

QUARTERLY

For Alumni, Friends, Faculty and Students of University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health



VOLUME 11
NUMBER 3
SUMMER 2009

Medicine and Public Health
IN THE INNER CITY

Calendar of Events

October 2009

Sunday, October 4

1 p.m. White Coat Ceremony
Union Theater

OCTOBER 16 – 17 HOMECOMING WEEKEND

Reunions for classes of 1969, '74, '84, '89,
'94, '99 and '04

Friday, October 16

4 p.m. Tour the Health Sciences Learning
Center (HSLC)
6:30 p.m. Dinner at the Concourse Hotel

Saturday, October 17

8:30 a.m. Tailgate party at the HSLC
11 a.m. Football game: Wisconsin vs. Iowa

November 2009

Saturday, November 14

Resident Tailgate Party
Football game: Wisconsin vs. Michigan

Friday, November 20

Alpha Omega Alpha Banquet
Health Sciences Learning Center

February 2010

Friday, February 19

WMAA Winter Event
Wisconsin Dells

QUARTERLY

The Magazine for Alumni, Friends, Faculty
and Students of the University of Wisconsin
School of Medicine and Public Health

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Quarterly is published four times a year by the Wisconsin Medical Alumni Association (WMAA) and the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health.

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Ian Bird brings the Endocrinology and Reproductive Physiology program to a special anniversary.

On the Cover: Medical student Theresa Umhoefer, center, admires potato plants cultivated by (from left) Gabriella Newson, Cameron Bond and Tasha Gamble. The teens work at Walnut Way, one of several Milwaukee organizations involved in TRIUMPH, the school's new Training in Urban Medicine and Public Health program. Photo by Ernie Mastroianni.

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My Perspective



*Robert Golden, MD
Dean, UW School of Medicine and Public Health
Vice Chancellor for Medical Affairs, UW-Madison*

As we prepare for a new academic year, there is a feeling of excitement about new beginnings and new areas of growth for the school.

This issue's cover story on our new medical student program, Training in Urban Medicine and Public Health, or TRIUMPH, is one example. We feel that this program represents a very strategic way to expand the supply of physicians who are trained in and committed to working with underserved populations in underserved urban sites in Wisconsin.

We are also delighted that this August we welcome 18 new medical students to the Wisconsin Academy for Rural Medicine, or WARM. Building on WARM's initial success, we have accelerated the growth in students admitted to the program in the past two years. Our original cohort of WARM students has just begun its clinical training at Rice Lake.

To serve WARM and TRIUMPH, we have also started our new college pipeline program, Rural and Urban Scholars in Community Health, or RUSCH, which you will be reading more about

soon. We already have begun to build important bridges to undergraduate programs at UW-Milwaukee, UW-Platteville as well as Spelman College in Atlanta, which will provide an important opportunity to increase the diversity of our student body.

The start of the academic year is also a time of welcoming new senior leadership at the school. In this issue, you will read about our inaugural associate dean for public health, Pat Remington. Pat is perfectly prepared to play a major role in our school's ongoing transformation. With his unique combination of deep experience in public health communities, both in Wisconsin and at the Centers for Disease Control, coupled with his outstanding track record as an academic leader, we feel he will dramatically facilitate our engagement as we create our new model that synthesizes medicine with public health.

We also are delighted to welcome Jim Shull as our new chair of oncology and head of the McArdle Laboratory for Cancer Research. Jim has been an extremely successful department chair at the University of Nebraska in his home state. What makes him so qualified for this new role is that he brings an outsider's

fresh perspective (in fact, he is the first McArdle leader from outside Wisconsin) combined with a longstanding McArdle connection. This is a homecoming of sorts for Jim, since he completed part of his research training under the tutelage of Henry Pitot, who served with distinction as McArdle's second chair and remains an active participant in the life of the department and our school.

Finally, the latest exciting news is that Paul DeLuca, our vice dean and associate dean for research and graduate studies, has been tapped to serve as the next provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at UW-Madison. I commend Chancellor Biddy Martin for her wisdom in selecting such a talented and experienced academic leader for this vital role. While Paul's transition represents a real personal loss for me and the school, that loss is greatly overshadowed by the wonderful gain for all of us as we welcome Paul into this incredibly important senior leadership position for the university. In the next *Quarterly*, we will describe the smooth transition following Paul's departure and the successful completion of the search for his successor.

It is indeed a time of exciting transitions.

Greetings, medical alumni! It's early June as I write this message and the hallways of the Health Sciences Learning Center are much too quiet. We've just experienced a very successful spring semester filled with many events and activities for alumni and students, so we miss the flurry of activity. But it gives us time to plan for fall 2009 and winter 2010.

Before I tell you about what's in store for the future, I'd like to reflect on the recent past.

During Alumni Weekend, we honored the Class of 1959, acknowledged many award recipients and celebrated five class reunions. It was heartwarming to see so many alumni gather to reminisce and enjoy the weekend. Student leaders also were very involved and did a wonderful job of introducing alumni to our building. Alumni also had an opportunity to tour the new Wisconsin Institutes for Medical Research. The article and photos beginning on page 28 tell the story.

The Class of 2009 enjoyed a spectacular graduation day. It began with a recognition ceremony at the Memorial Union Theater and ended with a grand celebration at the Monona Terrace

Convention Center for over 700 guests. The event was co-sponsored by the school and the Wisconsin Medical Alumni Association (WMAA).

Now we look to fall with great anticipation and enthusiasm. Following are the highlights of what's to come.

Fall Reunions

Several class representatives have made the decision to celebrate reunions in conjunction with Homecoming. As a result, reunions are being planned for the classes of 1969, 1974, 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999 and 2004, to be held October 16 and 17. Your class reps will soon send details.

Homecoming

The WMAA will host its annual tailgate the morning of October 17. Since Union South has been torn down, we will host this event in our Health Sciences Learning Center before the Iowa football game. Tickets for medical alumni will be available through the WMAA office. Priority will be given to WMAA and Middleton Society members as well as class reunion attendees.

Resident Event

The WMAA continues to strengthen its relationship with UW Hospital and

Clinics residents. In our effort to do so, we are planning a tailgate party for residents on November 14, prior to the Wisconsin-Michigan game.

Winter Event

I realize this is a bad word here in Wisconsin. But we need to start planning the Winter Event now! The WMAA events committee is aiming to hold the 2010 event in the Wisconsin Dells. This will be a kid-friendly, family event and the date has been set for Friday, February 19. Details will be forthcoming on our Web site: www.med.wisc.edu/alumni.

Feel free to contact me with your ideas, issues and even concerns. You can contact me at kspeters@wisc.edu, (608) 263-4913 or write to Karen S. Peterson, Assistant Dean for Alumni/External Relations and Director, Wisconsin Medical Alumni Association, 750 Highland Avenue, Madison, WI 53705, phone: (608) 263-4913, fax: (608) 262-0306.

I look forward to hearing from you!



*Karen S. Peterson
WMAA Executive Director*



Medicine and Public Health

IN THE INNER CITY

Standing with faculty director Cindy Haq (in green jacket) and Rick March (in hat) of the Wisconsin Arts Board, the first group of TRIUMPH students included, from left, Erin Marra, Hannah Gaedtke, Emily Fish, Liliana Kanu, Michelle Buelow and Brian Hilgeman.

by Mike Klawitter

Brian Hilgeman, who recently completed his third year at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH), was raised in Brookfield, Wisconsin, an affluent suburb of Milwaukee. The town boasts superior schools, safe neighborhoods and a booming commercial center.

Yet, when Hilgeman graduates from medical school next year, he hopes to

use his training in a setting that's far different from his comfortable hometown.

Hilgeman and other third-year SMPH students recently completed a five-month pilot program called Training in Urban Medicine and Public Health, or TRIUMPH.

"TRIUMPH prepares physicians for urban health careers in medically-underserved areas like central Milwaukee," says faculty director Cynthia Haq, MD, professor of family medicine and population health

sciences at the SMPH. "On a national level, we desperately need more physicians working in inner cities. Some students love urban environments and are drawn to work with disadvantaged urban populations."

The new program—initiated by SMPH dean Robert Golden, MD; former senior associate dean for academic affairs Susan Skochelak, MD, MPH; and assistant dean for academic affairs Lynne Cleeland—exemplifies the

school's transformation into an institution that combines both medicine and public health by engaging in addressing Milwaukee's health problems.

TRIUMPH supplements clinical experiences in Aurora Health Care sites by adding community and public health projects to a combined third- and fourth-year curriculum. A second-year summer TRIUMPH internship is in the pilot stage.

"Students learn about the history, cultural traditions

and conditions of specific neighborhoods,” Haq says. “They meet with community leaders and visit families to learn of their strengths and challenges.”

Each student is matched with a local organization and its staff to focus on a major health issue impacting the community. Students work closely with leaders to address the issue of concern and promote better health.

Working in and around downtown Milwaukee a half-day per week, Hilgeman and his fellow students visited cultural sites and engaged in projects with a variety of health agencies and community organizations (see sidebar on page 6 for a list).

Patients in these neighborhoods usually are more ethnically diverse and much more likely to be uninsured or on Medicaid than the patients the medical students typically serve in Madison or other training sites. Here, students can learn about the sociologically complex situations patients deal with on a daily basis.

The learning experiences can be eye-opening.

“Three of these students grew up in the Milwaukee



The TRIUMPH students work in neighborhoods in and around downtown Milwaukee, engaging in medical and public health projects at a variety of health agencies and community organizations.

area, yet they had little knowledge of 99 percent of what we saw and did,” says Haq. “Together, we attended clinics for the homeless and uninsured and confronted the challenges of urban poverty and lack of access to healthcare. We also met many wonderful people who are leading programs to address these problems.”

Hilgeman was responsible for helping tobacco users stop smoking at the 16th Street Community Health Center—where generally one third of the clients have no health insurance and over 60 percent live below the federal poverty level.

“Before I started medical school, I worked at the 16th Street Community Health Center for a year as an AmeriCorps member,” Hilgeman says. “From that experience, I became very interested in working with urban populations and people of different ethnic backgrounds. I thought TRIUMPH would give me a good idea of what it was like to practice medicine in the inner city and help me clarify my future goals of working with inner-city residents.”

Hilgeman says TRIUMPH was rewarding and clearly will benefit his future medical practice.

“By exploring the economic challenges inner-city residents face and also experiencing the unique and diverse cultures found in the inner city, I became more familiar with my patients as people, not just diseases,” Hilgeman says.

Michelle Buelow, also from Brookfield, addressed teen pregnancy prevention with girls and young women between the ages of 11 and 21 at the 16th Street health center.

Emily Fish of Reedsburg offered guidance to Hispanic seniors over age 60 at the United Community Center, concentrating on how to

STUDENTS BENEFIT IN MANY WAYS

After the first group of TRIUMPH students completed the pilot program in May 2009, they participated in a focus group to assess their experiences. The students unanimously agreed that the program helped them in many ways on their path to becoming doctors. The group concluded that TRIUMPH:

- Enhanced communication, outreach and research skills that will make them more effective and enthusiastic public health practitioners
- Provided students the opportunity to learn a great deal directly from patients and their sociologically complex situations
- Gave students the chance to take responsibility for a particular problem and make a difference
- Made the challenges of urban health and pervasive public health issues seem less overwhelming
- Reminded the students why they wanted to be doctors

understand, prevent and manage diabetes.

Milwaukee native Erin Marra spent her time at the United Community Center with substance abusers in recovery. She initiated discussions on sexually transmitted diseases, mental illness and the effects of drugs on the body, aiming to help clients lead healthier lives.

Working at a Milwaukee high school, Hannah Gaedtke, who comes from rural Tomahawk, Wisconsin, organized talks on reproductive health in an effort to reduce soaring student pregnancy rates and help the youngsters understand how having a child can impact their lives.

“Medical school focuses a lot of attention on providing us with the knowledge we need to treat patients,” Gaedtke says. “But it doesn’t take long to realize that in order to truly help patients find health, you need to spend time learning about their culture and lifestyle as well. This is more difficult and not something that can be found in a textbook.”

Meanwhile, Liliana Kanu of Atlanta, who worked

through the Bread of Healing Clinic, investigated nutrition and food purchasing habits of African Americans. Her goal was to understand barriers that keep people from accessing healthy foods that could reduce their risk of serious medical conditions.

Kanu’s investigations led the students to Will Allen, who is promoting urban gardening through an organization aptly named Growing Power.

The summer TRIUMPH internship consisted of seven SMPH students, all from Wisconsin. They included Mark Kaepler of Richfield, Ebba Hjerstedt of Shorewood, Caitlin Wallach of Mequon, Theresa Umhoefer of Franklin, Diana Dovorany of Racine, Matthew Augustine of Muskego and Steve Kidd of Whitewater.

Umhoefer and Augustine immersed themselves in the Walnut Way Conservation Corp, a community revitalization project that has transformed a “disinvested” area northwest of downtown into a vibrant community of rehabilitated housing, inviting parks and bountiful gardens, thanks in large part



Medical student Hannah Gaedtke organized talks on reproductive health at Milwaukee’s South Division High School.

to the vision of Sharon and Larry Adams. The ultimate goal, they say, is to provide residents access to quality education, healthcare, technical assistance and investment support.

The medical students learned about Walnut Way’s Gardens to Market program, which introduces local teens to horticultural knowledge and skills and teaches them about nutritious dietary choices and growing their own food.

Umhoefer and Augustine presented talks on healthy eating and the dangers of heat. It was an unforgettable experience, says Umhoefer, and the lessons she learned were important.

“The only way to really get to know about a culture

or community is through interaction,” she says. “It all starts with a conversation.”

Now a TRIUMPH champion, Umhoefer is helping spread the word. Eight SMPH students have already signed up to begin TRIUMPH in their third year.

The TRIUMPH program complements the school’s Wisconsin Academy for Rural Medicine (WARM), created three years ago to train future doctors for careers in underserved rural areas. Together, the two programs contribute in important ways to addressing serious physician shortages in all areas of the Badger State.



MILWAUKEE COMMUNITY PARTNERS ABOUND

Many organizations and individuals partnered with the school to host TRIUMPH students. The organizations included Aurora Health Care, Bread of Healing Clinic, City of Milwaukee Health Department, City on the Hill, Growing Power, Milwaukee Health Services, Milwaukee public schools, 16th Street Community Health Center, United

Community Center and Walnut Way Conservation Corp.

In addition to faculty director Cynthia Haq, MD, Milwaukee-based faculty who have been instrumental include John Brill, MD, MPH, associate professor of family medicine; Marge Stearns, MPH, clinical assistant professor of family medicine; Jeffrey Stearns, MD, professor of family medicine and

associate dean for medical education at the SMPH Milwaukee Academic Campus; Geoffrey Swain, MD, MPH, associate professor of family medicine and medical director of the City of Milwaukee Health Department; and Barbara Horner-Ibler, MD ‘88, MDiv, MSW, medical director of the Bread of Healing Clinic.

Health Equity

IS FOCUS OF NEW CENTER

by Dian Land



What's the best way to combat the childhood obesity that is so prevalent among Wisconsin's Native Americans? How can we explain the high rates of hypertension, asthma and infant death that are so common in African Americans? And why are diabetes and Alzheimer's disease under-recognized and poorly managed in Hispanic populations in the Badger State?

The new Collaborative Center for Health Equity (CCHE) at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH) is poised to tackle such complicated questions.

The center will connect partners from Wisconsin's rural, urban, tribal and other diverse communities with university faculty, research staff and trainees so that together they can use or develop educational, training and research resources aimed at improving the health and wellness of Wisconsin's underserved, minority and immigrant populations.

A recently announced National Institutes of Health award of up to \$7.5 million will ensure that CCHE staff can begin significant training and community engagement efforts, as well as work on two targeted research projects.

One project, undertaken in collaboration with two Wisconsin tribes, will evaluate vitamin D supplementation in American Indian women. The other project, undertaken with multiple

community partner sites in Milwaukee, will examine people's opinions about participating in biomarker research.

"The CCHE can contribute to the research process by helping in forming and maintaining community partnerships, providing program evaluation and supplying technical assistance in data collection and assessment. But there is so much we can learn from our partners as well—they teach us about their communities and what will work in each situation."

The CCHE builds on the school's ongoing commitment to overcoming disparities in health and health outcomes, replacing the former Center for the Study of Cultural Diversity in Healthcare (CDH).

The new center is housed within the Institute for Clinical and Translational Research (ICTR), where the primary goal is facilitating research that rapidly moves

health discoveries from academia to Wisconsin communities that need it the most.

Incorporating the CCHE into the institute was a logical decision for many reasons, says ICTR director Marc Drezner, MD, SMPH professor of medicine.

"We greatly value CCHE's focus on populations that are faced with inequities in healthcare," he says. "All of our ICTR administrative infrastructure and our six cores, including our pilot grant program, support investigators who want to conduct health equity research."

Drezner says that the appointment of Alexandra Adams, MD, PhD, associate professor of family medicine, as the CCHE director makes the creation of the new center even more exciting.

"Dr. Adams has a long history of conducting outstanding, community-based research with American Indian partners," says Drezner, also the SMPH senior associate dean for clinical and translational research. "Her talent and experience addressing health disparities in Native American communities make her an excellent choice to lead this important new initiative at the school."

Continued on next page



CCHE director Alexandra Adams has collaborated with Wisconsin tribal communities for a decade on research that aims to prevent childhood obesity.

Creating new and lasting partnerships and reinforcing old ones will be a critical focus of the CCHE, says Adams.

"We're looking to partner with communities that have identified research or service projects with specific links to health equity issues," she says. "We are concentrating initially on chronic diseases because many underserved communities have a strong interest in prevention."

The CCHE will build upon several community-academic partnerships that were initiated through the CDH, and it will develop new relationships with emerging partners, particularly in Milwaukee.

Center partners currently include the Urban Indian Wellness Consortium, the Milwaukee Birthing Project, the Center for Urban Population Health, the United Community Center and the House of Peace Community Center. Members of the Wisconsin Department of Health Service's Minority Health Leadership Council are helping to provide guidance on the center's programming priorities.

Adams also brings well-established partnerships with many of Wisconsin's American Indian tribes, including the Oneida, the Menominee, the Bad River

and the Lac de Flambeau communities as well as the Great Lakes Intertribal Council (GLITC), a consortium of 11 tribes.

Since 2000, Adams has worked with the tribal communities to design community-based interventions preventing the childhood obesity that is such a significant risk factor for diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

"Our early collaborative research with three Wisconsin tribes and the Great Lakes Intertribal Council indicated a need for additional knowledge and strategic measures to reduce obesity-related risks," Adams explains.

As a result, she and her American Indian collaborators developed the Wisconsin Nutrition and Growth Study, or WINGS. Through their additional data collection and analysis, the researchers determined that alarmingly high numbers of the children were overweight and as many as 25 percent were obese. Since then, a healthy lifestyles program—the Healthy Children, Strong Families and Supportive Communities Intervention—was designed using WINGS data, community input and scientific evidence. In addition, many of the communities have begun to experiment with interventions, including healthy eating programs in schools as well as community gardens.

"It's important to use evidence-based approaches in these interventions," says Adams. "The CCHE can contribute to the research process by helping in forming and maintaining community partnerships, providing program evaluation and supplying technical assistance in data collection and assessment. But there is so much we can learn from our partners as well—they teach us about their communities and what will work in each situation."

Adams says that, based on her collaborative experiences on the WINGS and Healthy Children projects, she and her CCHE colleagues will strive

for a staged approach to community engagement.

"This means beginning with the research, service or education projects that are most useful to the community, aiming for mutually beneficial outcomes and learning to share data and resources," says Adams. "It is essential that results are shared with the community and lead to community benefits early on in the process."

This deliberate process will help establish and maintain long-term, mutually respectful and trusting partnerships, adds Adams.

"Such relationships are essential for successful health equity research to occur," she says.

In addition to its community engagement and research activities, the CCHE will contribute to research education and career development efforts within ICTR, establishing training initiatives for health equity and health disparity scholars and serving as a critical resource for diverse students and trainees.

CCHE will also link with other ICTR cores that address research implementation barriers campus investigators often encounter. Center leaders plan to concentrate initially on enhancing the administrative research procedures that are a part of conducting research at a large university.

Christine Sorkness, PharmD, serves as the CCHE associate director. She is also the ICTR senior associate director. Sarah Esmond, MS, is the center's administrative director. Lisa Tiger (Muscogee), MA, serves as the CCHE research ambassador and Robbi Strandemo provides administrative support to the center.

For more information, visit the center in suite 4230 of the Health Sciences Learning Center or call (608) 263-6982.



Canto, 27, at left, is on a calorie-restricted diet, while Owen, 29, at right, eats whatever he wants.



PHOTO: Jeff Miller, UW-Madison University Communications

Antidote to Aging and Disease?

TRY CALORIE RESTRICTION

by Susan Lampert Smith

Could any health topic be hotter than aging? Signs are everywhere that the famously self-obsessed Baby Boom is hitting its Medicare moment.

Turn on the television and you'll see Suzanne Sommers telling a credulous Oprah about her 60-pill-a-day and estrogen-injection regime. On another channel, there's Morley Safer of the venerable *60 Minutes* extolling the anti-aging properties of red wine. Boomers' drugs of choice have become Viagra and phytoestrogens.

Wander into the office of University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH) anti-aging researcher Richard Weindruch, PhD,

and you'll see the walls lined with celebrity shots, including Alan Alda, who interviewed Weindruch for a show on *Scientific American Frontiers* called "Fat and Happy."

Weindruch, professor of medicine, is having his own celebrity year. The *60 Minutes* crew came to film his troop of aging rhesus monkeys for a piece on the anti-aging properties of calorie restriction and a substance found in red wine called resveratrol. He and other international aging researchers received cover story treatment in the German magazine *Geo Wissen*.

He published yet another major paper in *Science* this July showing that the monkeys on the calorie-restricted diet were looking so good that Suzanne

Sommers might reconsider her methods.

And soon, Weindruch will trade his slightly grungy basement office in the William S. Middleton Memorial Veterans



Richard Weindruch

Hospital for Lake Mendota views from the seventh floor of the sparkling new Wisconsin Institutes for Medical Research.

All of this seems deserved, because Weindruch, 59, was studying aging long before aging was cool.

Continued on next page

HOW DOES IT WORK?

In creatures ranging from yeast and roundworms to mice and monkeys, calorie restriction has been shown to reduce aging and slow the development of aging-related diseases.

The studies suggest that eating less is the way to drink from the fountain of youth. Calorie-restricted animals don't lose muscle and their brains don't shrink as quickly as control monkeys. They develop less heart disease, cancer and diabetes.

Richard Weindruch, PhD, who has studied the phenomenon for more than 30 years, says that on the cellular level, one theory is that fewer calories may reduce wear and tear on mitochondria, the energy-producing machinery in our cells, by reducing the amount of harmful free radicals formed when food is converted to energy.

Probing deeper, Weindruch, UW geneticist Tomas Prolla, PhD, and graduate student Cheol-Koo Lee were the first to show, in the late 1990s, that they could identify the genetic changes brought on by aging. They used "gene chips" to study the activity of thousands of genes to find those switched on and off during the aging process, as well as those affected by calorie restriction. Their patented technique led to a biotechnology company called LifeGen Technologies.

More recently, Weindruch and collaborators have looked at the influence of resveratrol, a substance found in red wine, on those aging genes. They found that low doses of resveratrol mimic the effects of caloric restriction on the hundreds of genes involved in aging of the heart. The finding suggests that caloric restriction and resveratrol may govern the same master genetic pathways related to aging.

Today, Weindruch, Prolla and Roz Anderson, PhD, are continuing to use the "gene chip" technique to understand which human genes are affected by calorie restriction. They are using genetic arrays to study the activity of genes from people who voluntarily restrict their diets.



PHOTO: Jeff Miller, UW-Madison University Communications

Weindruch (left) and colleague Ricki Colman dress in clean and protective garb before entering one of their monkey colony areas at the Wisconsin National Primate Research Center.

Back in the 1970s when Weindruch first joined the University of California-Los Angeles (UCLA) laboratory of researcher Roy Walford, MD, aging was considered about as exciting a field as watching paint dry.

"Aging was a sleepy discipline back then," Weindruch says. "Roy was one of just a handful of people in the country focusing on the biology of aging."

Today the effects of aging are being studied in more than 300 laboratories.

Weindruch's own interest in the science of aging began when he earned bachelor's and master's degrees in biology from the University of Illinois and went on to the Northwestern University School of Dentistry. There, he quickly discovered he wasn't interested in spending his life peering into people's mouths.

"I liked the basic science, but when it came to clinical dentistry, I found myself skipping school and going to Cubs games instead," he says.

In 1974, he left dental school and returned to his native Rock Island, Illinois, to work in a warehouse and

apply for graduate school. He was accepted into the UCLA pathology program, where he met his mentor.

Walford is a story in himself. As a medical student he figured out how to beat the system in a Nevada casino. Before the casino caught on, Walford won enough to pay for medical school, buy a boat and sail around the world.

As Walford's graduate student, Weindruch went from the warehouse to Walford's Venice Beach parties, which featured Hollywood guests such as counter culture guru Timothy Leary.

In the laboratory, Weindruch and Walford were intrigued by a 1930s study led by Clive McCay, PhD, of Cornell University, which found that laboratory rats kept on a severely reduced-calorie diet lived almost twice as long as expected, as long as they had proper nutrients. They duplicated and built on these results in a series of studies showing that mice also looked younger, were more active and showed delays in age-related diseases.

Their first really big paper together, published in *Science* in 1982, showed

that even middle-aged mice benefited from going on a restricted diet.

After earning his doctoral degree, Weindruch spent another decade at UCLA working with Walford on a series of studies as well as the book *The Retardation of Aging and Disease by Dietary Restriction*.

Walford practiced what he preached. He limited himself to so little food that his weight dropped to 130 pounds. A photo of him in Weindruch's office shows Walford looking like a pale wraith after two years of living inside the Biosphere 2 in the Arizona desert. Walford was the crew's medical doctor, and the photo shows Weindruch talking with him via telephone.

After leaving UCLA, Weindruch spent three years at the National Institutes of Health, learning what made a successful grant application, before he was recruited to UW-Madison in 1990. This is where he began studying monkeys, to see if the anti-aging results in mice could be duplicated in primates.

Rhesus monkeys live up to 40 years, with a median life span of 27 years, so Weindruch's monkeys are only now showing the anti-aging effects of calorie restriction. Howard Hughes Investigator Andy Dillin, PhD, of the

Salk Institute—who studies aging in a species of roundworm that goes through its lifecycle in a matter of weeks—once introduced Weindruch as “the most patient researcher in the world.”

But roundworms will never be able to dramatize the effects of aging to the lay public.

The monkey photos that accompany this feature—and that appeared in the latest *Science* article and a *New York Times* page-one story—show a difference anyone can see. On the right, a monkey that ate all it wanted looks gray and weather-beaten—the monkey version of Brett Favre. On the left, a restricted diet produces a healthier-looking monkey, with glossy hair and a younger face—a monkey Tom Brady. But unlike the NFL quarterbacks, these monkeys are almost the same age.

At least as stunning are the views inside the monkeys' brains. Scans by SMPH neuroscientists showed that the brains of the Brett Favre monkeys are shrinking, but those of the calorie-restricted Tom Brady monkeys are not.

Weindruch and co-author Ricki Colman also showed in the *Science* paper that the restricted diet reduced cancerous tumors, cardiovascular disease and diabetes. Half of the monkeys that

ate freely have died; 80 percent of the calorie-restricted monkeys are still alive.

So why don't we all just start living on 1,000 calories a day? Because it's difficult.

Weindruch, who briefly tried calorie restriction himself, says, “I think the odds of millions of people adhering to a calorie-restricted diet are zero.”

But a few hardy people have adopted a lifestyle they call calorie restriction with optimal nutrition (CRON). About 30 of these so-called CRONies volunteered to be studied at Washington University. Weindruch and his colleagues are using their genetic techniques to study changes in the activity of the CRONies' genes.

“We think these genes hold the secret to how calorie restriction affects the aging process,” Weindruch says.

The scientists are also looking for substances—in addition to resveratrol—that can mimic the anti-aging effects of calorie restriction without the diet.

Aging Americans may raise a glass of red wine to the hope that research will show a way for them to have their cake—and age gracefully, too.



CALORIE RESTRICTION AND MUCH MORE

Aging and calorie restriction are among many age-related issues studied at the Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Center (GRECC) located at the William S. Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital in Madison.

Alzheimer's disease, cancer and aging, falls, osteoporosis, sleep disorders in the elderly, older women's health, transitional care and health services research are other topics under investigation. Both the GRECC and the SMPH Section of Geriatrics are headed by Sanjay Asthana,

MD, the SMPH's Duncan G. and Lottie H. Ballantine Chair of Geriatrics.

In May, Asthana and colleagues landed a prestigious \$6.8 million grant from the National Institute on Aging to create a national Alzheimer's Disease Research Center (see page 26 for more information).

In addition to his work on the anti-aging properties of calorie restriction, Richard Weindruch, PhD, also leads a nationally recognized translational research program in aging and cancer.

With funding from the National Institutes of Health, and in cooperation with the UW Carbone Cancer Center, scientists in the Aging and Cancer Center study the biology of various age-related cancers, and have developed animal models to examine the pathobiology of cancers common in the elderly. The center also supports various clinical studies involving older cancer patients and studies issues related to psychosocial health and pain and palliative care.



ENDOCRINOLOGY AND REPRODUCTIVE PHYSIOLOGY PROGRAM

Marking 50 Years of Graduate Education

by Tiffany Bachmann

The word innovation most accurately describes the vision held by University of Wisconsin-Madison faculty members E.S. Gordon (of the Department of Medicine), R.K. Meyer (zoology), L.E. Casida (genetics) and W.H. McShann (zoochemistry) when, on January 15, 1959, they wrote John Willard, dean of the Graduate School, and formally proposed the creation of an interdepartmental, interdisciplinary graduate training program in endocrinology and reproductive physiology.

The letter stated “that a major objective of this proposal is to integrate the program of study in such a manner as to use the courses, personnel and facilities already in the Colleges, without the organization of a ‘Department of Endocrinology.’”

While Willard initially was skeptical that such an unusual administrative structure would work on a department-oriented campus, he couldn’t deny that the founders made a compelling case for support. And so, the graduate program in Endocrinology and Reproductive Physiology (ERP) was granted degree status by the UW System Board of Regents and admitted its first students in the fall of 1959.

Today, 50 years later, ERP—which provides trainees an in-depth understanding of pregnancy, fertility, infertility and related reproductive

hormones—remains a shining example of a broad-based interdepartmental degree-granting program. Current faculty affiliated with the program represent a spectrum of disciplines, from obstetrics/gynecology to comparative biosciences and pediatrics to veterinary sciences.

With training at both the master’s and doctoral levels, the program produces graduates who typically pursue careers in basic, clinical and technical areas of endocrinology and reproductive physiology.

Program leaders recently have reached out to physician trainees as well, providing them opportunities for structured graduate degree training in their fellowship years.

The current ERP director, Ian Bird, PhD, professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the UW School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH), assesses the program as it reaches this milestone.

“This is a wonderful time in which to reflect on and celebrate our program’s past, present and future,” says Bird. “There is so much to be proud of and even more to accomplish.”

A half century ago, Roland K. Meyer, PhD, served as the first ERP director from 1959 to 1968. At his retirement party, he reflected on his career, which included training 78 PhD students and publishing 290 articles.

“The most rewarding aspect is seeing [students] learn to the point where



Ian Bird, ERP’s sixth and current director, says that after 50 years there is much to be proud of and even more to accomplish.

they have the confidence to develop their own programs and can make important contributions as teachers and researchers,” he said.

Under Meyer, the program attained several grants from the Ford Foundation to support pre- and postdoctoral trainees. Early graduates of the program went on to attain prominent positions in academia and industry.

Leadership of the ERP program was transferred to Meyer’s colleague Richard C. Wolf, PhD, of the Department of Physiology, in 1968, who then served as director until 1986. The program continued to grow and remain a leader in the reproductive sciences, with additional National Institutes of Health (NIH) training grants supporting both pre- and postdoctoral students. Faculty

membership also continued to grow during Wolf's tenure.

Students described Wolf as “a workhorse scientist who fully appreciated the enduring value of carefully obtained data. He was also widely respected as a mentor who viewed and treated his graduate students as colleagues.”

By 1986, when Roy Ax, PhD, of the Department of Dairy Sciences, became director, the ERP program was well established as a leader in the reproductive sciences, with many illustrious faculty members on its roster.

Program directors Lewis Sheffield, PhD, also from dairy sciences, and Barry Bavister, PhD, of the veterinary sciences department, followed Ax. When Bird assumed the directorship in 2000, he sought to reinvigorate the program, refocusing on the original mission and values that had been outlined in the letter to Willard in 1959.

“The interdepartmental alliances forged back in 1959 not only have endured but have grown and now place us in a very strong position to take on

the challenges of the next 50 years,” Bird says. “I find it ironic that I have been commended recently for following this path that is considered on ‘the cutting edge,’ yet I am, in fact, just continuing a theme that the program founders realized well ahead of their time.”

The innovative spark remains alive and well within the ERP program.

In response to the NIH vision to train more physician-scientists for careers in academic medicine, the ERP under Bird's direction was the first degree program to partner with a UW clinical department (obstetrics and gynecology) to provide structured graduate degree training for MDs entering their fellowship years.

“With this we have created a fully integrated training environment that connects both ‘bench to bedside’ and ‘bedside to bench’ type 1 translational research for our graduate students and MD fellows,” says Bird.

One maternal-fetal medicine fellow has already earned his ERP master's

degree during his three-year fellowship period.

By all measurable standards of excellence in graduate education, the ERP program is among the national leaders on an annual basis. It has seen an increase in the quality of applications for admission, a rise in participants' scholarly productivity—including both peer-reviewed publications and presentations at national scientific meetings—and placement in prestigious postdoctoral positions at Ivy League institutions.

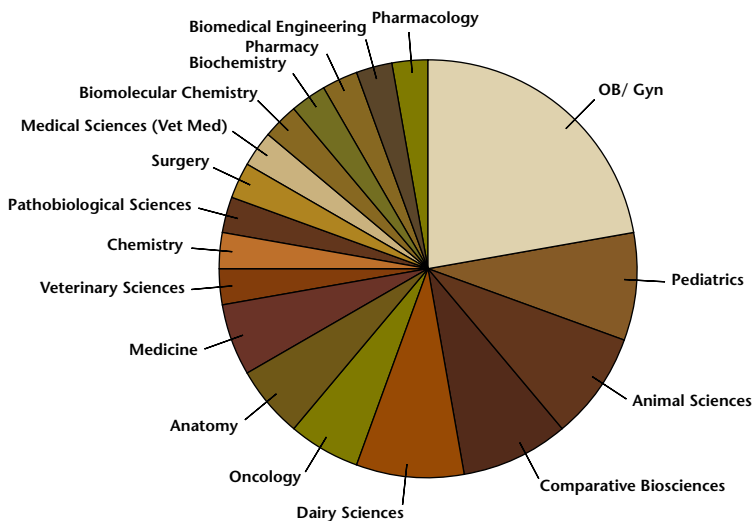
These accomplishments would not be possible without the dedication of faculty members committed to providing and maintaining a truly interdisciplinary degree program, says Bird.

He is confident about the future.

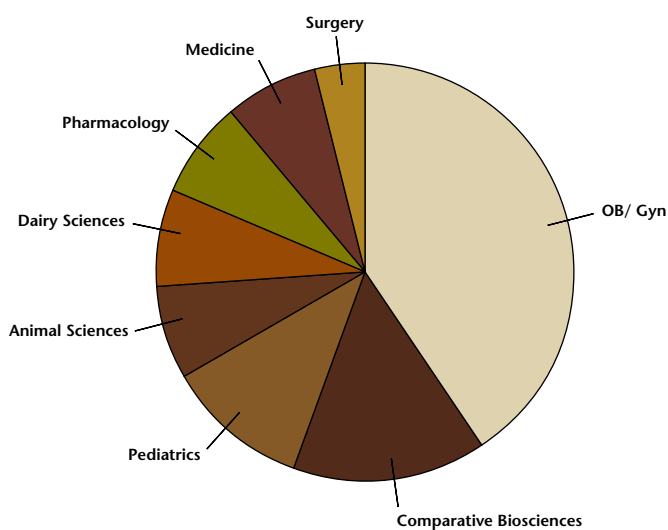
“I have every reason to believe that ERP will continue to be a vibrant program that is well positioned to handle the challenges of the future,” Bird says. “This is a great position from which to look forward to our next 50 years.”



2009 ERP PROGRAM FACULTY BY ACADEMIC DEPARTMENT



2009 STUDENTS BY FACULTY ADVISOR ACADEMIC DEPARTMENT



Graduation 2009

Reaching a Milestone

This past spring, on Friday, May 15, 2009, members of the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health Class of 2009 reached a milestone in their medical education: graduation.

The day began with the Recognition Ceremony in the Memorial Union Theater, with school leaders, family members and friends in attendance. Robert N. Golden, MD, dean of the school, greeted everyone and congratulated the members of the class.

John Harting, PhD, anatomy department chair, delivered an inspirational address, Chirantan Mukopadhyay was the class speaker and John Kryger, MD '92, president of the Wisconsin Medical Alumni Association (WMAA), welcomed the students.

The investiture, during which each student was draped with a hood, was performed by Karen Krabbenhoft, PhD,

senior lecturer in anatomy, and Layton Rikkers, MD, professor of surgery.

Following a reception sponsored by the WMAA and after UW-Madison graduation ceremonies, the day ended with the annual WMAA-hosted party.

The graduates, listed below with their residency locations and specialties, are already on their way to meeting another milestone in their medical careers.

The 2009 Graduating Class

Oluyemisi Adedoyin Adeyemi

Baylor College of Medicine
Houston, Texas
Obstetrics and Gynecology

Foye Adeyelu Adeyemo
Emory University School of Medicine
Atlanta, Georgia
Emergency Medicine

Brittany Joyce Allen
McGaw Medical Center of Northwestern University
Chicago, Illinois
Pediatrics

Carissa Janette Bauer
University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics
Madison, Wisconsin
Psychiatry

Jacob Marshall Behrens
University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics
Madison, Wisconsin
Psychiatry

Sherrie Lynn Bencik
Michigan State University
Kalamazoo, Michigan
Emergency Medicine

Stephen John Bloechl
University of Minnesota
Medical School
Minneapolis, Minnesota
Pathology

Michael Leo Boisen
University of Pittsburgh Medical Center
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Transitional Year
University of Pittsburgh Medical Center
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Anesthesiology

Michelle Marie Boockmeier
University of Pittsburgh Medical Center
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Obstetrics and Gynecology

Krista Ann Bowman
Medical College of Wisconsin Affiliated Hospitals
Waukesha, Wisconsin
Family Medicine

Rushin Dilip Brahmhatt
Mayo School of Graduate Medical Education
Rochester, Minnesota
General Surgery

Rebecca Marie Broeckert
University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics
Madison, Wisconsin
Anesthesiology



Layton Rikkers drapes the symbolic hood on Christopher Webb, who will study anesthesiology at New York Presbyterian Hospital.

Sean Michael Bruggink
University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics
Madison, Wisconsin
Anesthesiology

Brittany Kaylyn Busse
University of California-Davis Medical Center
Sacramento, California
General Surgery

Analisa Maria Calderón
Swedish Medical Center
Seattle, Washington
Family Medicine

Alexandra Cameli
Marshfield Clinic-Saint Joseph's Hospital
Marshfield, Wisconsin
Transitional Year
Marshfield Clinic-Saint Joseph's Hospital
Marshfield, Wisconsin
Dermatology

Dustin Allan Carlson
McGaw Medical Center of Northwestern University
Chicago, Illinois
Internal Medicine

Ariel Chairez
Texas Tech University Affiliated Hospitals
El Paso, Texas
Pediatrics

Ahmed Abdul Cheema
University of Oklahoma College of Medicine
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Neurological Surgery

Elliza Marie Chen
Oregon Health and Science University
Portland, Oregon
Anesthesiology



Ngozi Ogbuehi has headed to the University of Florida College of Medicine for her pediatrics residency.

Erin Luann Chinnock
Medical College of Wisconsin Affiliated Hospitals
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Obstetrics and Gynecology

Anna Berkvam Corey
Entering Master in Public Health degree program

Trina Marie Daniels
Medical College of Wisconsin Affiliated Hospitals
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Emergency Medicine

Nikhila Deo
University of Virginia Medical Center
Charlottesville, Virginia
Pediatrics

Allison Jo Derrick
Indiana University School of Medicine
Indianapolis, Indiana
General Surgery

Irisa Melita Devine
University of Florida College of Medicine
Jacksonville, Florida
Pediatrics
Mayo School of Graduate Medical Education
Jacksonville, Florida
Child Neurology

Erin Nichole Dhennin
University of Illinois-Saint Francis Medical Center
Peoria, Illinois
Emergency Medicine

Teresa Ann Diaz
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center
Los Angeles, California
General Surgery
Loma Linda University
Loma Linda, California
Diagnostic Radiology

Melkon Dombourian †
University of Colorado School of Medicine
Aurora, Colorado
Pathology

Odinakachukwu Ann Ehie
Conducting research

Rebecca Renee Faber
University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics
Madison, Wisconsin
Obstetrics and Gynecology

Aaron Anthony Fearday
University of Utah Affiliated Hospitals
Salt Lake City, Utah
Internal Medicine

Elizabeth Ann Felton
Johns Hopkins-Bayview Medical Center
Baltimore, Maryland
Internal Medicine
Johns Hopkins Hospital
Baltimore, Maryland
Neurology

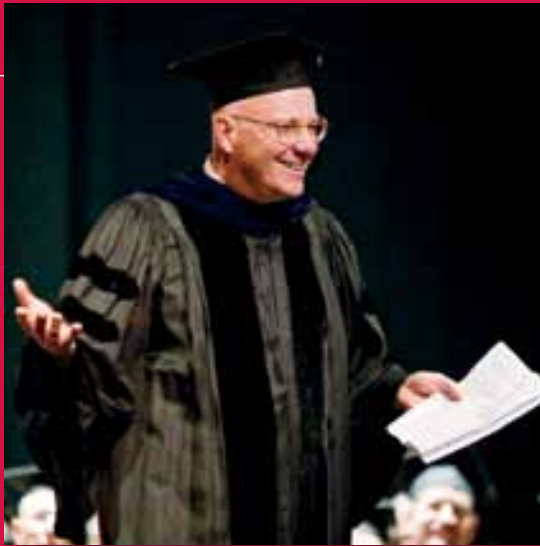
Nicholas Jon Frame
Ochsner Clinic Foundation
New Orleans, Louisiana
Internal Medicine
Louisiana State University
New Orleans, Louisiana
Ophthalmology

DeAnna Jo Friedman
University of Minnesota Medical School
Minneapolis, Minnesota
Pediatrics

Bernard David Fula
Michigan State University
Kalamazoo, Michigan
Emergency Medicine

Sarah Elizabeth GaleWyrick
University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health
Madison, Wisconsin
Family Medicine

Dane Larsen Gehringer
Children's Hospital
Oakland, California
Pediatrics



Guest speaker John Harting, chair of the SMPH Department of Anatomy, inspires and amuses the crowd.

Adam David Gepner
University of Wisconsin
Hospital and Clinics
Madison, Wisconsin
Internal Medicine

Angela Lee Gibson
University of Wisconsin
Hospital and Clinics
Madison, Wisconsin
General Surgery

Brad Michael Gillman
Louisiana State University
Health Sciences Center
Shreveport, Louisiana
Orthopedic Surgery

Eleanor Ruth Goetsch
Medical College of
Wisconsin Affiliated
Hospitals
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Pediatrics

**Ashley Christine Goodwin
Sutton**
University of North Carolina
Hospitals
Chapel Hill, North Carolina
Pediatrics

Nathan Donald Grabher
University of Wisconsin
Hospital and Clinics
Madison, Wisconsin
Anesthesiology

Lindsay Jeanne Graham
University of South Florida
College of Medicine
Tampa, Florida
Pediatrics

Tonia Marie Greenwood
University of Wisconsin
Hospital and Clinics
Madison, Wisconsin
Internal Medicine
McGaw Medical Center of
Northwestern University
Chicago, Illinois
Anesthesiology

Michael Orrin Griffin Jr.
Wheaton Franciscan
Healthcare
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Transitional Year
Medical College of
Wisconsin Affiliated
Hospitals
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Diagnostic Radiology

Morgan Eileen Groth
Entering Master in Public
Health degree program

Emily Jean Guerard
Medical College of
Wisconsin Affiliated
Hospitals
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Internal Medicine-Geriatrics

Kristie Miran Guite
University of Wisconsin
Hospital and Clinics
Madison, Wisconsin
Diagnostic Radiology

Jacques Henri Hacquebord
University of Washington
Affiliated Hospitals
Seattle, Washington
Orthopedic Surgery

Maryam Hamidi
Conducting research

Lisa Lynn Hamilton
Mary Imogene Bassett
Hospital
Cooperstown, New York
General Surgery

Dorrie Marie Happ
Conducting research

Luxme Hariharan
State University of New
York Health Science Center
Brooklyn, New York
Pediatrics
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Ophthalmology

Casey Elizabeth Herrforth
University of California-San
Francisco
Fresno, California
Emergency Medicine

Emiliano Sol Higuera
Phoenix Children's Hospital
Phoenix, Arizona
Pediatrics

Griselda Higuera
Phoenix Children's Hospital
Phoenix, Arizona
Pediatrics

David Matthew Hirsch
Aurora Health Care
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Obstetrics and Gynecology

Stacy Lee Hitt
University of Wisconsin
Hospital and Clinics
Madison, Wisconsin
Pathology

Allison Rebecca Hotujec
University of Wisconsin
School of Medicine and
Public Health
Madison, Wisconsin
Family Medicine

Bryan Thomas Hotujec
University of Wisconsin
Hospital and Clinics
Madison, Wisconsin
Obstetrics and Gynecology

Anna Jeanette Iglar
William Beaumont Hospital
Royal Oak, Michigan
Obstetrics and Gynecology

Amber Lynn Jaeger
Wake Forest Baptist Medical
Center
Winston-Salem, North
Carolina
Obstetrics and Gynecology

Jason Edward Jagodzinski
Loyola University Medical
Center
Maywood, Illinois
Orthopedic Surgery

Luke Allen Jakobowski
Medical College of
Wisconsin Affiliated
Hospitals
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Otolaryngology

Jennifer Rebecca Jenkins
University of New Mexico
School of Medicine
Albuquerque, New Mexico
Family Medicine

Megan Elizabeth Jensen
University of Wisconsin
School of Medicine and
Public Health
Madison, Wisconsin
Family Medicine

Matthew David Johnson
University of Wisconsin
Hospital and Clinics
Madison, Wisconsin
Otolaryngology

Malinda Marie Jorgensen
University of Minnesota
Medical School
Minneapolis, Minnesota
Internal Medicine-Pediatrics

Luke Emel Kamel
Bronx-Lebanon Hospital
Bronx, New York
General Surgery
University of Connecticut
School of Medicine
Farmington, Connecticut
Anesthesiology

Julia Marian Kasprzak
Marshfield Clinic-Saint
Joseph's Hospital
Marshfield, Wisconsin
Transitional Year
Stroger Hospital of Cook
County
Chicago, Illinois
Dermatology

Shannon Michelle Koehler
University of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii
General Surgery

Anne Maureen Kolan
University of Wisconsin
School of Medicine and
Public Health
Madison, Wisconsin
Family Medicine

Christopher Britt Kolar
Michigan State University
Kalamazoo, Michigan
Emergency Medicine

Agnes Kecskemeti Kresch
George Washington
University
Washington, District of
Columbia
*Internal Medicine-
Primary Care*

John William Kunstman
Yale-New Haven Hospital
New Haven, Connecticut
General Surgery

Paul Francis Laeseke
Maine Medical Center
Portland, Maine
General Surgery
Stanford University
Programs
Stanford, California
Diagnostic Radiology

Elizabeth Ann Larson
University of Wisconsin
School of Medicine and
Public Health
Appleton, Wisconsin
Family Medicine

Candice Marie Leach
Naval Medical Center
Portsmouth, Virginia
General Surgery

Vanessa Monique Leblanc
University of Illinois College
of Medicine
Chicago, Illinois
Internal Medicine

Elliot Randolph Lee
University of Wisconsin
Hospital and Clinics
Madison, Wisconsin
Psychiatry

Thomas Christian Leece
Indiana University School of
Medicine
Indianapolis, Indiana
Internal Medicine

Adebanke Latifat Lesi
Children's Hospital of
Orange County
Orange, California
Pediatrics

Jesse Lloyd
McGaw Medical Center of
Northwestern University
Chicago, Illinois
Pathology

Micah Thomas Long
University of Michigan
Hospitals
Ann Arbor, Michigan
Pediatrics

Rachel Uttech Loomans
Saint Luke's Medical Center
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Transitional Year
Barnes-Jewish Hospital
Saint Louis, Missouri
Diagnostic Radiology

Christopher Michael Luty
Broadlawns Medical Center
Des Moines, Iowa
Transitional Year
University of Iowa Hospitals
and Clinics
Iowa City, Iowa
Diagnostic Radiology

Veronica Makhija
McGaw Medical Center of
Northwestern University
Evanston, Illinois
Internal Medicine

Nasuh Mahmoud Malas
University of Pittsburgh
Medical Center
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
*Pediatrics-Psychiatry-Child
Psychiatry*

Katie Jo Malcore
Wheaton Franciscan
Healthcare
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Transitional Year
Oregon Health and Science
University
Portland, Oregon
Anesthesiology

Amanda Campbell Maltry
MacNeal Memorial Hospital
Berwyn, Illinois
Transitional Year
University of Iowa Hospitals
and Clinics
Iowa City, Iowa
Ophthalmology

Sarah Elizabeth Mandigo
University of Kansas School
of Medicine
Wichita, Kansas
Family Medicine

Nicholas Louis Marinelli
Wheaton Franciscan
Healthcare
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Transitional Year
University of Wisconsin
Hospital and Clinics
Madison, Wisconsin
Diagnostic Radiology

Ruth Ann Masciarelli
University of Kentucky
Medical Center
Lexington, Kentucky
Anesthesiology

Kyle James McCarty
Maricopa Medical Center
Phoenix, Arizona
Emergency Medicine

Rachel Lynn McKenney
Gundersen Lutheran
Medical Foundation
La Crosse, Wisconsin
Internal Medicine

Dawn Michelle McNamee
University of Tennessee
College of Medicine
Memphis, Tennessee
Pediatrics

Amy Ann Meier
National Naval Medical
Center
San Diego, California
General Surgery

Brenton Michael Meier
University of Wisconsin
Hospital and Clinics
Madison, Wisconsin
Neurological Surgery

Sarah Elaine Meister
Albany Medical Center
Hospital
Albany, New York
Emergency Medicine

Christopher Allen Miller
Indiana University School of
Medicine
Indianapolis, Indiana
Internal Medicine-Pediatrics

R. Eric Minnihan
Synergy Medical Education
Alliance
Saginaw, Michigan
Emergency Medicine

**Christopher Aloysius
Mueller**
Medical College of
Wisconsin Affiliated
Hospitals
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Internal Medicine

Chirantan Mukhopadhyay
Wheaton Franciscan
Healthcare
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Transitional Year
State University of New York
Health Science Center
Brooklyn, New York
Ophthalmology

**Kirstin Andre
Muehlbauer Nackers**
University of Wisconsin
Hospital and Clinics
Madison, Wisconsin
Pediatrics

Grace Nam
Entering Master in Public
Health degree program

**Timothy McElvenny
Nardine**
Entering Master in Public
Health degree program

**Rebecca Cailen Nause-
Osthoff**
University of Michigan
Hospitals
Ann Arbor, Michigan
Anesthesiology

Andrew Donald Navarrete
University of Wisconsin
Hospital and Clinics
Madison, Wisconsin
Plastic Surgery

**Amy Mildred Neeno-
Eckwall**
Postponing postgraduate
training

Matthew Christian Niesen
University of Wisconsin
Hospital and Clinics
Madison, Wisconsin
Orthopedic Surgery

Matthew James Oberley
University of Wisconsin
Hospital and Clinics
Madison, Wisconsin
Pathology

Ngozi Christie Ogbuehi
University of Florida College
of Medicine
Jacksonville, Florida
Pediatrics

John Charles O'Horo
Aurora Health Care
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Internal Medicine

Jasmine Bahar Parvaz
University of Michigan
Hospitals
Ann Arbor, Michigan
Family Medicine

Danielle Abra Paster
Swedish Medical Center
Seattle, Washington
Family Medicine

Luke Nuzum Peterson
University at Buffalo School
of Medicine
Buffalo, New York
Otolaryngology

Hillary Wynne Petska
University of Wisconsin
Hospital and Clinics
Madison, Wisconsin
Pediatrics

Michelle Lynn Pickett
Children's Mercy Hospital
Kansas City, Missouri
Pediatrics

Christopher Scott Platta
University of Wisconsin
Hospital and Clinics
Madison, Wisconsin
Radiation Oncology

Erin Leah Polczynski
Medical College of
Wisconsin Affiliated
Hospitals
Waukesha, Wisconsin
Family Medicine

Niki Linn Popp
Saint Louis University School
of Medicine
Saint Louis, Missouri
Anesthesiology

Pamela Rochelle Portschy
University of Minnesota
Medical School
Minneapolis, Minnesota
General Surgery

Philipp Werner Raess
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Pathology

Veronica Rejon
Mercy Health System
Janesville, Wisconsin
Family Medicine

Daniel Joseph Repp
Gundersen Lutheran
Medical Foundation
La Crosse, Wisconsin
Transitional Year
Mayo School of Graduate
Medical Education
Rochester, Minnesota
Ophthalmology



Dean Golden congratulates Adebanke Lesi, who has begun her pediatrics residency at Children's Hospital of Orange County in California.

Jason Alan Ricco
University of Minnesota
Medical School
Minneapolis, Minnesota
Family Medicine

Jennifer Amanda Roedel
University of Michigan
Hospitals
Ann Arbor, Michigan
Pediatrics

Michelle Denise Roth-Cline
Ethicist
Office of Pediatric
Therapeutics
U.S. Food and Drug
Administration
Silver Spring, Maryland

Frances Mary Russell
University of Connecticut
Health Center
Farmington, Connecticut
Emergency Medicine

Sonali Saluja
Providence Medical Center
Portland, Oregon
Internal Medicine

Ryan Carl Schenning
Legacy Emanuel Hospital
and Health Center
Portland, Oregon
Transitional Year
Oregon Health and Science
University
Portland, Oregon
Diagnostic Radiology

Melanie Ann Schmitt
William Beaumont Hospital
Royal Oak, Michigan
Internal Medicine
William Beaumont Hospital
Royal Oak, Michigan
Ophthalmology

Abigail Marie Schuh
Medical University of South
Carolina
Charleston, South Carolina
Pediatrics

Christopher John Seebruck
Saint Luke's Medical Center
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Transitional Year
New York Eye and Ear
Infirmary
New York, New York
Ophthalmology

John Adam Shepler
University of Wisconsin
Hospital and Clinics
Madison, Wisconsin
Anesthesiology

Colleen Anne Sherkow
Medical College of
Wisconsin Affiliated
Hospitals
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Internal Medicine

Glenn Guangyu Shi
Medical College of
Wisconsin Affiliated
Hospitals
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Orthopedic Surgery

Adam Philip Siegel
University of California-San
Francisco
San Francisco, California
Internal Medicine

Sibyl Christine Siegfried
Group Health Cooperative
Seattle, Washington
Family Medicine

Nyama Mariama Sillah
University of Wisconsin
Hospital and Clinics
Madison, Wisconsin
Plastic Surgery

**William Thomas Nels
Simonson**
University of Washington
Affiliated Hospitals
Seattle, Washington
Pathology

Joseph Howard Skalski
Mayo School of Graduate
Medical Education
Rochester, Minnesota
Internal Medicine

Brigitte Kristin Smith
University of Wisconsin
Hospital and Clinics
Madison, Wisconsin
General Surgery

Daniel Keith Spangenberg
Saint Joseph's Hospital
Health Center
Syracuse, New York
Family Medicine

**Alexandra Elsa
Stanculescu**
Tulane University School of
Medicine
New Orleans, Louisiana
Internal Medicine-Pediatrics

Jill Marie Stein
Colorado Health Foundation
Denver, Colorado
Transitional Year
University of Utah Affiliated
Hospitals
Salt Lake City, Utah
Diagnostic Radiology



MD/PhD student Steve Almasi and grad Anne Kolan share a fun moment with Bucky.

Adam G. Sternberg
Postponing postgraduate
training

Aaron Frank Struck
University of Wisconsin
Hospital and Clinics
Madison, Wisconsin
Internal Medicine

Julie Rebecca Sullivan
Saint Luke's Medical Center
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Transitional Year
Medical College of
Wisconsin Affiliated
Hospitals
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Diagnostic Radiology

**Srinivasu Ammisetty
Sunkara**
Entering PhD program

Karen Caperton Swallen †
University of Wisconsin
School of Medicine and
Public Health
Baraboo, Wisconsin
Family Medicine

Michael James Swift
University of Iowa Hospitals
and Clinics
Iowa City, Iowa
Internal Medicine

**Jonathan Robert
Thompson**
University of Nebraska
Affiliated Hospitals
Omaha, Nebraska
General Surgery

Sara Helena Tikkanen
University of Iowa Hospitals
and Clinics
Iowa City, Iowa
Obstetrics and Gynecology

Erin Lynn Turner
University of Wisconsin
Hospital and Clinics
Madison, Wisconsin
Pediatrics

Pamela Lynn Tushoski
Eisenhower Army Medical
Center
Fort Gordon, Georgia
General Surgery

Jose Andres Vasconcellos
Baystate Medical Center
Springfield, Massachusetts
Emergency Medicine

**Christopher Edward
Vaughn**
University of Wisconsin
Hospitals and Clinics
Madison, Wisconsin
Emergency Medicine

John Edward Vickman
Wilford Hall Medical Center
at Lackland Air Force Base
San Antonio, Texas
Psychiatry

Robert Keith Vincent
Virginia Commonwealth
University Health System
Richmond, Virginia
Internal Medicine

Aimee Cunningham Walsh
University of Wisconsin
Hospital and Clinics
Madison, Wisconsin
Internal Medicine

Laura Lesley Walters
University of Michigan
Hospitals
Ann Arbor, Michigan
Pathology

Michael Andrew Ward
University of Chicago
Medical Center
Chicago, Illinois
Emergency Medicine

**Christopher Allen-John
Webb**
New York Presbyterian
Hospital
New York, New York
Anesthesiology

Joseph John Weber
Pitt County Memorial
Hospital
Greenville, North Carolina
General Surgery

Crystal Ann Weis
Oregon Health and Science
University
Portland, Oregon
Emergency Medicine

Jason Michael Wells
Hershey Medical Center
Hershey, Pennsylvania
Pathology

Paul David Weyker
New York Presbyterian
Hospital
New York, New York
Anesthesiology

Brian Scott Williams
University of California-San
Diego Medical Center
San Diego, California
Internal Medicine-Pediatrics

Alison Christine Wing
University of Minnesota
Medical School
Minneapolis, Minnesota
Internal Medicine

James Jerome Wu
Sutter Medical Center of
Santa Rosa
Santa Rosa, California
Family Medicine

**Philip Nathanael
Zimmermann**
University of Wisconsin
Hospital and Clinics
Madison, Wisconsin
Internal Medicine

† Degree Conferred
December 2008



William Aughenbaugh ('97) examines a patient while medical student Julia Kasprzak (left) and dermatology resident Rosemarie Liu look on.

Dermatologists *MAKING A DIFFERENCE*

by Julia Kasprzak, MD '09

When I tell family, friends and acquaintances that I am going to enter a residency in dermatology, I often am playfully called a “pimple popper MD” in reference to the infamous Jerry Seinfeld episode “The Slicer.” I also get asked if a career in dermatology is anything similar to the recent *Grey's Anatomy* episode in which the dermatology residents received regular spa treatments and hand massages.

In response, I like to tell them about my inspiration to become a dermatologist, working at the School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH) MEDiC Free Dermatology Clinic to

serve the uninsured of the Madison area. It was an experience that involved much more than “pimple popping” and definitely no hand massages.

This free walk-in dermatology clinic was started in 2004 by William Aughenbaugh, MD '97, the UW-Dermatology Residency Program director, as a specialty clinic associated with the Southside MEDiC Clinic. He started working in the MEDiC clinic as a UW medical student when he noted that a fair number of patients who were seen there had dermatologic concerns.

As a dermatology resident at UW, Dr. Aughenbaugh became interested in sharing his knowledge of dermatology with medical students and using that

knowledge to provide care to an underserved population. He started the clinic when he joined the SMPH faculty. Today, the clinic serves 10 to 12 patients on the first Saturday of every month for a variety of conditions, from acne to erythema nodosum, an inflammatory disorder characterized by red nodules under the skin on the legs and shins.

My interest in dermatology was piqued when I met Dr. Aughenbaugh while working as the medical student clinic coordinator at Southside MEDiC during my second year. Every month Dr. Aughenbaugh and other dermatology faculty and residents dedicate their time on Saturday mornings to the free clinic to serve individuals who otherwise



Many dedicated doctors, residents and students volunteer at the Free Dermatology Clinic at the Southside MEDiC Clinic in Madison on Saturday mornings.

could not have afforded care. Working with these physicians was not only a stimulating educational experience, it also opened my eyes to the huge need for dermatologists among the uninsured.

I witnessed them provide in-depth care and follow-up to patients with complicated, sometimes debilitating dermatologic conditions.

One attending physician, Dr. George Reizner, diagnosed and treated scabies in a whole family, including two adorable children who were miserable from the constant itching. For patients with conditions requiring more complex care than can be provided at the Saturday free clinic, UW general and subspecialty dermatologists as well as dermatopathologists graciously volunteer their services during normal clinic hours at their 1 South Park Street office.

For example, contact dermatitis specialist Dr. Rita Lloyd volunteered her expertise to find the source of a patient's contact dermatitis by doing thorough patch testing. This particular patient had lived with a rash on his hands and forearms for over 12 months. For him, not only was it painful because of the fissures it created, but the dermatitis also caused a great deal of emotional stress

because of its unknown origin. In the end, after all the testing, he was greatly relieved to finally understand that the rash was caused by various chemicals in the materials he used in his job as a mechanic and that he could control it.

Overall, it was striking to see how physically and psychologically challenging some dermatologic conditions can be for each individual patient—and how grateful patients are for the care they receive. Even during visits in which we can only reassure patients about conditions such as drug eruptions or benign nevi, it is incredibly rewarding to see their relief.

In addition to providing care to the underserved, the clinic enhances the academic and clinical skills of the medical students. The attendings and residents are remarkable educators and mentors.

First- and second-year medical students learn how to perform skin examinations and then write progress notes using proper dermatologic terms, such as differentiating between macules and papules and vesicles and bullae. This often is the students' first introduction to dermatology. The clinic setup allows them to have one-on-one teaching

opportunities with the attendings and residents.

Dr. Rosemarie Liu, one of the current chief dermatology residents and a future attending, has dedicated a significant amount of time to the clinic and the education of students. Before residency, she volunteered at a clinic for the underserved in Virginia and wanted to continue that work in Madison. She has found that she enjoys working with patients of different socioeconomic and ethnic backgrounds. She often prepares mini-presentations about common dermatologic conditions for all the clinic student volunteers, which really builds their enthusiasm for the field of dermatology.

The dermatology attendings and residents at UW-Madison have been some of the most compassionate, humanistic physicians I have known in my four years of medical school. Working with them at this free clinic was my inspiration for entering the field of dermatology, and it is my goal to follow in their footsteps and continue to provide care for the underserved in my future career. They demonstrated to me the true meaning of serving others selflessly and showed me the art of troubleshooting the socioeconomic barriers to healthcare that our patients are faced with every day.

My training at the clinic has prepared me well for my future dermatology residency at Cook County Hospital in Chicago, where I will be working for underserved and uninsured patients every day. My experience with the free dermatology clinic has given me the initial skills and determination to serve this patient population. I am sure the UW dermatologists will continue to inspire future generations of medical students to dedicate their time and talents to working with the underserved.

Remington Appointed Associate Dean for Public Health

Patrick L. Remington, MD '81, MPH, who has spent his entire career at the interface of public health and medicine, recently was appointed the first associate dean for public health at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH).

He is a professor of population health sciences at the SMPH and director of the UW Population Health Institute. In 2007, the Wisconsin Public Health Association named him the

Public Health Researcher of the Year.

Remington will play a pivotal role in advancing the school's historic transformation into an institution that combines both medicine and public health, says Robert Golden, MD, the school's dean. The SMPH is the first school of medicine and public health in the country, a model that seeks to improve health and healthcare through synergies in the two approaches.

"Integrating public health into all our missions

will require the active, daily leadership of someone with a special perspective," says Golden. "Dr. Remington is that person. His background in the practice of public health and in academic medicine, coupled with his outstanding reputation in Wisconsin's public health community, will serve us extremely well."

Remington was chosen following a national search.

Before joining the SMPH faculty in 1997, he was a chief medical officer in the Wisconsin Division of Health,



and also served as the state's chronic disease and injury epidemiologist.

"Dr. Remington has been a tireless champion for improving the health of the people of Wisconsin through evidence-based population

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Shull Appointed Oncology Chair, McArdle Director

James D. Shull, PhD, will become the next chair of the Department of Oncology and director of the McArdle Laboratory for Cancer Research at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH). The appointment takes effect September 1, 2009.

Shull is currently the Ardith and Anna Von Housen Professor of Genetics; chair of the Department of Genetics, Cell Biology and Anatomy; and director of the Center for Molecular Genetics and

Genomics at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

He completed his PhD in biochemistry at UW-Madison, followed by a postdoctoral fellowship in the Department of Oncology (under the mentorship of Henry Pitot, MD, PhD, the second chair of the McArdle Laboratory/Department of Oncology).

Shull then returned to his home state of Nebraska, where he joined the faculty at the medical school. He has served in a series of leadership positions there

and at the cancer center. He has a distinguished record of accomplishment as a scientist, teacher, mentor and administrator. His research focuses on the genetics of breast cancer susceptibility.

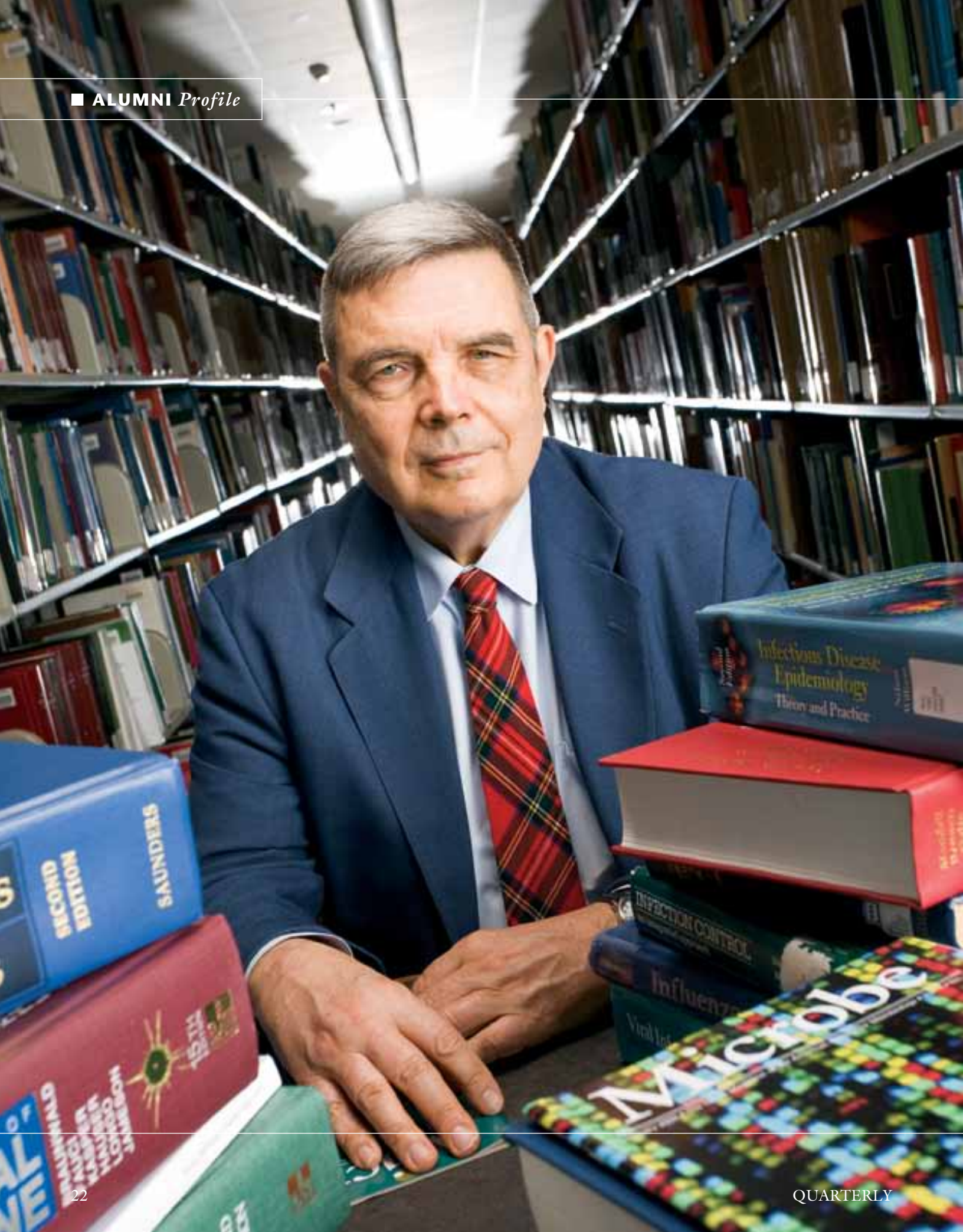
"We are thrilled to welcome Dr. Shull back to UW-Madison and McArdle," says SMPH dean Robert Golden, MD. "The Department of Oncology has a remarkably rich tradition of academic excellence and is a lustrous jewel in the crown of our school and university. Jim is extremely well suited



to lead it forward into the future."

Shull succeeds Norman Drinkwater, PhD, who served as oncology chair for more than 16 years, beginning in the early 1990s. Harold Rusch, PhD, was the

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DENNIS MAKI, MD '67

DEEPLY CONNECTED TO Infectious Diseases

by *Toni Morrissey*

Dennis Maki, the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH) infectious disease researcher, physician and professor who just won the Wisconsin Medical Alumni Association's top award, has a very personal and emotional connection to a deadly infectious disease. Maki's aunts died in their mother's arms of diphtheria at ages three and four, years before the disease was virtually wiped out by an effective vaccine.

His face is pained as he recounts his family history.

"My mother, who was eight or nine when two of her three sisters were stricken with diphtheria, told me how they cried and begged for water. But they couldn't drink. They choked to death," recounts Maki. "I choke up every time I talk about it."

His mother and her youngest sister never became ill. No one knows why.

The native of Edgar, Wisconsin, grew up wanting to understand his family's grief-filled past. The tragedy helped form his passion for identifying pathogens, finding effective treatments to fight infectious diseases and caring compassionately for people who suffer from diseases of all kinds.

Forty years later, Maki, the Ovid O. Meyer Professor of Medicine and Public Health, has studied, diagnosed and treated everything from AIDS to

the pathogen of the moment, H1N1, or swine flu. His wealth of knowledge has made him a highly sought-after consultant for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Institutes of Health, Food and Drug Administration and Department of Health and Human Services.

"Whether it's a meeting in the Midwest, a hospital on the Arabian Peninsula or a conference in Europe, all you need to generate extraordinary interest is to mention that Dr. Maki will be a speaker," notes colleague Nizar Jarjour, MD, SMPH professor of medicine and head of the allergy, pulmonary and critical care division at UW Hospital and Clinics.

But Maki's strong preference has always been to shun the limelight and stick to his work.

In 1969, after graduating from UW medical school and completing an internship at Harvard University Medical School, Maki began studying infectious diseases during a stint as an Epidemic Intelligence Service officer at the CDC. He then returned to Harvard to complete his residency and an infectious disease fellowship before being recruited to Wisconsin in 1974.

Maki brings much more than simply a disease focus to patient care, says Jeffrey Grossman, MD, SMPH senior associate dean for clinical affairs.

"When you make rounds with Dennis, you're apt to hear not just facts

about the disease but a plethora of other things of cultural, societal, political, philosophical and historical value," Grossman marvels. "And everything he says, every story he tells, comes to bear on the patient's care."

Grossman and Maki first met during a rotation in the intensive care unit at the old Wisconsin General Hospital. At the time, there were no critical care training programs at any hospital in the country. But it was clear to Maki that intensive care medicine was going to become a discipline of its own.

"To be a good critical care doctor, you have to be an excellent, excellent internist and know medicine and pathophysiology in great depth," Maki says. "I thought it would be a good blend with infectious disease medicine."

The decision to combine specialties was clearly the right one—Maki is gratified almost every day.

"We've just come off an exhilarating week in the TLC [Trauma and Life Support Center]!" he exclaimed recently. "We saved five patients, even though I was worried that none of them would make it. That's really satisfying."

Taking the term "24/7" to a new level, Maki gives patients with even run-of-the-mill problems his cell phone number. He says not one patient has abused the unconditional access.

"The buck stops with me," says Maki, who juggles patient care, teaching and

research with the agility of an Olympic gymnast.

Even though Jarjour and Maki have been colleagues for almost 20 years, Jarjour is still fascinated by Maki's clinical acumen and his consistent drive to excellence.

"Whether it's three in the morning or two in the afternoon, Dennis has the same level of intensity, curiosity and involvement in patient care," says Jarjour.

The very same qualities that make Maki a top-flight clinician also make him a sensitive colleague who keeps his co-workers' needs in mind at all times.

"Dennis has offered to cover for me in the TLC on Christmas morning so that I could stay home with my then young children while they opened presents," Jarjour says.

Maki opens presents every day—they are the gifts of learning something. He spends hours online or in the library keeping up with the latest information in his field. And he states that he invariably learns from residents and medical students who are curious, smart and bold enough to challenge him. And there's no question that he loves to be challenged.

Maki recalls a favorite story from 27 years ago, when he was teaching medical students how to do gram stains to look for secondary bacterial pneumonia for patients on ventilators. A 50-year-old man who was terribly ill had very low oxygen levels. It appeared to be a powerful pneumonia.

"After I had concluded that it was an overwhelming viral pneumonia and we needed to add high-dose steroids, a very good medical student pointed out objects on the gram stain that he couldn't identify," says Maki.

When Maki double-checked the gram stain, he discovered budding yeasts. The patient had overwhelming pulmonary

blastomycosis, the first case seen at University Hospital. Maki and his teams devised a very aggressive treatment plan based on the new information. A month later, the patient walked out of the hospital—and Maki still takes care of him today.

The doctor leans forward in his chair when asked if he's all right with being wrong.

"I very much want my assumptions challenged," he says. "Nothing gives me more fulfillment than a very smart medical student or resident saying, 'Are you sure that's what is going on with the patient?' It's especially satisfying if they show me where I'm wrong and we can do better."

While his colleagues praise Maki's breadth of knowledge, resilience despite a demanding and diverse schedule and his care for both patients and co-workers, Maki says he most values the ability to foresee and extrapolate problems and complications. It's something he calls "anticipatory medicine." He laughs when he's likened to a canary in a coal mine.

"It's not enough to ask patients about their symptoms and problems. You have to ask yourself what those symptoms could turn into," Maki notes.

Over his 40-year career, Maki has seen infectious diseases evolve along with an increasingly mobile society. Most of the infectious diseases he now encounters on a daily basis didn't exist when he began in the late 1960s.

"It amazes me to think that I have been successfully treating an AIDS patient since 1980," he says. "At the time, we never dreamed that people could live with AIDS for decades."

Maki's satisfaction is evident in his smile as he announces the AIDS patient is now more than 70 years old and has outlived many of his friends.



Maki holds his two children at the time, Kim and Sarah, during his internship at Harvard University Medical School in 1969.

Maki's research for decades has revolved around preventing catheter-related bloodstream infections and other hospital-acquired infections. His newest project is the development of a disinfecting "bomb" to clean all surfaces in a hospital room in eight minutes or less with a non-toxic aerosolized disinfectant. He is planning to study it as a novel approach to containing the inexorable spread of *Clostridium difficile* and methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) in hospitals.

Despite a dizzying work life, family is the center of Maki's world. Sharing time with family members is not so much one of those challenges that he craves, but a labor of love. Maki says he has been fortunate to fall in love several times with one woman, his wife Gail. Their love has changed and reblossomed several times during the many stages of their 46-year marriage, he says.

"We're as close today as we were when we got married in our early twenties," says Maki.

The pictures of his grandchildren and children that cover virtually every square inch of his office door give fair warning that this is the space of a proud grandpa.

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Sammy

There was, we knew, something wrong.
A shadow on the ultrasound
Leaving a hole, a question
Unspoken but very present
In the troubled eyes and clasped hands
Of mother and father and family.

Then, finally, born. A boy.
The face, cleft, obvious to see,
A gut-wrenching beauty.
I look closely, worried—
A third have other problems.

Heart and lungs are good...
I breathe again.
Five fingers, five toes,
Stomach feels OK,
Penis and testes normal,
Ears OK, feeling better.

Then try to open his eyes
And the world falls down.
Nothing there. Lids partly fused,
And only pale pink skin below.
Dear God, Dear God, Dear God—
How can this be? What will I say?

Somehow, we tell them.
Disbelief. Horror. Why? How? What now?

And, somehow, it is accepted.
Stronger than they or I knew,
Loving him. He is their son.

by John Brill, MD, MPH
Associate professor of family medicine
Director, SMPH Primary Care Clerkship

The unit quiet

we fear death
at least avoid it
using medicines and hope

still it comes
noise and tears
eyes down
unit quiet

despite science
old man prevails
courage withstanding

does dying
mean wires and vents and gasses and rhythm-strips
trying

or love of man
character of life
rivers running
inspiring

by Nathan Patrick Brown, Med 3

Seeking Submissions

Healer's Journey showcases creativity originating from members of the UW School of Medicine and Public Health family reflecting personal experiences in our world of healing. We seek prose, poetry and photographs that are moving, humorous or unusual.

Our guidelines are as follows:

Manuscripts, subject to editing, can be no longer than 1,200 words. Photos must be high resolution. Subject matter should relate to any aspect of working or studying at the SMPH or in the medical field generally.

Send submissions to:

Quarterly

Health Sciences Learning Center

Room 4293

Madison, WI 53705

Or e-mail dj.land@hosp.wisc.edu.

Alzheimer's Disease Research Center Created



The National Institute on Aging recently awarded the SMPH a five-year, \$6.8 million grant to create an Alzheimer's Disease Research Center (ADRC).

Governor Jim Doyle made the announcement at a press conference on May 1, 2009.

The mission of the new center will be to develop novel strategies to diagnose and treat Alzheimer's disease at a stage when patients have no symptoms. Development of such strategies will help identify individuals at risk for Alzheimer's and give patients treatments that can either slow or stop the progression of the disease.

The ADRC will be based in the SMPH Section of Geriatrics and Gerontology and the

Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Center (GRECC) of the William S. Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital.

"The grant is a testament to the preeminent status and remarkable resources and expertise of geriatric programs at UW," says Sanjay Asthana, MD, the Duncan G. and Lottie H. Ballantine Chair of Geriatrics at SMPH.

The ADRC will build on the work of the geriatrics program at the UW-Madison Alzheimer's Institute, whose innovative programs include

the Wisconsin Registry for Alzheimer's Prevention.

The registry is a National Institutes of Health-funded longitudinal study of middle-aged, asymptomatic children of Alzheimer's disease patients. The program has enrolled more than 1,300 participants for research on risks, causes, diagnosis, treatment and prevention of Alzheimer's disease, and has provided scientific evidence that underscores the significance of family history as a pivotal risk factor for Alzheimer's disease.

Big Ideas to Fill Wisconsin Institute for Discovery

Capping an intensely competitive process, five proposals from UW-Madison faculty have been selected to form the intellectual heart of the Wisconsin Institute for Discovery (WID).

A proposal by the SMPH's John M. Denu, PhD, professor of biomolecular chemistry, on epigenetics, or how genes are activated or inactivated, was one of the five.

WID is the public half of the Wisconsin Institutes for Discovery, complemented by the private Morgridge Institute for Research. Both entities will occupy

the new interdisciplinary research facility now under construction in the 1300 block of University Avenue.

The four other research areas that will be featured in WID include tissue engineering scaffold research, led by Lih-Sheng Turng, PhD, professor of mechanical engineering; a new laboratory aimed at accelerating the development of personal care diagnostic and therapeutic technology, led by Patricia Flatley Brennan, PhD, professor of industrial and systems engineering and nursing; "Optimization in

Biology and Medicine," a mathematical approach to minimize or maximize the variables of a given subject, led by Michael C. Ferris, PhD, professor of computer science; and an integrated, "system level" understanding of living organisms, spearheaded by John Yin, PhD, professor of chemical and biological engineering.

The successful faculty proposers, chosen from a final pool of 12, will occupy space in the new WID facility and lead their own research initiatives.



Doctor's Empathy May Help Cure Colds Faster



People recover from the common cold faster if they believe their doctor shows greater compassion, according to an SMPH study published in the July issue of

the journal *Family Medicine*.

"Out of everything that's been studied so far—zinc, vitamin C, anti-viral medications—nothing has worked better at fighting a cold than being kind to people," says study author David Rakel, MD, associate professor of family medicine and director of integrative medicine at UW Health.

The study involved 350 patients who had different types of encounters with doctors: no interaction at all, a standard encounter

with discussion of medical history and present illness, or an advanced interaction in which the doctor asked more questions and seemed to show more concern.

Patients indicated if the doctor made them feel at ease, allowed them to tell their story, listened to what they had to say, understood their concerns, acted positively, explained things clearly, helped them take control and helped them create a plan of action.

The 84 patients who gave their doctors perfect scores got over their colds a full day sooner than patients who gave their doctors lower scores.

A measurement of immune cells in nasal secretions also revealed that patients who gave doctors perfect survey scores had built up immunity to their colds within 48 hours after their first visit.

Culture, Not Biology, Underpins Math Gender Gap

The primary cause for the gender disparity seen in math performance at all levels is culture, not biology, Wisconsin researchers reported recently in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

"It's not an innate difference in math ability between males and females," says co-author Janet Mertz, PhD, professor of oncology. "There are countries where the gender disparity in math performance doesn't exist at either the average or gifted level. These tend to be the

same countries that have the greatest gender equality."

The study, which analyzed and summarized recent data on math performance at all levels in the United States and internationally, set out to answer three questions: Do gender differences in math performance exist in the general population? Do gender differences exist among the mathematically talented? Do females exist who possess profound mathematical talent?

The answers, according to the Wisconsin researchers, are no, no and yes.

In the U.S., girls at all grade levels now perform on a par with boys on the standardized mathematics tests required of all students. Among the mathematically gifted, there are still more boys being identified than girls in the U.S., but the gap is narrowing and will likely continue to close as broader issues of gender inequity are addressed in American society.



Alumni Weekend 2009



Minnesota-based Charles Horwitz (at left) and Larry Polacheck, of Milwaukee, both members of the Class of 1959, exchange memories of 50 years ago.



During guided tours and the Dean's Reception that kicked off Alumni Weekend, guests enjoy the new Wisconsin Institutes for Medical Research.

by Dian Land

The fondest memories from half a century ago dominated the talk at a special luncheon that took place in the Memorial Union Main Lounge on May 8. That's when 24 members of the Class of 1959 gathered for their 50th reunion during a busy Alumni Weekend 2009.

Sprinkling their comments with amusing stories, several class members stood up and described their feelings

of gratitude for the many opportunities their medical education at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH) has provided them.

"It was touching to hear people talk about their favorite memories from 50 years ago," says Karen Peterson, executive director of the Wisconsin Medical Alumni Association (WMAA).

It was the first medical school reunion ever for Daniel Safer, MD '59, a psychiatrist

who still works part-time in private practice and part-time as a faculty member at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. He was happy to learn the whereabouts of most of his classmates, and thanked Gordon "Gordy" Lang, MD, for his efforts in tracking down so many of them.

At the luncheon, Safer caught up with fellow psychiatrist Evan Pizer, MD, and sought out a few of the general practitioners in the class.

"In our time, most people went on to specialize, unlike today," Safer says.

Safer, who worked for the Baltimore County Health Department for 21 years, says he's pleased with the direction the school has gone, combining medicine and public health under one roof.

He and others were impressed with the other developments at the school as well—including the new Wisconsin Institutes for Medical Research (WIMR),



Dean Golden welcomes guests to Alumni Weekend, inviting them to marvel at the school's newest research facility and enjoy themselves.

where the Dean's Reception was held Thursday evening, the Health Sciences Learning Center and the American Family Children's Hospital, all of which alumni were invited to tour.

Safer also took a jog/walk to Picnic Point.

"It was further than I thought it would be!" he says.

He was surprised to find no outhouses at the end, not that he needed one. But he wanted to re-create an experience he and his girlfriend, who later became his wife, shared there many years ago.

"It started to rain, so we took cover in the outhouses," he recalls. Even though nobody else was around and they could have waited out the weather together, "She went into the women's and I went into the men's. We laughed about it later."

Class of '59ers weren't the only ones who reconnected and shared memories after many years. Seven members of the Class of 1949 also came to campus for their 60th reunion—an impressive turnout.

Among them was Everett Johnson, MD, of Turlock,

California, who has attended four class reunions since graduating from the SMPH and completing an internal medicine residency at UW Hospital, then called Wisconsin General Hospital.

Along with class representative William Semler, MD, Johnson shared news from several classmates who were unable to participate, but with whom he corresponds.

"I was thrilled to see so many of our class members at this reunion," says Johnson, adding that travel has become difficult for some of his fellow octogenarians.

Not so for retired internist and tropical fruit grower Marvin Royce, MD, who traveled from Hawaii for the reunion, nor for Johnson and his wife, Barbara, who have recently traveled throughout South Africa and up the Nile River to Egypt and value opportunities to attend family events in all corners of the United States.

Johnson expressed gratitude for the experiences his medical degree has made possible. Interspersed among his five decades as an internist in Turlock, Johnson also has been a hospital examiner



Clockwise from above: Daniel Safer (left) of the Class of '59, visits with classmate Frederick Gobel. Jim Angevine, '59 class representative, congratulates his class at the 50th reunion lunch. Charles Larkin and Everett Johnson, both of the Class of '49, reminisce about their training at the medical school some 60 years ago.



with the California Medical Association and the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, and a member of the Medic Alert Foundation board of directors.

He held a community medicine faculty position at Stanford University School of Medicine, training medical students and residents in the highly agricultural San Joaquin Valley surrounding Turlock. He remained in locum tenens practice until 2006.

The classes of 1954, '64 and '79 also held reunions.

The WMAA board of directors met during the weekend as well. Board members heard from Christine Seibert, MD, the SMPH associate dean of medical education, who outlined the major changes that have been made to all four years of the MD curriculum. And medical student Ben Weston described the Healthy Classrooms Foundation that he and other students have created to incorporate health education into local schools.

The Awards Banquet, of course, was a highlight

of the weekend (see pages 32-33 for details). Adding to the festivities, two award recipients—Harvey Wichman ('65), who won the WMAA Service Award, and Dennis Maki ('67), who won the Medical Alumni Citation Award—had birthdays to celebrate.

Students were also an important part of the weekend. Alumni had a chance to meet with many of them during the Saturday Brunch in the HSLC Atrium.

Johnson and his wife enjoyed visiting with the

students as well as other alums and SMPH faculty at the brunch. They also toured the American Family Children's Hospital.

"The new hospital is impressively designed and equipped to care for children," says Johnson, reflecting upon the days when the original, much smaller facility, the Mary Cornelia Bradley Hospital, was the main children's hospital—not many years before he enrolled in medical school here.

Awards 2009 Winners Honored



DENNIS G. MAKI



HARVEY M. WICHMAN



DOROTHY M. BARBO



SHARON L. HAASE



RENEE REBACK



FRANK L. MEYERS



JOHN F. FOWLER



KEVIN T. STRANG

As always, the annual Awards Banquet hosted by the Wisconsin Medical Alumni Association (WMAA) was a highlight of Alumni Weekend. On Friday evening, May 8, 2009, friends and family members gathered to honor alumni and others who have made exceptional contributions in several areas.

The WMAA's top honor, the *Medical Alumni Citation Award*, was presented to **Dennis Maki, MD '67**. For our in-depth "Alumni Profile" of Maki, please go to page 22.

Harvey Wichman, MD '65, was given the *Medical Alumni Service Award*, which honors an alumnus who has exhibited exceptional commitment to the WMAA. A lifetime member since 1970, he served as president from 2000 to '02 and was a board member from 1992 to 2006. He led the effort to create the first WMAA strategic plan and to establish an affiliation agreement between the WMAA, the medical school and the UW Foundation. Wichman was a class representative for more

than 10 years. He completed his internship at Mt. Sinai Medical Center in Milwaukee and his orthopedic surgery residency at the University of Louisville Hospitals. He joined Milwaukee Orthopedic Specialists in 1970.

Dorothy Barbo, MD '58, received the *Ralph Hawley Distinguished Service Award*, which honors an alumnus who has made outstanding contributions to the local community. Since retiring from the University of New Mexico (UNM) Medical School in

1999, Barbo has worked in mission and government hospitals overseas. She trained in obstetrics and gynecology at the Lutheran Hospital of Milwaukee and did a gynecologic oncology fellowship at the Medical College of Wisconsin, where she later served on the faculty. While a faculty member at the Medical College of Pennsylvania, she established the Center for the Mature Woman. At the UNM, she was medical director of the University Center for Women's Health.

Sharon L. Haase, MD '85, was given the *Sigurd Sivertson Medical Education Award*. This award recognizes outstanding preceptors who offer medical students rich educational opportunities in small communities. Based at Beaver Dam Hospital, Haase began mentoring fourth-year UW students in the Preceptor Program in 1988. The next year she became the sole preceptor and she has continued to take on medical students for apprentice-type teaching for their preceptor rotations. In 2003, the SMPH awarded her its Max Fox Preceptor Award.

The WMAA honored **Renee Reback** with an *Honorary Life Membership*, which recognizes a person who has been particularly supportive and helpful to students and alumni. Executive director of the Wisconsin Medical Society Foundation, Reback and her staff have initiated the White Coat Campaign, developed the Operation Education program and increased scholarship awards.

The 2009 *Emeritus Faculty Awards* for a clinical scientist and basic scientist were presented, respectively, to **Frank L. Myers, MD**, and **John (Jack) F. Fowler, PhD, DSc**. The awards are given in recognition of long and effective service to the SMPH in teaching and/or research or noteworthy administration, including program development.

An ophthalmologist at Davis-Duehr Eye Associates in Madison from 1968 to 1995, **Myers** was a faculty member in the Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences until becoming a professor emeritus in 1997. His research interests included diabetic retinopathy, macular degeneration, ocular melanoma and clinical trials. He was especially dedicated to medical student education. Since retiring, Myers remains involved in a free rural eye clinic in the Philippines.

A professor of human oncology and medical physics, **Fowler** was based at the SMPH for two five-year periods between 1988 and 2004. Before that, he spent 19 years in medical physics in the United Kingdom before moving to the Gray Lab of UK Cancer Research Campaign. Fowler is internationally recognized as a leader in radiation oncology. He is widely admired for his enthusiasm, insight and humility. He lives in London.

Kevin T. Strang, PhD, won the *Basic Science Teaching Award*, which recognizes the most distinguished basic science teacher in the first two years of medical school as identified by second-year medical students. With a PhD in physiology from UW-Madison, he has been a member of the physiology department since 1994. He teaches human physiology courses.

The *Distinguished Awards for Clinical Teaching* honor clinical teachers from the school's four major teaching locations. The awards went to **Cheng Her, MD**, of La Crosse; **Michael L. Bentz, MD**, of Madison; **Steven H. Yale, MD**, of Marshfield; and **Barbara Horner-Ibner, MD '88**, of Milwaukee.

Her is a family practice physician at Gundersen Lutheran Clinic in La Crosse. He is a mentor/preceptor in the SMPH Primary Care Clerkship Program. With an MD degree from the University of Minnesota Medical School, he completed his family medicine residency and earned an MS in population health at UW.

Bentz is chair of the SMPH Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. He earned his MD at Temple University and completed residencies in general surgery and plastic and reconstructive surgery as well as a fellowship in microvascular surgery research. Frequently named a best doctor in America, he

has been recognized with numerous teaching awards.

Yale is director of the Clinical Research Center and of the Department of Internal Medicine at the Marshfield Clinic. He is regularly honored for his excellence in teaching medical students and residents. He earned his medical degree at Albany Medical College and completed his residency and a fellowship at Mayo Clinic.

Horner-Ibner is the medical director of the Bread of Healing Clinic at Cross Lutheran Church in Milwaukee. A graduate of the SMPH, she did her residency in internal medicine at Aurora-Sinai Medical Center. She also has master's degrees in social work and divinity.

Anna Ibele, MD, a general surgery resident at UW Hospital and Clinics, was given the *Outstanding Resident Teaching Award*. She completed a pediatrics residency at Duke University after earning her medical degree from Wake Forest School of Medicine.



CHENG HER, MICHAEL L. BENTZ,
BARBARA HORNER-IBNER AND STEVEN H. YALE

Reunions

1959

Front row, left to right: Eugene Krohn, Martin Janssen, Evan Pizer, James Angevine, George Bogumill, Martin Rammer and Charles Johnson. Middle row: Daniel Safer, Jordan Fink, Thomas Monfore, Fredarick Gobel, William Schoenwetter, Earl Kendall, Michael Baumblatt, Frederick Melms, Charles Horwitz, Burton Friedman, John Fry, Ward Olsen and Larry Polacheck. Back row: George Kaftan, Gordon Lang, Leroy Rhein, John Larsen and Ronald Rosandich.



1949

Front row, left to right: Charles Larkin, Claude Schmidt and Clayton Haberman. Back row: Marvin Royce, Everett Johnson, Ben Washburn and Bill Semler.



1954

Front row, left to right: David Morris, William Rabenn, Edward Pezanosk and Ivan Sletten. Back row: Ralph Olsen, Warren Otterson, Charles Picus, Elton Eastwood and Donald Wood.



1964

*Front row, left to right: Mark Mergen, Gordon Tuffli, Robert Heinen and Thomas Fung.
Back row: Frederick Fosdal, Thomas Mockert, Gerald Gehl and William Flader.*



1979

Front row, left to right: Maureen Mullins, Renee Coulter, Jill Harman, Jean Thierfelder and Sandra Petersen. Back row: John Strohm, Charles Schmitt, James Klamik, Joseph Drinka and F. Martin Brutvan.

THE IDITAROD



Lynn Budzak, an "IditaRider" and sponsor of local Alaska racers, handles handsome sled dogs eager to begin.

by Kathe Budzak, MD '69

A diphtheria epidemic in Nome, Alaska, endangered the lives of countless children in January of 1925. The only hope was to get antitoxin to them from Anchorage. A carefully insulated parcel of serum was sent to Nenana by rail and then carried on to Nome by a relay of 20 sled dog drivers and their teams.

The Iditarod Sled Dog Race, known as "The Last Great Race on Earth," was started in 1967 to commemorate that life-saving 1925 serum run. Teams travel along the historic Iditarod Trail 1,149 miles from Willow to Nome through 22 checkpoints. Nearly 1,800 volunteers are involved with the race each year in every imaginable capacity, from office staff and security

to veterinarians, pilots and residents of remote villages along the trail.

A charity auction offers the opportunity to be an IditaRider in the Ceremonial Start. In 2008 our daughter, Lynn Budzak, MD '90, won the privilege of riding with musher Allen Moore. She found the experience so inspirational, she again invited me to join her on the trip to Alaska this year. To expand our knowledge of the sport and the event, we enrolled in an Elderhostel on the Iditarod as well. This year I would be the IditaRider!

In considering which musher to bid on, we discovered that Robert Bundtzen, MD, an infectious disease specialist in Anchorage who had done his internal medicine residency and ID fellowship at UW, had entered the Iditarod. As luck would have it, I won the opportunity to ride in Bob's sled.

Bundtzen (PG '80) grew up in Anderson, Alaska, having moved there in 1960. Fifteen years ago, he was encouraged to start running sled dogs by another physician, Jim Lanier, MD, a retired pathologist who has competed in the Iditarod since 1979. Robert has run and completed the Iditarod 12 times in addition to other long-distance dog sled races in Alaska and the Yukon Territory. An all-around outdoorsman, Robert also enjoys hiking, fishing and hunting in addition to mushing.

Lynn and I first met Robert at the IditaRider pizza lunch two days prior to the Ceremonial Start. Bob graciously invited us to visit his dog yard the following day in the beautiful foothills just outside of Anchorage. What a treat it was to meet and pet some of the handsome, enthusiastic 20-plus dogs in his yard!

So, following in Lynn's footsteps, I was an IditaRider in the 11-mile Ceremonial Start from downtown Anchorage through the city streets and park trails to Campbell Air Strip. It was the thrill of a lifetime on the day prior to the "Restart," the actual beginning, of the 2009 Iditarod in Willow.

On that morning of the ceremonial ride, Anchorage was alive with activity. Snow had been trucked in overnight to cover Fourth Avenue along the route. Dog trucks lined the side streets as mushers snacked their dogs, then harnessed, bootied and lined them up for the start of the ceremonial race.

The excitement in the air was palpable along with the cacophony of eager barking dogs. Each dog had a team of handlers to walk it to the start and to hold it back, as they all are so eager to run. Lynn was excited to be a dog handler—after being a sponsor for several years—for Aliy Zirkle and Allen Moore of Skunk's Place Kennel in Two

Rivers, Alaska (to learn more, go to www.aliyzirkle.com).

The IditaRide was indeed an unforgettable experience. Snuggled into the sled, sitting on a comfy foam cushion, I was transported into another world. The beauty of the fir trees, blue sky and snow-covered mountains in the distance was exhilarating. Both Lynn and I were amazed at how peaceful and quiet it was in the sled behind a team of 12 dogs. As Bob and I rode along, we reminisced about med school faculty members at UW that we both remembered. In less than an hour, the ride was over but the memories will last forever.

The following day, Bob was the 51st of 67 mushers to leave the starting line in Willow. One of 52 to complete the race, he arrived safely in Nome 12 days, 13 hours, 24 minutes and 30 seconds later, with 13 of his 16 starting dogs. What an experience!

The majority of the dogs are Alaskan huskies, a mixed breed bred for endurance, attitude, desire to run and the ability to eat on the trail. During the actual race, mushers begin with 16 dogs but a dog can be "dropped" at any checkpoint if the musher has concerns about a dog's weight, enthusiasm, possible injury or illness. Dropped dogs are safely conveyed to Anchorage or Nome by a volunteer air force, where they are cared for by additional volunteers until a member of the musher's kennel can retrieve them. At each checkpoint, veterinarians examine the dogs, as each animal's welfare is the musher's prime concern.

The Iditarod mushers must take care of supplies for themselves and their team as they journey through the rugged terrain of two mountain ranges, the frozen Yukon River and the brutal windswept coast of the Bering Sea.



Tucked in the sled of Bob Bundtzen, #51, Kathe Budzak finds the 11-mile ceremonial start of the Iditarod "the thrill of a lifetime."

Storms can be treacherous and blinding, forcing mushers to break their own trail. Many mushers run at night, guided only by their dogs and a headlamp. On the trail for 10 to 17 days, the dogs and mushers are the ultimate endurance athletes.

It was the love of dogs that sparked Lynn's interest in sled dogs a few years ago. Fellow resident in the UW Eau Claire Family Medicine Residency, Ron Cortte, MD (PG '95), had run the Iditarod. While he was a physician's assistant in Bethel, Alaska, Ron ran and finished the race in '80, '82, and '84 prior to medical school and again in 2006 while practicing in Tomahawk, Wisconsin.

To follow the 2010 race online next year, go to www.iditarod.com.

Class Notes compiled by Barbara Lukes

Class of 1944

Mary Helen Chamberlin, who lives in Westfield, N.J., has been writing blank verse since 2002. At age 89, she still writes a poem every day. Her hobbies are physics and cosmology. Her husband, Earl, is 94 years old and has Alzheimer's disease but she says he still knows her!

Class of 1949

Everett Johnson of Turlock, Cal., did more than practice medicine in a career spanning more than 50 years. He was also a teacher and served as an examiner to make sure California hospitals were up to standard. He is the recipient of the 2009 John Darroch Award for Outstanding Physicians. The award goes to physicians who have shown dedication to patient care, education and community involvement.

Class of 1958

John Weiss, who lives in Oakland, Cal., recently celebrated his 75th birthday. Among those present at the party were two classmates, Drs. Bry Wyman and Claude Burdick. All three physicians are still active in medicine.

Harry Wong is a retired professor emeritus at the University of Utah School of Medicine. He has recently been honored with the naming of the Harry C. Wong, MD, Presidential Endowed Chair in Anesthesiology.

Class of 1965

Allen Plotkin is wondering where his fellow classmates are. He lives in Dallas with his wife, Diane. Plotkin retired from active

urologic practice in 1972. He then did charity care and now works part-time at a medical clinic. He travels, studies World War II and has audited history courses at the University of Texas, Dallas.

Class of 1969

Carol Rumack, a professor of radiology and pediatrics at the University of Colorado, Denver School of Medicine, is a recipient of the American Roentgen Ray Society's highest award, the Gold Medal for Distinguished Service to Radiology. She is a pioneer in neonatal brain imaging with ultrasound and still practices neonatal imaging in the high-risk neonatal intensive care unit.

Class of 1976

Thomas Luetzow was elected the Wisconsin Medical Society's president-elect for 2010.

Class of 1979

Kevin O'Connell, who lives in Merrill, Wis., has been the program director of the UW Department of Medicine's Wausau Family Medicine Residency Program for the past 16 years. He spearheaded a \$3 million campaign for the construction of the medical educational center, which celebrated its one-year anniversary March 10, 2009. O'Connell also serves as vice president of the medical staff at Aspirus Wausau Hospital.

Class of 1981

Herbert F. Young, who lives in Leawood, Kan., is director of the Scientific Activities Division of the 94,000-member American Academy of Family Physicians. Young also is a principal investigator on a Centers for

Disease Control cooperative agreement to increase immunization rates in family medicine.

Class of 1982

Robert Lebel recently joined the faculty of the State University of New York Medical Center in Syracuse. He is chief of the medical-genetics section, a lecturer in bioethics and a professor of pediatrics, internal medicine, pathology and obstetrics and gynecology.

Class of 1984

Lori Ann Deitte has been inducted as a fellow in the American College of Radiology. She is a clinical associate professor of radiology at the University of Florida College of Medicine in Gainesville.

Class of 1989

Jonathan Fliegel and his wife, Tammy Greco, love watching old movies, spending time with their large extended families and walking all over Madison. He recently became the division director of the Pediatric Hospitalists at the American Family Children's Hospital.

Class of 1990

William McIvor was promoted to associate professor of anesthesiology by the University of Pittsburgh in November 2008.

Class of 1992

Peter Henke is chief of surgery at the Ann Arbor Veteran's Hospital. His research interests are in peripheral artery disease, deep vein thrombosis

(DVT) and vascular medicine. He has a National Institutes of Health-funded laboratory that investigates mechanisms of DVT resolution and vein wall injury.

Troy La Mar remained in San Gabriel Valley, Calif., after completing his residency at Huntington Memorial Hospital in Pasadena. He focused on advanced laparoscopic surgery, and in 2001 helped start the first laparoscopic bariatric program in Los Angeles. Since then, he has performed over 1,000 laparoscopic gastric bypass and band procedures. He practices in a group with three surgeons. Le Mar enjoys working out, gardening, movies and learning about wine. He and Michelle Jovanovic are finally engaged.

Class of 2000

Gerlyn Brasic, who lives in Bangor, Wisc., recently was certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine in hospice and palliative medicine.

Other

Albert L. Wiley, PhD '72, lives in North Carolina and serves as director of the Radiation Emergency Assistance Center and the U.S. World Health Organization Radiation Medical Emergency Assistance Network at Oak Ridge, Tenn.

In Memoriam

John Petersen '54
June 2009
Wauwatosa, Wisconsin

Remington *continued from page 21*

health strategies throughout his career,” says Karen E. Timberlake, secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. “This new role will allow him to shape the way new healthcare professionals are trained, and will further strengthen the UW’s leadership in forging that critical connection between the healthcare and public health sectors.”

Prior to working for the state health department, Remington served as a medical epidemiologist at the Centers for Disease Control

and Prevention (CDC). As an SMPH faculty member, he founded and has directed the Master of Public Health (MPH) degree program and the UW Population Health Institute, both of which are supported by the Wisconsin Partnership Program, and served as associate director at the UW-Madison Carbone Cancer Center.

Remington has worked tirelessly with the UW Population Health Fellowship Program and Healthy Wisconsin Leadership Institute, which has provided

training and support to more than 500 public health practitioners statewide.

The appointment draws praise from many other public health leaders, including Bevan Baker, commissioner of the City of Milwaukee Health Department, and Tim Size, executive director of the Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative.

“Remington’s appointment sends a clear signal that the SMPH is reinforcing its commitment to public health in Wisconsin,” says Baker.

In addition to his medical degree, Remington earned his undergraduate degree at UW-Madison. He completed an internship in Seattle and a residency in preventive medicine at the CDC, where he also served as an Epidemic Intelligence Service officer. He earned a master of public health from the University of Minnesota.

The appointment took effect July 1, 2009.

Shull *continued from page 21*

McArdle founder and first director.

The McArdle Laboratory for Cancer Research was established in 1940 as one of the nation’s first basic-science research laboratories focused on cancer. It is renowned for its groundbreaking and innovative research, including the Nobel Prize-winning work of the late Howard Temin, PhD.

“Over the nearly 70 years since its founding, the McArdle Laboratory has established itself as one of the world’s preeminent centers for cancer research. During the same time frame, the laboratory has developed a strong and unique culture

that has without a doubt contributed to its many successes,” says Shull. “As the new director, I will work closely with the faculty to shape the evolution of the McArdle culture in a manner that promotes many future successes.”

Shull says that, like other major scientific centers, McArdle will face challenges in the next decade. Yet, he sees great potential and many opportunities.

“We will exhibit boldness as we work to seize each of the opportunities available to us,” he says.

Maki *continued from page 24*

Maki says the blessing of six grandchildren has brought him and his wife even closer together.

One daughter and two of her children live with the Makis during their son-in-law’s third deployment to Iraq. Some parents dread when their kids suddenly boomerang back home, but not Dennis Maki.

“It’s great having my daughter and grandchildren around,” he says. “The bond with the grandchildren has become even stronger because of the experience.”

At the other extreme are another child and two grandchildren who live in Australia.

“While we see them only a couple of times a year, we’re constantly keeping in touch on the Internet,” says Maki.

With Maki’s rich professional and personal history and the impact he’s had on detecting, controlling and treating infectious diseases, one wonders how he’d like to be regarded when future generations learn and read about him in history books.

His humble answer: “All I want on my tombstone is: ‘He was a good and caring doctor.’”

The HSLC Atrium, Five Years Later



*Christopher Larson, MD '75
Editorial Board Chair*

It's hard to believe that the five-year anniversary of the dedication of our Health Sciences Learning Center (HSLC), the centerpiece of the medical school that represents a new integrated approach to healthcare teaching, is upon us.

The building was featured in a recent issue of *TradeLineInc.*, an online journal. The article credited the staff of Kaher Slater of Milwaukee and the design team leader, Larry Schuck, with the planning and foresight necessary to make the building the wonderful success it is. Working

closely with school leaders, Schuck led the project with a philosophy of creating an esthetically and functionally appealing place.

Anyone who has been to the HSLC to visit or attend ceremonies, receptions or other events knows that the heart of the building is the Atrium. Designed with a certain "wow factor" to capture the attention of users and visitors, it features plenty of natural light and a comfortable and welcoming environment fostering many opportunities for interdisciplinary learning.

Susan Skochelak, MD, MPH, former senior associate dean for academic affairs, was quoted in the article. Of the Atrium, she said, "[It] provides opportunities for interaction around the cafe for students, faculty and staff. We knew we hit it right when one of our students was giving a presentation to alumni and described it as the 'students' living room.'"

Alumni Weekend this year included an opportunity to visit the HSLC. Many of us attended the Saturday brunch held in the Atrium, and I took a moment to reflect on the excitement that grew during the planning and construction of our new medical school.

Several Med Is and IIs attended the event. They shared their impressions of the HSLC and how the Atrium provides a place for relaxation, contemplation, study and enjoyment.

Med Is Kyle Pauly, Linda Longwirth, Allie Pratt and Joel Woods, who were available to give us tours of the HSLC and the American Family Children's Hospital, joined us for the buffet.

Our conversations included a discussion of the music that began soon after we arrived. It was coming from the Atrium's grand piano, a gift from Rolliana and William Scheckler, MD (mentor to the classes of '04 and '05), Gordon Tuffli, MD '64 (mentor to the class of '01) and other class mentors.

The students told us that the piano has contributed greatly to everyone's enjoyment of the Atrium. The generous gift bears a plaque with the following inscription: "Dedicated to the medical students of the University of Wisconsin and all who find healing in music."

The piano is still beautiful and treated respectfully by all, with the alumni association providing safekeeping, tuning and maintenance. Students and faculty who use it are from diverse disciplines, but they all consider the medical

school home. Anyone using the piano will remove and fold the quilted cover before playing, replacing it carefully when finished. The keyboard is never locked.

Allie commented that when someone is playing, she frequently "checks to see who it is" and is surprised that so many fellow students are piano musicians.

Med II Sonya Raaum was the pianist for our Saturday morning gathering. She played several Chopin, Debussy and Scott Joplin pieces, as well as some '30s cabaret favorites. She described how the music soars throughout the Atrium when she plays. One piece, Debussy's "Clair de Lune," is "perfect for a grand piano," she said. Sonya is one of many appreciative medical students who can't imagine what classes must have been like in the old Service Memorial Institute.

After five years, it was indeed rewarding to see that the HSLC is a facility with such beauty and utility.

New Web Site Up and Running

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THE UNIVERSITY OF
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Have you visited med.wisc.edu lately? If not, we invite you to take a look at the School of Medicine and Public Health's new Web site.

The new site better represents the SMPH as a world-class institution, making a good first impression to visitors who first learn about the school online.

The site also better demonstrates the close relationship between the school and the clinical enterprise we call UW Health. Tabs at the top of each page at med.wisc.edu

and uwhealth.org clearly highlight this relationship.

Other enhancements include an improved navigation structure. There are now several ways to navigate the site—from the search box to categories in the top navigation bar and the comprehensive footer. Or, visitors can select one of the audience-oriented links in the "Information For" section on the lower right portion of the home page, as shown above.

There are plenty of resources for alumni on the new site as well, including information about alumni news and events, gift-giving opportunities, continuing medical education, photo galleries and more.

The site was built and is maintained by UW Health's e-Health office, which also maintains uwhealth.org. Questions or comments about the school's new Web site can be sent to smphweb@uwhealth.org.

We Want to Hear From You

Please send us information about your honors received, appointments, career advancements, publications, volunteer work and other activities of interest. We'll include your news in the Alumni Notebook section of the *Quarterly* as space allows. Please include names, dates and locations. *Photographs are encouraged.*

Have you moved? Please send us your new address.

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■ Observations

MS-22498-09



PHOTO: Jeff Miller, UW-Madison University Communications

Summer afternoons find sailors of all sorts, including members of the recreation club Hoofers, enjoying Lake Mendota.



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