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1940s
Walter Lawrence Jr., PhB ’44, SB ’46, MD ’48, serves as professor emeritus of surgery at Virginia Commonwealth University and also teaches at an affiliated hospital.

Richard Keckin Blaissell, MD ’48, is professor emeritus at the University of Hawaii’s John A. Burns School of Medicine, where he also works as a consultant in the Department of Native Hawaiian Health.

1950s
Bob Levine writes, “I’m careful not to neglect tennis and fly fishing.”

Ernest Beutler, PhB ’46, SB ’48, MD ’50, was the subject of the article, “Ernest Beutler: Independent Thinker and Astute Observer,” in the May/June edition of The Hematologist. The piece notes he was 15 years old when he enrolled at the University of Chicago, where he later developed an interest in hematology and studied under famed Chicago researcher Leon Jacobson.

Richard J. Neudorf, MD ’51, retired from his White Plains, NY, orthopaedic surgery practice several years ago. He and his wife, Elinor, reside in Palm Beach, Fla., and would love to hear from classmates and friends. Neudorf can be reached at neudorf@bellsouth.net.

Bob Levine, MD ’53, is “having a ball” working with Advocates for Senior Issues in Kent County, Mich., where he spends time advocating for universal health care. But, he writes, “I’m careful not to neglect tennis and fly fishing.”

1960s
Burr S. Eichelman, SB ’54, MD ’58, PhD ’70, shares that, “Yes, there is life after being a chairman.” He left his position as chairman of the psychiatry department at Temple University and headed back to the Midwest, where he now leads psychiatric consultation and emergency services at the University of Wisconsin. “Less politics and more teaching and clinical care are just fine,” he writes. “Ten grandchildren, an attorney wife/partner, and Dogie the Doberman take up the rest of my life at present.”

David Holtzman, PhD ’57, MD ’68, headed the child neurology divisions at Stanford and Tulane before moving to Cambridge, Mass., where he spent two years at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology learning in vivo nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy. Holtzman then began clinical programs and teaching on brain energetics at Harvard University’s Children’s Hospital Boston and Massachusetts General Hospital. His research focuses on the mitochondrial physiology in lymphoblasts from autistic patients.

Manju Nath, MD ’89, PhD, specializes in physical medicine for rehabilitation and is also an associate medical director at Health South Rehabilitation Hospital in Midland-Odessa, Texas. His son, Vikas, is a freshman at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Medical School, where Nath is also a clinical associate professor of internal medicine.

1970s
James F. Maddon, MD ’73, works as a hospitalist at the Reading Hospital and Medical Center in Reading, Pa., following a 26-year stint as a general internist at the Lansdale Medical Group. He and Maryellen, his wife of 32 years, have three children: Brian, Tim and Kate. “Going back for reunions is always great fun,” Madden writes, “I go without saying that it can’t really be 35 years!”

Robert John Dempsey, MD ’77, and his wife, Diane, teach at the University of Wisconsin, where he serves as the chair and Manucher J. Avdov professor in the department of neurosurgery. Dempsey also maintains a cerebrovascular research lab and teaches domestically and internationally.

Patricia Simmons, MD ’77, lives in Minnesota with her husband, Les Wold, MD ’77. Simmons serves as director of pediatric and adolescent gynecology at the Mayo Clinic and professor of pediatrics at the Mayo Medical School. She also chairs the Board of Regents for the University of Minnesota.

Victor Elnor, MD ’79, began his installation as the Ravitz Foundation Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences at the University of Michigan this past June. A physician-scientist who has shown that inflammation is often the cause of eye disease, Elnor helped develop an instrument that detects eye disease long before the first symptoms occur. He is now concluding studies on its use in screening for diabetes and diabetic retinopathy.

1980s
Carl L. Kalbhen was inducted as a fellow in the American College of Radiology at its annual meeting this past May.

James J. Foody, MD ’80, began serving as Governor of the Illinois Northern Chapter of the American College of Physicians this past May. He serves as professor of medicine and vice chairman of clinical affairs at Northwestern University’s Feinberg School of Medicine and chair of the pharmacy and therapeutics committee at Northwestern Memorial Hospital.

Carl L. Kalbhen, MD ’89, was inducted as a fellow in the American College of Radiology at its annual meeting this past May. A clinical assistant professor of radiology at Loyola University Medical Center in Maywood, Ill., he also serves as a staff radiologist at Northwest Community Hospital in Arlington Heights, Ill.

Manju Nath, MD ’89, PhD, specializes in physical medicine for rehabilitation and is also an associate medical director at Health South Rehabilitation Hospital in Midland-Odessa, Texas. His son, Vikas, is a freshman at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Medical School, where Nath is also a clinical associate professor of internal medicine.

1990s
Shahab A. Akhter, MD ’93, completed his general surgery residency at Duke University Medical Center in 2000 and his cardiothoracic fellowship at the University of Michigan Medical Center in 2002. He was a member of the cardiac surgery faculty at the University of Cincinnati until 2007, when he was recruited back to the University of Chicago. His clinical interests include surgery for advanced heart failure, mitral valve reconstruction and arrhythmia surgery. Akhter married his wife, Pamela Jane Wells, in 2001 and their daughter, Sophia, was born in December 2006.

Nancy Keating, MD ’93, and her husband had their first child, Thomas, in 2006 and welcomed their second baby this July.

Swati Singh, AB ’88, MD ’93, specializes in refractive and aesthetic surgery in the Bay area, where she has been in practice for almost 10 years.

Gina Kim Song, SB ’94, MD ’98, started a pediatric practice five years ago. It has grown into a small medical group with three physicians and more to come. She’s been married for almost nine years and has three children.

Michael McMan, MD ’97, served as a U.S. Army physician and ophthalmologist before beginning his own practice. “It’s been a very challenging and rewarding experience,” he writes. “Please look me up at www.oashlausk.com.”

Tachyon Philip Chong, MD ’98, is finishing a fellowship in colon and rectal surgery at Barnes-Jewish Hospital and the Washington University School of Medicine.

2000s
Pat Basu was elected chief resident at Stanford University in the Department of Diagnostic and Interventional Radiology.

Suparna Mullick, MD ’02, and Matthew Lyons, MD ’02, live in St. Louis, Mo., where Mullick works as a pediatrician at a community health center and Lyons is a fellow radiologist at Washington University. Their son, Sachin Lyons, was born in June 2007.

Pat Basu, MD ’04, MBA ’05, was elected chief resident at Stanford University in the Department of Diagnostic and Interventional Radiology.

Jennifer Zumsteg, MD ’05, was selected as co-chief resident in physical medicine and rehabilitation at the University of Washington Medical Center.

Former Faculty
Charles Bredlender, MD, was endowed as the Ronald L. Cherv Family and Richard Melman Family Chair of Prostate Cancer at Evanston Northwestern Healthcare this past June. An internationally recognized urologist, Bredlender served as professor and chief of urology at the University of Chicago before joining EHN in October 2006.

In Memoriam
1950s
John Douglas Arterberry was a pioneer in the development of paramedic and hazardous material services in Los Angeles County.

Eichel M. Bunn, MD ’51, had a busy career in psychiatric administration before retiring in 1989. She died this past March. An editorial board member for the Journal of Hospital and Community Psychiatry from its founding in 1966, Bunn continued to serve as a reviewer for the journal for several years following her time on the board. In recent years, she enjoyed devoting more time to her lifelong hobbies—gardenning, rock hounding, photography, fishing and travel.

John Douglas “Doug” Arterberry, MD ’56, of Rancho Mirage, Calif., died in December 2007. Born in Los Angeles, he was a longtime resident of South Pasadena and San Marino. Following his 33-year career at Los Angeles County hospitals and Northridge Hospital, he continued to practice medicine in Palm Springs and Yucca Valley until his retirement in 2005. A pioneer in the development of paramedic and hazardous material services in Los Angeles County, he is survived by his wife, Linda, his brother, William, three children, two stepchildren and five grandchildren.

1960s
Julian I. Rimpilla, SM/MD ’66, retired from Lincoln Park Hospital and served as a member of the Chicago Medical Society Council for 14 years. He died this past March. A former lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army, Rimpilla leaves behind his wife, Beverly, five children and many grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Former Faculty/Housestaff
Frances Stutzman, a longtime secretary and coordinator of special events at the Biological Sciences Division, died this past June. An university employee for almost 35 years, she moved to Wilmette, Ill., after her retirement and stayed active with the University of Chicago Service League. She is survived by King, her husband of 72 years, as well as two sons and three grandchildren.

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University of Chicago Medical Center on the Midway

Class Update

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Fall 2008
Before members of the class of 1968 secured their medical degrees, they had already worked as a hospital labor force.

“It was the only time they let us out of class,” said Stephen Cohen, MD ’68, remembering the week he cranked the mangle, or wringer, in the laundry room of Billings Hospital.

Cohen and his wife, Gretchen, reminisced with friend Stanley Siefer, MD ’68, about the Chicago blizzard of 1967 when a single snowfall covered the city in 23 inches of snow, stranding thousands. Conversations like these helped to jump start Reunion 2008 this past June.

“The weather paralyzed the university, and the medical students did all the jobs. They ran the hospital,” recalled Gretchen Cohen, who met her husband in the Billings pediatric unit where she worked as a lab technician and he served his pediatric rotation.

They also recalled spending plenty of time at Jimmy’s, a bar now known as The Woodlawn Tap, on 55th Street.

“It was a dive, but there was classical music playing and it had some interesting graffiti that said more than ‘P.J. was here.’ You could tell it must’ve been written by a student at the university.”

Back on campus, Leonard Kern, MD ’68, passed the John Crerar Library for biological, medical and physical sciences and commented that research at the university is more accessible and student-centered now, a far cry from the tiny bookshelves he once scoured for journal articles.

“We had a small library in the hospital, and now they have a place with a million books,” he said. “But I can’t say if we had it harder or if kids today have it harder because they have so much more to learn now.”

For one graduate marking his 40th reunion, the weekend brought powerful memories of politics. Lou Constan, SB ’68, MD ’72, remembered students taking over the administration building in protest against the Vietnam War draft.

“The draft board wanted the university to hand over students’ names and their grade point averages, and a number of students took over in protest,” said Constan, who attended medical school on a scholarship and didn’t want to jeopardize it by protesting.

“Nothing came down from the university about that, but at a lesser school, the students could have gotten in serious trouble for civil disobedience.”

A decade earlier, the most memorable moments occurred within the hospital walls, said Zane Parzen, MD ’58.

He worked as a nurse’s aide on the psychiatric unit between the summer of his third and fourth years of medical school to see if he wanted to be a psychiatrist. His first week on the job, he met with a young woman who had jumped off a building.

In their conversation, Parzen learned that the woman wasn’t intentionally suicidal, but instead following what she believed to be a divine order sent down to her.

“I learned that the patients weren’t just saying nonsense,” he said. “You have to pay attention to the cause of their ailment and not just the ailment itself. If you worked hard, you could understand them.”

Getting doctors to open up took significantly more work, Parzen found.

Initially, he said, nobody wanted to discuss the things he wondered about the most: How does a physician feel when a patient dies? Does the staff mourn? Is it better to maintain distance with patients or be close enough that the physician knows who prefers Jell-O?

“If the doctors felt like they were talking to someone on the outside, they wouldn’t say much,” said Parzen, who eventually asked a few U of C surgeons if he could scrub in and watch their operations. “They wouldn’t tell me anything at first. But if I was there experiencing a situation with a doctor, he’d open up a lot more.”

David Kaufman, MD ’68, agreed with Kern’s assessment. And he was surprised to learn that first-year medical students arrive at school in August, instead of late September as in years past.

“Teachers are better now because teaching has gained more credibility as a profession. It’s not only about research anymore,” he said. “But if I was there experiencing a situation with a doctor, he’d open up a lot more.”

“Counterclockwise from above: Paul Russel, MD ’47; Robert Wolter, MD ’58, and wife Patricia Wolter; Leong Tan, MD ’58, and Richard Kelkeri Blaisdell, MD ’47. Photos by Tricia Konnig

Clockwise from left: Pritzker Reunion Class of 1993: Swati Singh, Lisa Seung Turner, Jonathan Katz, Sung-Lana Kim, Peter Rjfeld Slemon-Nie and Madalena G. Krysztiob, Coleman Seckind, AB ’53, SB ’56, SM/MD ’59, and University of Chicago Medical Center development officer Phyllis Dunigan; Gerald Herman, MD ’58, and wife Constance Herman; Darlene Ann Kuhn and husband Paul Richard Kuhn, AB ’52, SB ’54, MD ’56, and alumni development director Holly Hadden and Robert Costarella, MD ’64. Photos by Tricia Konnig
As the new crop of biological sciences and medical school graduates venture into the world, they’ll be amazed at how little most of the country knows about basic science, said Ira Flatow, host of National Public Radio’s Science Friday, during the University of Chicago’s annual Divisional Academic Ceremony this past June.

It is imperative for the 155 newly hooded MDs and PhDs to convey their work in a manner accessible to the lay public, Flatow urged, so they can “bridge the great divide between two cultures: scientists and other people.”

“America needs scientists,” he said. “We need you to learn to speak English. We need to be able to translate your heavy thoughts into jargon we understand.”

Both Flatow and Catherine DeAngelis, MD, editor of the Journal of the American Medical Association, used their convocation platform to persuade graduates to view their work not only through a scientific lens, but also with a humanistic approach.

“It’s ‘MD,’ not ‘M Deity,’” DeAngelis said, emphasizing the importance of integrity in a profession where conflicts of interest are a constant challenge. “You might be the last face that some poor soul sees before he or she leaves this earth.”

The guests spoke to the idea that, in a world fraught with diverse and powerful business interests, new doctors can’t leave behind their hearts nor their consciences when they walk into work.

In closing, DeAngelis reminded graduates of a popular saying: “People may not remember what you did or what you said, but they will always remember how you made them feel.”

Mentors, family, and friends then took black sashes and “hooded” the graduates, who were teeming with emotions of their own.

“I’m going to miss working beside my best friend in the lab,” said Parisha Shah, PhD ’08, hugging Eliza Small, PhD ’08.

Jennifer Ballinger, MD ’08 ran to hug her uncle, David Ballinger Jackson, who put a work project in Angola on hold to attend the ceremony, while Jocelyn Slaughter, MD ’08, greeted family friend Barbara Wade.

“She’s leaving us, but she’ll still be in a progressive city,” Wade said of Slaughter’s fall residency at the Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta. “The heat down there will be the biggest change.”

While many graduates said they’d miss friends and faculty, Michael Jurczak, PhD ’08, said it was food he would miss the most as he begins his post doctoral program at Yale University.

“Not so much the pizza,” he said. “I like Mexican food.”

After completing his bachelor’s degree at Northwestern University and earning his medical degree at Chicago, Horace Rhee, MD ’08, PhD, feels ready to leave the city and experience a change of pace this fall at Stanford University, where he’ll complete his residency in internal medicine.

Megan Dunning, PhD ’08, also expressed excitement about moving for her next project, though she won’t travel quite as far.

“I’m going to manage the natural history education program at the Morton Arboretum,” she said, referring to the internationally famous tree conservation organization in Lisle, Ill. “Wish me luck.”

“People may not remember what you did or what you said, but they will always remember how you made them feel.”

—Catherine DeAngelis, MD