

1930s

Richard A. Rasmussen, MD '38, sends his best wishes and thanks those who participated in the annual reunion activities. Rasmussen's health remains stable and he hopes to be back on track with the class of '38 at reunions in the coming years.

1940s

Edward J. Whiteley, MD '40, interned at Walter Reed Army Medical Center from 1940 to 1941 and served as a colonel in the U.S. Army Medical Corps from 1941 to 1961. He completed his postgraduate work at the University of Illinois-Chicago in 1948 and worked in otolaryngology at Permanente Medical Group in San Francisco from 1961 to 1978. Whiteley married Mona Geddes in 1985 in Suva, Fiji, where she taught in a nursing school as part of a Peace Corps contingent. They now live in Fairfield, Calif.

C. Frederick Kittle, MD '45, retired in 1992 and spends most of his time trying to keep up with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He continues gathering the works of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, and in 2002 sponsored an exhibit of his collection at the Newberry Library.

Peter V. Moulder Jr., MD '45, is a professor of cardiothoracic surgery at the Louisiana State University Medical Center.

Harry A. Oberhelman Jr., SB '46, MD '46, retired from active surgical practice two years ago at age 78. He continues to teach at Stanford University and enjoys his nine grandchildren.

John Partridge, SB '43, MD '45, retired in 2001 and now works with various organizations to establish a universal health care system for the state of Oregon.

Harry A. Oberhelman Jr., SB '46, MD '46, continues to teach at Stanford University and enjoys his nine grandchildren.

Janet Rowley, PhD '45, SB '46, MD '48, and **Donald Rowley, SB '45, SM/MD '50**, went on the alumni association's trip to Antarctica in December 2004 and said

they had a fabulous time. Their son, David, a lecturer on geology at the University of Chicago, also went on the vacation with his wife, Renee, and their three children. The students of Chicago's Alpha Omega Alpha honored Donald in March 2004.

1950s

Saul M. Siegel, AB '42, PhD '51, MD '55, is now a semi-retired psychiatrist/psychoanalyst and lives in Naples, Fla.

George A. Spikes, MD '51, recently received many honors including being named Citizen of the Year in Douglas, Ariz., and being listed in the Circle of Distinguished Service and on the Wall of Outstanding Service in Bowie, Ariz. He recently retired as chairman of the board at the Southeast Arizona Medical Center and was honored by Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano for co-founding Cochise College.

Morris LeVine, PhD '48, MD '52, retired from surgery and now teaches Middle East history and archeology at the University of South Florida. He enjoys spending time with his wife of

this year's gathering had the added bonus of a Given-family homecoming.

But even for unrelated alums, reunion weekend offers a welcome chance to revisit the Second City, a second home for many.

For the class of '55, a return to the Midway marked their 50th graduation anniversary and induction into the Alumni Emeriti Society. The 70-something-year-olds won the first-ever alumni award for highest attendance plus the award for the highest percentage giving toward a class gift.

"People were just so happy with their education and so grateful that they didn't want to miss this," said Sumner Charles

also enrolled in the medical school, graduating in 1980 with Douglass, who had put his MD on hold to earn a PhD in 1979. Adding to the Given legacy are Everett's grandson, Nick Leeper, a 2003 Pritzker alumnus, and granddaughter, Katie Given, who enrolled in the College this fall. "It's like a natural home for us," Bruce said.

With Bruce and Douglass serving as co-chairmen for their 25th class reunion,

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William J. Riley, SM '58, MD '60, practices neurology and pediatric neurology in Houston, Texas, and recently received the lifetime achievement award from the Texas Neurological Society.

56 years, Marilyn, PhD '48, BS '50, MA '51, visiting his 17 grandchildren and traveling.

John Benfield, MD '55, was awarded the University of Chicago Department of Surgery's Dallas B. Phemister Career Achievement Award in spring 2005.

Arnold K. Brenman, MD '55, enjoys attending the Philadelphia Opera Company and Metropolitan Opera series as well as the Philadelphia Orchestra. Between visits with his grandchildren, he keeps busy with hobbies including tennis, photography and sailing.

Clarence Cawvey, MD '55, retired in 1998 and writes that he "keeps busy doing nothing very important" and caring for his more than 25 acres of land near Pinckneyville, Ill.

Thomas Ednie, AB '51, SB '53, MD '55, is enjoying retirement in northern Idaho.

Edward Jim, MD '55, and his wife Mardie, who is originally from Manhattan, live in Honolulu and have two sons. He is the last of the Jim brothers to have graduated from Chicago in medicine:

Vernon Jim, SB '42, MD '44, is a retired ophthalmologist and plastic surgeon;

Robert Jim, SB '45, MD '48, is a retired internist and hematologist. Edward is a retired surgeon with a subspecialty in head and neck surgery and is emeritus professor of surgery at the University of Hawaii School of Medicine. He is grateful for being an 18-year cancer survivor, having successfully battled metastatic renal cell carcinoma with 12 operations. He keeps busy tending to his wife's rose garden, which has in excess of 20 different rose plants. His professional memberships include the Society of Head and Neck Surgeons and the American Society of Head and Neck Surgery, and he is a fellow

with the American College of Surgeons. He also belongs to the American Rose Society and the Honolulu Rose Society.

Larry Nathanson, MD '55, is now semi-retired and enjoys sailing, historic preservation, advancing the public support of science and spending time with his family. After his career in academic medicine at Tufts and Harvard universities, and the University of New York-Stonybrook, Nathanson founded a consulting firm specializing in anti-cancer drug development.

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Sweet Home Chicago

Story by Corinne Low

Everett Given had no idea that he was starting a legacy when he graduated from the University of Chicago School of Medicine in 1959. After all, his sons, Douglass and Bruce were ages 7 and 5, respectively, at the time.

"It's such a natural thing to want to follow in your father's footsteps," Douglass Given said when asked why he enrolled in Pritzker. "It was tradition as much as anything else." Two years later, his brother



Legacies Everett Given, MD '59, (center) with sons Douglass, PhD '79, MD '80, (left) and Bruce, MD '80.

Photos by David Joel

the lifetime achievement award from the Texas Neurological Society. He spends his free time turning a former cattle ranch into an environmentally friendly retreat center.

Mark A. Goldberg, PhD '59, MD '62, is a professor emeritus at the UCLA Department of Neurology and continues to teach.

Hugh C. Graham Jr., MD '59, continues to practice pediatrics and returned to Harvard College for his 50th reunion.

Coleman Seskind, AB '55, SB '56, SM/MD '59, practices internal medicine in Chicago. He also remains active in the Medical and Biological Sciences Alumni Association, chairing the editorial advisory committee for *Medicine on the Midway*.

1960s

Frank Andrews, MD '60, has been retired from radiology practice for 15 years.

Martin A. Pops, MD '60, is a professor emeritus and former dean of students at the UCLA School of Medicine. He and his wife, Barbara, moved to Ojai, Calif., where he is board of directors chairman for Ojai Valley Community Hospital.

Arnold Calica, SM '61, MD '75, is practicing neurosurgery, contemplating retirement and playing geriatric squash. He continues to be happily married to Diana, PhD '80. Their three children are doing well — two are in graduate school and one works for Adobe systems — and so are their three grandchildren. As things quiet down professionally, they hope to return to Nepal and continue to help with the neurosurgery program at the medical school in Katmandu.

Phillip G. Schmid Jr., MD '61, has been a professor emeritus at the University of Iowa College of Medicine since 2000.

Brian Henderson, MD '62, dean of the University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine and the Kenneth T. Norris Jr. chairman in cancer prevention, was appointed by California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to the Independent Citizens Oversight Committee for the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine, which was created by the passage of Proposition 71. At USC, he started a cancer epidemiology program that evolved into the Department of Preventive Medicine. He also served as

director of the USC/Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center and the Zilkha Neurogenetic Institute. He was inducted into the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences and was awarded USC's highest honor, the Presidential Medallion. Henderson's research focuses on the interconnection and interplay between environmental and genetic factors in the development, treatment and prevention of a wide variety of cancers.

Frederick Hornick, MD '65, practiced in the Portland, Ore., area from 1972 to 1985 after an internship and residency in obstetrics and gynecology in Phoenix,

Brian Henderson, MD '62, was inducted into the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences and was awarded USC's highest honor, the Presidential Medallion.

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Ariz. He became the first full-time obstetrician and gynecologist in Hillsboro, Ore., in 1974 and that same year he founded the Hillsboro Women's Clinic. The medical climate of Oregon in the mid-1980s brought about a decision to return to the military, where he eventually moved from clinical to administrative medicine and served as medical consultant to the secretary of the U.S. Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records before retiring in 2002 to "wild and wonderful West Virginia." His two children reside on opposite coasts, making get-togethers less frequent than he would like.

Wayne Janda, SB '61, MD '65, has been practicing at the Steindler Orthopedic Clinic in Iowa City since 1994.

Frances McNiell Gill, SB '61, MD '65, retired in 2002 after 30 years as a pediatric hematologist at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. In addition to her volunteer work in an elementary school in West Philadelphia, she sings in two choral groups and enjoys traveling, gardening, doing handwork and reading. Her

daughter, Diana, received a bachelor's degree from Chicago in 1995 and is now senior editor in charge of science and fantasy fiction for Harper Collins Publishing Company. Her son, James, graduated from Swarthmore, spent a year in mathematics at Cambridge University and is working toward a doctorate in string theory at the University of California-Berkeley.

William Pilchard, SB '61, MD '65, retired four years ago from ophthalmology practice and now travels, reads and spends time at church and with his family.

Jacob Pinnas, MD/SM '65, a clinical professor of medicine and director of the Allergy and Asthma Center in Arizona, plans to retire this year.

Lawrence S. Ross, SB '62, MD '65, is completing 16 years as head of urology at the University of Illinois-Chicago. In May he became president-elect of the American Urological Association. He and his wife, Marcia, are looking forward to the coming years, to traveling, as well as to the difficult challenges inherent in a career in organized medicine. His wife will continue her career with

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the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., and the couple will keep working hard to plan time with their three grandchildren.

Fernando Ugarte, MD '65, still practices general surgery and keeps busy with his photography hobby.

Nicholas Vick, MD '65, is the Ruth Cain Ruggles Chairman and professor of neurology at the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. He plans

Kraft, MD '55, reunion class chairman and professor emeritus of medicine.

More recent alums offered similar praise.

"We were a very close class," said Sheri Goldman, MD '90. "I credit the University of Chicago for that. [The faculty] really nurtured in us the idea that we were building colleagues, not competitors."

During the festivities, alumni had a chance to see how campus facilities have grown.

"It's changed so much, I could get lost in 10 minutes," said William Murray, MD '43, remembering that when he graduated



With husband Don Wreden, Maxine Barish-Wreden, MD '85, searches her class photo in the Alumni Café for familiar faces.



J. Wynn Jacobs, MD '65 (left) and Nicholas Vick, MD '65.

from Chicago, "Billings was the central hospital, and that was all there was."

Among the reunion highlights was an opportunity to honor the 2005 Gold Key Award winners: John Fennessy, MD, Arthur Herbst, MD, and Lawrence Wood, MD, PhD.

"It seems a little incongruous that the alumni would offer me an award, when it is I who have benefited from the alumni," Fennessy said. "For 40 years, I have learned from them." The 2005 Gold Key luncheon featured the highest-ever attendance, for which presenter Holly Humphrey, MD,

to step down as chairman in the next few years, but would like to keep seeing patients, a source of enjoyment and learning.

Betty I. Wolf, SB '60, MD '65, is semi-retired, working two days a week. She spends her free time traveling and visiting her daughters and grandson.

Julian J. Rimpila, SM/MD '66, was presented an award in June 2004 in appreciation of his time and service by the medical staff of Gottlieb Memorial Hospital, where he has worked since 1976. He also recently wrote a book review for *Chicago Medicine* on Joseph Kirsner's *Inflammatory Bowel Disease*.

1970s

Royal Kiehl, MD '70, and **Phyllis Kiehl, MD '70**, went to Alaska in 1974 and now Royal practices psychiatry and Phyllis practices pediatrics in Anchorage. They have three grown children who also reside in Alaska.

Radhakanta Mishra, PhD '70, established an undergraduate engineering college, Eastern Academy of Science and Technology, in Bhubaneswar, Orissa, India, in July 2001 and reports that everything is going well.

Royal Kiehl, MD '70, and Phyllis Kiehl, MD '70, went to Alaska in 1974 and now Royal practices psychiatry and Phyllis practices pediatrics in Anchorage. They have three grown children who also reside in Alaska.

Tony Philipps, AB '66, MD '70, is chairman of pediatrics at the University of California-Davis Medical Center. His eldest daughter married in October 2004 in Denver and his youngest graduated high school in June 2005. After so many years of children around the house, he is now an empty-nester and fills his time by playing the violin.

Walter H. Stern, MD '70, spent 15 years at the University of California-San Francisco practicing his specialty, retinal and vitreous disorders. He has been in

private practice for 16 years, and his wife, Elizabeth, is a counselor.

Vincent W. Tornabene, MD '70, is an emergency medicine physician. He and his wife have three daughters and two sons and live in San Mateo, Calif.

Stephen Rand, MD '71, closed his Great Neck, N.Y., office, but still has his principal practice in Brooklyn, a satellite office in Suffolk County and several part-time positions at hospital allergy clinics. He also is on the executive committee of the New York Allergy and Asthma Society.

Lucille A. Lester, MD '72, returned to the University of Chicago Department of Pediatrics in November 2003 to become section chief of pediatric pulmonary medicine and to direct the Cystic Fibrosis Center.

William W. McIntyre, MD '72, is the director of the Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Chemotherapy Clinic at the Cheyenne VA Medical Center in Wyoming.

Marion Danis, AB '71, MD '75, has been running the ethics and health policy section of the Department of Clinical

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Bioethics at the National Institutes of Health and managing the NIH's ethical consultation service.

Gerald Farby, SB '71, MD '75, has been in private practice in internal medicine since 1978. He and his wife, Judy, have four children and one grandchild.

Victor F. German, MD '75, is chief of the Division of Community Pediatrics at the University of Texas Health Sciences Center. He also oversees the outreach programs that closely manage the care of HIV/AIDS children in South Texas.

Maga Jackson-Triche, AB '71, MD '75, co-authored the book *Beating Depression: The Journey to Hope*, published in 2002 by McGraw-Hill.

Lisa Kaplowitz, MD '75, has been responsible for Virginia's public health response to all emergencies, including bioterrorism, as deputy commissioner for emergency preparedness and response within the Virginia Department of Health for the past two years. She manages more than \$31 million in annual federal funds to address public health, and health and medical response to all emergency events, including outbreaks, natural disasters and

terrorism events. Kaplowitz works closely with all emergency response agencies and organizations in the commonwealth and the governor's Office of Commonwealth Preparedness. She also collaborates with the departments of Homeland Security, and Health and Human Services to address preparedness activities in the region surrounding the nation's capital.

Alfred Yung, MD '75, has been named to the scientific and clinical advisory board of Semafore Pharmaceuticals Inc., an emerging leader in developing small-molecule cancer therapies that address critical cell-signaling pathways. He is an early-stage clinical researcher in brain cancer at the University of Texas M.D.

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Anderson Cancer Center, where he is chairman of neuro-oncology and the Margaret and Ben Love Chairman of clinical cancer care. His research focuses on cell-cycle and anti-angiogenic approaches, as well as molecular-therapy strategies, to combat cancer. He is the principal investigator on the National Cancer Institute-sponsored Brain Tumor Consortium Phase I and II trials of gene therapies and new anti-angiogenic agents, and he is a scientific adviser to the Accelerate Brain Cancer Cure Foundation.

Robert Alpern, MD '76, was appointed dean of the Yale School of Medicine in June 2004. Formerly the dean of the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Alpern will continue his research in nephrology, which is supported by grants from the National Institutes of Health.

James B. Carpenter, MD '76, is serving his 23rd year with Contra Costa Health Services as a hospitalist and forensic pediatrician coordinating the child maltreatment program and teaching family practice residents.

Anne L. Taylor, MD '76, is a professor of medicine and associate dean for faculty affairs at the University of Minnesota.



BSD Dean James Madara, MD, hosts the Alumni Awards Reception at the downtown Chicago Club.

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— John Fennessy, MD

dean of medical education, credited the award winners' overwhelming contributions.

Donning evening attire for the awards reception and class dinners at the downtown Chicago Club, young and old alums alike reconnected with former classmates and honored notable achievements of former students. James Madara, MD, dean of the Biological Sciences Division, presented Distinguished Service Awards to: Alfred Heller, PhD '56, MD '60; Dennis Slamon, PhD '74, MD '75; and Robert Wissler, SM '43, PhD '46, MD '48.



Alumni get an insider's look at the Center for Integrative Science, Chicago's newest research facility.

James Fasules, MD '78, is finishing up his year as chairman of the board of governors of the American College of Cardiology.

1980s

James Foody, MD '80, left the faculty at the University of Chicago in 2001 to become vice chairman for clinical affairs in the Department of Medicine at Northwestern University.

Don Henry, AB '76, MD '80, is in private practice of obstetrics and gynecology in Northwest Indiana. Most of his time is spent at the community hospital in Munster, which is beginning its first residency rotation, in connection with Rush University. He recently had his first second-generation delivery, delivering the mother 18 years ago. In his spare time, he has lobbied the state legislature to enact a requirement for all hospitals to provide emergency contraception for sexual assault victims. Henry enjoys traveling with his wife, Sylvia.

Bruce Beutler, MD '81, a professor of neurology at the Scripps Research Institute, received the Robert Koch Prize,

Germany's highest scientific award, in November 2004.

C. Elliott Sigal, MD '81, was appointed chief scientific officer and president of Bristol-Myers Squibb Pharmaceutical Research Institute. Sigal joined Bristol-Myers Squibb in November 1997 as vice president of applied genomics. In October 1999, he became senior vice president for early discovery and applied technology. He was named head of drug discovery and exploratory development in January 2001 and also was named senior vice president of global clinical and pharmaceutical development. Under his leadership, three new medicines came to market: Abilify, Reyataz and Erbitux. He also led the full development of three medicines the company plans to submit this year to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for approval.

Mark E. Brecher, MD '82, was elected president of the American Society for Apheresis at the annual meeting in April 2005 in Chicago. He is a professor of pathology laboratory medicine and director of transfusion medicine services and transplant laboratories at the University of North Carolina.



Joseph B. Kirsner, PhD '42, was guest of honor at the Dean's Champagne Breakfast for alumni emeriti.

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Margaret S. Dordal Fletcher, PhD '82, MD '83, senior director of pharmacovigilance at TAP Pharmaceutical Products, has remarried David Fletcher and is now known as Margaret S. Fletcher, but people still call her Peg.

Carol Ann Olson, PhD '82, MD '86, accepted the newly created position of vice president and chief medical officer of Immtech International Inc. She will be responsible for managing the company's clinical trial programs and medical affairs, including developing its integrated clinical plans and managing its medical-related issues with worldwide regulators. Prior to joining Immtech, she worked at Abbott

Radiology faculty and in 1974 was appointed department chairman, a position he held for 10 years. Fennessy specialized in diagnosing diseases of the chest and in 1966 was the first person to describe a technique for performing a transbronchial biopsy of heart abnormalities. His publications helped Shigeto Ikeda, MD, to develop the fiberoptic bronchoscope. Fennessy received the McClintock Award for Teaching Excellence in 1969 and was chosen 30 times as a favorite faculty member by graduating medical students.

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Laboratories' pharmaceutical division for 11 years in various capacities, most recently as global project head and global medical director for anti-infective development.

Gene N. Peterson, MD '82, recently was inducted into his high school hall of fame for his professional work. He has a medical practice at Edmonds Anesthesia Associates and is on the board of directors of Physicians Insurance.

Maxine Barish-Wreden, MD '85, and her husband, Don, still live and work in northern California and are enjoying their busy lives. She writes that their three kids are almost grown and usually don't want to be around their parents, so they have plenty of room for visitors.

Stanley Friedell, MD '85, started an obstetrics and gynecology group in 1989 and now works in a group of four doctors in downtown Chicago. He is married and has two children.

Barbara Hendrickson, MD '85, is an assistant professor of pediatrics at the University of Chicago specializing in pediatric infectious diseases. Work and her two children, Daniel and Julianna, keep her life very busy.

Alan Segal, MD '85, did a residency in medicine at Michael Reese Hospital and then went to Yale University for a fellowship in nephrology. He was awarded a Physician-Scientist Grant from the National Institutes of Health, which supported his subsequent research in cellular and molecular electrophysiology of epithelial ion channels. He is an associate professor in the departments of Medicine, Pharmacology, and Molecular Physiology and Biophysics at the University of Vermont. Segal remains clinically active as an attending physician

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in nephrology. He also teaches in the medical school's Vermont Integrated Curriculum and participates in training interns, residents and fellows. His wife, Tanya, is a novelist and has written more than 80 nonfiction books for children. They live in South Burlington and have two children, Jacob and Liza.

James Sosman, MD '85, is associate director of the HIV Care Program and a faculty member of the University of Wisconsin Medical School. He spends his professional time balancing patient care, teaching and research. He has two children and is enjoying life in Madison, Wis.

Thomas M. Gill, MD '87, associate professor of medicine in geriatrics at the Yale University School of Medicine, was elected to the American Society of Clinical Investigation in April 2005. He is a leading authority on the epidemiology and prevention of disability and functional decline among older persons. His findings have been published in high-impact biomedical and epidemiology journals, including the *New England Journal of Medicine*, *JAMA*, *Annals of Internal*



John Partridge, SB '43, MD '45

Gynecology and the president of the American Gynecological and Obstetrical Society and is a member of the FDA's Obstetrics and Gynecology Advisory Committee.

Arthur L. Herbst, MD

After graduating from Harvard Medical School in 1959, Herbst joined the staff of Harvard and the Massachusetts General Hospital in 1965. There, Herbst and his colleagues discovered an association

William McColl, MD '55



between maternal ingestion of DES, or diethylstilbestrol, a drug once used to prevent miscarriages and the development of vaginal cancer in female offspring. He joined the faculty at Chicago in 1976 as chairman and the Joseph B. DeLee Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and continued his pioneering work in transplacental carcinogenesis. He has published more than 170 papers and co-authored *Comprehensive Gynecology*, now in its fourth edition. Herbst has served as the vice president of the American Board of Obstetrics and

Medicine, and the *American Journal of Epidemiology*.

Todd Golub, MD '89, was honored by the students of Alpha Omega Alpha in March 2004. He is an associate professor of pediatrics at Harvard Medical School and studies the genetic basis of cancer at the Dana Farber Institute.

Rebecca S. Tuetken, AB '82, PhD '89, MD '91, is living in Iowa City and is an associate professor of clinical internal medicine at the University of Iowa in the Division of Rheumatology. She is also the assistant director for clinical services in her division at the University Hospital of Iowa City.

1990s

Rebecca A. Beach, MD '90, is engaged to William R. Austin, PhD. She says that her two daughters, Rose and Pearl, are doing well and that she enjoys her full-time residency faculty position at Mercy Health System in Janesville, Wis.

Douglas Feeney, MD '90, is practicing with the Urology Group in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Andrew Leask, PhD '92, works on elucidating the molecular basis of fibrotic

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disease, using scleroderma as a model system. After working as a staff scientist at a start-up biotechnology company in the San Francisco Bay area for six years, he transitioned back into academia as a visiting scientist at the Centre for Rheumatology, University College London in Hampstead. At the beginning of 2005, he took an associate professor position in the School of Dentistry at the University of Western Ontario in the other London — London, Ontario.

Don Scott, MD '92, an assistant professor of medicine in the section of geriatrics at the University of Chicago, has received a Geriatric Academic Career Award from the Bureau of Health Professions of the Health Resources and Service Administration. The award was established by Congress in 1998 to support junior faculty members committed to teaching geriatrics. Scott plans to use his GACA award, which offers financial support during a five-year period, to develop Objective Structured Teaching Evaluations for geriatrics.

Christopher M. Straus, AB '88, MD '92, was nominated for the 2004 Association of American Medical Colleges Humanism in Medicine Award, presented by the Association of American Medical Colleges through the support of the Pfizer Medical Humanities Initiative. Straus writes that it is indeed a high honor to be nominated by his students as a physician they would like to emulate.

John Lee, MD '93, is practicing gastrointestinal medicine in Dallas, Texas, and reports that he could not be happier.

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Martin Horvath, PhD '94, is an associate professor in biology at the University of Utah. His wife, Susan, is in private practice in obstetrics and gynecology in Salt Lake City. They have four children, Mei-Ling, Noah, Linnea and Katie.

Ithaar Derweesh, MD '95, is an assistant professor of urology at the University of Tennessee in Memphis, with a practice focused on urologic oncology and minimally invasive surgery as well as renal transplantation.

Tzvi Robbins, SB '92, MD '96, is currently in his ninth year of active duty in the U.S. Army as a physician, and has been deployed to Iraq. He says the work is interesting and challenging.

Michael Linn, MD '95, is in primary care pediatrics in Oakland and Pinole, Calif. His wife, **Karen Meckstroth, MD '95**, works at University of California-San Francisco in obstetrics and gynecology, specializing in family planning and contraception. Their daughter, Kira, just turned 2 and their dog, Rudy, is still going strong at 14.

Renato Victor Bosita Jr., MD '96, enjoys practicing spine surgery as a partner at Texas Back Institute in Plano, Texas. He is involved with FDA artificial disc trials (Flexicore) and posterior motion-preserving spinal instrumentation (Dynosis).

Kathlyn Emma Fletcher, MD '96, is married to Jack Littrell and lives in Milwaukee, Wis.

Anath Natarajan, MD '96, was named by MIT's *Technology Review* as one of the world's "100 Top Young Innovators." He is a clinical assistant professor in obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Southern California's School of Medicine, as well as the co-founder and CEO of Infinite Biomedical Technologies (IBT), an emerging medical device company

focused on innovative technologies with applications in cardiology, gynecology and neurocritical care. The company has received more than \$9 million in funding from the National Institutes of Health and has research and development facilities in Baltimore, Md., and San Marino, Calif.

Tzvi Robbins, SB '92, MD '96, is currently in his ninth year of active duty in the U.S. Army as a physician, and has been deployed to Iraq. He says the work is interesting and challenging — a combination of sick call, occasional trauma and humanitarian work with local Iraqis. He expects to be home by January 2006.

Marc B. Freeman, MD '99, was honored by the Chicago State University Alumni Association with a 2004 award for Outstanding Achievement in Health Sciences. While pursuing his medical studies, he made monthly visits to CSU, speaking with pre-medical and pre-college students and inviting them to attend his medical school classes. In 2002, he established the Dr. Marc B. Freeman Scholarship, an annual award presented to a junior pre-medical student at CSU.

Lawrence D.H. Wood, MD, PhD

After earning a medical degree from the University of Manitoba, Canada, in 1966 and a doctorate from McGill University in 1974, Wood served for seven years on the faculty of Manitoba. He joined the faculty at Chicago in 1982 as a professor and director of critical care services. He has co-authored more than 150 articles that link pathophysiology to clinical medicine and co-edited three books on the principles of critical care. Wood served as the first chairman of the critical care section of the American Thoracic Society. He has won several teaching awards, including the 2003

Alpha Omega Alpha Robert J. Glaser Distinguished Teaching Award from the American Association of Medical Colleges. He completed his tenure at Chicago as dean of medical education from 1996 to 2003.

Distinguished Service Awards

The Distinguished Service Award recognizes alumni who have brought honor and distinction to the BSD by demonstrating outstanding leadership and making significant contributions in their fields.



Jacob Pinnas, SM/MD '65, (left) and Fernando Ugarte, MD '65, visit in the Alumni Café.

Alfred Heller, PhD '56, MD '60

After earning both his medical and doctoral degrees from Chicago, Heller joined the faculty in the Department of Neurobiology, Pharmacology and Physiology. In 1973, he was appointed chairman of the newly formed Department of Pharmacological and Physiological Sciences, a position he held for the next 16 years. Heller, the initial field editor of neuroendocrine pharmacology for the *Journal of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics*, has served on numerous review panels for the National Institutes of Health. While a medical student,



Mark Monahan, MD '00, and his daughter, 14-month-old Flynn, enjoy the Student-Alumni Picnic.

Freeman continues his civic involvement in his adopted community of Alexandria, La., where he serves as board member and chairman of the annual fundraising drive for the YMCA of Alexandria. Freeman recently founded Freeman Development Enterprises, a firm that specializes in rural subdivision development.

2000s

Mark Monahan, MD '00, is married to Tricia Ellen Foster. They have one child, Flynn, and one on the way. He is active in many local affairs including the recent approval of a hospital as a level-two trauma center.

Kristi Nix, MD '00, has been a pediatrician on the Navajo Reservation since July 2004.

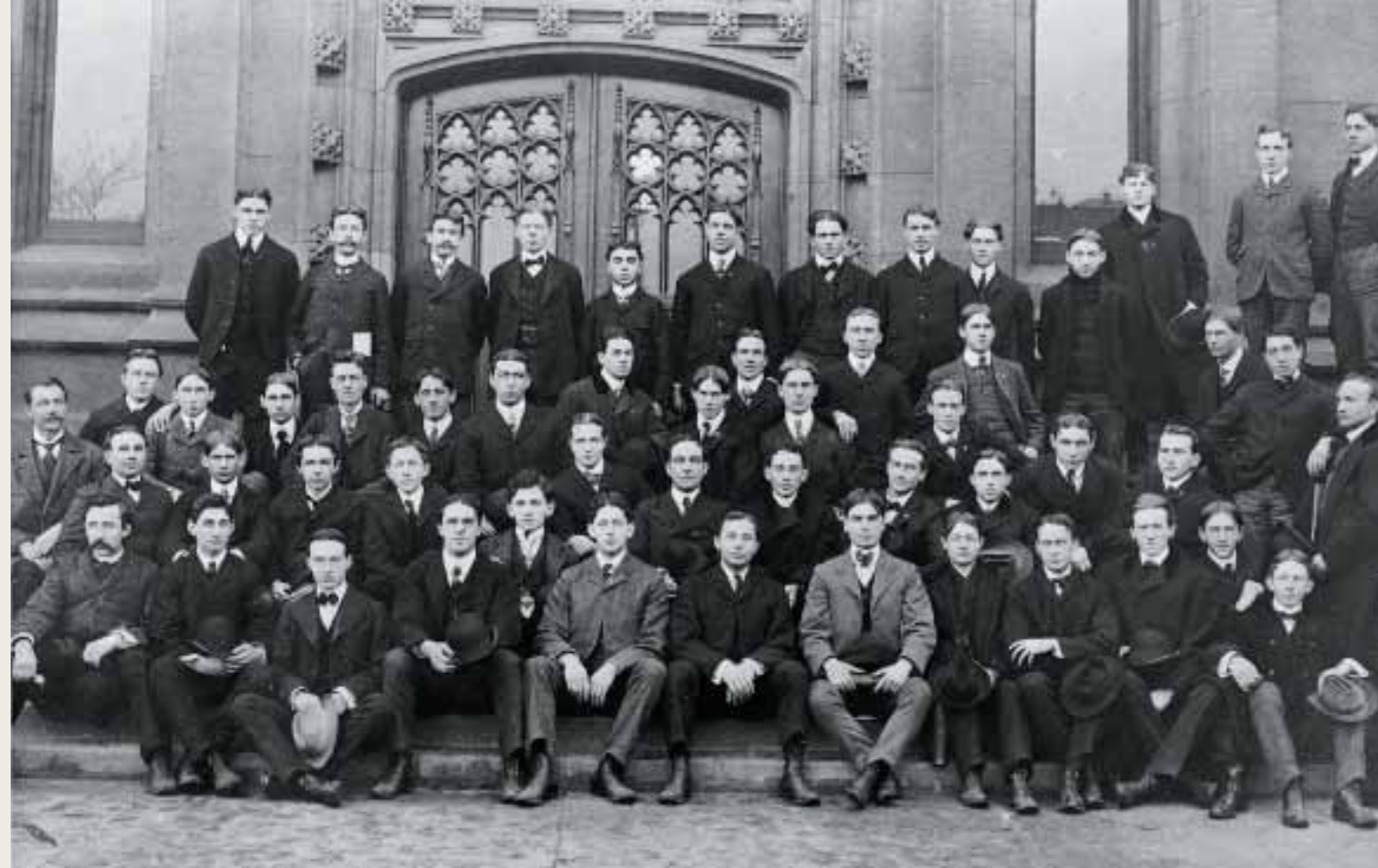
Rebecca Blankenburg, MD '01, and **Steven Lieske PhD '02, MD '04**, are excited to announce their marriage on Aug. 20, 2005. Rebecca finished her pediatric chief residency at University of California-San Francisco and started as a pediatric hospitalist at Stanford in July. Steve is a psychiatry resident at UCSE.

Julie Pearlman, MBA '00, MD '01, recently finished her ophthalmology residency at Northwestern University and at the time of reunion was six months pregnant with her second child. Her husband, Anthony Pick, is an endocrinologist at Northwestern and their daughter, Lara, is 2. Julie writes that, "although Lara has no professional degrees yet, she is an expert at helping Mommy 'fix boo-boos in eyes.'"

Julie Pearlman, MBA '00, MD '01, recently finished her ophthalmology residency at Northwestern University.

Flavio Rocha, MD '01, is a surgery resident at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, Mass.

Jonathan Weiss, MBA '00, MD '01, earned a law degree at Oxford University after completing his studies in Chicago.



Happy Centennial

George Finlayson, MD, from Mansfield, Ohio, sent in this photo of the 1905 University of Chicago Department of Medicine, which he purchased at an auction in Bucyrus, Ohio. Finlayson interned at Chicago from 1953 to 1954 and practiced internal medicine for 37 years.

Society Jan. 29, 2005. He was president of the society from 1999-2000 and served on its executive board for several years. A former Chicago-area resident, Weiss was president of the Chicago Dermatological Society from 1990-1991 and received its Practitioner of the Year Award in 1992. Weiss lives in Oakland, Calif., and practices in Castro Valley. He is a clinical professor of dermatology at the University of California-San Francisco.

In Memoriam

1930s

Leila A. Creech, MD '35, died in September 2004 at age 98.

Irving E. Slott, SB '31, MD '35, died of complications from a broken hip April 23, 2005, at age 94. Slott followed in the footsteps of his uncle, Edward Slott,

He founded Nations Healthcare, which is now the largest contracted diagnostic and ambulatory surgery provider to the British National Health System, treating more than 250,000 patients per year. Weiss writes that living in London is terrific, but he does miss the States.

Former Faculty & Staff

Jay E. Berkelhamer, MD, senior vice president for medical affairs at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, has been elected to serve as the new leader of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Berkelhamer is also a clinical professor at Emory University

School of Medicine, an adjunct professor at Morehouse College of Medicine and a general pediatrician.

John Weiss, MD, a resident in dermatology at the University of Chicago Hospitals from 1960 to 1963, was named Practitioner of the Year by the San Francisco Dermatological

Richard C. Woellner, AB '51, SB '53, MD '55 (left), Sumner Charles Kraft, MD '55, and Dorothy E. Millon, MD '55.



Heller and his colleagues provided the first evidence for the presence of central serotonin neurons and identified the major ascending pathway for the serotonin, norepinephrine and dopamine fibers in the brain. He is currently studying dopaminergic cellular function, with potential implications for the treatment of Parkinson's disease.

Dennis Slamon, PhD '74, MD '75

A former University of Chicago chief resident, Slamon is a professor of medicine and chief of the Division of Hematology/Oncology at the University of California-Los Angeles, where he started as a fellow in 1979. He also serves

as the director of clinical/translational research, the director of the Women's Cancer Research Program and executive vice chairman for research in UCLA's Department of Medicine. Slamon worked for 12 years on research leading to the development of the breast cancer drug herceptin and has won numerous national awards for his oncology research, including the Bristol-Myers Squibb Oncology Millennium Award and the Dorothy P. Landon-AACR Prize for Translational Cancer Research. In 2000, President Clinton appointed Slamon to a three-member President's Cancer Panel, and in 2004 Slamon was awarded a Medal of Honor from the American Cancer Society.

Robert Wissler, SM '43, PhD '46, MD '48

Wissler served on the Chicago faculty in the Department of Pathology from 1947 until his retirement in 1987. He was appointed chairman of the department in 1957, a position he held for 15 years. Wissler served as director of the Specialized Center of Research on Atherosclerosis at Chicago from 1972 to 1981. From 1985 to 1996 he directed the Multicenter Cooperative Study of the Pathobiological Determinants of Atherosclerosis in Youth. He also served as professor for the Graduate Committee on Immunology and the Graduate Committee on Nutrition and Nutritional Biology. A specialist in



John Sommer, PhB '48, SB '50, MD '53

atherosclerosis and cardiovascular disease, Wissler has authored more than 300 research reports and numerous book chapters. In 1977, he was named the Donald N. Pritzker Distinguished Service Professor of Pathology.

In Memoriam

a surgeon at Columbus Hospital where Irving interned after graduating from medical school.

During Slott's early years in medicine, he was a physician for boxers in Illinois, conducting physical examinations and ringside checkups in the era of such renowned fighters as Sugar Ray Robinson and Rocky Marciano. When FBI agents in 1934 fatally shot bank robber John Dillinger outside Chicago's Biograph Theater, Slott treated a female passerby wounded during the shooting. According to his wife, Carol, the injured woman recognized Slott years later while at the hospital, recalling the blue eyes of the doctor who had treated her that July night.

After serving as a major in the Army's Medical Corps from 1942 to 1946, he rejoined Columbus Hospital and opened a private practice on Chicago's North Side. He served on the Illinois Athletic Commission and became its medical director in 1958. Named president of Columbus Hospital's medical staff in 1969, he also was a professor of medicine at the University of Illinois and a consultant at Cook County Hospital. He sold his practice to the hospital in 1988 and retired.

Harold H. Dubner, SB '34, MD '37, PhD '39, died at Boca Raton Community Hospital Sept. 16, 2004, at age 89. A renowned physician and diagnostician, he cultivated an interest in real estate holdings from Wisconsin to Florida. He moved to Florida in 1987 and became well-known and well-respected in the area's commercial real estate.

Emilio Lastreto, MD '37, died Oct. 29, 2004, in a Napa, Calif., hospital after a brief illness. He was 95. A San Francisco native and grandson of a Gold Rush pioneer, Lastreto grew up on Russian Hill and graduated from the University of San Francisco and Chicago's medical school. During World War II, he served in the Solomon Islands, attending to PT boat crews, including the one commanded by future President John F. Kennedy. After the war, he established a family practice in Visitacion Valley, Calif. For decades, Lastreto served as the ringside physician for the San Francisco Boxing Commission, treating legendary fighters such as Rocky Marciano and examining up-and-coming boxers before annual Golden Gloves tournaments. A past president of the San Francisco Amateur

Boxing Association, in 1986 he was named to the San Francisco Sports Hall of Fame (the only non-sportsman on the list). An active member of Kiwanis International and Native Sons of the Golden West, he took meals to home-bound residents in Napa County and did volunteer work.

1940s

Maurice Hilleman, PhD '44, who is credited with developing more human and animal vaccines than any other scientist, died April 11, 2005, of cancer. He was 85. Hilleman developed eight of the 14 routinely recommended vaccines: measles, mumps, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, chickenpox, meningitis, pneumonia and Haemophilus influenzae. He also combined vaccines so that one shot could protect against several diseases, such as the MMR vaccine for measles, mumps and rubella. In 1988, President Ronald Reagan presented Hilleman with the National Medal of Science, the nation's highest scientific honor, for work credited with saving millions of lives. His measles vaccine alone prevents an estimated one million deaths worldwide every year.

In Memoriam

The Miles City, Mont., native graduated from Montana State University in 1941 and three years later earned a doctorate in microbiology from Chicago. He then joined E.R. Squibb & Sons where he developed a vaccine for Japanese B encephalitis to protect American troops during World War II. Hilleman spent nearly a decade at Walter Reed Army Institute of Research as chief of respiratory diseases before joining Merck & Co. Inc., based in Whitehouse Station, N.J., in 1957 as head of its new virus and cell biology research department. He retired in 1984 as senior vice president of Merck Research Labs in West Point, Penn. A longtime adviser to the World Health Organization, the U.S. National Vaccine Program and the National Institutes of Health Office of AIDS Research Program Evaluation, he was a member of prestigious scientific groups, including the U.S. National Academy of Science. He is survived by his wife, two daughters and five grandchildren.

Ned Williams, PhD '47, professor emeritus of microbiology at the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental

Medicine, died April 25, 2005, in Hilton Head, S.C., at age 92. Williams helped create the research-oriented basic science departments at the dental school in the early 1960s and secured funding from the National Institutes for Health to construct the school's first research facility. In 1967 the National Institute for Dental Research at NIH awarded the school a five-year grant to establish the first Center for Oral Health Research, with Williams as its director. Under his guidance, the school's Leon Levy Center for Oral Health Science Center was completed in 1969.

Born in Dayton, Ohio, Williams earned a bachelor's degree from Swarthmore College in 1934, graduated from Penn's dental school in 1938 and attained the rank of major in the U.S. Army during World War II. After earning a PhD at Chicago, he joined the Penn faculty and later became chairman of microbiology and a full professor. He served as president of the International Association of Dental Research, consultant for the U.S. Public Health Service and chairman of the Dental Study Section. He was a member of the Dentistry Panel of the National

Research Council, a charter fellow of the Academy of Microbiology and member of its board, and a consultant to the Council of Dental Therapeutics of the American Dental Association, serving on its Council of Dental Education.

1950s

William J. Browne, MD '51, who created an alcoholic-treatment program at St. Francis Hospital in Pittsburgh, Penn., and was among the first physicians to diagnose alcoholism as a medical condition, died of heart failure Aug. 11, 2005. Browne had a particular interest in the effects of alcoholism on marriage. He also published papers on the psychiatric development of strong women reformers, such as Jane Addams, Dorothea Dix, St. Theresa of Avila and Florence Nightingale. Before Browne retired in 1996, St. Francis Hospital started an annual symposium, the William J. Browne Conference on Chemical Dependency, in his honor. Born in Detroit and raised in Peoria, Ill., he earned a bachelor's degree at the University of Notre Dame, a master's degree in science at the University of Illinois and a medical degree at Chicago.



At left: Rostik Zajtchuk, SB '60, MD '63; above: Maga Jackson-Triche, AB '71, MD '75.



David Harrer, MD '65, (left) with friend Floyd Kanagy and former classmate Betty Wolf, SB '60, MD '65.

From left: David Bryant, MD '95; Wayne Janda, SB '61, MD '65; Todd Guth, MD '00, and former Dean of Students Norma Wagoner, PhD.



In Memoriam

He later served in the U.S. Public Health Service and the Coast Guard. He enjoyed chess, the opera and chamber music. He is survived by his wife, Martha.

Arthur Okinaka, AB '50, MD '54, died April 21, 2005. An associate professor of surgery at Weill Medical College of Cornell University and a practicing thoracic surgeon at New York Presbyterian Hospital from 1961 through 1989, he was a dedicated physician and a devoted husband and father.

Alan Pavel, MD '58, an orthopedic surgeon who practiced medicine and taught young medical students in Hawaii for nearly 40 years, died Oct. 2, 2004, at age 71. Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., and raised in Stamford, Conn., he graduated from medical school, served in the Navy for two years and then worked as a surgical resident at New York Hospital. Pavel moved to Hawaii in 1966 to work at Straub Clinic & Hospital. He later was associated with Orthopedic Associates of Hawaii, now Orthopedic Services Co. A longtime teacher at the University of Hawaii School of Medicine, he won the Best Teacher of the Year Award in the orthopedic surgery division so many times that he was excluded from the competition. Pavel also worked at all of the state's major hospitals and held key staff positions at the Queen's Medical Center.

1960s

Michael E. Hrinda, SB '62, PhD '67, died in May 2004 following an acute illness. He earned a bachelor's degree and a doctorate in biochemistry from Chicago and post doctorates from Northwestern University and Harvard Business School. He retired from the pharmaceutical industry after 30 years.

1980s

J. Kevin Rist, PhD '83, MD '84, died Feb. 9, 2005, from an aneurysm. He was 48.

Faculty & Staff

Paul M. Arnow, MD, a professor of medicine at Chicago from 1979 to 2002, died March 28, 2005. He was 58. An authority on hospital-acquired infections, prevention of infections in transplant and ICU patients and Legionnaires' disease, Arnow came to Chicago as a postdoctoral research fellow in 1978 and joined the faculty as an assistant professor and hospital epidemiologist in 1979. He served as acting chief of infectious disease at the hospitals from 1987 to 1993 and chief from 1993 to 2002. A fellow of the Infectious Diseases Society of America and president of the Chicago Area Infectious Diseases Society from 1994 to 1996, he devoted one month a year to work on health assessment and public health projects first in Cambodia and later in Kenya. After deciding in May 2002 to focus full time on international health issues, he worked with the Boston-based Management Sciences for Health and was involved in projects in Haiti, Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Uganda, India and elsewhere. In spring 2005 he became a professor of medicine and a hospital epidemiologist at Indiana University. Arnow is survived by his wife, their son and a sister.

Lawrence Z. Freedman, MD, professor emeritus of psychiatry at Chicago, died Oct. 6, 2004. He was 85. An internationally recognized authority on the psychiatry of aggression, violence, crime, terrorism and the interactions between psychiatry and the law, Freedman helped draft the Model Penal Code. Adopted by the American Law Institute in 1962, the code helped state legislatures update their criminal codes.

He served on President Lyndon Johnson's National Commission on the Causes and Prevention of Violence, and developed a profile of potential presidential assassins for the Secret Service. In 1961, he became the Foundations Fund research professor of psychiatry at Chicago and retired in 1985.

In 1963, after the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, Freedman began to study assassins' personality and thought processes. In the mid-1960s he studied serial killers, and interviewed such criminals as John Wayne Gacy. In the 1970s, Freedman studied psychiatric aspects of the emerging threat of terrorism, as seen in the United States in the form of inner city gangs and abroad as militant nationalist movements. He helped form the Institute of Social and Behavioral Pathology, based at the university, and focused research on the biological, developmental and societal factors that contribute to violent or criminal behavior. He is survived by his former wife and their five children.

Edward D. Garber, PhD, a plant geneticist and professor emeritus of ecology and evolution at Chicago, died Oct. 9, 2004, at age 86. Garber joined the Chicago faculty in 1953 and retired in 1988, when he became professor emeritus. His 50-plus-year career was dedicated to genetic research, teaching and international projects. Garber studied anther smut, a fungal organism that changes the sex expression of its host plant, white campion (*Silene latifolia*). He distinguished many variations of color and shape to understand anther smut genetics and he genetically mapped the organism. In the mid-1970s, he spent summers at Hebrew University in Jerusalem, under the auspices of the U.S.-Israel Bi-National Science Foundation.

In Memoriam

Using electrophoresis, he helped the Israelis genetically identify varieties of prawns that would flourish in brackish water ponds rather than commercial tank fisheries. During that same time, Garber worked to develop the human genetics curriculum for Chicago's school system, which was funded by the National Institutes of Health. He is survived by his wife, two daughters, a son and two grandchildren.

Katherine A. Lathrop, professor emerita of radiology at Chicago, died March 10, 2005. She was 89. She helped pioneer the study of the biological effects of radiation and the development and testing of radiotracers in the early days of nuclear medicine. Lathrop was a key member of the Chicago team that introduced technetium-99m into clinical practice in the early 1960s as a radiotracer agent in nuclear medicine. This radioactive substance now is used in nuclear medicine scans designed to identify tumors or abnormal metabolism. Lathrop also helped develop the commercial method for producing iodine-125, another commonly used diagnostic radionuclide. She earned bachelor degrees in biology (1936) and physics (1939) and a master's degree in chemistry (1939) from Oklahoma State University. A junior biochemist in the Metallurgical Laboratory and part of the Manhattan Project from 1945 to 1946, Lathrop studied uptake, retention, tissue distribution and excretion of radioactive materials in animals. From 1947 to 1954 she was an associate biochemist at Argonne National Laboratory. In 1954, she joined the faculty as a research associate at the Argonne Cancer Research Hospital, an

Atomic Energy Commission facility that opened in 1953 on the Chicago campus. She is survived by four of her five children, 10 grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, one sister and one brother.

Stanley Yachnin, MD, professor emeritus and former section chief of hematology and oncology at Chicago, died Aug. 30, 2004, from cancer, a disease he spent much of his life studying. He was 74. In the 1960s, Yachnin did fundamental research on a rare red-blood-cell disorder called paroxysmal nocturnal hemoglobinuria, which causes anemia, loss of blood into the urine during sleep and blood clots that can be fatal. In the 1970s, he studied the biochemistry of lymphocyte transformation, how white blood cells learn to recognize, combat and remember an infection. In the 1980s, he concentrated on cholesterol metabolism, especially the oxidation of blood-cell membranes and its role in disease. Yachnin helped build the hematology and oncology section into one of the world's leading clinical cancer research groups serving as its chief from 1972 to 1982. He also served as a member and chairman of the university committee that approves faculty appointments and promotions, and from 1988 to 1996 directed the Pew Program, one of the earliest interdisciplinary graduate programs for students interested in completing both an MD and PhD. He retired in 1996 and is survived by a son, daughter and four grandchildren.

Chicago's e-Community

Lost touch with a former classmate and looking to reconnect? Involved in an interesting project and want to let your fellow alumni know? Want to add the next class reunion to your calendar? Log on to <http://bsdalumni.uchicago.edu>.

Updated weekly, the new Medical and Biological Sciences Alumni Association Web site is easier to use than ever. The site features reunion information and photos, news of upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, a searchable alumni directory, access to class listservs and alumni giving links, as well as pages to update your contact information or provide your latest news for *Medicine on the Midway*.

Launched this past January, the new Web site enabled alumni to sign up for the reunion online for the first time this year, a function used by more than one-third of the 2005 reunion attendees.

Browsed by more than 500 visitors a week, this new e-community connects nearly 13,000 members of the Medical and Biological Sciences Alumni Association and makes staying in touch with your alma mater as simple as a click of the mouse.



Obama and Schneewind challenge grads

by Corinne Low

Despite June's 90-degree weather, the Biological Sciences Division class of 2005 donned heavy maroon robes for the traditional outdoor Divisional Academic Ceremony that signals their newly earned designation of "doctor."

After thanking the MD and PhD students' families for entrusting their "sons and daughters to our care for the past few years," BSD Dean James Madara, MD, said, "we now return them to you, amazingly accomplished — and slightly worn."

His sentiments echoed those of the graduating students, who expressed feelings of excitement mingled with exhaustion. "I saw the light at the end of the tunnel during this last year, but it was definitely elusive," said Charlene Cho, PhD, who headed back to school this fall for a law degree.

For Laura Freilich, MD, graduation was more than just achieving a long-awaited goal; it also was the continuation of a



Photos by Bruce Powell
Graduating seniors on their way to the 16th annual Divisional Academic Ceremony held June 10 on the Midway.

family legacy. Her father and grandfather attended medical school at Chicago. When asked whether paternal pressure influenced her decision to attend Pritzker School of Medicine, Freilich said, "He quietly supported the idea; let's just say that."

The PhD students chose Olaf Schneewind, MD, PhD, chairman of the Department of Microbiology, for their commencement speaker. Schneewind encouraged them to be "inquisitive, innovative, inventive and, most of all, resilient."

Your society needs you, but it does not always know that. Medicine's future has become much too complex to be delivered by physicians alone.

— Olaf Schneewind, MD, PhD, Chairman of Microbiology



PHD students' speaker choice Olaf Schneewind.

And as you go forth from here in your own life, you can keep this history alive if you only find the courage to try.

— U.S. Senator Barack Obama, Senior Lecturer in Law

not a scarcity of genius or a failure of discovery," he said. "It is a lack of collective will to ensure that every single American has access to effective, affordable health care."

Obama marveled that sitting in the chairs before him could be the physicians who would discover cures for cancer or AIDS, and that to accomplish such feats would make them part of a long history of American innovation.

"And as you go forth from here in your own life, you can keep this history alive if you only find the courage to try," he said, receiving another standing ovation from the crowd.

"Your society needs you, but it does not always know that," he said, noting that medicine's future has become "much too complex to be delivered by physicians alone."

U.S. Senator and law school faculty member Barack Obama was the medical students' speaker of choice. Obama, who received a standing ovation before even beginning his speech, urged today's medical students to become tomorrow's leaders in reforming health care.

"As we continue to find new ways to live longer and better, the greatest single threat to the health of our nation is



MD students' speaker choice Barack Obama.

Having been charged with such tasks as wiping out AIDS, conducting groundbreaking research and alleviating health care costs, these leaders of tomorrow were content for the moment to relax, picnic on the Midway and bask in their moment with family and friends.

And as the graduates begin scattering throughout the country, and the world, to complete post-docs and residencies, Schneewind sounded like a pleased father, reminding them that "the farther you get, the prouder we are."



Photos by Dan Dry
New graduates and their families celebrate at a post-ceremony reception.

59th Annual Senior Scientific Session Awards

by Corinne Low

At the culmination of their years of study, graduating medical students presented their research projects at the 59th Annual Senior Scientific Session, held May 5, 2005. Each participant gave a 10-minute presentation followed by a five-minute question-and-answer session with faculty. The session committee, chaired by Lou Philipson, MD, PhD, professor of medicine, scored the 33 presentations and chose winners. Awards and cash prizes were given to six seniors in four categories.

Leon O. Jacobson Basic Science Prize for most meritorious basic science research performed by an MD/PhD student:

Michael Thomas Spiotto, PhD '03, MD '05

Although malignant cells are the targets of cancer treatments, Spiotto found that nonmalignant cells and connective material in a tumor, known as the tumor stroma, may play a crucial role in determining whether the body's immune response system can detect and eliminate a tumor.

Spiotto focused his research on how the concentration of antigens — foreign substances that trigger the body to produce antibodies — altered immune response to a tumor. Based on rodent trials, Spiotto's research revealed that effective anti-tumor immune responses may depend on whether the stroma can acquire tumor antigens and present these antigens to immune cells.

These immune cells could then eliminate the antigenic cancer cells. However, in these tumors, variant cancer cells that were not recognized by the immune cells still escaped. By eliminating the tumor stroma, the immune cells could indirectly eliminate these resistant variants and reject tumors. This finding could have important implications for cancer treatment, Spiotto said, because cancerous cells that previously could not be targeted by the immune system may be vulnerable to cancer therapies that target the tumor stroma.

Edward Warren Pirok, PhD '00, MD '05

The aggrecan molecule has long been known to be a major component of cartilage and to play a crucial role in its healthy development and maintenance. Organisms that lack aggrecan develop shortened limbs and die before birth. To begin unlocking the mysteries of aggrecan expression, Pirok sought to map the DNA sequences that control aggrecan gene expression.

Studying chicken embryos, Pirok identified a series of approximately 10 base pairs that, when altered, disrupted aggrecan expression. This same DNA sequence also was conserved in the region of DNA that regulates collagen II, another important molecule present in cartilage.

Pirok also isolated a transcription factor that participates in aggrecan regulation by binding to DNA and found that it was a protein also capable of binding to RNA, a rare event. Pirok said that while his research was dedicated to basic scientific knowledge, he hopes it will help pave the way toward a greater understanding of diseased states involving damaged or malformed cartilage.

Leon O. Jacobson Prize for best oral presentation by a non-PhD student in the area of basic science investigation of research done in medical school:

Eric N. Goren, MD '05

Although the GABA receptor is the target of a plethora of therapeutic drugs, including certain anesthetics and anti-epileptic medications, Goren and his research team noted that relatively little is known about the receptor's mechanism. Through their research, Goren and his co-authors expanded the body of knowledge on GABA receptors, located throughout the central nervous system.

By testing reaction times with negatively charged ions, Goren determined that the receptor is made up of five proteins that are loosely packed around one end of the

receptor. The extra space between the proteins allows for increased mobility, which may contribute to the opening and closing action of the receptor. According to Goren's research, the five proteins rotate when GABA binds, enabling the receptor to open and close.

Goren said he plans to further explore what causes this rotation, and how drugs that target the GABA receptor might facilitate this rotation by helping the five proteins to coordinate their movement.

Catherine Dobson Prize for best oral presentation by a non-PhD student in the area of clinical investigation of research done in medical school:

Ashish Ambavi Bhimani, MD '05

Studying data from a nuclear cardiology lab in the University of Chicago Hospitals, Bhimani and a team of researchers determined that abnormal results from stress imaging is an independent predictor of overall death in patients who enter the emergency department reporting chest pain.

Bhimani and his co-researchers analyzed data from 1,077 emergency room patients who underwent nuclear perfusion imaging between August 1996 and December 2001. The patients with abnormal imaging studies were 2.26 times more likely to die than those with normal tests. Patients with abnormal test results had a 1.99 percent annual all-cause mortality rate versus 0.77 percent for those with normal imaging studies.

While this type of imaging has been studied before, Bhimani's research specifically examined a patient population in an acute setting, an application of perfusion imaging on which there was previously little evidence. Bhimani said this new analysis should help emergency medicine physicians feel confident that patients with normal imaging studies are at a decreased risk for overall mortality.

Nonyem Amara Onujiogu, MD '05

Onujiogu and her co-researchers used a prototype instrument from the Association of American Medical Colleges to evaluate the curriculum the Pritzker School of Medicine uses to teach its students cultural awareness. The instrument,

called the Tool for Assessing Cultural Competency Training (TACCT), involves a lengthy survey that Onujiogu administered to course directors in personal interviews.

Onujiogu then evaluated the strengths and deficiencies of both Pritzker's curriculum and the TACCT instrument itself. Onujiogu found that there were several areas of cultural competency covered by multiple courses, while others weren't covered by any. She also found that some courses did not touch on issues of cultural competency at all.

The research will aid Pritzker in designing a curriculum that fully covers all areas of cultural competency while maximizing efficiency by avoiding redundancy across classes, Onujiogu said. She sent her findings about the usefulness of the tool itself to the AAMC for consideration and said she hopes it will help them develop a more effective tool.

Medical and Biological Sciences Alumni Prize for the best overall presentation of research done in medical school:

Charles Kore Kaufman, PhD '03, MD '05

Kaufman's research centered on the role the GATA-3 gene plays in cell differentiation and the proper development of skin and hair tissue during embryogenesis.

Kaufman's team hypothesized that the GATA-3 gene plays an important role in the growth of hair because the GATA-3 protein has an increased presence when hair starts to form on the embryo. By studying mice with and without the GATA-3 gene (wild-type mice and knockout mice, respectively), Kaufman and his team determined that GATA-3 protein is essential in the formation of healthy hair follicles. The inner-root sheath section of the hair follicle was missing in the mice that lacked the GATA-3 gene, resulting in disrupted whisker growth while *in utero*.

To further demonstrate that this result applied to body hair follicles and not just to whiskers, Kaufman transplanted skin from both wild-type and knockout mice onto hairless mice. The skin from the wild-type mice developed into patches of bright white hair, while the skin from the knockout mice demonstrated disrupted hair growth.