A fish out of water

page 16
1940s

John M. Beal, SB ’37, MD ’41, enjoys keeping track of his four grandchildren (two in Valposta, Ga., and two in St. Louis, Mo.), which has turned into a full-time job.

Betsy Platt Weiner, MS/MD ’44, kept an active geriatrics practice in Hawaii that led her to 10 years as a psychiatric mentor in a geriatric residency program. Her focus now is decidedly younger—14 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

1950s

William McFate “Mack” Smith, MD ’51, retired from a career in academia, volunteers on his local hospital’s planning committee and sits on the board of his community health center. He enjoys living in wine country where he plays golf during his leisure time.

Edgar C. Bristow III, MD ’56, began his career by interning at Stamford (Conn.) Hospital, followed by two years as a medical officer in the 4th Infantry Division and completed his family practice residency at Atlantic City (N.J.) Hospital. During his 35 years of practice in Absecon, N.J., he also served as clinical instructor at Rutgers Medical School and Temple University School of Medicine with preceptorship in family medicine. Bristow currently concentrates on environmental issues, and his efforts have earned numerous environmental awards. He founded Friends of Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge, served as its president, currently volunteers on issues through a local National Audubon Society chapter and is president of the Smithville Conservation Foundation.

George Coade, AB ’51, SB ’54, MD ’56, exemplifies the declaration he heard 50 years ago during Orientation Week: “You never stop being a physician.”

George Coade, AB ’51, SB ’54, MD ’56, exemplifies the declaration he heard 50 years ago during Orientation Week: “You never stop being a physician.”

Medical Center. Though he doesn’t see patients, he advises residents on writing papers and is a local computer virus and malware (malicious software) expert. Part of each year, he spends in Germany and France translating articles—some on Nickelodeon pianos and orchestrations—for museums and publications. “Not strictly doctoring,” he writes, “but still useful in exotic ways.”

Dorin S. Daniels, MD ’56, retired in 1994 and, in 2003, the death of his wife, who was with him through medical school. While practicing as a small town family medicine physician, he also worked with medical students and residents at Oregon Health and Science University and retired as clinical professor emeritus. Today, Daniels travels and continues to enjoy photography.

Walter B. Eidbo, MD ’56, has retired from surgery at the Eidbo Clinic in Des Moines, Iowa, which will continue to operate under other physicians. To keep busy, he works two days a week in a hospital-affiliated clinic.

Donald L. Fink, AB ’52, SB ’54, MD ’56, is in good health and enjoys all the “nothings” to do that go along with his full retirement.

Norman R. Gevirtz, MD ’56, started in academic medicine before moving to private practice in internal medicine, hematology/oncology. For the past 18 years, he was medical director of a long-term care facility but is retired now and enjoys making stained glass, reading and writing.

Arnold A. Gombiner, MD ’56, PhD ’67, practices part time with a colleague now that he has closed his full-time dermatology practice in Chicago’s south suburbs and

For graduates new and old, a time for reflection

by Kristin O’Neill

A lot has changed since the class of 1956 embarked on their medical careers. “The only thing I recognize is Billings Hospital,” said Edgar Bristow, MD ’56.

Bristow and friends A. Oleynick, MD ’56, and Dorin Daniels, MD ’56—who recall when a year of tuition cost $900 and the emergency room was literally a room—gathered with other Chicago alumni to kick off Reunion 2006 during the first weekend of June.

Capping the Reunion Weekend was a 90th birthday celebration for Dean Joseph J. Ceithaml, SB ’37, PhD ’41. Alumni and friends gathered to honor the achievements of the dean at the South Shore Cultural Center.

Ceithaml is proud that in his career, no student ever left school because of an inability to pay tuition. “Dean Ceithaml arranged for me to live with a family to provide a ‘role model’ service for their children in exchange for a free room,” said Phillip Schmid, MD ’61. “He took care of everybody like that.”

Robert Porter, MD ’60, first met Ceithaml when the dean came to Beloit College to interview potential students.
moved into the city with his wife. The Chicago Dermatological Society recently named him Practitioner of the Year.

**John A. Jane, AB ’51, MD ’56, PhD ’67,** has no intention of retiring. Since 1969, he has been professor and chairman of the University of Virginia Department of Neurosurgery. He also has served as editor of the Journal of Neurosurgery since 1992. Two of his four children—Jennie, who has four sons, and John, a pediatric neurosurgeon at UVA with a son and daughter—live on either side of Jane and his wife, Noella.

**Edward H. Kolner, MD ’56,** works 25 weeks a year as a diagnostic radiologist. He also travels, takes adult education classes and involves himself in the arts.

**S. Walter Kran, MD ’56,** who retired 12 years ago and remarried shortly thereafter, has traveled to more than 197 countries, visiting most multiple times. With his wife, he spends half of each year out of town and reports that he is having “a good time.”

**Theodore Levine, MD ’56,** retired from orthopedic surgery practice in 1996. He then moved to California, near his four grandchildren, and currently practices part time. In 1955 he married Mimi Cohen, and “she is putting up with me. We are both well and enjoying life.”

**William D. Odell, MS/MD ’56,** and his wife Margie retired in 2000 and live six months in Jackson Hole, Utah, and six months in Southern Utah. He helped develop and staff a free clinic in Jackson Hole and now fly fishes, plays golf, paints, hikes, frames pictures, gardens and reads.

**Ivan F. Diamond, AB ’56, SB ’57, MD ’61, PhD ’67,** writes that his new career is exciting and rejuvenating, and that he will keep at it as long as it stays fun.

**Malcolm I. Page, MD ’56,** is retired but stays active in Homeland Security and is the director of the Medical Reserve Corps for a district in Georgia. He also is a founding member of the Churchill Centre in Washington, D.C., and is active in the International Churchill Society.

**Alvin R. Tarlov, MD ’56,** returned to the University of Chicago in July 2005 and takes courses in cartoons (political satire and comedic interpersonal interactions between, for example, a husband and wife or patient and doctor) at the Art Institute of Chicago. At the university, he researches social factors that influence health production and public policies to improve health.

**Sheldon Wolfe, MD ’56,** practices and teaches psychoanalysis and psychiatry, though not full time. Fifty years after earning an MD, he remains “fulfilled and passionate about my profession.”

**Richard H. Moy, AB ’53, SB ’54, MD ’57,** is one of six Lincoln Academy laureates for 2006. It’s the highest honor the state gives to residents or people born in Illinois. Moy is the founding dean of the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine in Springfield and headed the institution from its inception in 1969 until his 1995 retirement. Under his leadership, the school became a model for medical education in the United States due in part to its hands-on clinical focus.

**1960s**

**Ellen Alkon, MD ’61,** active in public health organizations, holds leadership positions in health departments across the country: Anne Arundel County, Md., Minneapolis and Los Angeles County.

**Ivan F. Diamond, AB ’56, SB ’57, MD ’61, PhD ’67,** a faculty member at University of California-San Francisco for 36 years, was professor and vice chairman of neurology and founding director of the Gallo Center at UCSF until 2005. Then, CV Therapeutics recruited him as vice president in order to create a neuroscience company.

“I was so impressed that he would come to a small college to visit and eventually invite us to U of C, and that was the first time that I had known of a dean coming to interview potential students,” Porter said. “Some people may think of him as stern, but he really has a warm, caring personality.”

When Susan Sherer, MD ’84, had her first interview with Ceithaml, she wondered whether she should apply to Chicago because of her lack of pre-med training as an undergraduate. He encouraged her to take pre-med classes at the university. “As time went by, I went back and talked to him again, and I came away with a sense that I had to prove to him that I could do the work and measure up to his standards,” she said.

Helen Straus, AB ’84, MD ’90, said Ceithaml “coached me on how to interview. He would talk with you and make his judgments and decisions about what he thought you were made of. But at the same time, he offered guidance in a grandfatherly way.” Heidi Woo, MD ’90, added, “He is such an advocate for the students, more than anything.”

**This year’s Gold Key Award winners were the late Maria Medenica and Samuel Hellman.**

**Award winners**

The Reunion Weekend was also a time to honor the Gold Key Award and Distinguished Service Award winners. The Gold Key Award recognizes faculty who have shown outstanding and loyal service to the University of Chicago and to the Biological Sciences Division. The 2006

Holly Humphrey, MD ’83, dean for medical education at the Pritzker School of Medicine, addressed the alumni during the reunion dinner.
Michael Bihai, MD '66, and his wife Marion moved to Cape Cod five years ago. His healthy lifestyle and coaching business, “From Dr. Mike's Kitchen” (www.fromdmikeskitchen.com), combine his passions for cooking and health education. He keeps active in health care issues, serving as board president of his local community health center and recently became a proud grandfather of identical twin girls.

Jay S. DeVore, MD '66, is medical director and director of anesthesia at a surgery center on the beach in North Carolina's Outer Banks. For the past year, he also has been medical director of the community's free clinic. He serves on committees in state and national anesthesia societies and still acts in community theater, sings and plays hand bells in the church choir.

John E. Kurnick, MD '66, has retired from medical practice, though he continues to serve as board treasurer for the Medical Oncology Association of Southern California. He also teaches on the volunteer faculty at University of California-Irvine. During off time, he travels with his wife and helps his father manage his properties.

Julian J. Rimpila, SM/MD '66, celebrated his 40th wedding anniversary in April with his wife, Beverly. The two have five children and six grandchildren. He was elected vice chairman of the Chicago Medical Society and writes book reviews for the society's newsletter, Chicago Medicine. “If you have a recent book, send it to me, and it will be reviewed for the journal,” he writes.

Eli Taub, MD '66, retired after practicing pediatrics with Kaiser Permanente in Northern California for almost 30 years. His children are grown and on their own, his family is in good health and he remains busy with community affairs and public interest activities.

1970s

Michael Richard Brown, MD '71, retired and is a non-degree seeking student in the College of Public Health at the University of Arizona. This fall, he will be a full-time student in their Master of Public Health program.

Theodore M. Ingis, MD '71, with his wife, Judy, continues to travel the world,
most recently to India. Their greatest delight, however, is their grandson, Zachary.

Marc D. Graff, MD ’74, recently became president-elect of the California Psychiatric Association after years of active participation in the national organization. He is divorced and remarried, and his daughter, Rebecca, AM ’01, is a PhD student in anthropology and archaeology at the University of Chicago. His son, Ben, works in San Francisco.

Paul Kaplowitz, PhD ’75, MD ’76, after 21 years at the Medical College of Virginia, is now chief of the endocrinology department at Children’s National Medical Center in Washington, D.C. He likes the challenges of working at a busy children’s hospital for the first time. He has written two books for parents: Early Puberty in Girls (2004) and The Short Child (2006). His wife, Lisa Kaplowitz, MD ’75, remains 110 miles away in Richmond, where she works for the Virginia Department of Health in charge of emergency preparedness and response. They have two post-college sons and a 3-year-old grandson.

H. Eugene Hoyne, MD ’76, is chief of the Division of Medical Genetics and associate chairman of the Stanford School of Medicine’s Department of Pediatrics. He and his wife, Gloria, have three children: Derek (a medical student), Laura (a speech pathologist) and Elizabeth (a graduate student in speech pathology).

Anthony A. Meyer, PhD ’76, MD ’77, has been at the University of North Carolina for 21 years and has served as chairman for the past five.

Ronald J. Sokol, MD ’76, has been living and working in Denver for 27 years. Currently, he is a vice chairman of the pediatrics department; head of the pediatric gastroenterology, hepatology and nutrition section; and program director of the Pediatric General Clinical Research Center at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center and the Children’s Hospital of Denver. He, along with his wife and two teenage sons, enjoy the outdoor Colorado lifestyle.

Robert Malcolm Wolfe, AB ’72, MD ’76, keeps busy teaching, doctoring and writing. In 1998, Northwestern University recruited him for its new family medicine department. He has “six lovely children and three exquisite grandchildren.”

Allan M. Brecher, MD ’82, continues to begin each morning by running five to six miles, moving up to eight to 12 miles on weekends with a Hinsdale, Ill., running group.

Debra E. Weese-Mayer, MD ’78, professor of pediatrics at Rush Medical College and director of pediatric respiratory medicine at Rush Children’s Hospital in Chicago has been appointed to the board of trustees for the Foundation of the American Thoracic Society.

1980s

Thomas E. Wellem, PhD ’80, MD ’81, directs a malaria and medical entomology research program for the National Institutes of Health. He and his wife, Marilyn, have three grown children who have moved on to universities and their own careers.

Robert Vincent Buccini, MD ’81, since 1989, has been in private practice of gastroenterology.

James Edward Hannigan Jr., MD ’81, is running a seven-doctor oncology practice.

Jeffrey Brian Rich, MD ’81, practices adult cardiac and thoracic surgery, including heart transplantation and mechanical circulatory assistance, and is director of the heart transplant and ventricular assist programs at Sentara Health care. Throughout the past 10 years, he also has involved himself in quality improvement and health policy at regional and national levels. He presently sits on the Society of Thoracic Surgery’s board of directors and chairs their Task Force on Pay for Performance. In Washington, D.C., he chairs the Research
dermatology research trainee working chiefly in the areas of dermatopathology and electron microscopy. She re-joined the university in 1974 as an associate professor, investigating dermatological electron microscopy. (See obituary, page 37.)

The Distinguished Service Award recognizes alumni who have brought honor and distinction to both the division and university by demonstrating outstanding leadership in—and making significant contributions to—the biological sciences or medicine through research, clinical care, health service administration, public and professional service, or civic duties. This year’s recipients are: David J. DeRosier, SB ’61, PhD ’65; Edward Baloyan, MD ’56; Robert L. Perlman, AB ’57, SB ’58, MD ’61, PhD ’63; and Donald E. Seiner, SM/MD ’56.

Challenge for new grads

As the alumni reminisced one weekend, the class of 2006 embarked on their careers the following weekend at the Divisional
and Quality Improvement Council on the National Quality Forum and also serves on its board of directors. He holds additional leadership positions for the Ambulatory Care Quality Alliance, Hospital Quality Alliance and Surgical Quality Alliance.

Allan M. Brecher, MD ’82, continues to begin each morning by running five to six miles, moving up to eight to 12 miles on weekends with a Hinsdale, Ill., running group. He runs in yearly events, such as the Fred Meyer Hood to Coast Relay, with the group. Brecher also enjoys every minute of raising his 10-year-old son, Daniel. He shares an office with Paul Prinz, MD ’88, and keeps busy as a solo general orthopedic surgeon with an emphasis on trauma. His wife, Janice Lyon, AB ’78, MD ’82, is switching to group practice after 17 years in solo obstetrics/gynecology.

Alan L. Friedman, MD ’82, and Dena Seifer Friedman, MD ’82, live in Princeton, N.J., with their daughters, Jennifer, 17, and Stephanie, 14. They would love to plan a get-together with classmates.

Anne S. DeGroot, MD ’83, is adjunct associate professor at Brown University and founder/CEO of EpiVax Inc., a biotechnology company dedicated to developing and implementing computational immunology tools. The company is based in Providence, and the Rhode Island Medical Women’s Association announced DeGroot the organization’s 2006 Woman Physician of the Year.

Steven Craig Goldberg, MD ’83, joined the faculty of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey’s Robert Wood Johnson Medical School after 18 years of private practice in obstetrics/gynecology. There, he teaches in the Raritan Bay Medical Center clinics and is developing a community office practice. He enjoys life with his wife, Rose, their five kids and one poodle, Coco. They try to spend as much time as possible at New Jersey’s shore.

Rebecca Hassoun Welch, AB ’79, MD ’83, immediate past president of the Florida Society of Anesthesiologists, currently works as a pediatric anesthesiologist for Nemours Children’s Clinic in Orlando, Fla. She and her husband celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary this year, and have two children, ages 14 and 11.

John Harold Burke, AB ’82, MD ’86, keeps busy in cardiac electrophysiology private practice. He also teaches at the University of Illinois and spends time with his wife, Vicky, and their two children—Lauren, 10, and Joshua, 8.

William W. Wong, MD ’86, who specializes in radiation oncology, is a consultant at Mayo Clinic, Arizona, and an associate professor at Mayo Clinic College of Medicine. With his wife and three sons, he lives in Scottsdale, Ariz.

1990s

Michelle Kosche Anfang, AB ’86, MD ’91, recently celebrated two anniversaries: 10 years of marriage and five in private practice. She lives in Western Massachusetts with her husband and two children—Michael, 9, and Emily, 7. She writes, “I had a preview of reunion last summer on the [New] Jersey shore with classmates Juliann Kiraly Williams, MD ’91, Heidi Appel, MD ’91, and Maura Dickler, AB ’87, MD ’91.”

Margaret M. Brown, MD ’91, received board certification with the American Board of Family Medicine and the American Board of Hospice and Palliative Medicine. She is certified in geriatrics and completed a fellowship in gerontology at the University of New Mexico.

Sheryl Lynn M. Donohue-Hoyer, MD ’91, and her husband, Jeff, married nearly 18 years ago and have three children: Matthew, 12; Megan, 11; and Amanda, 10.

Academic Ceremony held June 9 on the Midway Plaisance.

The 2006 graduates were addressed by Lynn Margulis, PhD, distinguished university professor of geosciences at the University of Massachusetts, and Jocelyn Elders, MD, former U.S. surgeon general, distinguished professor of public health and pediatrics at the University of Arkansas.

James L. Madara, MD, dean of the BSD and Pritzker Medical School, opened the ceremony, stressing the need for a balance between broad and specialized education.

"We consider biology in a global sense, with social implications. Discovery and knowledge are best obtained by a broad view of one's discipline and its place in the world," he said. He left the graduates with this powerful statement, "Heal, discover and enjoy."

Margulis, chosen by the PhD candidates, encouraged the graduates to proceed in their careers with integrity. "This school has
Nancy F. Crum Cianflone, MD '95, works as an HIV/infectious disease researcher for the National Institutes of Health. She and her husband live in San Diego.

Jeffrey A. Kazaglis, MD '96, enjoys living in Manhattan, Kan. (the “Little Apple”), with his wife, Leah, and daughters Alexandra, 5, and Chloe, 2. Serving as a major in Iraq, he spent much of 2005 in Baghdad, and writes that he is “dismayed” that none of the official reunion functions were held at Jimmy’s Woodlawn Tavern.

Lucy Marie Peraza MD '96, spent five years working in Manhattan after she completed a residency in primary care at New York University Medical Center/Bellevue Hospital. She has two daughters, ages 4 years and 22 months, and is returning to work for the first time in two years. “I think of our amazing four years together at Pritzker quite often,” she writes. “Best wishes for peace and health.”

Trvi Robbins, SB '92, MD '96, an army physician for the past 10 years, spent more than four years in Korea and the past year in Iraq. He writes that he prays for the safety of all troops overseas and hopes that all alumni are leading productive and happy careers.

Ibrahim Naveed Syed, MD '96, provides services to patients in Northwest Ohio and Southeast Michigan.

always stood for authenticity and honesty and science and the search for truth, whether we like the truth at all or not,” she said.

Elders, chosen to speak by the MD candidates, garnered applause when she told the students to try to “transform our very expensive ‘sick care’ system into a real health care system.”

“Health care is a human right,” she said. “We need to educate our patients on how to care for their whole life.

“The most important thing you’ve got to do is care,” Elders said. “Always remember that nobody, not a single one of your patients, will care how much you know until they know how much you care.”

On March 16, 2006, 106 Pritzker School of Medicine graduates received their residency matches. In keeping with St. Patrick’s Day tradition, many graduates donned T-shirts that read, “Kiss Me, I Matched.”

Medical centers with the most Chicago recruits:

- University of Chicago Hospitals = 27
- University of Michigan Hospitals-Ann Arbor = 6
- Massachusetts General Hospital = 4
- Northwestern McGaw = 4
- New York Presbyterian Hospital-Columbia Presbyterian = 4
- UCLA Medical Center = 4

What Chicago recruits will be doing:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPECIALTY</th>
<th>PGY1</th>
<th>PGY2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anesthesiology</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dermatology</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Medicine</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Surgery</td>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internal Medicine</td>
<td>23</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicine-Pediatrics</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicine-Preliminary</td>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neurological Surgery</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neurology</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obstetrics and Gynecology</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ophthalmology</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orthopedic Surgery</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Otolaryngology</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pathology</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pediatric Neurology</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pediatrics</td>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plastic Surgery</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary Care</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychiatry</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Health</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radiation-Oncology</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radiology-Diagnostic</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surgery-Preliminary</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transitional</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urology</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Soon-to-be Pritzker grads (from top): overflow Billings Auditorium; Megan Young and mother Carla Young; Robert Lee; Joseph Ogar; Catherine Roberts and Lavanya Kondapalli; Daley Batista, Oluwaseun Adetayo and Lydia Dugdale; and Kristina Lundberg.
2000s

Michael John Fumo, AB ’97, MD ’01, is celebrating the birth of his third child, Cecilia, who joins brothers David and Jackson. He writes that he is “finally finishing a urology residency and getting a real job.”

Alon Kahana, PhD ’88, MD ’01, finished his ophthalmology residency in 2001 and began a two-year American Society of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery oculoplastic and orbital surgery fellowship at the University of Wisconsin. His research focuses on the molecular genetics of zebrafish. He has two boys, ages 9 and 5, and is expecting a third child.

Michael Mendoza, AB ’96, MD ’01, and his wife, Lisa Vargish, MD ’02, celebrated the birth of their baby girl in August 2005. Mendoza joined the University of Chicago faculty and is practicing family medicine at Brandon Family Health Center.

Anita Lee Sloan, MD ’01, is currently an endocrinology fellow at the University of New Mexico, conducting obesity research and clinical duties. She and her partner have a 1-year-old son, Gabriel.

Amy “Farmer” Derick, MD ’02, married Michael Derick in April 2006. This fall, she will open a solo dermatology practice, Derick Dermatology, LLC, in Barrington, Ill.

Jennifer Wai-Yin Lai, MD ’03, has a 17-month-old daughter, Lauren. She has accepted a position as a hospitalist/primary care physician at the Palo Alto Medical Foundation/Stanford University Medical Center following residency.

Faculty/Staff

Adrian Katz, MD, and Marshall Lindheimer, MD, colleagues at the University of Chicago for more than 35 years, received the Lifetime of Service Award from the National Kidney Foundation of Illinois’ Medical Advisory Board.

InMemoriam

1930s—1950s


John W. Pace, MD ’41, died Sept. 14, 2005.


1960s

Philip C. Hoffmann, SB ’57, PhD ’62, a neuropharmacologist and professor emeritus of neurobiology, died Friday, July 21, at the University of Chicago’s Bernard Mitchell Hospital of prostate cancer that had spread to other organs. After post-doctoral work in Germany and Sweden, he started teaching pharmacology to second-year medical students at Chicago in 1963 and continued part time past his official retirement in June 2001. In addition to the medical students, he worked with undergraduate and graduate students. He believed in teaching by discussion, though many consider lecturing as the best way to convey scientific facts.

“I feel very strongly that—particularly at the Common Core level—students need to know how we arrive at those tentative facts. The only way to do that is to discuss the nature of the evidence,” he said.

His well-known devotedness inspired countless students, (at least one even named his son after Hoffmann), and won him awards, such as the 2002 Golden Key in honor of his service to the Biological Sciences Division and university as a whole.

Former Faculty & Staff

Philip C. Hoffmann, SB ’57, PhD ’62, see entry at left.

James E. Jones, MD, 77, died May 24, 2006, at home after a long battle with prostate cancer. In the late 1960s, Jones joined the University of Chicago as a clinical associate. In addition to his wife, three children survive him: Julie Min Simms, Josh Christian Jones and Courtney Aurora Jones.

Robert B. Karp, MD, former section chief of cardiac surgery and professor emeritus of surgery at the University of Chicago, died May 18, 2006, with his wife, Sondra, in a motor vehicle accident on a highway near the village of Chateauroux, about 100 miles south of Paris, France.
In 1981, Karp helped start the heart transplant program at the University of Alabama-Birmingham. The program was one of the first in the country. Having performed 18 transplants there, he moved to the University of Chicago in 1983 and implemented what has become the largest heart transplant program in Illinois.

Karp’s “gruff and rough” attitude sometimes “got him in trouble,” according to long-time friend Nicholas Kouchoukos, MD, now a cardiovascular surgeon at Missouri Baptist Medical Center in St. Louis. “But it was a facade. Once you got past that veneer, he was a teddy bear underneath.”

“[Karp’s] marriage to Soni brought him a vivacious, effervescent and warm partner, someone who could enhance the humanistic qualities of the analytical scientist. They brought joy to the lives of each other, although—and perhaps because—their personalities were quite different.”

—Robert Replogle, MD

By all appearances, Karp grew up as the type of kid with stand-out talent in whatever he tried. He excelled in academics and sports, playing quarterback for Beverly Hills High School in Southern California. At age 20, he earned a bachelor’s degree from Stanford University—after only three years—and went on to study at the University of California-San Francisco and the University of California-Los Angeles. From 1960 to 1962, he served as a captain in the U.S. Army, then completed a surgical residency at UCSF.

In 1961, while in the Army, Karp married Sondra Price, also of Los Angeles. They had twins, Andrew and Gillian, a year later and divorced two years after that. Seventeen years later, however, both parents got back together.

“Mom was much more social,” Andrew said. “She made him pay attention to that stuff.”

“His marriage to Soni brought him a vivacious, effervescent and warm partner, someone who could enhance the humanistic qualities of the analytical scientist,” said Robert Replogle, MD, who preceded Karp as chief of cardiac surgery at Chicago. “They brought joy to the lives of each other, although—and perhaps because—their personalities were quite different.”

The Karps are survived by 43-year-old son Andrew, a lawyer in Chicago; his twin sister Gillian, a psychologist in Alexandria, Va.; and two grandchildren.

Maria Medenica, MD, 81, a professor of dermatology at the University of Chicago for more than 31 years and an authority on the use of electron microscopy in skin disease diagnosis, died June 25, 2006 after battling cancer.

During her working years, Medenica would wake each morning around 4:30 a.m. to catch buses from her Lincoln Park home so she could be at work by 6:30. Once there, she would see patients and read slides late into the night.

“What no one else other than a pathologist can appreciate is that for many years she looked at, described and wrote diagnostic comments for over 18,000 skin biopsies a year,” said James Vardiman, MD, director of hematopathology at Chicago.

At night, Vardiman or colleagues would often drive to her home, seeking her out continually for help with, among other obstacles, difficult biopsies. “The conversation was always about lymphocytes in the skin, her patients, and her trainees—the things at work that she really cared about. We all miss her professionally and personally very much.”

Born Oct. 23, 1924, in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, Medenica earned a medical degree from Belgrade University in 1954. She interned at Chicago’s Ravenswood Hospital in 1958 and completed a residency at the University of Chicago in 1963. After a decade of working at various Illinois hospitals, she returned to Chicago in 1974 as an associate professor, where she stayed for 31 more years. During that time, she published more than 90 articles, book chapters, scholarly clinical reports and essays in journals such as the Archives of Dermatology, the Journal of Investigative Dermatology, the Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology and the Journal of Dermatological Surgical Oncology. Even after her 2005 retirement, she helped residents publish.

Medenica is survived by her sons, Bo and Mike; daughter-in-law, Kim; and grandson, Logan.

Ronald Singer, MD, DSC, the Robert Bensley Professor of Organismal Biology and Anatomy, died April 17, 2006. Singer was a world-renowned researcher and teacher who taught in the University of Chicago’s Medical Scientist Training Program. He maintained a global network of associates in his various research fields, held positions in professional organizations and addressed scientific conferences the world over.

Corrections

The summer 2006 issue of Medicine on the Midway incorrectly lists Kenneth L. Kaplan, AB ’57, SB ’58, MD ’60, as a clinical faculty member at Washington University. He is a clinical professor of psychiatry and pediatrics at George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

Marty Pops, MD ’60, was quoted in the story “A Dean for Students” in the summer 2006 issue of Medicine on the Midway and incorrectly listed as a member of the class of 1964.
Legendary South Side philanthropist dies at 78

Gary C. Comer, founder of the Lands’ End clothing-catalogue company and long-term supporter of projects to help children, especially those on the South Side of Chicago, died Oct. 11, 2006, from cancer at his home in Chicago. He was 78.

“Gary Comer’s extraordinary contributions to the children of Chicago, especially those on the South Side, already have improved the lives and health of thousands and will continue to do so for generations to come,” said Robert Zimmer, president of the University of Chicago. “He was a man of unparalleled vision and generosity, and we are all enormously indebted to him and his memory.”

Comer left a remarkable philanthropic legacy of support for children’s health care, education and the study of global climate change. His primary focus over the past decade was a series of gifts totaling more than $84 million that led to the creation and expansion of the Comer Children’s Hospital at the University of Chicago.

Those gifts include a $21 million donation in 2001 to build the six-story, 242,000-square-foot Comer Children’s Hospital, which opened Feb. 19, 2005, and a $20 million gift in 2003 to add a pediatric emergency room, as well as support for other programs.
“My wife, Francie, and I have been determined to find the most effective ways to give back to my old neighborhood. We have chosen to do that by focusing on fundamental needs such as children’s health and education. What could be more important than that?”

—Gary Comer (January 2006)

In 2006, he made a $42 million donation to create the Comer Center for Children and Specialty Care—a four-story, 122,500-square-foot facility adjoining Comer Children’s Hospital—and to recruit leading physician-scientists and to build programs providing state-of-the-art care and advancing pediatric medicine. The gift is the largest single donation ever made to the University of Chicago.

“My wife, Francie, and I have been determined to find the most effective ways to give back to my old neighborhood,” Comer said in January 2006. “We have chosen to do that by focusing on fundamental needs such as children’s health and education. What could be more important than that?”

Gary Campbell Comer was born and raised on the South Side of Chicago and graduated from the Paul Revere School in 1942. An avid sailor since childhood, Comer decided at age 33 to give up a 10-year career as an advertising copywriter at Young & Rubicam to start his own company, as long as it had some connection with sailboat racing.

In the fall of 1962, he started a mail-order sailing equipment business, distributing sailing gear, rain suits and sweaters. The first location for the company was in an apartment on North Kedzie Avenue. The following spring, Comer and five partners incorporated Lands’ End Yacht Stores (the misplaced apostrophe was a typo that became part of the firm’s history) and moved to a rent-free basement office on Elston Avenue.

By 1965, the partners had begun to make a small profit and they printed their first catalogue, which became an industry legend for its clever and tight writing. In 1978, Comer moved the warehouse and phone operations to Dodgeville, Wis. In 1986, Lands’ End went public. It is the second largest apparel-only mail-order business and the world’s largest clothing Web site.

Comer stepped down as president of Lands’ End in 1990, but remained chairman of the board and the majority stockholder. In 2002, Sears purchased Lands’ End.

The Comers have supported several Chicago-based projects to advance health and education, especially for children on the South Side. They have given about $50 million to the Revere School community, including $30 million to create the Gary Comer Youth Center, an activity, performance and education center for area youth, adjacent to his alma mater. Other gifts included $7 million to the Revere School to support a series of educational initiatives; $5 million to a neighborhood housing initiative; and about $1.5 million to the South Shore Drill Team.

At the University of Chicago Medical Center, the Comers also have supported research on a novel treatment for ovarian cancer and launched the Comer Pediatric Mobile Care program, which brings comprehensive primary and preventive health care to students at South Side public schools. His wife, Frances, is a longtime member of the University of Chicago Women’s Board.

In addition to his wife, Comer is survived by son Guy, daughter Stephanie and three grandchildren: Sienna, Luca and Gary.