STAFF IN THE COURSE OF HIS DAY. HE SITS WITH LAB COORDINATOR ELAINE CORNELL (LEFT) AND RESEARCH TECHNICIAN APRIL PERRY (RIGHT).
At any given time, the Laboratory for Clinical Biochemistry Research (LCBR) has a role in hundreds of projects, serving as gatekeeper for multicenter cohort studies around the world. The grandfather of these is the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute’s Cardiovascular Health Study, an ongoing study of risk factors for the development of cardiovascular heart disease in people age 65 and older.

The LCBR staff is also currently extensively involved in the U.S. government’s $70 million exome sequencing program, including organizing the study, writing papers, and directing the work. They’re also collaborating on viral repositories with federal government institutes, including the NHLBI, the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, and the National Cancer Institute. In 2011, the LCBR was awarded close to $20 million from the U.S. government.

Staff is responsible for all aspects of studies, from design through manuscript production. They participate in clinical studies, clinical trials, and epidemiology studies. Information about the lab and its studies, as well as links to faculty publications, can be found at [www.med.uvm.edu/lcbr](http://www.med.uvm.edu/lcbr).

Most of the 150 freezers in the Laboratory for Clinical Biochemistry Research maintain their blood samples at a constant -80°C temperature. Within the freezers the sample vials are kept in color-coded boxes (above).
Imagine you’re a physician with a disaster-relief group. You’ve bounced over bad roads to get to a remote cholera clinic, leaving behind Internet and cell-tower access. As you treat patient after patient, you keep careful medical records. But instead of using paper charts or a laptop, you stand at the bedside and touch the information into your shirt-pocket smartphone, the standard touch-screen-equipped mobile phone with advanced computing ability that is used by millions of people every day. Once in range, your phone (and those of your colleagues at other remote clinics) uploads these records to a central server, where the data may not only benefit your patients in the future, but also help decision-makers monitor the outbreak all over the region.

Thanks in part to UVM medical student Nicholas Wilkie, that scenario may soon be reality. As a volunteer with the humanitarian-aid organization Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF, also known as Doctors Without Borders), Wilkie is developing software that stores cholera patients’ medical records on a smartphone. The organization plans to pilot the software in several months. “We’re going to have phones on the ground in Africa,” says Wilkie, who wants to train in emergency medicine and become a career physician with MSF. If all goes well, the program may be adapted for other diseases, and perhaps shared with other organizations that do disease surveillance.

The third-year student, who is also a veteran programmer, was inspired to write to MSF in June 2011, after hearing Professor of Surgery Bruce Leavitt, M.D.’81 present a Medical Reunion lecture to current students about his experiences with MSF in Nigeria and Sri Lanka. (Leavitt described his Sri Lanka experience in the Spring 2010 issue of Vermont Medicine.) In those field hospitals, Leavitt says, the patient’s surgical record consisted of handwritten notes in manila folders. “At the end of the day, they’d pile them up in a room in a corner,” he recalls.

Nicholas Wilkie ’14 holds a version of the electronic health record for smartphones that he developed for Doctors Without Borders. He is standing in the College of Medicine Commons, where he heard the lecture by Bruce Leavitt, M.D.’81 that inspired the project.
After the talk, Wilkie asked Leavitt if electronic medical records on portable devices would have been useful in the field. “I said ‘Of course! It’s the wave of the future,’” Leavitt says. “There’s no question that I think there could be benefits.” He agreed to serve as an unofficial advisor to Wilkie.

Thus encouraged, Wilkie set out on some Internet research to find the right person to whom he could propose a project. He eventually found his way to Thang Dao, MSF’s Switzerland-based director of information services. “The way I phrased it in my message was: ‘I want to give doctors something they can use on the go,’” says Wilkie.

His timing was fortuitous, as MSF was in the process of changing how it manages patient information. For one thing, the organization is switching from simple spreadsheets to a freeware electronic health record (EHR) program called OpenMRS, which can easily be used and adapted by local hospitals. And MSF’s hardware is changing, too. Its field doctors have long relied on laptops running Microsoft Excel, but when Wilkie’s email arrived, the organization had just decided to outfit its doctors with Android smartphones, which are cheaper, lighter, and less power-hungry than full-fledged computers. Thanks to satellites and towers, it’s easier to get them online. They’re powerful enough to run real software. And they’re ubiquitous, or nearly so.

So Dao suggested that Wilkie think about programming for Android. “We’re putting people back online,” said Dao. “Soon he had written a crucial piece of software, one that gets central computers running OpenMRS and far-flung Androids to talk to each other. ‘It will send electronic health information in a cogent way to the server and record the way that we want it,’ Wilkie explains.

Dao was so impressed that he invited the student to meet with him and his colleagues in Geneva. There, they discussed adapting the design for doctors responding to cholera outbreaks. “We are one of the few organizations in the world that can do a large scale with cholera epidemics,” said Dao. “What was missing for us was how to collect data quickly, and closest to the source of contamination—which is to say in the villages.”

MSF also sent Wilkie to the mHealth conference in Washington, D.C., where he met and received advice from other software experts who work with MSF. “What Nick is doing is only part of a whole re-architecting of the way we’re collecting data in our operations,” said Dao. The pilot of Wilkie’s software will help MSF weigh the feasibility of a large-scale switch from Windows laptops to Android pads and phones. “Nick is one of these people who can launch himself in very thick snow and make a track for us,” says Dao.

Wilkie’s software is built in part on simple concepts or “codes,” says one of his UVM advisors, bioinformatic Indra Neel Sarkar, Ph.D., M.LIS. (Wilkie is also being advised by Elizabeth Chen, Ph.D., who is associate director of biomedical informatics at UVM’s Center for Clinical and Translational Science.) Though parts of any medical record can be in prose form, other components can be broken down into simple units called codes: date of birth, pregnancy status, and name of village, are just a few examples. Wilkie is well aware that his users will be few to begin. “It’s almost like putting codes together to tell the story of a population,” says Sarkar, adding that much of Wilkie’s task has consisted of trying to figure out which codes will be appropriate in the field on a handheld device.

That’s when he reminds himself that focusing on the big picture can save lives too. “Despite the fact that I’m sitting here podcasting others and juggling my lab and plans to discuss it with colleagues at this summer’s MSF USA annual meeting, ‘For huge epidemics, when you’re in a tent with hundreds of people with cholera, it’s got to be better than having all these stacks of paper,’ he said, adding that for surgeons, an EMR could also allow them to store important before-and-after photos of patients’ wounds, which are helpful at follow-up appointments.

Fitting in extensive travel with the ongoing rigors of full-time medical education has not been easy for Wilkie, but professors and administrators at the College of Medicine have gone out of their way to be flexible. He arranged to attend some classes via videoconferencing from Switzerland, while podcasting others and juggling his lab schedule around the Washington, D.C. trip. “Everyone here was so supportive about it,” says Wilkie. And he’s gotten a warm reception from faculty: “Any time I ask somebody to help, they always go far beyond what I would have ever expected,” he said. “I wouldn’t have been able to do this at many other schools.”

“Nick epitomizes what makes UVM and our medical school so special — that we care about real patients, real diseases, trying to solve the problems irrespective of money. It’s trying to cure illnesses for a basic population,” Sarkar says, adding that UVM graduates are encouraged to serve in rural environments.

All Wilkie’s programming has taken many, many hours, something no medical student has in abundance. Wilkie sometimes feels wistful about all his screen time. That’s when he reminds himself that focusing on the big picture can save lives too. “Despite the fact that I’m sitting by myself at that moment,” he says, “that time gets put into something that will hopefully benefit many more patients than I’m going to see in a long time.”

**The Medical Data Tradition Continues**

When his smartphone electronic health record is put into use by Médecins Sans Frontieres (Doctors Without Borders) in Haiti later this year, it will be the latest chapter in the use of scruptulous data collection to help combat the deadly disease of cholera.

Careful plotting of data to eliminate the source of a cholera outbreak has a long history in the medical tradition and, indeed, was a key occurrence in the development of epidemiology, the study of the distribution and patterns of health events.

It is London physician John Snow’s collection of data during the 1854 outbreak of the disease in England’s capital city that is most often cited as the beginning of modern epidemiology. Snow interviewed dozens of cholera victims and their families throughout the London’s Soho district. By carefully plotting information about the daily habits of those who contracted cholera, Snow was able to plausibly argue that its source was one contaminated well on Soho’s Broad street. The well handle was removed, and the outbreak dwindled. Today, Snow’s map (a detail of which is seen above) is considered by many to be the first great weapon in the war on cholera.

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**Nick is One of Those People Who Can Launch Himself into Very Thick Snow and Make a Track for Us.**

—Thang Dao

Director of Information Services Médecins Sans Frontieres

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**You can see a more detailed demonstration by UVM medical student Nicholas Wilkie of some of the important pieces of his smartphone electronic health record.**

Scan the QR code or go to uvm.edu/medicine/ntmedicine. 

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**Vermont Medicine**

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Five Decades, and Still Ticking

Three busy senior medical students decided to complicate their lives a little more in 1962 when they began the continuing tradition of the Pulse yearbook. That heartbeat is going strong after 50 years.

by Edward Neuert

“I was a little hesitant, frankly, because I knew what was going to be involved in doing this, and I already had a lot on my plate,” says Michael Grady, M.D. ’62, as he sits in his Chestnut Hill, Mass., home. The retired pediatrician is recalling the moment in late 1961 when, talking with his two friends and classmates, Sherwin Ritter and Norman Schwartz, the idea suddenly came up: they should start a real yearbook for the College of Medicine, and Grady would be their “voice of experience.”

The years medical students spend at UVM remain treasured memories long afterward, which is reflected in their record support for their alma mater — the College of Medicine consistently ranks in the top three medical schools in the nation for percentage of alumni giving. Another facet in that reflection is the tradition that Grady, Ritter, and Schwartz as co-editors first inaugurated back in the early days of the 1960s: the Pulse, the student organized and staffed annual that celebrates its 50th anniversary this year.

Nationally, the yearbook is an institution in decline; the number of annuals produced in the U.S. is only about 40 percent of what it was 15 years ago. But despite the rise of the Internet, and the pervasiveness of Facebook, there is still something to be said for a memory book that won’t disappear with a crashed hard drive, or be inaccessible when CDs join 8-track tapes in the land of outmoded storage media.

In 1961, there was no Facebook (nor even, yet, a Mark Zuckerberg), nor was there yet computer-aided design and typesetting to speed the production of a publication. Making a yearbook meant doing everything by hand — from taking and developing photographs, to banging out copy in triplicate forms on a typewriter, to setting up the layout boards and mailing the whole lot off to a faraway printer. Michael Grady knew all too well what a time-consuming process it could be: four years earlier, he’d gone through the whole effort as the editor of his Boston College yearbook, the Sub Turri.

Now, in addition to finishing their clinical studies and interviewing for internships and residencies, the three students would immerse themselves part-time in the graphic arts.

First, though, recalls retired orthopedic surgeon Sherwin Ritter, M.D. ’62, there was the little matter of paying for it all. “It doesn’t seem like much now, but each copy cost fifteen dollars then, and we weren’t really sure how we were going to get it,” says Ritter. But Dean Robert Slater, M.D., was supportive, and the trio found a strong champion in A. Bradley Soule, M.D. ’28, who was then chairman of the Department of Radiology...
Take a trip down Memory Lane (even if they’re someone else’s memories) by flipping through the inaugural 1962 edition of the Pulse yearbook online. Go to: uvm.edu/medicine/vtmedicine

and an influential voice within both the administration and the alumni community. Slater and Soule arranged for a special fee to be added to the tuition bill. “I can still hear a few people screaming bloody murder about it,” remembers Ritter. “But we got the money we needed, and most students supported it.” They also had a secret weapon in their fellow senior student, Joseph Guardino. “Joe had been in business before he came to med school,” says Grady, recalling his late friend and classmate. “He was a great salesman. Once Joe got in the room with you, he wasn’t going to leave before you’d agreed to buy an ad,” says Grady. And buy them they did; flipping through the back pages of that first Pulse today, one is greeted by a host of gone-but-not-forgotten retail landmarks of the Burlington area, from Magram’s department store to Valade’s Terminal Restaurant and Cafeteria, and Winooksi’s Forest Hills Factory Outlet. One other member of the class of ’62, Daniel Palant, rounded out the crew as faculty section editor. After securing funding, what followed were several months of finding a book producer (they ultimately went with a printer from Texas), organizing and writing the book’s text, and taking candid photos, group shots, and individual studio portraits of all four classes of medical students. The “studio” was the kitchen of Ritter’s apartment on Loomis Street. “I hung up a sheet and got an old folding camera with a leather bellows. I took every portrait and, indeed, almost every other shot in the book with that old thing.” Some of those shots were straightforward depictions of the life on campus at the old College of Medicine building at the corner of Pearl and Prospect Streets and at the new Medical Alumni Building situated next to where the Given Building would soon rise. More photos were taken where medical students were then clinically educated — the Mary Fletcher and Bishop DeGeestbridand hospitals. Some shots were more complicated, including a photo of the façade of Mary Fletcher Hospital with lit windows in the shape of the numerals 1–9–6–2. Today, a designer could use Photoshop to achieve that effect in five minutes. Fifty years ago, it was mostly accomplished by a crew of switch-flicking students running through the hospital corridors a few minutes after dusk and explaining to many patients that they would be sitting in the twilight for a few minutes.

The three co-editors dedicated the first yearbook to the people of Vermont, and they secured a dedicatory letter from then Governor F. Ray Keyser, Jr. “Things were a lot simpler back then,” says Grady. “We called up the governor’s office, asked if we could come see him, and they told us, sure, come on down.”

After all their hard work, Grady, Ritter, and Schwartz’s excitement was high in late spring of ’62 when cartons filled with the first Pulse today, one is greeted by a host of gone-but-not-forgotten retail landmarks of the Burlington area, from Magram’s department store to Valade’s Terminal Restaurant and Cafeteria, and Winooksi’s Forest Hills Factory Outlet. One other member of the class of ’62, Daniel Palant, rounded out the crew as faculty section editor. After securing funding, what followed were several months of finding a book producer (they ultimately went with a printer from Texas), organizing and writing the book’s text, and taking candid photos, group shots, and individual studio portraits of all four classes of medical students. The “studio” was the kitchen of Ritter’s apartment on Loomis Street. “I hung up a sheet and got an old folding camera with a leather bellows. I took every portrait and, indeed, almost every other shot in the book with that old thing.” Some of those shots were straightforward depictions of the life on campus at the old College of Medicine building at the corner of Pearl and Prospect Streets and at the new Medical Alumni Building situated next to where the Given Building would soon rise. More photos were taken where medical students were then clinically educated — the Mary Fletcher and Bishop DeGeestbridand hospitals. Some shots were more complicated, including a photo of the façade of Mary Fletcher Hospital with lit windows in the shape of the numerals 1–9–6–2. Today, a designer could use Photoshop to achieve that effect in five minutes. Fifty years ago, it was mostly accomplished by a crew of switch-flicking students running through the hospital corridors a few minutes after dusk and explaining to many patients that they would be sitting in the twilight for a few minutes.

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After all their hard work, Grady, Ritter, and Schwartz’s excitement was high in late spring of ’62 when cartons filled with the new publications arrived at the College. But, to their collective horror, a printing error had saturated every photo with ink. “Everything was just a mushy blob,” recalls Ritter. Luckily, the printer agreed to make good, and a new, corrected print run arrived in time for distribution before graduation, which in those days occurred in mid-June.

In the five decades since, in changing graphic styles as the years have unrolled, the Pulse has recorded the yearly changes of the heart of the College: its students. And it is that bonding of students and alma mater that Sherwin Ritter recalls most strongly today: “They were four years of memorable experiences and associations with classmates and medical school faculty,” he says. “Memories and values that have been with me for all my years in post-graduate training and throughout my years of practice.”

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 1955 (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.
I’ve been around the UVM campus long enough to have seen many of the regular cycles of academic medical center life — the new faces of first-year medical students each August, for instance, or the sending off of graduates to their residency programs each May. So I shouldn’t be surprised to find yet another cycle reaching its end, this time one that involves me. I can’t believe that my two years as Medical Alumni Association president have passed so quickly; but I can look back on this term with fond memories of all the fellow alumni I’ve met and with whom I’ve interacted.

Two years ago, in my first President’s Corner letter, I expressed my hope that we would grow the regional presence of the MAA for alumni outside Vermont. We’ve seen that alumni across New England have responded well here on campus, those students are prepared for their clinical rotations with, Beach, where they are exposed to an even greater range of patients and medical conditions than ever before.

Danbury Hospital in Connecticut. One of the things my fellow alumni learn at these meetings is that a broad clinical experience current students have available to them. At any moment, there are now dozens of third-year medical students learning in clinics in Vermont, Maine, Connecticut, and in West Palm Beach, where they are exposed to an even greater range of patients and medical conditions than ever before.

Here on campus, those students are prepared for their clinical rotations with, Beach, where they are exposed to an even greater range of patients and medical conditions than ever before. The current medical student’s experience. As good as our time here as students was, our time now, both on campus and through his longstanding efforts on the MAA, is what a broad clinical experience current students have available to them. At any moment, there are now dozens of third-year medical students learning in clinics in Vermont, Maine, Connecticut, and in West Palm Beach, where they are exposed to an even greater range of patients and medical conditions than ever before.

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Beers Scholarship Fund Grows

The late Mark Beers, M.D.’82, cared deeply about his patients, about scholarship, and about the school where his medical career began. An internationally recognized geriatrician, Dr. Beers dedicated his career to improving the health care of older people. He developed the reference for generic medication prescription that is now universally known as the Beers Criteria, and co-edited the Merck Manual for Geriatrics. At the time of his death in 2009, from complications of type 1 diabetes, he was editor-in-chief emeritus of the Merck Manuals and a professor at the University of Miami’s Miller School of Medicine. He was centrally loyal to the College of Medicine—the only medical school in the country that would admit him in 1978 with his medical condition. To honor that bond, Dr. Beers instituted the Beers Scholarship Fund; this year, his surviving spouse and partner of 33 years, Stephen Urice, committed an additional contribution to the Beers fund of $30,000 in honor of the Class of 1982 30th Reunion.

Charitable Giving Annuity Funds Mackay-Page Chair

Perhaps the most longstanding alumnus to be regularly seen on the UVM campus today is H. Gordon “Gordie” Page, M.D. ’45. An emeritus professor of surgery, Page regularly attends grand rounds and other department functions, and is a yearly participant at medical reunions, where he shares memories with both his classmates and medical students who learned surgery from him for more than five decades. A faithful supporter of the College of Medicine, Dr. Page has in the past established the H. Gordon Page, M.D.’45 surgery lectureship, and the H. Gordon Page, M.D. ’77 Cancer Center. An emeritus professor of surgery, Page regularly attends grand rounds and other department functions, and is a yearly participant at medical reunions, where he shares memories with both his classmates and medical students who learned surgery from him for more than five decades. A faithful supporter of the College of Medicine, Dr. Page has in the past established the H. Gordon Page, M.D.’45 surgery lectureship, and the H. Gordon Page, M.D. ’77 Cancer Center. Today, Page established a charitable giving annuity that assures the perpetual funding of the Mackay-Page Chair in Surgery, currently held by James Hebert, M.D. ’77. Page’s bequest is the first of its kind under the College’s Annuity Funds program: “Pig and I have attended every reunion since 1972 and I am ecstatic about seeing some of you for the first time in 50 years!”

College of Medicine Marathon Team Raises Funds for Cancer Survivors

On May 27, 2012, nearly 100 members of the College of Medicine Marathon Team joined more than 7,000 total participants to run in the KeyBank Vermont City Marathon in Burlington. Along with teams from Fletcher Allen Health Care and the Vermont Cancer Center, the College of Medicine team raised funds and awareness for Steps to Wellness, a medically based rehabilitation program that serves the unique needs of cancer survivors. Steps to Wellness uses a strength and endurance training regimen to help cancer survivors get back on track. The steps to Wellness program and the marathon teams are a natural fit: both endure physical and emotional challenges, and both prove that having a team can make all the difference. The marathon team was organized by Class of 2015 medical students Benjamin Clements, Amanda Dauten, and Maria Li, and raised nearly $30,000.

Reunion Giving 2012

The Celebration of Achievements at Reunion 2012 was an occasion to herald the accomplishments of alumni from across 50 years. It also served as a venue to highlight the collective generosity of all those classes. Ruth Seeler, M.D.’62, past Medical Alumni Association president, presented Dean Rick Morin with a check for $389,057 that will help increase funding for student scholarship and medical education for today’s aspiring physicians and scientists at the College.
2012 Medical Alumni Association Awards

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. The 2012 awards received their honours at the Celebration of Achievements during Reunion 2012 on June 8.

DISTINGUISHED ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Susan E. Coffin, M.D.'97
Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia and University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. Coffee honors those qualities for her distinguished research contributions to the understanding of the epidemiology of nosocomial pediatric infections, and work on infectious diseases prevention projects in healthcare and community settings in Botswana and Ghana. Coffin’s interests include pediatric, infectious diseases, public health, vaccines and vaccine-preventable diseases; infection control and healthcare-acquired infections, and quality improvement.

Mary J. Hamel, M.D.'92
Medical Epidemiologist, Malaria Branch, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Dr. Hamel is a medical epidemiologist with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Senior Malaria Advisor for the President’s Malaria Initiative. She has extensive field experience and expertise in malaria epidemiology and is a principal investigator for phase 3 clinical trial of a new malarina vaccine that shows promise of reducing the incidence of malaria in children in sub-Saharan Africa by some 50 percent. The study was cited as one of TIME magazine’s Top 10 Medical studies, music and history departments.

Mylan C. Cohen, M.D.’87, M.P.H.
Medical Director, Non-invasive Cardiology, Divisional Medical Center. Dr. Cohen trained in internal medicine at New England Deaconess Hospital in Boston, where he completed clinical and research fellowship training in cardiology, and was chief of the Cardiology Division at New England Deaconess Medical Center. He is a clinical professor of medicine at Tufts University School of Medicine. He specializes in clinical cardiology and cardiovascular imaging, including echocardiography and nuclear cardiology. Cohen is a past president of the American Society of Nuclear Cardiology and has special interests in diabetes, and has edited the AHA/ACC practice guidelines for diabetes mellitus and coronary artery disease. He is also principal investigator for clinical trials for diabetes mellitus.

Mary E. Maloney, M.D.'77
Chief, Division of Dermatology, Professor of Medicine, and Director of Dermatological Surgery, University of Massachusetts Medical School. Dr. Maloney is presently the chief of the division of dermatology at UMass Memorial Healthcare. She is the author of The Dermatologic Surgical Suite: Design and Materials and has edited two textbooks, Cutaneous Oncology and Surgical Dermatopathology. She is a past president of the American Academy of Dermatologic Surgery and past secretary of the American Society of Dermatologic Surgery. In 1999, she chaired both the Council on Education and the Scientific Assembly Council for the American Academy of Dermatology, with responsibility for the education and management of the largest dermatological scientific session in the world. Maloney has also served on the board of directors of the American Academy of Dermatology.

EARLY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Kristin M. Page-Charthrand, M.D.’02
Medical Instructor, Department of Pediatrics, Duke University School of Medicine. Dr. Page-Charthrand is a board-certified pediatric hematologist-oncologist at Duke University Medical Center. She has additional specialized training in the field of pediatric bone marrow transplantation and devotes her clinical time to treating children with life-threatening diseases, such as resistant malignancies, inherited metabolic diseases and immunodeficiencies. Her clinical research focuses on assessing potency of umbilical cord blood units used for hematopoietic stem cell transplantation with the ultimate goal of improving outcomes after this potentially life-saving procedure.
Dan Palant wrote that “Barbara and I are very much looking forward to seeing you all in Burlington at our 50th.” Dan and Barbara joined many of the members of the 50th reunion class in June.

Neil F. Mara wrote: “Retired, splitting time between Naples, Florida, and Canton Long Point, Conn.”

1963

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H. Alan Walker
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John J. Murray
30 Donald Cape writes that he is “Enjoying ‘retirement’ as a biomedical consultant.”

1964

Anthony P. Belmont
1964
(518) 561-8991
anthonybelmont@aluma.uvm.edu

John J. Murray
John J. Murray
Neil F. Mara
Dan Palant

1965

George A. Little
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(802) 436-2138
garla@dartmouth.edu

1966

Robert George Sellig
30 Overlook Drive
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(516) 793-7914
sellig@uic.com

C. Millard Simmons
5165 Grass Marsh Drive
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milsim@comcast.net

1967

John F. Dick II
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Salisbury, VT 05769
(802) 352-6625
johnfdick@comcast.net

1968

David Jay Keller
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(802) 773-2620
djkhk60@comcast.net

1969

Joseph H. Vargas III
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Rutland, VT 05701
(802) 775-4671
jvargas@uvm.edu

Sharon Lee Hostler is “Still working as senior associate dean of the School of Medicine and Vice Provost of the University of Virginia, creating leadership programs for faculty, chairs and deans across all 11 schools — great fun to work with brilliant, creative men and women from all disciplines. Next year, will make Spring Voyage with Ssemiteevoe, Sea with 600 undergraduates, 700 lifeguards, 80 faculty and 200 staff! I am Dean — a circumnavigation? Please join us — 106 days and 15 ports of call in Asia, Africa, India.”

Wooly Doane reports that he is “Retired and spending time between homes in Maui and Florida, as a member of the PGA (Pathetic Golf Association). Pat and I have three adult children — my daughter, son-in-law, and grandson — in London, UK.”

1970

Raymond Joseph Anton
1511 General Rowe Road
Russell, MA 01071
(413) 588-5859
ray@rsanton.com

John F. Beamis, Jr.
1288 Kapiolani, Apt. 1605
Honolulu, HI 96814
elland@mindspring.com

1971

Wayne E. Pasanen
117 Ingald Street
North Andover, MA 01845
(978) 682-9893
wpasanen@dowellcentral.org

Edwin G. Sigsen
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(401) 849-6463
csiegen@cox.net

1972

F. Farrell Collins Jr.
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(910) 295-2429

1973

James M. Betts
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Almaden, CA 95122
(408) 523-1920
jbetts@mail.uc.edu

1974

Douglas M. Eddy
5 Tenhawk Road
Windham, NH 03087
(603) 414-2164
dheadydt@att.net

Cajsa Schumacher
73 Scout Avenue
Albany, NY 12203
cajsa.schumacher@gmail.com

Edward Blanchette writes: “After 25 years as the clinical director for the Connecticut Department of Correction & Infectious Disease, I was a consultant heading the HIV and Hepatitis C program. I am now working for the State of Rhode Island. Lyn and I are both healthy and expecting our third grandchild — in London, UK.”

1975

Ellen Andrews
199 Millard Road
Pinehurst, NC 28374
(910) 295-6464
t佯lyndt@spring.com

Jim Cummins reports that he has “Just moved to the sunny South!”

1976

Don P. Chan
Cardiac Associates of New Hampshire
Suite 103
246 Pleasant Street
Concord, NH 03301
(603) 224-6070
dpcn@aol.com

Marga Sproul writes: “Our older son, Adrian, (born during our senior year) is graduating from Medical University of South Carolina with M.D./Ph.D. This May. He will do a residency in anesthesiology at UVA. Our younger son, Daniel, is a computer programmer at Harmonx, a video game company Cambridge, Mass. He earned credits for his work on Rock Band 3. Marga is studying English Literature at UVM while continuing part time practice of Family Medicine. Glenn retired after 41 years of teaching college math. It was a great joy to see classmates at our reunion last June!”

Peter Wilk reports that he is “Back living in Maine, resubmitting my pathology practice in Portland after three years as executive director of Physicians for Social Responsibility. I am still doing my part as a volunteer advocate for PSR to preserve this fragile world of ours. Thanks to all other UVM alumni who help support that effort.”

1977

James C. Hebert
583 Stockbridge Road
Charlotte, VT 05454
james.hebert@vdnet.com

Mark A. Popovsky
22 Newcastle Rd.
Sharon, MA 02067
(781) 784-8824
mpopovsky@haemonetics.com

Michael A. Calica writes: “While I will be unable to attend our 45th Reunion, it has given me pause to reflect on my life and what I learned from teachers, classmates and patients remain fresh and make up the Mississippi River to the Outer Banks of North Carolina. Am the principal medical

Jeffords Quality Care Symposium September 28 Burlington, VT

Imaging Seminar September 28-30 Stowe, VT

Breast Cancer Conference October 5 Burlington, VT

Critical Care Conference October 17-20 Essex, VT

Continuing Medical Education 2012 Conference Schedule

Advanced Dermatology September 18-21 Burlington, VT

Northern NE Neurological Society October 26-27 North Conway, NH

Neurology for the Non-Neurologist October 26 North Conway, NH

Bridging the Divide: Conference Fostering Collaboration Among Primary Care, Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and Behavioral Health November 7, 2012 Burlington, VT

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: University of Vermont Continuing Medical Education 128 Lakeside Avenue Suite 100 Burlington, VT 05405 (802) 656-2292 info@cmc.uvm.edu
five years in my own practice, where I intended to be all things medical to the population of Vergennes while raising two children. After my partner split I became the physician at Middlebury College for 14 years, until that job was replaced by a primarily sports medicine position. Following a year of substituting in Fletcher Allen I.M. practices, I embarked on the new journey into the realm of psychiatry, as an internist: filling a psychiatric nurse practitioner position. Much to my bitter disappointment, the position at Howard was eliminated after a few months and with anomalous shifts in the pre-hospitalist era in Vermont, I ended up working as a medical reviewer at Larry Weed’s company, Problem Knowledge Coupless (P3C). Several months ago I was part of a “reduction in force” there and, after a stint doing disability exams, declared myself retired when I became of a certain age in December. My youngest son having childhood-onset schizophrenia played in, as did the condition of my 94-year-old mother who lives nearby, in addition to my own health problems, which include being a breast cancer survivor. When I said to my cancer surgeon “so much for a good healthy diet and plenty of aerobic exercise,” he replied: “no no — You are a much better operative candidate because of it,” so I guess all the pavement pounding was worth something. I am well underway with my retirement plan to do as much as possible to help people suffering from serious mental illnesses and their families. I have been involved in NAMI VT, the VT State Hospital Advisory Committee, and other efforts at the state level for the past several years, but I am considering considerably more volunteer work for that cause now. Being a physician serves me well in the “mental health” arena. I had it to do over again I’ll be a psychiatrist, but even ten years ago decided I was too old for another residency! The wonderful wife of my son the lawyer and mother of our granddaughter, who is now an ophthalmologist in Canandaigua, N.Y. My husband and I have three kids in college this year but that will expand to five kids in college next year. No reason to say there is no retirement in sight!”}

1979
Sarah Ann McCarty
smccarty@aucmd.edu

1980
Richard Nicholas Hubbell
80 Summit Street
Burlington, VT 05401
(802) 862-5551
rich.hubbell@vtmednet.org

Robert M. Kershner reports: “I am pleased to announce that in February 2012, the District Board of Trustees of the University of Vermont College of Medicine in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, unanimously awarded Robert M. Kershner, M.D. (’80), M.S. (’77), F.A.C.S. Continuing Faculty Contract, the equivalent of tenure as a full professor. I am an ophthalmologist, and have taught at Palm Beach State College for five years, first as an Adjunct Professor and then as a Professor of Anatomy, Physiology and Microbiology. This year I was designated as the Chairman of the new Department of Ophthalmic Medical Technology and am responsible for the building of the department and the development of a two-year Associate in Science Degree Program in Ophthalmic Medical Technology that will train and certify Ophthalmic Assistants, Technicians, and Technologists.”

1981
Louis Polish
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1984
Richard C. Shumway
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1985
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John Dewey
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john@deweylawyers.com

Mary Harkins Becker is practicing emergency medicine and hospice care in Portland, Maine.

Eric Shapiro is “Managing Partner in an orthopaedic surgery group in Boca Raton, FL. Last child graduating from H.S. — will be empty nester next year. If anyone comes to the University of Vermont to speak, please make sure to have David Park has been named the American Thoracic Society Outstanding Educator for 2012.

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John Dewey
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john@deweylawyers.com

Mary Harkins Becker is practicing emergency medicine and hospice care in Portland, Maine.

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Jennifer Woodson writes: “We are enjoying life in San Diego, Calif. Peter continues to work as an E.D. doc for the Navy. I plan to return to work in the fall because I am “the college fund!” Our older graduates from high school in June and the graduation festivities conflict with the UVM reunion, so have a great around!”

and hope to make it to UVM next time catching up. We plan to attend with the UVM reunion, so have a great and the graduation festivities conflict 

oldest graduates from high school in June

2007

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Waitsfield, VT 05673

allyson.bolduc@vtmednet.org

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south Burlington, VT 05403

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(See page 4 for details.)

student affairs.

College of Medicine’s associate dean for

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UVM Yotsuka

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Joanne Taplin Romeyn

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Michael Jim Lee

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Julie A. Alosi

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Richard J. Parent

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Amanda Coates

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Deborah Rabinowitz Abrams

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2007

Allison Colleen

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Scott Millay

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Anne Coates

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2008

Rebecca Brakeyle

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Kate Murray Mitchell

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Campbell Stewart

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2009

Michael Alavian

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Pei Chen

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Heidi Schumacher

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2010

Mary O’Leary Ready

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Amanda Coates

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2011

Carrie Moats

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Nicholas Auchmann

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2012

Melissa Marotta Houser

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Auna Leatham

auna.leatham@gmail.com

Meghan Beucher

meghan.beucher@gmail.com

Martha Choate Monson

martha.monson@hsc.utah.edu

Remembering Jim Bates

For any student at the College of Medicine from the late 1950s through the 1980s, James H. “Jim” Bates, who died at the Green Mountain Nursing Home in Colchester, Vt. on April 13, was a familiar face, and an administrator who could always help.

Former Dean William luginbuhl, M.D., recalls: “Fifty years ago it seemed that Jim Bates was the staff of the Dean’s Office — or at least the major part of it. Jim was friendly, supportive, a reasonable person. I never knew him to get angry or raise his voice. He never said any request was unreasonable or cited administrative roadblocks. He seemed to get along with everyone from department chairmen to the various support staff including the all important departmental secretaries, maintenance staff, and housekeepers. In spite of limited resources, things got done and ran smoothly. Budgets were kept current and stayed in balance. It could not have been an easy task. He just made it look that way.”

With the rapid growth of the College in the 1970s, and the ten-fold increase in admission applications, Jim focused his attention on this important area. “To applicants he became a counselor and advisor,” recalls Dean Luginbuhl. “The entire process under his direction ran smoothly and seamlessly. It was a credit to Jim’s abilities and an asset to the College. Jim outlived many of his colleagues of his era. Those of us still alive remember him with admiration, affection, and respect.”
Obituaries

Dean H. Edison, M.D.’42
Dr. Edison died after a short illness on December 23, 2010, at the home of his daughter in Tolland, Conn. He was 94. Prior to moving to Tolland, he resided in Danbury and Suffield, Conn. Dr. Edison was born in Grafton, N.H., and grew up in West Lebanon. He was a member of the class of 1939 of the University of New Hampshire before receiving his M.D. degree from the College of Medicine in 1942. Dr. Edison served in the U.S. Army in World War II, achieving the rank of Major in the Medical Division of the 156th Infantry, 1st Battalion. He trained in Texas and England and took part in the D-Day invasion of Normandy. Upon his return stateside, Dr. Edison served his residency at Danbury Hospital in Connecticut. Following his residency, he set up practice in family medicine in Danbury and served many generations of residents before retiring at the age of 82. At the time of his retirement, he was still making house calls. He was a lifelong learner and took pride in his great facility with languages, conversing with patients in any number of foreign languages. He served as Chief of Staff at Danbury Hospital and for many years as the team doctor for the Danbury High School football team. He was known for never wearing a coat or a hat in the snow — even to the Thanksgiving Day game.

Paul H. Crandall, M.D.’47
Dr. Crandall, who co-founded the UCLA Department of Neurosurgery and pioneered surgical approaches to the treatment of temporal-lobe epilepsy, died March 15 from complications related to pneumonia. He was 89. The youngest of seven children, Dr. Crandall died March 15, 2012, following an extended hospitalization in Fletcher Allen Health Care in Burlington, Vt. He was born on March 17, 1923, in Howland, Maine, and was raised in Brewer, Maine. He was active in scouting and served in WWII as a Civil air patrol spotter. He graduated magna cum laude from University of Maine in 1941, with a degree in engineering physics. He worked as an Eastman Kodak and for Pratt & Whitney, where he was project engineer in the aircraft nuclear engine lab until 1957, at which time he entered medical studies at UVM. While there, he was awarded the Woodrow Prize as the top-ranking second year student, and earned honor society memberships in engineering, physics, and medicine. He was the brother of a surgeon. In 1954, he joined the UCLA School of Medicine as one of three founding members of the neurosurgery division, which became the Department of Neurosurgery in 1980. While at UCLA, Dr. Crandall taught and conducted clinical research for 35 years, retiring as Professor Emeritus in 1988. He launched UCLA’s first research program into the causes and surgical treatment of temporal-lobe epilepsy, a type of epilepsy that is often resistant to drug treatment. His research was funded by grants from the National Institutes, and he performed or supervised surgeries on more than 300 patients, both children and adults. From 1976-77, Crandall served on the U.S. Department of Health’s national commission for epilepsy. He served as president of the American Epilepsy Society in 1979, and was presented with the William G. Lennox Award in 1980 for his groundbreaking work in 1991. He was elected a fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine in 1991 and later received the UVM Medical Alumni Association’s Distinguished Alumni award.

John W. Sturzenberger, M.D.’67
Dr. Sturzenberger died on March 22, 2012, at the Veterans Hospital in Togus, Maine, following a long illness. He was 76 years old. Born in New York City, he spent his early years there and in Buffalo, N.Y., and moved to Burlington, Vt., in 1954. He received both his undergraduate and medical degrees from UVM. During medical school he spent the summer of 1966 as a medical exchange student in Nigeria. Following medical school, he did his medical internship at New England Deaconess Hospital in Boston and a residency at Boston University Hospital in 1968. He was commissioned as a Flight Surgeon in the United States Navy in 1969. After his discharge from the Navy in 1970, he moved to San Francisco to complete a hematology fellowship at the University of California, San Francisco. In 1971 he did a pathology residency at Presbyterian Hospital in San Francisco and was then employed by Harkness Hospital until 1974. In the spring of 1974, he began working at the United States Veterans Hospital at Tuscaloosa, Maine. He retired in 2003.

Russell Smith Page III, M.D.’72
Dr. Page died at his home on April 25, 2012. He was 68. He grew up in Washington D.C., and was graduated from Harvard in 1966. During that year he joined the Harvard Medical Corps and was stationed with Vietnam War. Medical school at UVM was a time of academic challenge combined with tight friendships and good times with the class of 1972. His pediatric residency was completed at New York’s Bellevue Hospital. He then joined a private pediatric practice in Plattsburgh, N.Y. In 1977 he moved to Lansdale County, and took a job at Copley Hospital’s Emergency Department, where he remained until forced to retire, due to illness, in 2008.

Richard M. Narkewicz, M.D.’60
Dr. Narkewicz died on Feb. 21, 2012, following a long battle with complications from cancer therapy. Born in Walpole, N.H., in 1934, he attended St. Michael’s College in Winnisco before receiving his M.D. from UVM in 1960. Following a residency in pediatrics in San Antonio, Texas, he was a pediatrician in the Air Force in Rome, N.Y. He moved to Burlington in 1966 and started a solo pediatric practice. He later joined with James Stackpole, M.D., and Jack Murray, M.D., to found Timberlane Pediatrics. He was a tireless advocate for children in the American Academy of Pediatrics and was elected president of that organization in 2009. He retired in 1997. He was honored by the Department of Pediatrics at the College of Medicine with the establishment of the annual Narkewicz Lecture for Community Pediatrics and Child Advocacy.

Clarence E. Bunker, M.D.’62
Dr. Bunker died on Wednesday, Feb. 15, 2012, following an extended hospitalization in Fletcher Allen Health Care in Burlington, Vt. He was born on March 17, 1929, in Howland, Maine, and was raised in Brewer, Maine. He was active in scouting and served in WWII as a Civil air patrol spotter. His research was funded by ongoing grants from the National Institutes of Health. He was a member of Phi Beta Kappa. After earning his M.D., he continued his medical training with an internship at the Medical College of Virginia and an ophthalmology residency at The Wilmer Eye Hospital in Philadelphia. Between his internship and residency, he served for two years in the United States Air Force as a general medical officer. Dr. Irwin returned to Burlington in 1977 to practice ophthalmology and teach at the College of Medicine. At that time, he joined Surgical Associates, which later became the University Health Center and finally Fletcher Allen Health Care. His entire career was dedicated to the care of his patients in the Burlington area and beyond, and to the education of the future physicians who would follow him.

We also note the passing of JoAnn Professor of Radiology George Dillon, M.D., Ph.D., and that of Harvey Rau, M.D. ’63, and Laurence Peterson, M.D. ’76. More details will follow in the next issue of Vermont Medicine.

Faculty

Above and at right: UVM Med Photo; tower photo: Mario Morgado

Vermont Medicine
Back in Action!

The second weekend in June was a beautiful time to experience Vermont at its finest. Reunion 2012 was an occasion to touch base with old friends and faculty members, while meeting the next generation of physicians from the College of Medicine, and getting a taste of what medical education is like for today’s students. Add time for picnics, dinners, and games for the kids, and it added up to a memorable experience for all.

View Highlights of the celebration of Achievements that formally opened Reunion 2012.

Go to: uvm.edu/medicine/vtmedicine

If your class year ends in a 3 or a 8, plan on attending next year’s reunion: May 31–June 2, 2013
May 22, 2012, 8:46 a.m.

A very young patient is examined by medical student Jocelyn Hu from the Class of 2014, during her pediatric clerkship at St. Mary’s Medical Center in West Palm Beach, Florida.

photograph by Raj Chawla, UVM Medical Photography

Events include: Medical Education Today Session · Tours of the College, including the new Clinical Simulation Laboratory · Alumni Awards and Reception · Medical Alumni Picnic · Nostalgia Hour · Class Receptions

www.med.uvm.edu/alumni