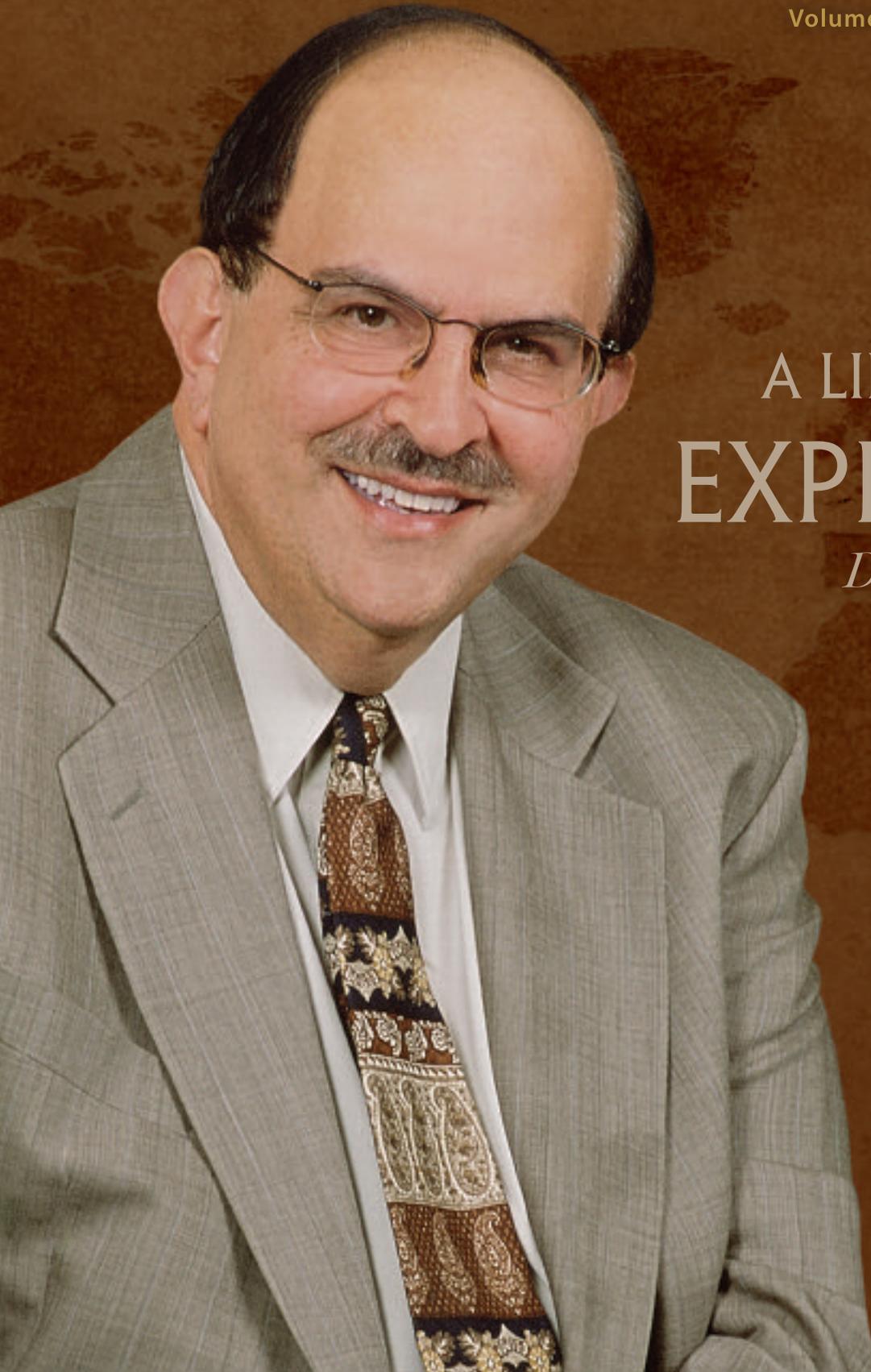


BULLETIN

Volume 69 • Number 3 • Spring 2007



A LIFE CHANGING EXPERIENCE

David Nalin, MD '65

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BULLETIN

The Albany Medical College Alumni Bulletin is published bi-annually for alumni and friends of Albany Medical College.

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Check it out!



COVER PHOTO

David Nalin, MD '65

President's Message

Tyrone G. Bristol, MD '92

President of the Alumni Association

Happy New Year! As January fades into memory we are all enthusiastically trying to turn our good intentions of accomplishing *this* or *that* into reality. Like you, we in the Alumni Association aspire to do much this year. We are inspired to find creative ways of reaching out to you, our members, supporting current AMC students, and of course fulfilling our commitment to support our *Alma Mater* as it confronts all the challenges of being part of an academic health sciences center in today's complex healthcare environment.

Recently, while visiting friends, a premed student in Pennsylvania asked me, "What does AMC look for in an applicant?" I quickly relayed our average MCAT and GPA, our expectations about volunteer work, research, basic understanding about healthcare systems, and medical ethics. It occurred to me that the best example of what we look for in an applicant is to look at our alumni-then I pointed out two people in the room that I had the pleasure of teaching when they were at AMC.

Earlier in that day, while laughing and hugging my healthy two month-old godson Noah, his dad said, "Remind me to write that check to AMC. It's not much but it's something." He is one of our "recent" graduates, Dr. Charles, AMC '97. This gesture of support for AMC is significant because he and his wife Dr. Sterling (AMC Pediatric Residency '00) are once again in "school". They are in the midst of what many would consider the most intense learning experience of their life. We talked about their new bundle of joy

and all the challenges that accompany juggling the busy life of physician-parents with the all important daily care of an infant. We also talked about providing quality healthcare, dealing with healthcare systems issues, our ever present student loans, and some fleeting thoughts about our next medical mission to Haiti.

I am sure you will be impressed reading our profile of some other remarkable AMC graduates Dr. Nalin and Dr. Paeglow in this *Bulletin*. They symbolize the rich AMC legacy of educating physicians and scientist who leave their personal and professional mark in whatever path they choose. And equally important, they remind us that there are many ways we can support AMC and inspire countless students to come. You can support the AMC Annual Fund, return for Reunion Weekend in April, host an AMC student, and of course be a contributing member of your Alumni Association. Remember, in your own way you are all Nalin's and Paeglow's.



A LIFE CHANGING EXPERIENCE



The Achievements of David Nalin, MD '65 Began with a Medical School Opportunity

By Jock Elliott

On October 10, 2006, The Independent, a British newspaper, published a story on the greatest achievements of medical science in the past 150 years.

Second on the list (after the contraceptive pill) was “Oral rehydration therapy.” The story, written by Jeremy Laurance, said:

Which medicine has saved more lives than any other and can be made by anyone in their kitchen, back bedroom, shantytown but or dwelling built of sticks – as long as they have access to clean water? The answer is: eight teaspoons of sugar; half a teaspoon of salt and one litre of water. Mix. Drink.

The discovery that sodium (salt) increases the absorption of water and glucose from the digestive tract has saved the lives of millions of children suffering from dehydration caused by diarrhea, the world's biggest killer of children. It requires no specialized equipment; uses ingredients that are ubiquitous and have a long shelf-life; has few side effects; and can be made up in any quantity – the perfect medicine.

The discovery that, even during diarrhea, this principle could be used to develop a safe, effective and inexpensive oral rehydration and maintenance therapy for cholera and other life-threatening acute watery diarrheal diseases was made by Dr. David R. Nalin, class of '65, while working

for the NIH Department of International Research at the Pakistan-SEATO Cholera Research Laboratory (now the International Center for Diarrheal Disease Research, Bangladesh). But the discovery might never have been made if it hadn't been for a life changing experience that occurred while Nalin was still a student at Albany Med.

"In my family, there was a tradition of people trying to aspire to professional careers," Nalin says. "Dad wanted to be a physician, but his father died of pneumonia, and my grandmother had to support the family, so it wasn't possible. Eventually my father became a pharmacist and pharmaceutical manufacturer."

"As my brother and I grew up, people suggested that, now that the family economy had improved, it might be good to be a doctor," Nalin adds.

Nalin was always interested in biology. Before he was 10, he had an insect collection. He grew up with turtles, snakes and salamanders. His interest in science got him into Bronx Science High School, and eventually he went to Cornell as zoology major.

He says, "I interviewed at a number of medical colleges, and I was impressed with the small classes at AMC, and the feeling that I got from meeting some of the doctors on the staff. It seemed they had a concern with maintaining an almost family-like atmosphere in the class. Another aspect I remember is that AMC accepted people at the extremes of the age spectrum. One classmate was 50 years old, and I was younger than most because

"IN MY FAMILY, THERE WAS
A TRADITION OF PEOPLE
TRYING TO ASPIRE TO
PROFESSIONAL CAREERS..."

– David Nalin, MD

I had skipped several years during my school career."

One of the things that Nalin discovered was that Albany Med offered a cross-cultural clinical clerkship. It was the brainchild of the late Dr. Frederick McCandless, head of the Behavioral Sciences Department, and he had on his staff a medical anthropologist, Phillip Singer. Singer had done fieldwork in Guiana in South America and was friendly with the leader of Guiana and his wife. This opened up a clinical clerkship in Guiana.

Nalin says, "I applied and participated in my third year. Eventually, I would go three times: once when the country was called British Guiana; once during the year of independence, when it was called Guiana; and once the year after independence, when the name became Guyana."

"It was an eye-opening, life-changing experience," Nalin says. Phillip Singer had done field work with the majority ethnic group, Tamil-speaking people from southern India who had been

brought there as indentured laborers. Singer had formed a relationship with a Hindu priest, Uncle Jamesy. Uncle Jamesy recognized two categories of healing: doctor work, which involved physical ailments like pneumonias, infected ears, and any disease or condition clearly not related to mental processes, and Kali work (for the Hindu goddess of that name), which involved mental disorders.

"Uncle Jamesy was receptive to having Albany Med students examine patients for doctor work," Nalin says. "Uncle Jamesy's specialty — Kali work — handled mental disease with elaborate religious ceremonies to exorcise the demons that the individual was believed to have. The ceremonies were amazing."

During his clerkships in Guyana, Nalin spent some time on the Brazil border dealing with Amerindian tribes who have big problems with tuberculosis. It was then that Nalin was exposed to the beautiful art created by the Amerindians, and he began his life-long avocation of collecting primitive art. (See sidebar.)

Nalin says, "Both my scientific career in

cross-cultural medicine and my artistic avocation took root in those years. Previously, I had a great love for clinical medicine, but I found myself being drawn toward research. That surprised me, because I never thought of myself as a researcher. I applied to the NIH Department of International Research (division of NIAID) and was offered by my choice of 19 different laboratories around the world to work at. I went to the Pakistan-SEATO Cholera Research Lab.”

Cholera is the worst of the many watery diarrheal diseases. A healthy adult can become profoundly, fatally dehydrated in 6-12 hours. Cholera is characterized by the “rice water stool.” It is translucent, has no fecal odor, and consists basically of water and salts crossing from plasma to gut lumen and then out of the body.

The director of the Pakistan Cholera Research Lab had been the father of modern cholera therapy and had devised

the modern treatment, which basically involved measuring the fluid losses and replacing with an equal volume of intravenous fluids, matching the salt concentrations of the diarrhea losses. The conventional wisdom had been that you needed to “rest the stomach”, so you gave nothing by mouth during acute diarrhea. This practice was in turn a major cause of malnutrition globally.

The problem is that intravenous therapy is costly and is not readily available in rural areas where cholera tends to occur, and it requires skilled personnel to administer. In hospitals with a small staff and many patients to treat, children had

body would absorb some of the solution. When a Navy team was sent to the Philippines to deal with a cholera outbreak, they tried to treat patients orally with a very concentrated solution of glucose and salt. The experiment was a failure, and several of the patients died. Nalin’s boss, who had sent the team, made up his mind that oral rehydration was a lost cause.

At a cholera outbreak at the Burma border of Bengal in 1967, Nalin was asked to oversee two Bengali research physicians again trying to develop an oral rehydration and maintenance therapy. But their protocol called for giving a fixed volume to drink, regardless of losses. As a result,

“PREVIOUSLY, I HAD A GREAT LOVE FOR CLINICAL MEDICINE, BUT I FOUND MYSELF BEING DRAWN TOWARD RESEARCH. THAT SURPRISED ME, BECAUSE I NEVER THOUGHT OF MYSELF AS A RESEARCHER. ”

– David Nalin, MD

to be strapped down so that they wouldn’t pull out their IV tubes, and sometimes there was damage or even death resulting from over hydration or aspiration of vomitus. What was needed was a method of oral rehydration that could be administered anywhere and could be monitored by almost anyone.

Nalin had gone through the literature on cholera treatment and had noted a 1964 Navy research publication reporting that if you added glucose to saline solutions administered by orointestinal tubes, the

some patients were dehydrated, and some were over hydrated. The bottom line was that with this method the therapy didn’t work.

Nalin says, “In analyzing why it failed, I realized it had to succeed if you gave matching amounts. When the spring epidemic came in Dhaka, I used a revised protocol and carried out the study with my colleague Dr. Richard Cash and two Bengali physicians¹. It was an immediate success: the need for intravenous fluids among cholera



patients arriving in shock was reduced by 80%.”

He adds, “We did a series of trials and tweaked the solution so that it would be suitable for all age groups. We devised a short list of things to tell a mother: how to mix the solution, how to give it, how much to give. We told her to watch the child’s eyes; give fluids until the eyes return to normal. We taught her to keep pinching the skin on the back of the hand – it will ‘tent’ if the child is still dehydrated and needs more oral solution.”

Despite initial success, Nalin’s boss was convinced that oral rehydration wouldn’t work in the long run and had basically forbidden Nalin and Cash to continue research on it. Nalin, however, was able to do an “end run” on his boss – the CDC sent people to conduct a large field trial of the method (so technically Nalin and Cash weren’t doing the research, just guiding it). The field trial was a success, and oral rehydration and maintenance therapy has now become standard practice, saving millions of lives around the world.

On January 31, 2007, Dr. Nalin and three colleagues were awarded the 2006 Prince Mahidol Award at the Royal Palace in Bangkok, Thailand, in recognition of their work on oral rehydration therapy.

Nalin worked for NIH from 1967-70 and then accepted a series of academic

appointments at Harvard, Johns Hopkins, and the University of Maryland. He joined Merck in 1983 as Director of Clinical Research for Infectious Diseases, retiring from the company in 2002.

In 2006, Nalin was reflecting on his career and made a decision. “I wanted to enhance the opportunities for medical students to get an early and potentially career-forming exposure to international research, one that would be similar to the opportunities that brought me to Guyana.”

As a result, Nalin is making a gift of \$200,000 over five years (the first \$20,000 matched by a gift from Merck) set up as a trust. The money will be invested, and the income will be used to send at least two students a year for a three-month period to a laboratory abroad with which AMC has an agreement.

“The exposure to Guyana whetted my appetite for international research,” Nalin says. “It changed my life. I hope this gift will change the lives of others.”

“I hope Albany Med students will take part in this program and add a new dimension to their education – understanding diseases in another cultural and ecological context. These diseases, which may be prevalent in developing countries, are important and should be studied to find a means for their prevention and cure.”

A Passion for Art



Dr. Nalin (l) discusses his collection with the staff of the University of Vermont Fleming Museum.

“It started with the first trip,” Nalin says. “I spent part of the time with Amerindian tribes on the Brazilian border, collecting blood for a lab interested in genetics. While there, I notice the beautiful figurines, shaman’s masks, and beadwork with brilliant tropical feathers. Over the years, I collected a substantial amount of this material. Eventually, I donated these to the University of Vermont Fleming Museum which exhibited them in 2006.”

When Nalin went to Asia, he developed an interest in ancient Indian art – mostly sculptures, but also painting and textiles. Three catalogs of Nalin’s collection of Asian art have been produced by Harvard University, The Newark Museum, and the University of Pennsylvania; a fourth, on Nepali and Tibetan art, is in the works.

Over the years, Nalin has donated well over 1,000 pieces of art to various museums. In addition, he still has a number of pieces on loan to museums, in storage, or at home.

Author’s note: to read Joshua Ruxin’s fascinating article, “Magic Bullet: The History of Oral Rehydration Therapy,” from *Medical History*, October, 1994, visit <http://www.pubmedcentral.gov/> and enter “Ruxin J” in the “Find Articles” search field.

Footnote:

1. Nalin, DR, Cash, RA, Islam R, Molla M and Phillips, RA. Oral Maintenance Therapy for Cholera in Adults. *Lancet*, 1968, ii 370-373.

A Medical Summer in British Guiana

David R. Nalin, AMC IV

We arrived at Albion towards evening. It is a small coastal agricultural community of Guianese of East Indian origin, most of whom work on the sugar estates. The caretaker of their temple had invited us to visit them during their religious festival to examine those of the sick who had not responded to the rites of religious healing.

During a dinner of roti and curry, dahl puri, mango and apple-banana, Uncle Jamesie, the caretaker, was telling us about the meaning of the ceremonies:

"First we make our morning devotion when the sun come up, in the small temple. We make the Mother take notice that we praying and begging Her for help. We ring the bell,

taken from the nipple to umbilicus. It is most often psychogenic. The affected person appears to appreciate that it is not organic, but, when presented with a case, an organic etiology must also be considered. It is interesting to note that while East Indian in origin, the affliction has been communicated to the Negro community, a case of culturally communicated disease.

Note: Words followed by (E.I.) are used mostly by Guyanese of East Indian origin. Words followed by (Af.) are used mostly by Guyanese of African origin.

We saw many people who had filariasis with elephantiasis of the legs: "big feet." A survey was conducted on all patients we saw, regardless of disease, to find out

"Popular tradition teaches that it is caused by exposure of the extremity to cold after heat."

blow on the conch shell, burn incense, so they know in Heaven that we is needing them. All the people bring coconut, banana, persád, many t'ing they bring to offer. And the Kali Mother look down and *see* we calling Her, *see* we praying to Her and She helps us...If you have child, cannot speak, and bring'em here, and do the work, the child will speak. Or you take your wife, that canna have a child, and she lose three, and she come here three-four time, do work and she make a son. You will see."

"Operations" means diarrhea in Guyanese. The word "cut" means a surgical operation. This led to confusion until we began asking "You been have any cuts?" (The commonly encountered cutlass wound, however, is a "chop," not a cut.)

— You been dizzy?

"Doc?"

— You head been swing?

"No, Doc."

— You ever have any high blood pressure?

"No, Doc, me na got no pressure."

— You been lose weight?

"Yes, Doc, me lose mága." (E.I.)*

"Maga" meant a large weight loss.

— You got any pain in you belly?

"Yes, Doc, me got nára." (E.I.)

"Nara" is a "cultural disease" manifested by a severe abdominal cramp, often precipitated by the ingestion of green mango, and diagnosed by the finding of unequal left and right measurements

what the cause of filariasis was believed to be. Popular tradition teaches that it is caused by exposure of the extremity to cold after heat.

Perhaps the antifilariasis program of films, posters and leaflets, organized in American style, based on an empirical tradition and directed at an audience culturally "neutral" or "objective" about filariasis, has little meaning to the Guyanese, just as a Guyanese film about leprosy control might change few attitudes here, where popular attitudes towards leprosy are based on longstanding cultural traditions. Impact would further be weakened because the Guyanese format would include scenes with palm trees and a population unlike our own, and therefore not easily identified with or "objectively" looked at, given our cultural setting.

The importance of cultural factors in relation to a medical program is poignantly illustrated by the past and present medical state of the Guyanese South American Indian (Amerindian) tribes. These number about twelve major generic language groups, belonging to three linguistic families. The twelve major groups are subdivided into numerous local dialects.

Despite the...problems of logistics and culture, numerous Amerindians do visit the Georgetown Hospital, when they are sent by air from the interior at Government



"Big Feet." D. Nalin examining a case of filariasis.

expense for treatment of disease diagnosed by dispensers or visiting physicians. Unfortunately, some do not speak enough English to give a medical history, and translators are not generally available.* This makes complete medical care difficult in some cases.

*In order to help deal with this problem in the future I collected and tape-recorded a brief medical questionnaire in seven Amerindian languages during the summer. D.N.

Our experience in Guiana taught us much about the relationship of medicine to other components of culture, and has left me with the uncomfortable conclusion that in the States the two are poorly integrated. Evidence of this, which should be the subject of much thought and planning in American medical centers today, is found in the frequent division of the quality of medical care in America along racial or socio-economic lines.

Furthermore, as medical schools embark on programs of accelerated medical education, as ours has already, the relatively less acculturated candidate will have greater difficulty and understanding and communicating with people, and, therefore, in practicing medicine according to superior standards, unless they can be helped to integrate cultural data into the medical sphere.

The above article was written while David Nalin, MD was a student. It appeared in the Albany Medical College Alumni Bulletin, Vol.27, No.2 Nov. 1964. It has been edited from the original text. The full text is available from the Alumni Association.

Robert Paeglow, MD '94 Recognized For Humanism

National Media Features His Efforts to Treat the Underserved

The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) presented Robert Paeglow, MD '94 with the Humanism in Medicine Award during the Awards Dinner at the AAMC annual meeting in Seattle on October, 28, 2006.

The Humanism in Medicine Award is given annually to recognize a medical school faculty physician who “exemplifies the qualities of a caring and compassionate mentor in teaching and advising of medical students” and who possesses the qualities “necessary to the practice of patient-centered medicine.” The Humanism in Medicine Award is sponsored by Pfizer Pharmaceuticals Medical Humanities Initiative, who placed a full page advertisement announcing the award and featuring Dr. Paeglow in the October 30 edition of *USA Today*.

The award has special significance for “Dr. Bob” since it is administered by the Organization of Student Representatives and the nominations are made by medical

students from schools across the country.

People Magazine featured a story about Dr. Paeglow in the December 4, 2006 issue as part of the magazine’s “Heroes Among Us” series. The story entitled “He gives medical care to the poor-for free” highlighted Dr. Bob’s extraordinary commitment to the underserved communities in Albany.

G. Timothy (Tim) Johnson, MD '69, Medical Director of ABC News, introduced a special segment of *Good Morning America* on December 14 during which Dr. Paeglow and his wife, Lianne, appeared live. The spot entitled, “Heroic Doctor Sacrifices Everything to Help the Needy” compared Dr. Paeglow to George Bailey and the classic tale of *It’s a Wonderful Life*. A former patient and his family made a

same building that houses the clinic where he sees a host of patients, most of whom have no insurance or access to health services. Bob believes that, “true joy can only be found in serving others and something greater than ourselves.”

Bob has an inspirational effect on the students of Albany Medical College who he mentors and guides in three educational programs – “Caring from the Start,” which fully immerses students in the care of the underserved; “Project Medscope,” where students work in tandem with Dr. Bob in his practice and finally, the “Cultural Diversity Elective” for first year students.

In addition to his work to improve the health of his own inner city community, Bob Paeglow also hosts students on his

“Just as parents put faith in their children, Dr. Bob sees the best in each person and helps to bring that out.”

– Joyce Barlin

surprise appearance on the show to thank Dr. Paeglow for saving his life. During Dr. Johnson’s remarks, he stated his pride in showcasing the incredible work of a fellow alumnus from Albany Medical College.

Robert Paeglow, MD is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Family and Community Medicine at Albany Medical College and Founder and Medical Director of Compassion in Action-Koinonia Primary Health and Mental Health Clinic in the West Hill neighborhood of Albany. His decision to reach out to the community was founded on his growing up in the Arbor Hill section of Albany, one of the cities poorest and crime-ridden areas. Bob and his wife live in the

many medical missions to Africa, South America and Haiti. His first visit to Africa was as a fourth year medical student. This experience was a life altering event for Bob: He vowed to “make a difference” as long as he had the ability and energy to do so.

Bob’s legacy to his students, patients and the global community can best be summarized in the words of Joyce Barlin, MD '05, “just as parents put faith in their children, Dr. Bob sees the best in each person and helps to bring that out. Particularly as medical students still unsure of our own knowledge and skills, he believes in us often more than we believe in ourselves. Dr. Bob is always guiding us, but he has confidence enough to let us work to become caring physicians.”



WELCOME BACK ALUMNI

Reunion 2007

All alumni are invited to join the festivities

Honoring the Classes of:

1947 | 1952 | **1957** | 1962 | 1967 | 1972 | 1977 | **1982** | 1987 | 1992 | 1997

Friday, April 27, 2007

16th Annual Distinguished Alumnus Lecture
4:00 PM • Huyck Auditorium • Albany Medical College
**“The Surgeon, Innovation, and Accountability:
Can They Coexist in Today’s Medical
Environment?”**

Edward L. Bove, MD '72, Head, Section of Cardiac
Surgery; Director, Pediatric Cardiac Surgery;
University of Michigan
Reception to follow at Albany Medical College Neil
Hellman Lobby
Individual class parties may be scheduled for the evening.

Saturday, April 28, 2007

Continental Breakfast

8:00 – 10:00 AM • Lobby of the Neil Hellman Building
The AMC Student Council will sponsor this event to honor
our returning graduates and their guests.

College Tours

8:00 – 9:50 AM
Student led tours will begin at 8:00 am in the lobby of the
Neil Hellman Building and will conclude prior to the start of
the “Meet the Dean” presentation. The Bookstore and the
Schaffer Library will be open 9:00 am – 12 noon. Enjoy a
20% discount on all AMC logo merchandise.

Meet the Dean

9:50 – 11:00 AM • Huyck Auditorium, Albany Medical College
Dean Vincent P. Verdile, MD '84 will present a State of the
College. The Deans of Student Affairs, Admissions and
Academic Administration will join him.



2007 AWARD RECIPIENTS

Annual Alumni Awards will be presented during the Reunion Weekend Awards Luncheon on Saturday, April 28, 2007.

Annual Alumni Awards Luncheon

11:50 AM – 1:50 PM • *The State Room, Albany, NY*

The annual Alumni Awards Luncheon will be held at The State Room in the historic DeWitt Clinton Hotel. The Alumni Association will present awards to the 2007 recipients. The Annual Meeting will also be held at this time and new Board Members will be elected

Dinner Gala

(black tie optional)

7:00 – 11:00 PM • *The New York State Museum "Terrace" Albany, NY*

There will be cocktails and dinner at the "Terrace" of the New York State Museum. Enjoy the music provided by Nate Buccieri on the piano.

Complimentary round trip shuttle service will be provided to the Gala from the hotels

Distinguished Alumnus

Edward Bove, MD '72

*Head, Section of Cardiac Surgery
Director, Pediatric Cardiac Surgery
University of Michigan*

Exemplary Alumni Support

Elbis Shoales, MD '49

Meritorious Service

Donna M. Pietrocola, MD '75

*Past President Alumni Association 2002-2004
Chief, Division of Breast Surgery
Albany Medical College*

Honorary Alumni

Assie Bishop, Ed.S

*Assistant Dean for Student and Minority Affairs
Albany Medical College*

Harvey Kausel, MD

(posthumously)

*Former faculty member
Division of Thoracic Surgery
Albany Medical College*

Jonathan Rosen, MD

*Associate Dean for Medical Education
Albany Medical College*

Frank C. Maxon, Jr., MD

Alumni Award

David Tauber

*Class of 2007
Albany Medical College*

Graduate Student Award

John Lamar, MS

*Center for Cell Biology and
Cancer Research*



Minorities in Medicine: Albany Medical College Increasing Opportunities

Assie Bishop, MS, Ed.S, Assistant Dean for Minority and Student Affairs

Since the 1960's there have been strong efforts in this country to rectify racial, social and class inequities in our society and our educational system. Affirmative action policies grew out of this movement and have to some extent been successful in creating diversity on our campuses of higher learning. Still, there are certain groups significantly underrepresented in medical school enrollment: Blacks, Puerto Ricans, Mexican-Americans and Native Americans.

This shortage of minority health professionals is of particular importance to the medical community. It is one problem that contributes to the deteriorating health care services in minority and economically disadvantaged communities. A great need exists for physicians, teachers and researchers from every background who are willing to serve and who will be sensitive to the health needs of an ethnically diverse population.

Diversity in the physician workforce is critical to improving our nation's health disparities. Research has shown how diversity benefits medical education and patient care. For example, minority physicians are more likely to treat racial and ethnic minorities and practice in underserved communities.

Albany Medical College (AMC) has been instrumental in the quest to produce more minority physicians. In 1914, the first Black student, George C. Carter, MD graduated from the institution. After graduating, Dr. Carter returned to his native Queens, NY to practice medicine. Dr. Carter was a member of the

Medical Society of New York, the Queens County Medical Society, and the American Medical Association. Dr. Carter died at the age of fifty-nine.

Many years later, the first Black female became a member of the Class of 1970. Dr. Ann Als practiced medicine for 35 years in New Jersey and has recently retired and relocated to California. Dr. Als has served as speaker for Black History month at AMC in 1994.

“A great need exists for physicians, teachers and researchers from every background who are willing to serve and who will be sensitive to the health needs of an ethnically diverse population.”

During the late 60's, there was a sentiment across the country that focused on the need to recruit and matriculate more minority students. Most medical schools offered programs to attract these students. Minority Affairs Offices were instituted, and many outreach activities were implemented to recruit the students to the respective institutions.

During this time the Association of American Medical Colleges was also spearheading efforts to increase the numbers of minorities in medical care teaching and research. In 1969, the Association of American Medical Colleges

developed a section for Minority Affairs within the Group on Student Affairs. Then in December of 1988, this section was incorporated into what was called the Division of Minority Health, Education and Prevention. Recently, the name was revised to the Division of Diversity Policy and Programs.

While the AAMC was spearheading its efforts, AMC had already recognized the importance of recruiting minority

students. AMC established a Minority Affairs Office. The office is charged with the recruitment, and retention of underrepresented minority students. This was a fairly new endeavor for most medical schools.

Minority Officers at the medical schools were interacting on an on-going basis. They were comparing notes on what works, what doesn't work, what types of programs are being offered at the different institutions. What we all discovered was that there was and continues to be a significant interest in pursuing medicine among minority students. Minority students show a definite interest in the

health professions. A survey in the American Medical News (January 4, 1993) found that more than 5 percent of African American college freshman are interested in medicine compared to 3 percent of white students. Somewhere along the line, minority students are lost in the crowd. Some may lose interest, of course, but others may be pressured by financial concerns and lack of financial and other support.

Increasing opportunities for minority students has been a priority at AMC. The institution realizes the importance of increasing the number of minority physicians and other health care providers. Historically, the institution has established conditions favorable to the development of programs aimed at increasing the representation of minorities. The following are examples of how various segments of the AMC community create an environment conducive to the success of the minority students at Albany Medical College.

The AMC Admissions Committee plays a significant role in our ability to recruit minority students. The members are educated regarding the problems facing minority candidates. The committee is very supportive and very interested in increasing the population of minority students.

AMC faculty members are sensitive to the needs of these students. They extend themselves to all students, but recognize that these students may have different types of issues.

The AMC Alumni Office has been very supportive of the Student National Medical Association, the national organization for underrepresented students. The office has made it possible for the students to attend their national conference by providing funds to offset the cost of attending.

We know that diversity enriches the educational experience for all students and is necessary to attract highly sought-

after candidates. What has been occurring over the years is that all 126 medical schools are competing for these highly sought-after students, and the pool has not significantly increased.

We must increase our efforts to strongly encourage talented minority students to choose AMC. The AMC community as well as the nation realizes the need to create a physician workforce that will be diverse enough to serve the nation's rapidly changing population.

The environment at AMC has undergone a transformation in the last few decades. How far we have come can best be illustrated by a story told by one medical student at another institution

"One day after dissection our anatomy professor pulled a bunch of us over. He had this picture taken in the same Anatomy lab in the 1960's. They were just like us, hundreds of eager, bright, first-year medical students kneeling over cadavers – only they were all white men in suits. Now here we are – two black guys, one white woman, and our professor, who is gay. I thought, 'Dang, things have changed.'"

Things have changed. AMC has its first Black President of the Alumni Association Board, Dr. Tyrone Bristol. *Things have changed.* AMC has its first Black Chair of a Clinical Department, Dr. Steven Stain, Chair of the Department of Surgery.

Unfortunately, the gains are still uneven. While some schools have successfully ushered the ethnic diversity of society into their academic community, others cling to the status quo. Through our multi-faceted approach, Albany Medical College has served a substantial number of

minority students. As Harvard's President, Neil Ruderdine said of America's diversity efforts, "This is not a moment...for self-congratulation. But neither is it a moment to underestimate [our] substantial human and institutional achievements. The progress, however, imperfect is inspiring. That progress must be substantiated and strengthened." Together we must take this message to heart and forge ahead with open minds and deep resolve. There is indeed much of which to be proud, yet a very great deal more to do.



George C. Carter, MD '14

Alumni Support is the Key to the Success of The College

After the tremendous success of the Pillars Campaign – which ended with a total of \$131 million dollars raised – 2006 could have easily been a year when giving to the College and Center dropped off. Instead, alumni, individuals, grateful patients, business' and foundations contributed more than \$14 million, nearly \$3 million more than last year. Most impressively, alumni giving soared to over \$1.9 million – the highest donation total from alumni since the launch of the Campaign in 2001.

The generosity of so many graduates is a testament to the quality of education offered at Albany Medical College, the connection of our alumni, and their desire to ensure that the College continues to offer a top level education. Scholarships in particular have always been an important aspect of alumni giving and were a major component of the support generated in the Pillars Campaign. Between endowed scholarships and additional support from alumni over \$700,000 was available from Foundation generated scholarships to students this academic year. The Alumni Association also made available another \$95,450 from their scholarship funds.

These are truly impressive totals that help reduce the average debt load – currently over \$150,000 – of our graduating students.

Although this is a significant and meaningful amount of aid, scholarships do not address the basic costs of creating and delivering a top notch education. As the study of medicine becomes more and more technologically advanced, the growth rate of costs has increased tremendously. At present, tuition alone cannot cover that rate of increase and, with a relatively high

top tier education to its students, to be a leader in a variety of research fields, and to grow to accommodate advancements in medical education. Most importantly, a strong endowment will allow College administrators to structure budgets in a way that reduces pressure on tuition costs, ensuring that Albany Medical College remains accessible to the many

“The generosity of so many graduates is a testament to the quality of education offered at Albany Medical College...”

tuition rate already, Albany Medical College is at a significant disadvantage with the size of its endowment (see accompanying chart). As this chart indicates, despite outstanding fiscal management by the Deans and the success of the Pillars Campaign, Albany Medical College is still behind the cost-to-revenue curve.

Combating this disadvantage will require a significant increase in support from alumni. Focusing on fundraising for chairs, professorships, lectures, as well as facilities like the Schaffer Library, labs, and classrooms, and programs like the Sosa Academy and the Interdisciplinary Research Centers will need to be at the forefront of the College's next round of fundraising efforts. At present only 15 to 20 percent of Albany Med graduates donate each year – well below the average (25 to 30 percent) for higher education institutions in this country. An increase in alumni giving, however, will ensure that the College continues to have access to the resources necessary to provide a

talented individuals in this country who dream of becoming doctors.

Albany Medical College proudly exists as one of the premier medical schools in the country, due in large part to the incredible generosity of so many of its alumni over the years. The number of applications continues to increase every year – last year we received over 7,100 applications for only 130 slots – and the College's reputation for producing both skilled and caring physicians is well-earned. Albany Medical Center Foundation and the Alumni Association are grateful to all of our alumni who set a leading example with their philanthropic commitment and remain united in the effort to ensure that Albany Medical College continues to be one of the very best places to start a career in medicine.

If you are interested in learning more about Albany Medical College's fundraising priorities for 2007, please contact Rick Werwaiss, director of principal gifts, at Albany Medical Center Foundation, 518-262-6806 or 1-877-810-5437.



Endowment Comparison to other Private Medical School Endowments (as of 2005):

Medical School	First Graduating Class	2005 Endowment
Harvard Medical School	1782	\$2,845,495,000
Stanford University	1864	\$1,643,615,777
Washington University in St. Louis School of Medicine	1899	\$1,600,000,000
Yale University School of Medicine	1814	\$1,248,000,000
Columbia University Medical Center	1767	\$1,140,000,000
Baylor College of Medicine	1903	\$1,115,775,721
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine	1860	\$997,430,599
Johns Hopkins Medicine	1897	\$894,736,275
Duke University Medical Center	1932	\$857,900,000
University of Pennsylvania Health System	1768	\$841,768,000
Emory University School of Medicine	1915	\$840,754,327
UCLA Medical Sciences	1955	\$781,000,000
Joan & Sanford I. Weill Medical College of Cornell Univ.	1899	\$670,000,000
Univ. of Chicago Hospitals & the Div. of Biological Sciences	1931	\$657,140,000
University of Rochester Medical Center	1925	\$518,069,773
Vanderbilt University Medical Center	1875	\$484,000,000
Mount Sinai School of Medicine New York University	1970	\$475,295,000
Albert Einstein College of Medicine	1959	\$473,511,000
Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine	1844	\$447,782,849
Medical College of Wisconsin	1970	\$404,109,702
Rush University Medical Center	1844	\$354,999,000
Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center	1904	\$315,737,494
Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center	1797	\$311,404,000
Thomas Jefferson University/Thomas Jefferson Univ Hosp	1894	\$265,592,052
University of Miami Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine	1956	\$252,573,347
Saint Louis University	1839	\$249,485,650
Keck School of Medicine of USC	1888	\$221,493,138
Mayo Foundation	1976	\$184,998,000
Drexel University College of Medicine	1848	\$167,540,019
Boston University School of Medicine	1854	\$167,000,000
Loma Linda University School of Medicine	1914	\$163,631,711
Georgetown University Medical Center	1852	\$144,038,118
Tufts University School of Medicine	1897	\$127,332,867
Loyola University Medical Center	1909	\$107,996,082
Albany Medical College	1839	\$71,320,763
New York Medical College	1861	\$55,427,000
Creighton University School of Medicine	1892	\$53,797,912
Ponce School of Medicine	1981	\$0

Note: The above figures represent private medical schools and joint programs who responded to a 2006 AAMC survey of medical schools.

Alter Ego

Dr. Anthony Ritaccio

On the job, **Anthony Ritaccio, MD '84**, professor of neurology and neurosurgery, spends his time helping patients who often have significant neurological diseases. He is a specialist in epilepsy and brain mapping techniques. It's challenging work that demands a high level of intensity and analysis. He finds it challenging and rewarding.

But when he's off the job, Dr. Ritaccio finds joy and relaxation in a very uncommon way: he plays the theremin.

"The theremin is a remarkable musical instrument with a remarkable history," says Dr. Ritaccio, who also is the holder of

the J. Spencer Standish Endowed Chair in Neuroscience and director of the Comprehensive Epilepsy Program. "It's been called the hardest instrument to play, but I disagree with that. Almost anyone can get a theremin to make a sound. It is, however, the hardest instrument to play well!"

The theremin was invented in 1919 by Russian physicist Lev Termen (who later changed his name to Leon Theremin). A box with two antennas – one vertical, one horizontal – the theremin is the only musical instrument that is played without touching it. Old theremins used radio tubes acting as a heterodyne oscillator inside the box to create a field around the antennas. The

sounds. I followed the evolution of early analog electronic instruments, especially early analog synthesizers, of which the Moog synthesizer is probably the best known."

"I played the French horn when I was younger but fell away from that as I concentrated on medical school and my career," he adds.

Then in the late 1990s, a documentary, *Theremin, An Electronic Odyssey*, won the Sundance Filmmakers Trophy. The film, which had contemporary footage of Leon Theremin (who had come to US to promote his invention in the 1920s, disappeared in the late 1930s into the Soviet Gulag, and was rediscovered by the filmmaker), Bob Moog and others, created a rebirth of interest in the theremin.

When Dr. Ritaccio saw the film, it reawakened his desire to make music. Soon he was asking, "Where does one procure one of these?"

"It turned out that Bob Moog was still making theremins," Dr. Ritaccio says. "I got one about three years ago and started communicating with professional thereminists."

"I also discovered that learning to play a theremin is horrific, frustrating, and rewarding. The only way to learn – short of traveling to Moscow, where Leon Theremin's grand niece runs the Theremin Institute – is to watch video footage of Clara Rockmore, who was considered the diva of the theremin in the 1930s."

He says "I find joy in playing the theremin. It's good to find music again. In the process of becoming a physician, it's easy to forget about the arts."

"I like the sound of the theremin. It's a beautiful sound; it's wonderful to be the generator of that sound, and now matter often I play, it still blows my mind that I'm making music without touching anything."

The above article appeared in the Vol.1 No. 7 edition of Albany Med Today. Reprinted with permission.

"The theremin is a remarkable musical instrument with a remarkable history..."

– Dr. Anthony Ritaccio

human body, being a capacitor, can interact with the field. As a hand nears the vertical antenna, the pitch gets higher, and moving a hand closer to the horizontal antenna reduces the volume. When the theremin was introduced, it was immediately regarded as a worthy musical instrument. Serious musicians began learning to play it, and well-regarded composers created pieces for the theremin.

The sound produced by a theremin is almost a pure sine wave, and it sounds hauntingly like a soprano human voice. Most people are familiar with the sound of a theremin – the warbling "oohhWEEEOohhhh" tone heard behind the chorus and at the end of the Beach Boys' song "Good Vibrations." (Dr. Ritaccio is quick to point out that the Beach Boys didn't use an actual theremin, but a closely related instrument with a similar sound.) The theremin was also used to create eerie sounds for horror movies during the 1950s.

Dr. Ritaccio says, "Since I was a kid, I had a strong attraction to novel electronic



Photo courtesy of Glenn Davenport

Alden March Bioethics Institute Offers Innovative Online Masters Degree in Bioethics

The Alden March Bioethics Institute (AMBI) at Albany Medical College is excited to announce the creation of the Masters of Science in Bioethics degree which will enroll its first class in fall 2007. Having already established itself as a national-leader with the production of its award-winning website, *bioethics.net*, its blog, *blog.bioethics.net*, and the most widely read journal in bioethics, *The American Journal of Bioethics*, AMBI also is poised to take the lead in online graduate bioethics education with its revamped and reinvigorated MS degree.

This new and innovative Masters degree program has been created just one year after the creation of the Institute and is a testament to its energy and success at Albany Medical College. According to Glen McGee, PhD, the Director of the Institute, "the Masters degree will include courses from AMBI's rapidly growing group of talented and energetic faculty who will teach courses in clinical ethics, research ethics, ethical issues in transplantation, and the ethics of innovative health technologies." The AMBI MS

program will provide its courses using innovative and exciting distance education technologies through its partnership with Apple and iTunes University.

The MS degree, the only online Masters of Science degree offered in Bioethics, will be available for completion entirely through distance learning. The program is designed specifically for mid-career professionals seeking additional skills and knowledge in a rapidly growing and increasingly important area for healthcare. The program is designed to provide healthcare professionals with the skills to identify, analyze, and communicate about ethical issues in medical care and research. The degree program can be completed on a part-time basis over three years.

In addition to online training, students will have the option of on-site training in clinical ethics in Albany as part of the MS degree as well as AMBI's Certificate in Clinical Ethics program. This certificate program allows those interested in learning more about ethics consultation and mediation to take four courses in



clinical ethics. The nine-day clinical ethics practicum takes place at Albany Medical Center each June and allows students to receive quality hands-on ethics training while enjoying all that the Capital District has to offer during the summer months.

To learn more about the AMBI Masters of Science in Bioethics degree, please contact Dr. Summer Johnson, Interim Director of Graduate Studies at summer.johnson@bioethics.net or 518-262-3367.

For more information on the Alumni Association go to
www.amc.edu/alumni

For information on Albany Medical College go to
www.amc.edu

Albany Medical Students Have a Voice in National Policy

AMC is Represented with Leadership Positions In the OSR

The Organization of Student Representatives is one of the five voting components of the Executive Council of the American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC) that represent the 67,000 medical students. Each of the medical schools in the country is eligible to send up to four student delegates to represent them in the Organization of Student Representatives (OSR). Albany Medical College has four representatives to the OSR and two are in national leadership positions including Erick Cheung, AMC IV, the Immediate Past Chair and Ketan Patel, AMC IV, who serves as Northeast Regional Delegate to the Committee on Medical Education. The Albany Medical College Delegate for the Class of 2009 is Nidhi Jacob and Emma Bendana represents the Class of 2008.

The four students have each had the opportunity to work on national issues that they have a personal interest in.

They credit the support of Albany Medical College and Dr. Henry Pohl, Vice Dean for Academic Administration, for the ability to attend the meetings and conferences that draw students from the entire country.

“I saw issues that I was passionate about” stated Nidhi. “Policy interests me especially in the area of minority affairs.”

Emma is proud of her involvement with bringing the Gold Humanism Honor Society to Albany Medical College. This charter

College calls for interested applicants to apply, have their application screened by a committee comprised of the current delegates and two representatives from student council. The top two candidates are presented to the student council that makes the final decision. Delegates serve for all four years that they attend AMC. “There is a growing interest in serving as an OSR delegate – students are looking at the big picture and want to participate them in a forum that deals with issues

“We have a lot of challenges ahead and a lot to look forward to.”

– Emma Bendana

group of ten students who have been nominated by their peers for the Humanism that they demonstrate will be initiated this spring. Albany will become the 60th school in that sponsors such a society.

Eric has found the OSR to be an ideal forum to pursue his dedication to the issue of health care for the uninsured. Emma commented that “Erick’s views initially were viewed as radical-they are now considered common place.”

The process of becoming an OSR delegate from Albany Medical College is not a popularity contest, in fact, the procedure adapted at Albany Medical

beyond what is happening at AMC, it’s a hard process,” stated Emma Bendana.

Life after AMC will be affected by the experience the four students have had being a part of a national effort to affect health care policy and medical education. Ketan plans to “continue working on medical education into residency and as an attending.” Nidhi is not sure “what lies ahead but I do know that there’s a lot of work to be done here and nationally [being involved with OSR] changed my life.” Emma feels like she is still at the beginning stages, “we have a lot of challenges ahead and a lot to look forward to.” Perhaps Erick summed up his experiences, which were set in motion the moment he entered Albany Medical College, best: “It has changed me and I’ve gained a new respect for public service.” He added, “if you don’t do it-who does?”



Emma Bendana, Erick Cheung and Nidhi Jacob (left to right). Missing from the photo is Ketan Patel.

REGIONAL ALUMNI EVENTS



1 - SACRAMENTO – OCTOBER 26, 2006

Clifford Marr, MD '74 and his wife, Jerilyn, hosted alumni in their Sacramento, CA home in October. Alumni from San Francisco to Tahoe spent the evening enjoying the company and conversation of Dean Verdile, Alumni Association President, Tyrone Bristol, MD, Karyn Connolly, Director of Alumni Relations and Fardin Sanai, Vice President for Development.

2 - SEATTLE – OCTOBER 30, 2006

The Rainier Club in downtown Seattle was the setting for an alumni event that brought together Seattle area alumni and Albany Medical College faculty and staff who were in Seattle attending the annual meeting of the AAMC.

3 - NEW YORK CITY – NOVEMBER 16, 2006

Alumni from the Metro New York area had the opportunity to enjoy the beautiful surroundings of the New York Athletic Club while they renewed acquaintances and met fellow alumni from the area. Joanne Nanos, Director of Admissions, was on hand to answer questions about the admissions process at Albany Medical College while Dean Verdile spoke about the Class of 2010 and provided a "State of the College." Tyrone Bristol, MD '92, President of the Alumni Association stressed the need for alumni to support their *alma mater* to ensure the continued excellence of the College.

Upcoming Alumni Events

FT. LAUDERDALE

ALUMNI RECEPTION

March 22, 2007

Home of Linda Civerchia-Balent, MD '76

TAMPA ALUMNI DINNER

March 23, 2007

TBA

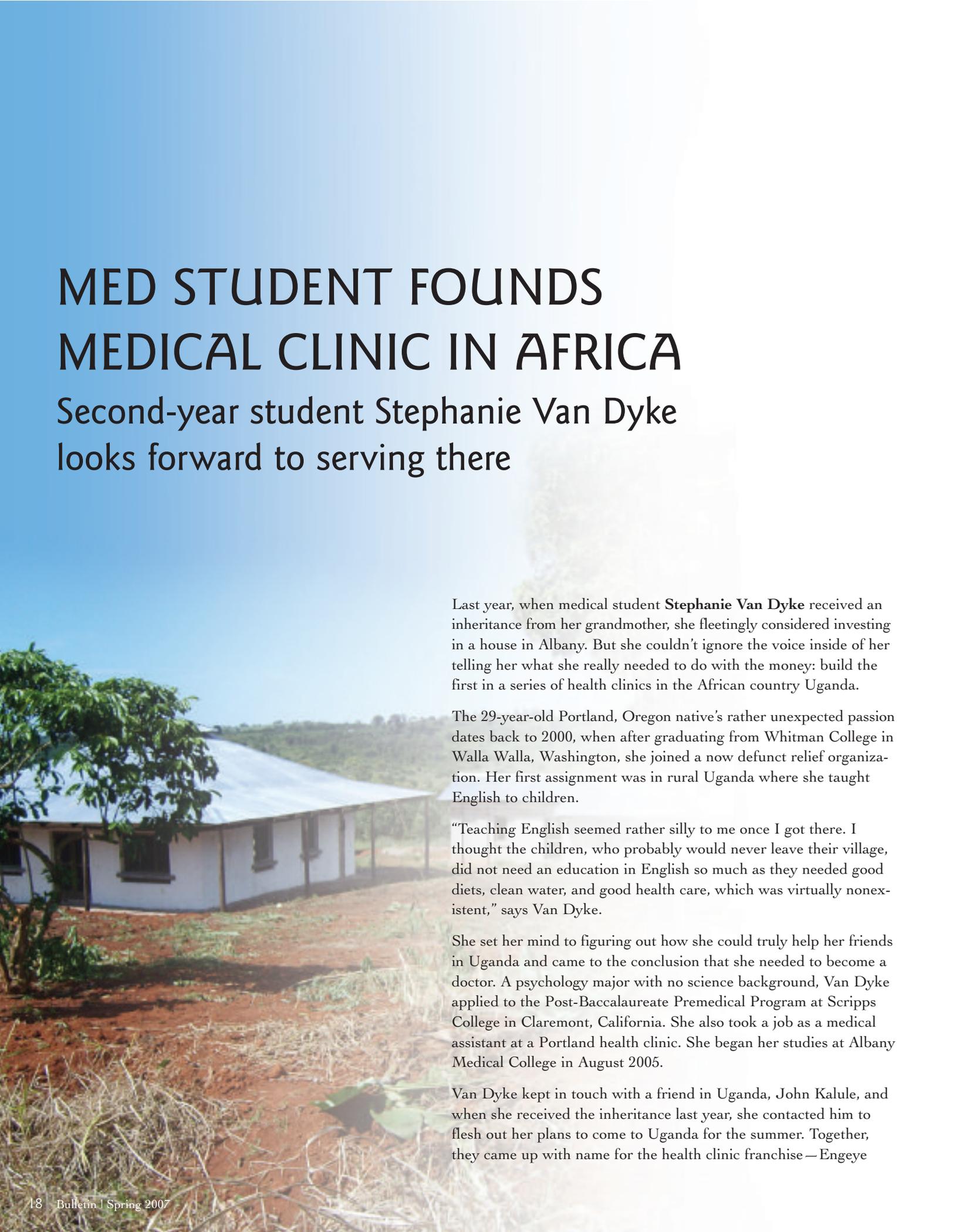
LONG ISLAND

ALUMNI RECEPTION

June 14, 2007

The Carlton, Eisenhower State Park

Please check the Alumni Association website for event details:
www.amc.edu/alumni



MED STUDENT FINDS MEDICAL CLINIC IN AFRICA

Second-year student Stephanie Van Dyke looks forward to serving there

Last year, when medical student **Stephanie Van Dyke** received an inheritance from her grandmother, she fleetingly considered investing in a house in Albany. But she couldn't ignore the voice inside of her telling her what she really needed to do with the money: build the first in a series of health clinics in the African country Uganda.

The 29-year-old Portland, Oregon native's rather unexpected passion dates back to 2000, when after graduating from Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington, she joined a now defunct relief organization. Her first assignment was in rural Uganda where she taught English to children.

"Teaching English seemed rather silly to me once I got there. I thought the children, who probably would never leave their village, did not need an education in English so much as they needed good diets, clean water, and good health care, which was virtually nonexistent," says Van Dyke.

She set her mind to figuring out how she could truly help her friends in Uganda and came to the conclusion that she needed to become a doctor. A psychology major with no science background, Van Dyke applied to the Post-Baccalaureate Premedical Program at Scripps College in Claremont, California. She also took a job as a medical assistant at a Portland health clinic. She began her studies at Albany Medical College in August 2005.

Van Dyke kept in touch with a friend in Uganda, John Kalule, and when she received the inheritance last year, she contacted him to flesh out her plans to come to Uganda for the summer. Together, they came up with name for the health clinic franchise—Engeye

(pronounced eng-GAY-yay), which is Kalule's family clan name and means "white monkey" in his native language Lugandan. It was decided that the inaugural building should be constructed in Kalule's tiny hometown of Ddegeya Village in Southern Uganda. There, he recruited workers and agreed to provide oversight for day-to-day operations of the clinic construction.

Meanwhile, back stateside, Van Dyke enlisted the help of her parents Heidi and Jeff, restaurateurs in Portland, and construction manager Gary Arnold, the father of Albany Med classmate **Travis Arnold**. The group flew to Uganda in June and spent six weeks working on the construction of the first Engeye health clinic.

"Machetes in hand, we cleared the site of a mix of bean trees, coffee trees, and maize," Van Dyke says. The crew of 50 locals then leveled the ground and constructed the building using raw materials from the region including bricks of sun-baked mud and crushed granite. (Van Dyke explains that she didn't participate in the actual building process because the workers were too amused and distracted by seeing women do what is traditionally men's work.) They also built two volunteer houses intended for visiting health care workers.

She says the most prevalent diseases in Uganda are HIV/AIDS among the adults and malaria, a mosquito-borne illness, among the children. To that end, Van Dyke purchased \$1,000 worth of mosquito nets in Portland, flew over with the boxes of nets, and distributed them among the villagers.

One of the most surprising things, not just in the Ddegeya Village but also in other parts of Africa, Van Dyke says, is the number of orphans. "Because many adults have died of AIDS, you see groups of children running around often being raised by the older children," she says.

Throughout the summer, Van Dyke and the other volunteers ate what the villagers ate—a porridge made of water and milled flour for breakfast and lunch, and cooked plantains for supper (though they did supplement with protein bars and peanut butter). Time also allowed for some personal travel to Kenya.

"I want people to know that we're not trying to change the Ugandan's way of life. They are very happy and have a wonderful, friendly, and loving community. But I have to believe they will be even better off if they can eradicate or cut down on these terrible diseases that are plaguing them," she says.

Now that the first building is completed, it's Van Dyke's hope that she and other AMC students and physicians will go on a medical mission to Ddegeya Village, perhaps at Christmastime [*The trip is scheduled for March 30-April 10*]. She says right now the clinic is in need of basic supplies like band-aids, antibiotic ointment and condoms. She plans to go back each summer and when she is finished with her medical education, she would like to serve full-time in Africa.

For now, she's raising money in small ways—including bake sales outside of her parents' restaurants in Portland—and soliciting donations on Engeye's website www.engeye.org. She's hoping that once Engeye is incorporated as an official non-profit organization, larger donations and grants will follow.

While Van Dyke is humble about her humanitarian work, she admits that she is happy with what she's accomplished so far. "It does feel good. And I really feel like I'm honoring my grandma by using her money to help other people," she says.

The above article appeared in the Vol.1, No15 edition of Albany Med Today. Reprinted with permission. (Ed. Note; since the above article was written, the Engeye Clinic has received a non-profit status.)



Medical Student Investigation Day

Third Annual Program Showcases Student Research

The Third Annual Medical Student Investigation Poster Day was held on September 29, 2006. Sixty-six students presented research on such varied topics as the adoption of electronic medical records, the possible benefits of Tamoxifen therapy to treat stroke victims and diabetes in the Hispanic American population.

Medical Student Investigation Day is a novel part of the medical school curriculum, designed so that students who have carried out scholarly investigations in biomedical research or health care research can share their experiences with the medical community. This event has evolved from a small informal gathering to a much anticipated campus event. Invited to attend this year's poster session were representatives from the New York State Department of Health, local HMO's, the Ordway and Wadsworth Research Institutes, high school students and community physicians.

Posters are displayed in Choices Café where faculty, students and the general public can view them and ask questions of the students.

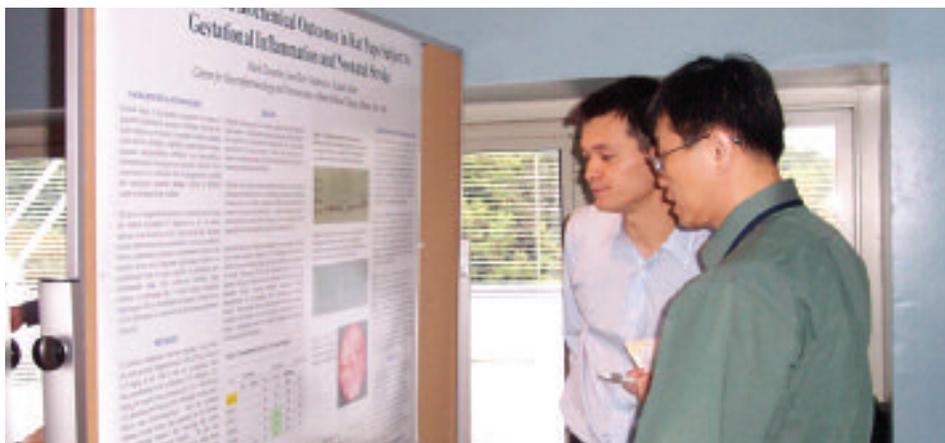
The Poster Day activities are extensions of Albany Medical College's Combined Degree Programs with Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Siena College and Union College.

The RPI/Albany Medical College Physician-Scientist program is designed for students with a firm foundation in scientific research. It is one of the few accelerated, combined degree programs in the country specifically created to train physician scientists.

Siena College students are required to perform two summers of community service either in this country or abroad. The research that they participated in centered on social/medical issues such as delivery of health care to the underserved.

The Union Combined Degree Program is for students who desire to play a leadership role in health care. Their research was concerned with contemporary medical, ethical and management issues.

Research was also presented by medical students who are in the traditional acceptance track who have elected to participate in summer research fellowships. Their research was funded by a five-year,



Dr. Dale Tang, Center for Cardiovascular Sciences, (l) and Mark Donovan, AMC II (r) discuss Mark's research

\$230,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health. These students may graduate with a medical degree with distinction in research (MDDR) and may earn a PhD with additional years of study scheduled during the medical school curriculum.

While competition is not stressed in poster day, excellence in research presentation is expected and students in each category are cited for commendation. Congratulations to the following students:

RPI-AMC Physician Scientist Program FIRST YEAR STUDENTS

Aalap Chokshi, "Identification and Characterization of Potential Inhibitors of hsFTAP2-mediated fatty acid uptake."

Tina Mehta, "Identification of Nuclear Localization Signals in Kruppel-like Factor 8."

Sejal Amin, "Arp2 mRNA localization and Endothelial Cell Migration."

Farah Monzur, "Investigation into the role of FAK in the aberrant growth of v-Src transformed cells."

SECOND YEAR STUDENTS

Ronak Talati, "FRET-based Assay to Measure the Organization of LDL-LDLR Complexes during LDL Trafficking."

Michael DiMaio, "Inhibition of Centrosome-Directed Microtubule Nucleation by HMN-176, a Novel Cancer Therapeutic."

William Sayde, "The Importance of Subunit Dimer Stability in Kainate Receptor Desensitization."

Union College-AMC Leadership in Medicine Program

SECOND YEAR STUDENTS

Reena Dhingra, "CT Scan Turn-around Times in the Emergency Department."

Christine Healey, "Prolonged Periods of Aortic Crossclamp and Intra-operative Myocardial Tissue Acidosis Influence Cost of Care and 30-Day Postoperative Outcomes in VA Cardiac Surgery Patients."

Shameem Azizad, "Examination of Value Added by Magnetocardiographic Imaging in Hospital Emergency Departments and Chest Pain Centers."

Siena College-AMC Humanities in Medicine Program

THIRD YEAR STUDENT

Vasudha Koganti presented work on "The Knowledge and Use of Pap Smears among Hispanic Women." Dr. Kate Wagner was the advisor.

Summer Research Fellowship SECOND YEAR STUDENTS

Jamie Busch, "The Effect of AFPep on Uterine Leiomyomata,"

Faisal Malik, "Changes in Keratinocyte Receptor Expression: A Mechanism for Post-herpetic Neuralgia."

Andrea Teague, "The Effect of a Mutant MKP3 on ERK1/2 Signaling and Cell Cycle Progression in Melanoma Cells."

Dipti Bhoiwala, "The Involvement of Adapt78 in Ca-Dependent Cell Signaling and Macrophage Function."

Alpha Omega Alpha

New Members Initiated

The Theta Chapter of Alpha Omega Alpha initiated seventeen members of the Class of 2007 during the annual installation ceremony held at the Normanside Country Club on November 2, 2006. Five members of the Class of 2008 were also inducted.

Bruce R. Blazar, MD '78, Professor of Pediatrics, Andersen Chair in Transplantation Immunology at the University of Minnesota School of Medicine and Charles W. Needham, MD '61, Associate Professor of Clinical Surgery at the University of Arizona School of Medicine were elected as alumni inductees of AOA.

Noted author and surgeon, Richard Selzer, MD '53 delivered the Initiation Address. David M. Mastrianni, MD '85, recipient of the AOA Volunteer Faculty Award also gave the Charge to Initiatives.

Humanitarian Awards were presented to two members of the faculty: Arnold Ritterband, MD, Clinical Professor of Medicine and Clifford Tepper, MD, Clinical Professor of Pediatrics.

Alwin F. Steinmann, MD, Program Director for Internal Medicine

Alpha Omega Alpha Initiates

Class of 2007

Tomasz Antkowiak	Keith Bartolomei	Michael Beltran
Kate Fawcett	Michael Feuerstein	Todd Garrett
Neal Gehani	Neil Gildener-Leapman	Mary Kate Hogan
Benjamin Infantino	Reena Jaituni	Samira Khan
Cara O'Reilly	Swati Patel	Daniel Purcell
Tariq Rahman	David Shaye	

Class of 2008

Geoffrey Crawford	Michael DiMeola	Michelle Fisher
William Lee	Jeannine Miranne	

Class of 2007 – Previously Initiated

Dimitry Abramov	Anil Gupta	Patricia Jones
Thomas Obermeyer	Vischal Panchal	Narenda Shet

Residency and the Vice Chair for Academic Affairs at Albany Medical College was also initiated during the ceremony which was attended by family and friends of the new members as well as previously initiated members of the Theta Chapter of AOA.

Samit Shah, Class of 2009 was the recipient of the AOA Medical Student Research Award.

Neil Lempert, MD '58, Professor of Surgery, serves as Councilor of the Theta Chapter.

WHAT'S NEW?

If you have news to share, such as a personal or professional move or any other information that you would like to pass on, please send it to us. We would love to hear from you!

NAME _____	CLASS OF _____
HOME ADDRESS _____	BUSINESS ADDRESS _____
STATE _____ ZIP _____	STATE _____ ZIP _____
HOME PHONE _____	BUSINESS PHONE _____
HOME E-MAIL _____	BUSINESS E-MAIL _____
HOME FAX _____	BUSINESS FAX _____

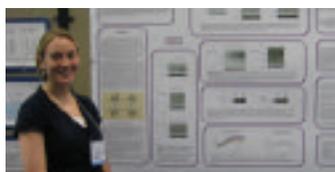
Tell us your news!

Mail to: Karyn Connolly, Executive Director • Alumni Association MC-5 • 47 New Scotland Ave. • Albany, NY 12208
or E-mail to: Connolk@mail.amc.edu. Please include a photo!

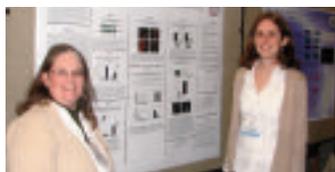
REPORTS



Deanna Ferreri



Amy Sharenko



Dr. Rebecca Keller, Center for Cardiovascular Sciences (l) and Erin Yund.

EXPERIMENTAL BIOLOGY 2006 MEETING

San Francisco, CA

Dear Albany Medical College Alumni Association:

Thank you for the Alumni Travel Award. The trip to San Francisco for the *Experimental Biology 2006 Meeting* was a wonderfully worthwhile experience. All students who attended presented posters and were able to discuss their research with scientists and other students from around the world.

Thank you,
Deanna Ferreri, Amy Sharenko, and Erin Yund
Center for Cardiovascular Sciences

AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR MICROBIOLOGY

Orlando, FL

Dear Alumni Association:
I am writing to express my gratitude to the Albany Medical College Alumni Association



David J. Lynch

for the travel award that I received to participate in the American Society for Microbiology's 2006 General Meeting. Meetings, such as this, are a great way to learn about the newest research trends and to share ideas with other microbiologists. This trip allowed me to present my most current results and get immediate feedback from several experts in my particular area of interest. Thank you to the Alumni Association for providing me with this opportunity.

David J. Lynch
Center for Immunology and Microbial Disease



Jamie Laubisch (l) and Priya Jayakumar (r) second year students, at the AMA conference.

NATIONAL AMA CONFERENCE

Chicago, IL

Dear Alumni Association and all who contribute:

Thank you so very much for sponsoring student travel and events at AMC. We received funding to help me attend the National AMA Conference this past June in Chicago. It was an amazing experience. We were

able to have our voices heard, vote on issues to change policy, learn new ideas, and meet new people and contacts to work with this year. We learned about policy and how changes can be made.

We really appreciate the support and had a wonderful time. Thank you-for all you who helped to make our experience the best it can be.

Thank you very much,
Jamie Laubisch
and Priya Jayakumar
AMC II



From left to right: Mitul Kanzaria, Brian Gelpi, Will Sayde, Ashley Tait, Maria Milcetic, Sam Saba, Mike DiMaio, Misty Richards, Samit Shab, and Aalap Chokshi.

AMSA REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Pittsburgh, PA

Dear AMC Alumni Association:
Thank you again for helping to defray the cost of our attending the AMSA regional conference in Pittsburgh, PA this past December. Attached is an article from the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette featuring Mitul Kanzaria who was interviewed about his participation in one of the seminars at the conference. Thanks very much.

Sincerely,
Mike DiMaio
AMSA Treasurer

FACULTY IN THE NEWS

PETER VINCENT, PHD '89, Assistant Professor in the Center for Cardiovascular Sciences, has been awarded a \$1,802,500, five-year grant from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute for his research "p120 Catenin and Endothelial Monolayer Function."

SUSAN HARRINGTON, PHD has been appointed Associate Director of Clinical Microbiology. Prior to her joining the AMC faculty, she worked at the National Institutes of Health Clinical Center. In addition, Dr. Harrington worked extensively in clinical microbiology and molecular diagnostics at Johns Hopkins Hospital.

JENNIFER LINDSTROM, MD, has been appointed Medical Director of the Bariatric Surgery Center at Albany Med. Albany Med's bariatric surgery program is one of only four programs in New York State and only fifteen in the United States to earn accreditation status from the American College of Surgeons (ACS)—the highest level of hospital achievement in bariatric care.

The American Journal of Bioethics (AJOB), published through the ALDEN MARCH BIOETHICAL INSTITUTE AT ALBANY MEDICAL COLLEGE, was recently rated as the leading journal in the field of bioethics by the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI), the acknowledged authority on the impact of research in medicine and science. In addition to the prestige of top place, this is the first year the journal qualified for the ISI ranking.

ALUMNI IN THE NEWS



ROBERT WALKER, MD '85 was recently elected to the House of Representatives of the 123rd Maine Legislature. Dr. Walker represents the 44th District which includes his hometown of Lincolnville, ME. He will serve on the committee for Health and Human Services while continuing his work as a Diagnostic Radiologist at Waldo County General Hospital in Belfast, Maine.

MELANIE BONE, MD '85 has been selected to join the Board of Directors of breastcancer.org, the most widely-used source of medical breast cancer information on the internet. Dr. Bone is also active on the foundation board for the H.O.P.E project, an organization that provides a mobile-mammogram screening unit to the uninsured, underserved women of Palm Beach County. She is the founder of Chemocomforts, a non-profit company that produces goods to ease discomfort caused by the side effects of chemotherapy.

IN MEMORIAM

The Alumni Association extends deepest sympathy to the families and friends of all our alumni who have passed away.

BENJAMIN F. MARKOWITZ, MD '34

JAMES L. PALMER, MD '40, the founder of the New Horizons Detoxification Center at Binghamton General Hospital, died on June 27, 2006. He held several positions in the community throughout his career including serving as Broome County Coroner for several years.

WILBUR CANEY, MD '41 died peacefully on July 8, 2006 at home in Montgomery Center, VT. After service in the Army, Dr. Caney practiced general medicine in Ct. where he also served as State Medical Examiner and Attending in Medicine at Waterbury Hospital.

DOMINICK DELISA, MD '43, a Schenectady, NY resident, passed away on April 10, 2006. He served in the Army Medical Corps from 1944 to 1946 and then completed his residency and fellowship in otolaryngology. He was in private practice until his retirement in 1992.

ROBERT RALEIGH, MD '53, of Steventown, MD, passed away on April 2, 2006. Dr. Raleigh was retired from Eastman Kodak where he worked in environ-

mental medicine. He was life long activist of highway safety and served as the Chief of the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration's Medical Advisory Board.

S. ROBERT BEATTY, MD '54 of Gastonia, NC, died on October 25, 2006.

MILTON O. KLING, MD '58 passed away on May 30, 2006.

WILLIAM W. MILLER, MD '60, who resided in Mt. Holly, NJ, passed away on May 24, 2006

RICHARD BELSEY, MD '66 passed away in November 2003. He was a very active member of the community in Hanford, OR.

REMEMBERING ROBERT RANGLES, MD '56

Robert H. Randles, MD '56 passed away on December 4, 2006 but his memory and lasting influence on his patients, fellow physicians and the Albany Medical College Alumni Association will linger to remind us that a great man and a great physician walked among us.

Bob loved being a doctor, he loved being a family man, he loved to sing with Mendelssohn Club and he loved Albany Medical College. He was proud to have followed in the footsteps of his father, who had graduated from AMC in 1929.

Dr. Randles began his practice of internal medicine and cardiology with his father and remained in private practice from 1962-1975. He later served as Medical Director of St. Peter's Hospital from 1975-1996, Medical Director of St. Peter's Ambulatory Care and Medical.

Dr. Randles served as President of the Albany Medical College

Alumni Association from 1998-2000 and remained an active member of the Executive Committee until 2005. At the time of his death, he was still a member of the Board of Directors. During his presidency, he successfully led the Association through the transition to our mutually beneficial relationship with the Albany Medical Center: He became the first President of the Association to govern the Organization under the Terms of Agreement with the Center.

I will miss his humor and his ability to listen and give an opinion when asked for it. I will miss his popping into the Alumni Office to say, "How are you doing?" I will miss a dear friend who gave me the opportunity to work for this wonderful organization. Thank you, Bob, may you rest in peace.

Karyn Connolly
*Executive Director of
Alumni Relations
Albany Medical College*

CLASSNOTES

1940's

FRANK W. JONES, MD '46 retired in June 2006 from his practice of Ophthalmology.

CLASS OF '52
Celebrating their 55th Reunion

CLASS OF '57
Celebrating their 50th Reunion

1950's

DONALD OLSON, MD '50 is still practicing Cardiology and Internal Medicine in South Bend, IN. This year he will be moving to Holy Cross Village at Notre Dame.

MARY JANE KINOSIAN, MD '54 is a recent retiree who is so busy that she "has to make and appointment to see me!"

PASQUALE J. FUGAZZOTTO, MD '58 works full time as a Pediatrician and part time in his son's restaurant. He has 11 children, 16 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.

CLASS OF '62
Celebrating their 45th Reunion

CLASS OF '67
Celebrating their 40th Reunion

CLASS OF '72
Celebrating their 35th Reunion

CLASS OF '77
Celebrating their 30th Reunion

1970's

JEFFREY S. MOGELOF, MD '72 is the Chief of Neurology and Rehabilitation, VA Hospital, Fresno, CA. and Professor of Neurology at UCSF-Fresno. He is the Site Director for graduate and undergraduate programs in Neurology.

PETER B. SHERER, MD '72 was recently named the "Physician of the Year" by the Montgomery County (MD) Medical Society. Dr. Sherer is a past president of the Society and past secretary of the Maryland State Medical Society. He recently completed three terms as Chairman of the Department of Medicine at Holy Cross Hospital.

RONALD B. DURNING, JR., MD '76 is the Director of Hospitalist Services. He is enjoying medical and personal life and is looking forward to more travel continued health and skiing.

CLASS OF '82
Celebrating their 25th Reunion

CLASS OF '87
Celebrating their 20th Reunion

1980's

RANDOLPH S. MARTIN, MD '82 "retired" from Interventional Cardiology in 2004 and became Board Certified in Nuclear Cardiology in 2006.

RICHARD O'NEIL, JR., MD '89 reports that "the O'Neil's are still living in San Luis Obispo, CA enjoying the surf and warm weather."



SAMUEL KAO, MD '89 sent "Greetings from the Kao Family! Wishing you and yours a wonderful Holiday Season!"

CLASS OF '92
Celebrating their 15th Reunion

CLASS OF '97
Celebrating their 10th Reunion

1990's

NAOMI ROSENBERG, MD '91 is boarded in Internal Medicine and Peds – She is working at Community Health Center in Western MA.

TUNG CAI, MD '92 is enjoying life with his family in Flower Mound, TX. He is Chief of Cardiovascular Surgery at Presbyterian Hospital of Denton.



KAREN BUTTERS-POGGE, MD '96 and her husband, Steve, are enjoying their three girls, Emma, Sarah and Kate. She does part-time consulting but "mostly is a full time mom."

JOHN FRIEL, MD '98 has completed his training in Colon-Rectal Surgery and is practicing in Lowell, MA.

MICHAEL ZAPOR, MD, PHD '98 recently returned from a one year tour of duty in Iraq where he served as a battalion surgeon with the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division.

2000's

SACHA (CORDARO) NIEMI, MD '00 and MATTHEW NIEMI, MD '00 are happily married and have a beautiful daughter, Odessa. Things are going great in Newport News, VA.



JULIA GRIGGS GARCIA, MD '01 and her husband welcomed twin girls born in Oct. 2005. Their "big brother" loves having two little sisters. Julia finished her naval obligations and moved to Eastern PA.

KATE FLOCKE, MD '02 has recently left for a year in Iraq where she will be stationed at Camp Bucca with the 36th Area Support Medical Company. She will mostly be taking care of enemy prisoners of war.

KEIR HUEHNERGART, MD '02 writes, "Thanks again for including us in the Seattle Alumni

Event. It was great to see everybody again and to remember all of our fond memories of Albany and AMC. Here is our update: Liz and I have a daughter, Ella who is now 18 months old. I finished Internal Medicine Residency at the University of Washington and now I am the Chief Cardiology Fellow at the University of Washington. We still keep in touch with a bunch of AMC alumni in the Pacific Northwest.

VANESSA GREENWOOD, MD '02 completes her 5th year of a combined Family Medicine

and Psychiatry residency in June 2007. She plans to start her own private practice in both Psychiatry and Family Medicine in San Diego, CA.



TINA CATTRONE, MD '05 married Henry Lattimore in June 2006. Pictured on the left of the above

photo is CLARK LATTIMORE, MD '05, brother of the groom.

ERIC LAI, MD '05 is in his second year of residency in surgery at the University of Buffalo.



MARY SYDNEY RANKUS, MD '05 married David Karsh in October

2006. Mary Sydney is applying for a Cardiology Fellowship.

HAMID SAADATI, MD '05 is in an Internal Medicine Residency at Yale-New Haven Hospital. He thanks the Alumni Association for "facilitating the education of our future physicians."

KRISTIN HAMILTON, MS '06 is working as an OB/GYN Physician's Assistant in Henderson, NV. She loves her work and her patients but misses all her friends in New York.

THE ONLINE STORE HAS NEW ITEMS! SWEATSHIRT ON SALE



Visit the on line store sponsored by the alumni association.

You will find beautiful amc logo items. New items are available and there is a sale on the ever popular sweatshirt. This sale price is only available until April 1, 2007-shop now!

www.amc.edu/alumni

Profits from the online store will be used to support Alumni Association programs



The Alumni Association Online Store is now Open!



With A Click You Can Order High Quality AMC Logo
Merchandise And Gifts From The Comfort of Your Own Home.

Details Are Posted On The Alumni Website: www.amc.edu/alumni
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