New Dean embraces role at alma mater

Medical school’s Discovery Curriculum to begin this fall

Alumni physicians focus on healthier communities
We don’t wait until they walk out of the door as graduates to accept students and others in training at the Medical College as part of the alumni family. This begins when they first walk in the door.

The Medical College of Wisconsin/Marquette Medical Alumni Association, in conjunction with the Office of Alumni Relations, believes in building immediate and lasting relationships with future alumni. It’s the motivation for our commitment to support education and student activities in as many ways as possible throughout the year.

Such a program would be based on partnering with rural or community-based hospital systems that have the infrastructure to support medical education. It would be cost-effective, linking the expertise and resources already available at the Medical College to educational nodes imbedded in the community while leveraging local assets and talent. The project would be staged over a multi-year period with a goal of launching the first program as early as 2014 and no later than 2015.

The education experience would be high quality, with placement in the community providing immersion in the primary care setting and acclimation to the lifestyle of community practice. A premium would be placed on pre-clinical training experiences that bring medical students together with students of other health professions, such as nursing, physician assistant and dentistry programs to build trust and mutual respect.

An important element for success will be the commitment of health care systems statewide to create new primary care residency positions within their hospitals to help accommodate the influx of new graduates.

Structured this way, the expansion could improve access to health care in rural and underserved areas. We hope it would benefit Wisconsin by increasing physician supply here, but it would also help assuage shortages of primary care physicians in the U.S. as a whole.

For a more detailed description of our vision for a statewide, community-based medical education program, visit mcw.edu/alumni/expansion.

John R. Raymond, Sr., MD
President and CEO

Twice a year, the Association holds a snack day for first- and second-year medical students, along with graduate students. Additionally, we hold an event for M4 students participating in Match Day. When we can, we assist students on a case-by-case basis as they travel for meetings and plan various activities.

By strengthening our connections, we strengthen the Medical College family, something we all can support.

John T. Bjork, MD ’71, Fel ’76
Alumni Association President
A MOMENT’S NOTICE
Providing a brief look inside this issue of Alumni News

Paths of exploration and discovery  6
This upcoming year will mark an important milestone in the Medical College of Wisconsin’s commitment to providing students with the tools and training they need to become outstanding physicians in their field of choice. In alignment with the latest standards and best practices nationwide, the Medical College is introducing its Discovery Curriculum, which will be implemented for the Class of 2016.

Classes represented in this story:
’83, ’90, ’14

Putting communities first  9
Most physicians, by virtue of their profession, play an important role in helping communities thrive. Among them are a certain few whose dedication to community is pronounced by the environment in which they practice and the patient populations they serve. For these alumni, the health of communities is paramount.

Classes represented in this story:
’57, ’75, ’03, ’04, ’05

Leading alma mater to new heights  10
Dr. Joseph E. Kerschner recently became the third alumnus of the medical school to be named its Dean and the first in history with a Medical College of Wisconsin diploma. In a new interview, he discusses his path to this leadership role, his ideas and motivations, and his thoughts on alumni engagement.

Classes represented in this story:
’37, ’62, ’90

“Letting God change her”  12
After practicing pediatrics for more than a decade, Dr. Beth Blodgett left her career, her homeland and even her name to care for the needy in Honduras through monastic service as the recently professed Sister Alegria.

Classes represented in this story:
’78

His own devices  14
Noted biomedical inventor and academician Dr. Melvin Siedband found semi-retirement to be the perfect time to earn his PhD in biophysics.

Classes represented in this story:
’94

ON THE COVER
Joseph E. Kerschner, MD ‘90, Fel ’98, newly installed Dean of the Medical School and Executive Vice President, stops to chat with M2 John Davis, M1 Allison Dahlgren and M2 Clark DuMontier outside the library. Get to know Dr. Kerschner through the Q&A on page 10.
A collaborative research project between the Medical College of Wisconsin and the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania has earned a five-year, $9 million grant from the National Human Genome Research Institute and the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute. Researchers from the two institutions will study the role genetics plays in certain types of cardiovascular disease.

Stephen A. Duncan, DPhil, the Marcus Professor of Human and Molecular Genetics, Professor of Cell Biology, Neurobiology and Anatomy, and Director of the Program in Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Biology, leads the Medical College’s aspect of the collaboration.

Cardiovascular disease is the No. 1 killer of individuals in the U.S. Atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease occurs when people build up fat, or lipids, in their arteries. Genetic studies performed in 100,000 people have identified 95 specific genetic locations that appear to be associated with elevated lipid levels, which are controlled by the liver.

The Medical College and Perelman groups have shown that they can take fat cells from adults, turn them into stem cells, or iPS cells, and then convert those cells into liver cells. The team will examine iPS-derived liver cells from 300 patients with defined genetic profiles. Those cells will then be used to determine why some patients with specific genetic mutations are predisposed to generating high levels of plasma lipids.

“We believe that the combined use of genetic analyses and advanced stem cell approaches will allow us to develop a clearer understanding of cardiovascular disease, which could lead to the production of new therapies,” Dr. Duncan said. “I am particularly thankful to the Marcus family, the Sophia Wolf Quadracci Memorial Fund, and the Phoebe and John D. Lewis Foundation, whose support was invaluable in the preliminary investigations that led to this project.”

**Team to use stem cells to study cardiovascular disease**

Dr. Stephen A. Duncan, who is a lead researcher on a new $9 million grant to collaboratively study cardiovascular disease, gets a closer look at the work of graduate student Kirk Tworoski.

**Partnership program grants 13 new awards to benefit WI health**

The Healthier Wisconsin Partnership Program (HWPP) of the Medical College of Wisconsin has announced 13 new awards totaling nearly $4.8 million. HWPP supports Wisconsin-based community-academic partnership projects to implement public health improvement initiatives that align with the aims of the state health plan (Healthiest Wisconsin 2020). Since its first funding cycle in 2004, HWPP has awarded $30 million to 128 projects.

For a description of specific projects funded in this seventh funding cycle, as well as those funded since inception, visit mcw.edu/healthierwisconsin.

**Lyme disease is the subject of new NIAID-funded research**

Jenifer L. Coburn, PhD, Professor of Medicine (Infectious Diseases), is principal investigator of a five-year, $1.9 million grant awarded by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases to study the bacteria that cause Lyme disease.

Wisconsin has a high incidence of Lyme disease, with 20,000 cases diagnosed since tracking began in 1980. In the U.S., 30,000 cases were diagnosed in 2010. Many patients are not diagnosed for weeks or months, and if left untreated, the disease can lead to permanent neurological impairment.

Dr. Coburn is researching a protein named P66, which is a part of the bacterium that causes Lyme disease, *Borrelia burgdorferi*. P66 has been shown to be critical in the bacterium’s ability to cause infection in mammals. Learning more about this protein and the way it contributes to infection could lead to novel approaches for prevention and early treatment.
Research will focus on proteins key to human vision

Through a five-year, $2.28 million grant from the National Eye Institute, a Medical College vision researcher will study the role of a pathway essential to sight. Joseph C. Besharse, PhD, the Marvin Wagner Professor and Chairman of Cell Biology, Neurobiology and Anatomy, is principal investigator and has held this grant for 31 years, 14 of them at the Medical College.

Worldwide, 45 million people are legally blind; genetic diseases such as age-related macular degeneration and retinitis pigmentosa are responsible for millions of new cases of blindness every year. Degeneration of photoreceptors in the eye’s outer segment leads to vision failure. The central concept of Dr. Besharse’s research is a pathway called intraflagellar transport, which is believed to be critical in the assembly of the eye’s photoreceptor outer segment. That outer segment is comprised of hundreds of proteins that are essential for detecting light. When the one particular protein is disrupted genetically, the outer segment degenerates.

Genomics center receives new round of federal funding

The Wisconsin Center of Excellence in Genomics Science (CEGS), which brings together collaborative interdisciplinary research teams to develop novel technologies that significantly advance genomic research, has been awarded a $6.2 million grant extension from the National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI).

The grant provides two additional years of funding to the CEGS, which was established in 2009 and is one of only 10 Centers of Excellence in Genomics Science supported by NHGRI. The center unites top researchers from the Medical College of Wisconsin and the University of Wisconsin-Madison in a multidisciplinary approach to focus on identifying regulatory mechanisms that turn genes on and off and determine how they may be altered by critical biological processes, diseases or environmental factors.

The funds will allow CEGS to advance its groundbreaking technology (called GENECAPP) and apply it to pressing biomedical questions to help understand gene regulation in general, and specific challenges such as the mechanisms underlying virus infections and drug resistance in cancer cells. Michael Olivier, PhD, Professor of Physiology at the Medical College’s Biotechnology and Bioengineering Center and Human and Molecular Genetics Center, is Co-Director of the Wisconsin CEGS.

Alumni team up to study kidney injury therapies at College

Two Medical College investigators have received a $1.7 million, five-year grant from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases to study possible drug therapies for acute kidney injury. Primary investigators Frank Park, PhD ’98, Associate Professor of Medicine, and Kevin R. Regner, MD ’01, MS ’11, Assistant Professor of Medicine, are both in the Division of Nephrology.

Kidney transplantation and certain cardiovascular surgeries can lead to ischemia-reperfusion injury, a common cause of acute kidney injury (AKI). Virtually every kidney transplant patient suffers some degree of AKI early after transplant. Severe AKI has high rates of sickness and death, and currently, there are no effective drug therapies.

The investigators’ recent studies identified a protein regulator, known as “Activator of G protein Signaling 3,” that is believed to play a unique role in regenerating kidney tissue after AKI. This study seeks to provide genetic and molecular evidence to support that hypothesis. Dr. Park and Dr. Regner will study the importance of this regulator in genetically modified mice to determine whether it could be a novel therapeutic target for drug development to treat AKI.

Salt-sensitive hypertension project receives funding

The Medical College has received a $1.9 million, five-year grant from the National Heart Lung, and Blood Institute to investigate the role of growth factors in salt-sensitive high blood pressure. Alexander Staruschenko, PhD, Assistant Professor of Physiology, is principal investigator of the grant.

About one-third of all adults living in the United States have hypertension, and more than half of those patients are also salt-sensitive, in which excess sodium contributes to their hypertension.

With this grant, Dr. Staruschenko will study how naturally occurring proteins called epidermal growth factors, and certain signaling proteins, modulate the transport of salt and participate in the development of salt-sensitive hypertension. In addition to providing new insights into hypertension, this project could provide new information relevant to other diseases associated with fluid imbalance.
Much like the practice of medicine, the teaching of medicine is ever-evolving. It changes to accommodate new knowledge and integrate approaches honed through experience and appraisal of the current health care landscape.

Medical education has long been a source of pride and accomplishment for the Medical College of Wisconsin, and this year will witness another milestone in the College’s commitment to providing students with the tools and training they need to become outstanding physicians in the field of their choice. In alignment with the latest standards and best practices nationwide, the Medical College is introducing its Discovery Curriculum, which will be implemented for the Class of 2016, whose members will matriculate this fall.

When it is unveiled in August 2012, the Discovery Curriculum will feature a year-long foundational program, a full second year of systems- and symptom-based units to ensure grounding in the basic sciences, early clinical experience with standardized patients in the first semester, and working with actual patients in a mentored clinical environment beginning in the second semester.

“I am extremely proud of the tireless, dedicated and thoughtful efforts of scores of our faculty, staff and students to bring this important curriculum initiative to fruition,” said Joseph E. Kerschner, MD ’90, Fel ’98, Dean of the Medical School and Executive Vice President.

“The exceptional quality of their work will enable us to move forward on a firm foundation as we seek to educate a new generation of physicians in a cutting-edge, real-world academic medical learning environment.”

The curriculum is designed to cultivate students’ skills and interests into a passion for lifelong learning while preparing them to become excellent physicians and compassionate and innovative leaders in education, patient care, research and community engagement.

“The Discovery Curriculum is a dynamic model that features multifaceted learning modalities including classroom experiences led by nationally recognized faculty, clinical experiences guided by expert mentors, peer-based small group interactions and opportunities for individualized career pursuits,” said José Franco, MD ’90, GME ’93, Fel ’95, Discovery Curriculum Director, Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics, Director of Hepatology.

Growing knowledge & experience

The model ensures that first-year students with varied backgrounds master fundamental basic science content before progressing to complex biomedical problem-solving in organ systems. Second-year courses are fully integrated and continue students’ preparation for the U.S. Medical Licensing Exam Step 1.
Systems- and symptom-based units are organized around common symptoms and focus on assimilating students’ knowledge of the basic sciences acquired in year one.

In their first semester, students begin learning the basic clinical competencies required for working in clinic, which commences in the second semester. During these clinical apprenticeships in students’ second and third semesters, faculty preceptors mentor students, observe their respective levels of patient care and provide direct feedback. The fourth semester emphasizes clinical skills practice, allowing students to hone the skills they began developing in the clinic.

“While still incorporating the strengths and successes we have already seen at the Medical College of Wisconsin, the Discovery Curriculum offers innovations that take us to the next level of excellence, allowing for education to be learner-directed and tailored to the interests of individual students,” said Anil Sharma, Class of 2014, who was among the current students who provided input on the curriculum’s creation. “The integrated model allows for strong connections between the basic science foundations and clinical medicine. It has been an exhilarating experience for me personally during this time of creating the new curriculum, just seeing the great level of enthusiasm of all those involved and the sheer amount of thought and work at every level of detail.”

The curriculum will continue to feature Scholarly Pathways that give students an opportunity to individualize their training in one of several areas of concentration and pursue related scholarly projects. Students may select the Academic Clinician pathway, Clinician Educator pathway, Global Health pathway, Physician Scientist pathway or Urban & Community Health pathway during their M1-M3 years. The curriculum also includes dedicated independent study time to accommodate students’ varied learning styles.

The third and fourth years of medical school will still consist of clerkships and electives, and sub-internships and integrative selectives respectively. Time will also be protected for Pathway activities for M3 students. As time spent in direct patient care and other clinical activities increases in the M1 and M2 years, basic science topics will be further integrated into the M3 and M4 years, allowing for the revisiting of core concepts in the context of patient care. Work continues on the design of this aspect of the curriculum.

Competency through collaboration

“The College’s Discovery Curriculum is a reflection of the changing atmosphere in health care,” said Chelsea Tessler-Verville, Class of 2014. “Students are encouraged to seek others’ opinions and work as a team to enhance learning, elucidate a diagnosis and coordinate treatment plans. In addition to studying isolated disease processes, we encounter the many facets of chronic illness while working closely with patients and faculty mentors in the clinic. These opportunities allow us to think and react like physicians from day one. It’s an exciting time to be a student at MCW.”

The evolution of the Discovery Curriculum has been ongoing since 2007. It is faculty-driven, reflective of the value the College places on faculty leadership and expertise, and has garnered considerable enthusiasm among the student body. Over the past many months, more than 100 faculty and students collaborated on the vision and working design of the medical education curriculum.

“As a member of the M1 and M2 Work Group, participating in the development of the vision for a new curriculum was an interesting and positive experience,” said Alan S. Bloom, PhD, Professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology. “The collegiality and efforts of the faculty and students were impressive, which sets a very positive tone for the intense efforts ahead of us as we work to implement the envisioned Discovery Curriculum.”

mcw.edu EXTRA

Hear more of what faculty and students had to say about participating in the curriculum design process, and find links to detailed information about Scholarly Pathways, the curriculum model, and competencies at mcw.edu/CurriculumEvolution.
As a child, Ramón J. Terrazas, MD, MPH ’05, and his family began using La Clínica de La Raza’s health care services after their family doctor retired.

During the 1970s, it was the only medical provider in Oakland, Calif., serving the needs of the Latino community, where monolingual families could obtain care from a provider able to speak to them in Spanish. It was just a store-front, volunteer operation at the time, striving to serve a disenfranchised population.

Forty years later, La Clínica de La Raza is the largest Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) in northern California with 26 sites in three counties, and Dr. Terrazas has returned home to become one of its leaders. He is a Director and Past President of La Clínica’s board, fulfilling a calling he began to hear as an undergraduate.

“It became clear at that time that I not only wanted to impact the lives of individuals, but also I wanted to be part of the process that addressed issues of access to quality medical care for entire communities and populations,” he said. “By volunteering as a member of the Board of Directors at La Clínica de La Raza, I am able to give back to my community and help make policy decisions that will improve the quality and access to culturally appropriate care for underserved communities.”

This type of practice environment forces the center to be creative to remain viable financially. A full 60 percent of its patients are underinsured or uninsured, and 70 percent of La Clínica’s revenue comes from Medicaid. As a FQHC, it receives a higher reimbursement rate, but the clinic thrives through the aggressive pursuit of external funding and exercising conservative fiscal monitoring to ensure fiscal health. Keeping patients healthy is another contributing factor, Dr. Terrazas said.

“We practice preventive medicine on a daily basis as a means of keeping our patients well and employ best practices for monitoring patients who have chronic illnesses such as asthma, diabetes and heart disease,” he said. “La Clínica’s successes are measured by the health of the communities we serve.”

Further adding value, La Clínica hires from within the communities it serves, increasing that community’s economic foundation, said Dr. Terrazas, whose day job is also community-focused. He is Department Physician for the San Francisco Fire Department.

Many Medical College of Wisconsin alumni share the commitment to community demonstrated by Dr. Terrazas.

Among them, Amy Riese, MD ’04, just completed a three-year service obligation to the National Health Service Corps (NHSC). As a NHSC Scholar, she followed her psychiatry residency in Toledo with an appointment at an approved site located in a Health Professional Shortage Area, as designated by the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration.

The area is Eureka, Calif., where she continues to practice at Open Door Community Health Centers, comprising nearly a dozen clinics spread across two rural counties in the northern part of the state. It is a FQHC that provides care primarily to the underserved, most of whom are Medicare, Medicaid or uninsured patients. Dr. Riese practices general psychiatry with a routine panel of patients while working as a consultant to the clinic’s primary care providers.

“Our patients’ needs are great and not being able to always take care of their basic needs, such as housing and food supply, can definitely have an effect on their mental and emotional well-being,” she said. “We work hard to make sure patients have access to medications they need and that cost isn’t a barrier to making appointments.”

Since 1971, the Open Door Clinic system has provided care to one in every four people in Humboldt and Del Norte counties. Without its presence, Dr. Riese said, many would simply forgo care or be left only with high-cost alternatives, such as the emergency room. Working in an isolated area is challenging, but building relationships and supporting her patients is rewarding, she said.

“I really like the fact that I can enjoy my practice and at the same time, help people who are most deserving of comprehensive medical care but are often the least likely to receive it,” Dr. Riese said. On the other end of a career, an alumnus has found an alternative to retirement by serving at a Friday evening clinic in Ukiah, Calif. Robert J. Werra, MD ’57, was a full-range family doctor for 45 years in addition to being the physician for a boarding school for troubled teens and a hospice medical director, but when the evening clinic opened nearly three years ago, he got in on the ground floor.

The clinic offers care to anyone in the community, regardless of ability to pay. Sometimes his patients can’t get an appointment with their primary provider or they don’t have one. With a timely evening clinic visit, they can avoid more serious complications and also reduce the strain on the local emergency department, he said.
“A number of the patients seen on Friday night would otherwise go to the ER for evaluation of their acute problem,” Dr. Werra said. “This distracts the ER from true emergencies and costs the health care system thousands of dollars each night.”

Dr. Werra finds that patients often visit the clinic with an uncomplicated problem, yet this leads to opportunities to address important, unresolved problems, for example, obesity, psoriasis or depression. He can then alert the patient’s primary physician or facilitate referral. The setting is also conducive to discussing prevention, including lifestyle choices, immunization and screenings, like colonoscopies.

Notably, however, one third of the people he sees do not have a primary care provider, even though they may be eligible for subsidized care.

“I stress that this evening clinic is a medical motel, but what they really need is a permanent medical home,” he said. “Coming from an uninvolved, retired doctor, this carries weight with the patients.”

Dr. Werra takes it upon himself to match patients with the appropriate clinic or primary physician, and he helps facilitate the transition. Because of his semi-retired status, he has the time to follow up with them to assess their clinical progress and their success in reaching their new medical home.

Amy Zosel, MD ’03, is dedicated to helping an entire segment of southeastern Wisconsin by partnering with local agencies. Dr. Zosel is Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine at the Medical College of Wisconsin and, through a grant from the College’s Healthier Wisconsin Partnership Program, is developing interventions to decrease the burden of self-injury and suicide in Kenosha County. Partners in the Kenosha County Suicide Prevention Initiative include the College’s Injury Research Center, Kenosha County Division of Health and Mental Health America of Wisconsin.

“The long-term outcomes for this project are reductions in the numbers of poisonings, suicides and self-harm in the area through supporting evidence-based interventions that work to increase screening, referrals and treatment, and reducing access to lethal means,” Dr. Zosel said.

The initiative seeks to address evidence in recent reports revealing that injuries are the leading cause of death for Wisconsin residents 1-44 years of age and that suicide was the second leading cause of injury-related death in the state. Kenosha County has a suicide rate of 11 per 100,000 individuals, with 300 people seen annually in emergency departments for self-harm. Intentional and unintentional poisoning is emphasized in the project as this rate is elevated in the county.

First focused on education, the partners are now expanding their focus to implement interventions at the individual, organizational, community and system levels. This will include exploring social media as a case management or treatment tool, enhancing existing partnerships with local emergency departments to change ED-specific policies for poisoning and self-harm cases, and reaching out to organizations to which people might turn during times of economic distress, such as churches or workforce development centers.

“Although I am new to this particular initiative, I am already impressed by the successful collaboration between the Medical College and community partners as well as improved health outcomes that can result from innovative decision-making and open, consistent communication between these groups,” she said.

Dr. Zosel is collaborating with other Medical College faculty on the project, including Chairman of Emergency Medicine Stephen Hargarten, MD ’75, MPH; Amy Schlothauer, MPH, also in Emergency Medicine; and David Clark, PhD, in Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine.
A conversation with the Medical College’s new Dean of the Medical School and Executive Vice President, alumnus Joseph E. Kerschner, MD ’90, Fel ’98.

Dr. Kerschner’s appointment as dean was confirmed on Nov. 18, 2011, and he was installed on Feb. 15, 2012.

Q: What factored into your decision to become a candidate for Dean of the Medical School and Executive Vice President?

A: It was my time as Interim Dean that convinced me that I should consider the position going forward. There were some very challenging financial and personnel decisions that needed to be made soon after stepping into this role. With the excellent team in the College’s central administration and the support of President Raymond, I was able to navigate these challenging waters successfully. This really provided me with a snapshot that I had the aptitude to lead in this way. I have always looked upon leadership roles as chances to be a servant leader and to give back to the institutions that have given me so much. With my history at MCW, its importance to Milwaukee and Wisconsin, I couldn’t think of a finer way to try and give back, so I accepted the challenge with great enthusiasm.

Q: What did you learn as Interim Dean that will serve you most in your first year as the permanent Dean?

A: This is an incredibly complex job that requires someone who will listen to the faculty and staff closely to be able to make difficult choices and decisions. Also, MCW has incredible resources with a very bright future, but it is the people of MCW—faculty and staff—rather than some magnificent new plan from the Dean’s Office, that will bring us success.

Q: What do you view as the most critical role you have as Dean of the Medical School?

A: I focus on the Four Ps: People, Programs, Planning and Practice. Each of these Four Ps is crucial, but there is a reason I have put people first. It is the most critical. Recruitment, retention and development of faculty and staff are the most important ways in which the Dean can lead MCW forward. We strive to enhance diversity, keep our incredible people here and bring new stars to shine on this campus.

Q: How would you describe your leadership style?

A: I am a collaborative individual who believes in surrounding myself with outstanding people, providing them with support but allowing them to have autonomy to use their incredible talents to succeed for themselves and the organization.

Q: You join John S. Hirschboeck, MD ’37, MS ’41, and Michael J. Dunn, MD ’62, as deans who are also alumni of the medical school. What does it mean to you to be in this role at your alma mater, and what unique vantage point might it give you?

A: It is one of the greatest possible honors in academic medicine to be able to
serve as dean of the medical school from which you graduated. There is an absolute connection to those who have walked these halls as students, and I have heard from many, many former classmates and alumni since being named dean relating this connection and a positive response to having an alumnus as the leader of their medical school. It does also provide a history and understanding of the culture at MCW, which is important in a leadership position such as dean, not only for making decisions but also for communicating with people who have been and continue to be connected to the College.

Q: What can the Medical College do to further engage alumni, and what part can alumni play in advancing the College’s missions?

A: Alumni are among the greatest assets of the College. They are ambassadors across the U.S. and the world of the great things they experienced and that are still going on here at MCW. The College needs to ensure that we have very open lines of communication to engage alumni, keep them informed of the incredible advances in research, medicine and education occurring on this campus and to listen to their feedback and ideas about the future of the school. Through this dialogue, the alumni can assist in shaping our strategic directions, our missions and our future. The College will also need to rely on its alumni to carry the message that MCW will not be able to thrive without increased philanthropic support to achieve each of its four missions of clinical care, research, education and community engagement.

Q: What has been your most rewarding moment in medicine?

A: As a physician, the greatest moments you are going to have in your career are those personal touches between physician and patient, physician and family member. It’s the reason we all went into medicine in the first place, and it’s impossible to replace that with pretty much anything else we could do. What is exciting about the role of dean, is you have an opportunity to enhance that aspect for many other people, including clinicians in their own care, in helping the next generation of physicians reach this point, in helping our research-intensive faculty create knowledge, which makes the experience of healing more effective, and in bringing all of this great expertise into the community.

Q: What motivates you most in your career and your life?

A: Two things have motivated me most in my career and my life. One is to absolutely leave no stone unturned to try and do the best job I possibly can do for any task that’s asked of me. Whether in providing outstanding patient care, or turning in a research grant, or serving on a committee, or participating nationally in multiple organizations, or in my family life, I’ve always been someone who has been driven to get the most out of myself to achieve the highest level possible. It hasn’t always translated into success obviously, but at least when there have been failures, you know that you’ve worked as hard as you possibly could. I also really have been motivated to seek positions of leadership where I can make a difference, again as a servant leader, to be able to give back to the things and places that are important to me.
The sun rises on a Monday in early December, and Sister Alegría, MD ’78, GME ’81 (aka Beth Blodgett), has made her weekly pilgrimage to volunteer at the public health center in Limón, Colón, Honduras. By the time the sun sets, she will have given 45 consults to patients as young as 18 days old and suffering from pneumonia, to others in their 70s with uncontrolled diabetes.

She cares for patients with high-risk pregnancies and infertility. She cares for the intoxicated man with an infected injury and the elderly woman with nighttime cardiac symptoms and enlarged thyroid. She treats the omnipresent asthma, colds, parasites, infections and diarrhea.

It is an atypical day, she attests, but one which demonstrates the vast health care needs in this poverty-stricken Central American nation and the dearth of resources available to meet those needs. Even Sister Alegría, whose expertise is a blessing for the clinic, is a pediatrician by training, serving as a general practitioner by necessity.

“Right now, there is no government employee physician,” she said. “Limón is two hours by bus to the nearest government hospital. The bus fare for one person round trip is about one day’s wage for the average worker in our county. Health crisis almost always means financial crisis. There is huge pressure to take care of people locally as well as we can.”

Mid-life calling

The story of how rural Honduras became the local home of Sister Alegría is intertwined with the story of how Dr. Beth Blodgett became Sister Alegría. Hers was a calling that didn’t become clear to her until she was in her 50s. For 11 years, she practiced pediatrics with expertise in caring for children with disabilities in Wisconsin, Kentucky and Oregon. She had grown up Methodist, in which there is no monastic tradition, but in 1992, abruptly to many around her, she stopped working full time.

“I just quit,” Sister Alegría said. “It was hard for my colleagues at Emanuel Legacy Hospital in Portland, Ore., to accept that I just quit. There was no golden opportunity job waiting for me. As I gradually became aware, it was God who was waiting.”

Still, providence took years to unfold. She first came to Honduras on a medical mission trip in 1999, six months...
after Hurricane Mitch. During the next six years, she visited often and stayed long. She arrived at the conclusion that she could do more good by providing preventive and ongoing care through the public health center and began volunteering at Centro de Salud.

It was 2003 when Dr. Blodgett bought 6 acres on a steep hill of stone and clay – perfect for a monastery, she said. In 2006, Prairie Cutting, now Sister Confianza, joined her with a one-year commitment as a sojourner at the monastery, which by then had been built and named Amigas del Señor, or Friends of the Lord. They are sponsored by the United Methodist Church, but also employ Quaker governance. Dr. Blodgett became a professed Methodist sister in 2009, taking the name Sister Alegría, and is now a legal resident of Honduras.

**A simple, but busy, life**

As health care providers, the sisters make do with what little medications and equipment they can acquire. The government is supposed to supply the public health clinic, but with the economy under duress, it usually only provides about 30 percent of what is needed. The clinic currently has no ibuprofen for adults, no anti-allergy medicine for children, no skin fungal treatments, no hexachlorophene soap, cough suppressants or antacids. They have no X-ray, and their lab can only test for HIV (reliable) and malaria (unreliable). They have antibiotics, but far fewer than a stateside physician would find adequate.

Getting to and from the clinic is even a challenge, as it would require walking 9 miles round trip. Hitching a ride, however, is more common. And that is just one day of Sister Alegría’s week.

The humble monastery has no electricity, so she and Sister Confianza wash their laundry using a scrub board, tub and clothesline three days a week.

“We wash often because our voluntary poverty means four blouses and three habit dresses for each of us,” Sister Alegría said. “Dirty laundry cannot be allowed to build up.”

Considering the physical labor involved with living on a remote hillside, the laundry is no laughing matter, but unfortunately, the gardening can be, according to Sister Alegría. “God, apparently, doesn’t want us to grow much of our own food,” she said. Pineapples are basically the only food that grows well, though they have had some recent success with chatas, a variety of banana, and katuk, a perennial green.

The sisters also cut and haul their own firewood. They cook on a traditional, clay wood-burning stove, and their home is lit by kerosene lamp in the evening. Their daily prayers are Lauds at sunrise, afternoon prayers around 3 p.m. and Compline bedtime prayers.

Thursday is their day of fasting and spiritual practice, which includes unprogrammed worship. On Sunday, they rest.

Last year, Sister Alegría co-authored *Amigas del Señor: Methodist Monastery*, which was published by the Quaker Abbey Press. The book chronicles the first two years of the sisters’ contemplative Honduran monastery. It was an opportunity to reflect on the events that led Sister Alegría through this re-imagined life, but looking back, she says that nothing could have predicted her path.

“It is very good to know that I am doing what I am supposed to be doing,” she said. “I never had that before in my life. I like it. A contemplative nun does not work at the important job of changing the world. A contemplative nun does the job of letting God change her.”

Photos opposite page

Left: Sister Confianza and Sister Alegría prepare for a trek into town from their monastery.

Center: The path to the humble Amigas del Señor Monastery is on a steep slope in the Honduran hills.

Right: Pineapples are one of the few foods that grow readily in the sisters’ garden. Sister Alegría tends to the budding fruit.
Melvin P. Siedband, PhD ’94, already had numerous accomplishments under his belt—including retirement—when he earned his PhD in biophysics.

“I started my PhD with courses at the University of Maryland but never finished it. While teaching at the University of Wisconsin (School of Medicine and Public Health), I thought it would be fun to go back, but I never found the time,” he said.

“After I retired in 1992, the Medical College of Wisconsin welcomed me with open arms, especially my advisors, Dr. Charles R. Wilson (Radiology) and Dr. Darwin Zellmer (Radiation Oncology). When I graduated, one of my sons jokingly told me that I could finally go out and get a real job.”

Dr. Siedband is Professor Emeritus of Medical Physics and Radiology and was Director of the Biomedical Engineering Program at the University of Wisconsin. Next, he will teach an adult education philosophy course through UW-Extension.

“I have been one of the lucky ones, being able to work and play in fields that I really enjoy,” he said.

“Teacher” is just one of many titles Dr. Siedband has held over the years. Others include radio repairman for the U.S. Army, engineer for Westinghouse Aerospace Division and X-Ray Division, physics/engineering consultant, and passionate inventor.

“In the 1960s, I worked with Dr. Marvin Nachlas at Johns Hopkins and Sinai Hospital in Baltimore. We developed defibrillators and a gut stimulator to be used post-abdominal surgery,” Dr. Siedband said.

One invention resulting from the collaboration was the “Iron Heart,” which used pressurized oxygen to power a chest-compressing piston; the low pressure exhaust oxygen was then administered to the patient. A miniature cardiac monitor and capacitor-discharge defibrillator completed the heart attack tool kit. “The Iron Heart and cardiac monitor were manufactured by Westinghouse and others and had a fair measure of success,” Dr. Siedband said. Their pioneering work in defibrillators paved the way for the development of external units used today.

While an engineer at Westinghouse, many products were developed from Dr. Siedband’s inventions, including medical imaging and X-ray products, magnetic amplifier products, cardiac monitors, camera tubes and radar devices.

His research and development continued even after accepting a teaching position at the University of Wisconsin. Work for the university and outside clients resulted in dozens more significant products and more than 50 patents, including the flywheel-powered X-ray generator and X-ray tube heads for bone density machines, among others.

“I have had the privilege of working with some of the best and brightest in the industry,” Dr. Siedband said.

The Gammex Corporation sponsored his research and thesis work on a radiotherapy beam analyzer, also resulting in a U.S. patent. Development for Nuclear Associates led to test instruments for quality control in diagnostic radiology and calibration of X-ray machines. Work sponsored by the U.S. government lead to dose reduction filters for mammography, photographic image differencing methods, improved high frequency X-ray generators, digital image processing and development of a compact field X-ray machine.

A frequently sought-after physics and engineering consultant, Dr. Siedband most recently helped study the causes and effects of radiation exposure on military radar operators.

In addition to his doctorate, he earned his bachelor’s degree in math from the University of Washington and his master’s degree in applied math from Johns Hopkins University. He has published numerous articles and papers and has received several honors including the Westinghouse Most Meritorious Patent Award (twice); Fellow, American Association of Physicists in Medicine; and Fellow, American College of Medical Physics.

Dr. Siedband enjoys traveling and sailing. He is also a proud amateur photographer and ham radio operator. He can be found at the call sign N9HXP.

Born and raised in Chicago, Dr. Siedband and his wife of more than 60 years, Dorothy Shilmover, still reside in the suburbs of Madison, Wis. Together they have two sons and four grandchildren.
At the end of the 20th century, with medical trials of cardiac pacemakers and beta blockers largely complete, Jean-Bernard Durand, MD ’88, decided the time was right to begin calling attention to a new area of heart research: the relationship between cardiovascular disease and cancer.

Today, Dr. Durand is Associate Professor, Medical Director of Cardiomyopathy Services, Director of Cardiovascular Genetics Research and Director of Cardiology Fellowship Program at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas.

“The biology of heart failure and cancer are very similar,” he said. “And we know that cancer treatments—both standard combination chemotherapy and new targeted therapies—cause cardiovascular disease.”

Dr. Durand’s research is focused on finding the molecular genetic signature that allows the heart to repair itself.

“We take biopsies of hearts injured by chemotherapy to look for products of genes. Our goal is to develop a blood test that will determine if patients have an abundance of repair genes or proteins,” he said.

Dr. Durand has established the world’s largest database of DNA from patients with heart failure secondary to chemotherapy, and he plans to perform genotyping to identify heart failure susceptibility genes. He also has developed a tissue bank for further expression studies to identify critical pathways that are common to cancer biology and cardiovascular biology.

As a student, Dr. Durand said his Medical College of Wisconsin professors, notably Marvin Wagner, MD ’44, MS ’51; Roger Markwald, PhD; and Betty Sue Masters, PhD, prepared him for the challenges of balancing research, patients and students. “The most formative years of my life were spent at MCW. They taught me how to be a better clinician and a better person,” he said.

A member of the MD Anderson Cancer Center faculty since 2010, Dr. Durand considers his position as Fellowship Director among his most important roles.

“Some of our fellows do research, some do clinical work. But ultimately, we are training all of them to care for cancer survivors. There are 15 million survivors and not enough cardiologists. They need—or will eventually need—heart care,” he said.

Those statistics, among others, motivate him. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Cancer Institute, about one in every 20 adults in the United States has survived cancer, including nearly one-fifth of all people over 65. “It is unfortunate that people survive cancer only to die of heart disease,” Dr. Durand said.

To advance awareness and research, he co-founded the organization CONQUER in 2001. Short for Cardiology Oncology InterNational Quest to EdUcate and ResEarch Heart Failure and Cancer, CONQUER unites leading doctors, scientists and researchers to establish recommendations on how to improve the care of cancer patients and survivors with cardiovascular disease.

Dr. Durand has helped launch CONQUER at major American institutions including Harvard, the Mayo Clinic and Sloan Kettering, as well as medical centers in other countries including Brazil and Italy. He says this is only the beginning.

“The most formative years of my life were spent at MCW. They taught me how to be a better clinician and a better person,”
Class of 1953 alumnus Robert C. Olson, MD, establishes chair in radiology through estate gift

Through a trust that he and his wife established more than a decade ago, Robert C. Olson, MD ‘53, GME ’66, has posthumously endowed a chair at the Medical College of Wisconsin in radiology, his specialty.

With a gift in excess of $1 million, the estate of the late Dr. Robert and Patricia Olson has funded the Robert C. Olson, MD Chair in Radiology, which will be held by a faculty member recommended by the department’s chairman. James E. Youker, MD, is Professor and Chairman of Radiology and recalls Dr. Olson’s interest in continuing medical education.

“The Robert Olson Professorship will have a powerful impact upon the Department of Radiology and the Medical College of Wisconsin,” Dr. Youker said. “The professorship will focus on enhancing the department’s education program for medical students, residents, fellows and practitioners. Radiology plays a central role in teaching anatomy and pathology to medical students. Educating residents in radiology and preparing them for life in practice represents a central function of the department’s education program.”

Dr. Olson’s son, Steve, also vividly remembers his father’s appetite for lifelong learning. He said he used to think his dad’s return trips to Milwaukee for continuing medical education from his Davenport, Iowa, home were just excuses to visit him. But he quickly learned that Dr. Olson simply reveled in being around his peers at the Medical College. Whether he was the student or the teacher, Dr. Olson cared deeply about education.

“Dad loved teaching residents about radiology,” Steve Olson said. “He had a passion in challenging his students to dig deeper, look harder and above all, have care and compassion for their patients. I believe that his passion was nurtured in his class work at Marquette University School of Medicine (the Medical College’s predecessor). He was intensely proud of his relationship with Marquette and the Medical College, and his children are equally proud of our father and his legacy.”

Family practitioner Francis “Rocky” Kane, MD, trained with Dr. Olson (who had been a general practitioner for 10 years prior to becoming a radiologist) in the 1980s in Iowa. Dr. Kane said that Dr. Olson was generous with his knowledge and was quick to earn the respect of his students.

“When you were attending an Olson talk, you had to be prepared so that you could show this man you were indeed worthy of his attention,” he said. “It was often the most rigorous clinical teaching conference but a favorite of the residents; you knew he’d teach with a balance. He’d be firm on you when needed but not to the point of embarrassment. It struck us that he saw his commitment to his profession as three-fold: perform his job with excellence; always pursue improvement; teach anyone nearby that shows interest. And he really lived it.”

When he established his charitable trust in 2000, Dr. Olson wrote “The Medical College of Wisconsin has become a first-rate institution for medical training and research, with special interest in family practice. Since this school receives only limited governmental support, alumni contributions are essential.” Dr. Olson died Dec. 18, 2010. He was preceded in death by his wife, Patricia, daughter Mary and infant son, Patrick, and survived by daughters Margaret and Jane and son, Stephen (Steve).

“I think Dr. Olson would continue to be proud of the growth and progress of the Medical College, and we pledge to be responsible stewards of the generous gift he has bestowed on the Department of Radiology,” said College President and CEO John R. Raymond, Sr., MD.
Randall L. Beatty, MD, GME ’89, is currently serving as the ophthalmic consultant for Afghanistan at the theater trauma center at Bagram Air Field in Afghanistan. Dr. Beatty specializes in orbital and oculoplastic surgery. He has served as an assistant professor at various universities including the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, and has been the ophthalmologist for the Pittsburgh Steelers Football Club. Dr. Beatty resides in the Pittsburgh area with his wife and two children.

Caring for soldiers’ vision

Col. Beatty is stationed in Afghanistan.

From Army to Navy, psychiatrist returns to service

Dr. Michael McBride (left) recites the commissioning oath with Vice Adm. Dirk Debbink, Chief of Naval Reserves, on Dec. 30, 2011, at the Zablocki VA Medical Center.

Dr. Michael McBride, MD ’92, Fel ’97, has renewed his commitment to the men and women of the military. On Dec. 30, Dr. McBride was officially commissioned into the U.S. Navy Reserves as a commander, and he hopes for the opportunity to soon be caring for Marines stationed in Afghanistan.

Dr. McBride has been a psychiatrist at the Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center in Milwaukee since 2007 and is Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine at the Medical College of Wisconsin. He served injured soldiers evacuated to Landstuhl, Germany, in 2003 and 2005. He arrived in Iraq in December 2007 to care for soldiers at Camp Liberty. Most recently, he returned to the hostile environment of Iraq in 2010 to support the battle-weary forces there.

In Milwaukee, he has been devoted to treating the many young veterans returning home from service who bear scars both physical and emotional.

“Many of these people would do anything to continue serving, to go back over there, but they can’t because of their injuries,” Dr. McBride said. “It’s the whole idea of sacrifice. And I thought this is my shame. I’m sitting here; I can go back over and they can’t.”

GETTING OUT ALIVE

By Theresa Maatman, MD ’11

Rounding Patterns

For Four

Single file
Best for stairs and crowded halls

Two by Two
Allows impacting of knowledge and gossip

T-shape
Doctors can talk while students run to catch up
ALUMNI NEWS wants to publish news of your professional and personal accomplishments and activities. Please send updates (including graduation year and current position) to: Medical College of Wisconsin Office of Alumni Relations 8701 Watertown Plank Road Milwaukee, WI 53226, fax at (414) 955-6699 or e-mail alumni@mcw.edu

1960s
Frederick Osborne, MD ’63, has joined the staff of the Angels Camp Family Medical Center in Calaveras County, Calif. He joined the Mark Twain St. Joseph’s Hospital system in 2003 and most recently was practicing at the Valley Springs Family Medical Center. Prior to that, he was in private practice as a pediatrician in the San Francisco Bay Area for more than 35 years.

Stuart D. Wilson, MD, GME ’65, received a Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Chicago. Dr. Wilson is Professor of Surgery at the Medical College of Wisconsin.

Donald Gore, MD, GME ’68, retired in December from a 43-year career in orthopaedic surgery. Dr. Gore treated patients at Sheboygan Orthopaedic Associates in Sheboygan, Wis. He also spent time teaching residents at the Medical College of Wisconsin and performing clinical research. He remains active at the Medical College as the alumni representative for the Admissions Committee. Dr. Gore estimates that he completed more than 600 cervical spine surgeries and 13,000 other orthopaedic-related operations during his career.

1970s
Carlyle H. Chan, MD ’75, received the 2011 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association for Academic Psychiatry. He is Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine, and Bioethics and Medical Humanities in the Institute for Health and Society at the Medical College of Wisconsin. Dr. Chan also was appointed Co-Chair of the Joint Working Group for Maintenance of Certification Continuing Medical Association, a joint effort of the American Board of Medical Specialties and the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education.

Stephen Hargarten, MD ’75, MPH, was elected to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences, one of the highest honors in the field of health and medicine. Dr. Hargarten is Professor and Chairman of Emergency Medicine, Director of the Medical College of Wisconsin’s Injury Research Center and serves as Associate Dean for Global Health. He joined the Medical College faculty in 1989. Dr. Hargarten also is the founding president of the Society for Advancement of Violence and Injury Research and a past president of the Association of Academic Chairs of Emergency Medicine. He has published more than 100 research articles, editorials and chapters.

Steven E. Larson, MD ’75, GME ’78, Fel ’80, was elected Chair of the California Medical Association Board of Trustees. Dr. Larson is the CEO and Chairman of the Board of Riverside Medical Clinic. He also is Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine at Loma Linda University School of Medicine and a Clinical Professor of Biomedical Sciences at the University of California at Riverside. Dr. Larson is board-certified in internal medicine and infectious diseases and serves as a delegate to the American Medical Association. He enjoys mountain climbing and traveling with his wife and three children.

Clarence Chou, MD ’77, Fel ’83, is President-Elect of the American Medical Association Foundation Board of Directors. Dr. Chou is a staff psychiatrist at the Behavioral Health Division, Milwaukee County and an Associate Clinical Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine at the Medical College of Wisconsin. He is board-certified in general psychiatry and child and adolescent psychiatry. He is a Distinguished Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association and serves on numerous boards and committees including the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Wisconsin Medical Society, Medical Society of Milwaukee County and the United Way of Greater Milwaukee. Dr. Chou also served on the City of Milwaukee’s Mayor’s Commission on Crime.

Sridhar V. Vasudevan, MD, GME ’77, was awarded the Distinguished Member Award by the Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. Dr. Vasudevan is Clinical Professor of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the Medical College of Wisconsin and the Medical Director of the Center for Pain Rehabilitation at Community Memorial Hospital in Menomonee Falls, Wis. He is currently Chair of the Occupational Medicine Section of the Wisconsin Medical Society and the Wisconsin Medical Society Political Action Committee. Dr. Vasudevan is Past President of the Wisconsin Society of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, the American Academy of Pain Medicine, the Waukesha County Medical Society and the American Board of Pain Medicine. He has authored numerous publications including 18 chapters as well as his own book, PAIN: A Four Letter Word You Can Live With.

1980s
Bruce F. Corsello, MD, GME ’80, Fel ’83, has completed 25 years of medical practice in Rochester, N.Y., where he resides with his wife (former WAMH RN Marguerite Muntean). Their two sons are physicians. Steven completed his internal medicine residency at the Massachusetts General Hospital in 2011, where he is now a subspecialty fellow. Paul is a second-year internal medicine resident at the University of Michigan Hospital in Ann Arbor.

Mary Horowitz, MD ’80, GME ’89, MS ’91, received a 2011 Women Pioneers in Research award from the Medical College of Wisconsin. Dr. Horowitz is Chief Scientific Director of the Center for International Blood and Marrow Transplant Research and the Robert A. Uihlein, Jr. Professor in Hematologic Research at the Medical College.

José Luna, MD ’80, was a nominee for 2011 Person of the Year in El Paso, Texas. Dr. Luna is Chief Medical Officer at Centro San Vicente, which operates three health care clinics including one for the homeless. He also serves as Chair of El Paso County’s University Medical Center Board of Managers. Dr. Luna
received the Oak of Justice Award in 2006 by the El Paso Catholic Diocese.

Martin Bergman, MD ’82, was awarded the Joseph Lee Hollander, MD Award for Excellence and Achievement in Rheumatology from the Pennsylvania Arthritis Foundation. Dr. Bergman is Chief of the Section of Rheumatic Diseases at Taylor Hospital in Ridley Park outside Philadelphia. He is board-certified in internal medicine and rheumatology. Dr. Bergman has worked to develop several patient outcome tools in rheumatology, including RAPID 3, which is recognized by the American College of Rheumatology. He is also a clinical associate professor at Drexel University.

Lawrence Pan, PhD ’83, directs the Marquette University Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP) in Milwaukee, a federally funded program that provides opportunities for disadvantaged students who are interested in health professions. In 2011, 14 HCOP programs were awarded $9.7 million in federal funding to increase diversity in the health professions work force. Dr. Pan is Professor and Chair of Marquette’s Department of Physical Therapy. He has been involved with HCOP since 1989, as a young faculty member.

Tom Zoch, MD ’83, was inducted into the Wisconsin State Baseball League’s Hall of Fame. Dr. Zoch played for the Oshkosh Giants, Green Bay Blue Ribbons and Marshfield Chaparrals. He was named Rookie of the Year in 1978 and is ranked among the top two or three long-ball hitters in the history of the league. The league is one of the premier semi-professional/amateur baseball leagues in the Midwest. Dr. Zoch is the Associate Medical Director for the Network Health Plan. He is board-certified in internal medicine, emergency medicine, sports medicine and clinical lipidology. He and his wife, Suzanne, live in Neenah, Wis., with their three children.

Robert Holland, MD ’85, recently moved to Boise, Idaho, to work at a family medicine clinic at St. Luke’s Hospital and be closer to relatives and friends. He previously spent 23 years treating patients in John Day, Ore., as well as serving as the Grant County Medical Examiner, Grant County Health Officer, Blue Mountain Nursing Home Director and Blue Mountain Hospice Medical Director. Dr. Holland was named Oregon Family Doctor of the Year in 2008. He and his wife, Karin, have two grown children.

Stephen Noltner, MD ’85, received the 2011 Distinguished Service Award from Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. Dr. Noltner graduated from Luther in 1981 before earning his medical degree from the Medical College of Wisconsin. He served his residency at the U.S. Naval Hospital in San Diego and was named chief resident in 1990. He was awarded the Neuro-Anesthesia Fellowship from Mayo Clinic. Dr. Noltner is currently an anesthesiologist with Aurora Medical Group in Milwaukee. He is team captain for “Kari’s Cadets,” a group of family and friends who ride in the MS 150 Bike Ride from Milwaukee to Madison for the Multiple Sclerosis Society. The group has raised nearly $250,000 for MS research since 2004.

Diana W. Brazza, MD ’87, GME ’93, was appointed Interim Chairman of the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the Medical College of Wisconsin. A member of the Medical College faculty since 1992, Dr. Brazza serves as Associate Professor of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and Associate Professor of Neurosurgery. She is also Residency Program Director for the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, and Medical Director of SpineCare. Dr. Brazza is certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine, the American Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and the American Board of Electrodiagnostic Medicine. She has been inducted into the Medical College’s Society of Teaching Scholars.

Sheldon Wasserman, MD ’87, has been elected Chair of the Wisconsin Medical Examining Board.

1990s

Kevin J. Kelly, MD, GME ’92, was appointed Interim Chairman of the Department of Pediatrics at the Medical College of Wisconsin. Dr. Kelly serves as Professor of Pediatrics (Allergy/Immunology) and Medicine and was Vice Chair of the Department of Pediatrics. He is also a member of the Children’s Specialty Group Board of Directors and the group’s former Chief Medical Officer. He is a past director of the Fellowship Training Program in Pediatric Critical Care and Allergy/Immunology. He is a prominent researcher in the fields of pediatric asthma and latex allergy, receiving grants from the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health and the Centers for Disease Control, NIH and the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.

Anne Camber, MD ’95, was appointed to the State of Montana Board of Alternative Health Care. Dr. Camber specializes in obstetrics and gynecology at Saint John’s Lutheran Hospital in Libby, Mont. She is board-certified and a Fellow of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Conrad Nievera, MD, GME ’96, was appointed head of a new comprehensive epilepsy program at Rockwood Clinic in Spokane, Wash. Dr. Nievera is certified by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, the American Board of Disability Analysts and the Philippine Neurological Association. He is a member of the American Academy of Neurology, the America Epilepsy Society and the American Heart Association.

Christopher Wolfla, MD, Fel ’98, was elected President of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons. Dr. Wolfla is Professor of Neurosurgery and Director of the Residency Program in Neurological Surgery at the Medical College of Wisconsin. He has been with the College since 2005. Dr. Wolfla also serves as Chairman of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons/Congress of Neurological Surgeons Section on Disorders of the Spine and Peripheral Nerves. He sees patients at the Froedtert & The Medical College of Wisconsin SpineCare Clinic, where he specializes in the comprehensive management of spinal disorders.
Kurt Pfeifer, MD '99, GME '03, received the Clinician Educator Award at the annual meeting of the Midwest Regional Society of General Internal Medicine. Dr. Pfeifer is an Associate Professor of Medicine and the Associate Program Director of the Medicine Residency Program at the Medical College of Wisconsin. He has received several teaching awards from the Medical College since joining the faculty eight years ago. Dr. Pfeifer practices medical co-management of surgical patients at Froedtert Hospital.

Luke Tremble, MD '99, joined the staff of ThedaCare Physicians-Pediatrics in Appleton, Wis. Dr. Tremble is board-certified by the American Board of Pediatrics. He earned his undergraduate degree in biology from Marquette University in Milwaukee.

2000s

William S. Binder, MD '03, was appointed Medical Director of the Neonatal Transport Program at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles. Dr. Binder is a member of the neonatal faculty at the Maxine Dunitz Children’s Health Center at Cedars-Sinai and an Assistant Professor at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. He serves as the Physician Champion for the Pediatric Palliative Care Committee at Cedars-Sinai and is a member of the Bioethics Committee of the Center for Healthcare Ethics. Dr. Binder is a Diplomate of the American Board of Pediatrics and a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics. He is also a member of the Los Angeles County Medical Association and the California Association of Neonatologists.

Daniel Gehling, MD '03, and Amy Riese, MD '04, announce the birth of their son, Anton Curtis Gehling, born Jan. 5, 2012. He joins sister Elsa, 2.

Russell Roloff, MD '04, GME '07, was appointed a long-term medical missionary with Africa Inland Mission. Dr. Roloff and his wife are currently studying Portuguese before moving to Africa to work in a government hospital in a rural community. Dr. Roloff specializes in family medicine.

Joshua Ellwitz, MD '05, joined Bronson Orthopedics & Sports Medicine, Spine & Scoliosis Center in Kalamazoo, Mich. Dr. Ellwitz completed his fellowship in adult and pediatric spinal deformity at the University of California-Davis. His research interests include cervical myelopathy, laminoplasty and scoliosis in adults and children.

Kim Stoner, MD, GME '05, MS '07, was named Young Internist of the Year by the Wisconsin Chapter of the American College of Physicians. Dr. Stoner is Assistant Professor of Medicine and of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine at the Medical College of Wisconsin. The award recognizes excellence in medicine and her ability to lead by example as a young physician. Dr. Stoner directs Clinical Examination and Reasoning, the required second-year course on physical diagnosis. She also practices consultative medicine and consultative psychiatry at Froedtert Hospital.

Xin Tang, PhD '05, is a Diplomate of the American Board of Toxicology. Dr. Tang is Principal Regulatory Affairs Specialist at Teleflex Medical in Reading, Pa. Teleflex is a global provider of specialty medical devices used in critical care and surgery, including devices for vascular access, general and regional anesthesia, urology, respiratory care, cardiac care, and surgery.

Angie R. Taras, MD '05, holds a fellowship in cosmetic surgery at La Belle Vie Cosmetic Surgery Centers in Tukwila, Wash. Dr. Taras completed her residency in general surgery at Swedish Medical Center in Seattle. She is certified in Advanced Cardiac Life Support and Advanced Trauma Life Support. She is a member of the American College of Surgeons and American Academy of Cosmetic Surgery.

Dennis Diokno, MD '06, finished his residency in internal medicine in June 2011 at Kaiser Permanente in San Francisco and is now a staff physician in outpatient internal medicine at Kaiser Permanente in Santa Clara, Calif. Dr. Diokno also works as a volunteer clinical instructor at Imani Clinic, a student-run clinic affiliated with the University of California-Davis School of Medicine. He was married in September 2011.

Carrie L. Kramer, MD '06, joined the staff of ThedaCare Physicians in Waupaca, Wis. as a general surgeon, specializing in women’s health and preventive care. She is certified in advanced trauma and life support and advanced cardiovascular life support. Dr. Kramer is a member of the American College of Surgeons, American Medical Association and Association of Women Surgeons. She was named Laparoscopic 101 Master of the Year in 2007.

Anne Killingbeck, MD '07, joined the staff of Internal Medicine Associates of Redmond, Ore. She completed her residency at Providence Portland Medical Center in Portland. She is board-certified in internal medicine and emphasizes chronic disease management and preventive care.

Kamlesh Kurre, MD, GME '07, was appointed Assistant Professor of Medicine at the Medical College of Wisconsin. Dr. Kurre is board-certified in internal medicine and sees patients at Froedtert Hospital. His clinical interests include arthritis, asthma, general internal medicine, preventive care and thyroid disorders. He previously worked as a primary care physician at Community Memorial Medical Commons, a Froedtert & The Medical College of Wisconsin clinic.

Alison Kriegel, PhD '08, received the 2011 Edward J. Lennon, MD Award for Outstanding Woman Postdoctoral Researcher at the Medical College of Wisconsin’s Women Pioneers in Research awards, part of the Women in Science program. The award is named in honor of former Medical College Dean and President Edward J. Lennon, MD, GME '58. Dr. Kriegel is a postdoctoral fellow in Physiology.

2010s

Alice Cherqui, MD, Fel '11, joined the staff of the West Tennessee Neuroscience and Spine Center in Jackson, Tenn. Dr. Cherqui completed her Fellowship of the Complex Spine at the Medical College of Wisconsin after finishing an internship at the University of Kansas Medical Center and a residency at the Louisiana Health Science Center Department of Neurosurgery. She received the Best Research Award from the Louisiana Neurosurgical Society in 2009 is certified by the American Association of Neurological Surgeons.
Louis B. Kucera, MD ’46 (November), of Colorado Springs, Colo., died April 22, 2011, after a lengthy illness. He served in the U.S. Army for periods between 1942 and 1955, earning the rank of captain. Dr. Kucera ran a successful family medicine practice in Colorado Springs for 45 years. He was a member and benefactor of the Servants of the Holy Family in Colorado Springs, attending mass there with his family for many years. Dr. Kucera was preceded in death by his wife, Angela. His survivors include 10 children, six grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Robert F. Roedel, MD ’46 (November), of Seattle, Wash., died April 8, 2011. He was 90 years old. Dr. Roedel was awarded a Bronze Star and a Bronze Star Oak Leaf for his service as a captain in the U.S. Army Medical Corps during the Korean War. He later served as Chief of Radiology at Swedish Hospital in Seattle. Dr. Roedel was a member of the American Medical Association and the Washington Society of Radiology. He was awarded Teacher of the Year several times by the University of Washington where he also received his undergraduate degree. He was an avid boater and golfer. Dr. Roedel was preceded in death by his first wife, Pearl, his second wife, Gloria, and a daughter. His survivors include five children and eight grandchildren.

Thomas J. Strunk, MD ’47, of Westmont, Pa., died June 24, 2011. He was 94 years old. Dr. Strunk had a longtime medical practice in Johnstown, Pa. He was a member of the American Urological Association and the Cambria County Medical Society, serving as president in 1985. He also was a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons and a proud Eagle Scout. Dr. Strunk enjoyed hunting and fishing and had a great love for dogs. He was preceded in death by his wife, Dorothy. His survivors include four children, seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Bernard J. Moore, MD ’53, of Arlington Heights, Ill., died June 13, 2011. He was 85 years old. Dr. Moore joined the U.S. Navy at the age of 17 and served as a pharmacist mate aboard a mine Sweeper in the South Pacific Theater until the end of World War II. After earning his medical degree, he practiced general family medicine for 19 years. Dr. Moore was a founding member of the medical staff at Alexian Brothers Medical Center in Elk Grove Village, Ill, where he was elected president in 1971. He also served as Chair of Family Practice and Director of Emergency Room Services, helping to train dozens of paramedics. He became Medical Director in 1987 and held that post until his retirement. Dr. Moore was thrice elected Physician of the Year by his colleagues. He was preceded in death by a son. He is survived by his wife, Barbara, five children, three stepchildren, 17 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Robert A. Pribek, MD ’53, of Fox Point and formerly of La Crosse, Wis., died Sept. 26, 2011. He was 85 years old. Dr. Pribek served as a hospital corpsman in the U.S. Navy during World War II. In 1957, he began a 33-year affiliation with the La Crosse Clinic, which later merged with the Skemp-Grandview Clinic. Over the next decade, Dr. Pribek worked as a staff physician in Student Health Services at University of Wisconsin-La Crosse and UW-Milwaukee. In the 1970s, he served several terms on the City of La Crosse Board of Health, including as Chairman. His survivors include seven children and seven grandchildren. His wife of 55 years, Ruth, preceded him in death.

Paul J. Weiss, MD ’53, of Aptos, Calif., died July 25, 2011. He was 83 years old. Dr. Weiss was stationed in San Francisco as a lieutenant with the U.S. Navy until 1956, when he retired from the armed forces and moved with his wife to Aptos. He was the first licensed physician and surgeon to open a family medical practice there. In 1995, the California Senate Rules Committee recognized Dr. Weiss for his four decades of service to the Aptos community. He was an active member of the Knights of Columbus and was affiliated with the California Medical Society and Santa Cruz Medical Society. He was preceded in death by a son. He is survived by his wife, Betty, three children, four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Ernst Epstein, MD ’55, of San Mateo, Calif., died Jan. 7, 2011, from complications of Parkinson’s disease. He was 82 years old. Dr. Epstein had his own dermatology practice until his retirement. He is survived by his wife, Jan, one son and two grandchildren.

Robert J. Strunk, MD ’57, of Milwaukee, died Nov. 26, 2011. He was 79 years old. Dr. Fritz served as Chief of Obstetrics and Gynecology at St. Luke’s and St. Francis Hospitals. He was also an Associate Clinical Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology and a member of the Milwaukee Gynecological Society, Milwaukee County Medical Society, Wisconsin Medical Society, American Medical Association and the University Club. He is survived by his wife, Geraldine, five children and three grandchildren.

Edward A. Burg, Jr., MD, GME ’68, of River Hills, Wis., died Oct. 19, 2011, following a long battle with lung cancer. He was 77 years old. Dr. Burg served in the U.S. Navy as a flight surgeon. He was a pathologist at Columbia Hospital in Milwaukee between 1968 and 1995. He is survived by his wife, Adrienne, three children, nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Robert J. Baumer, MD ’69, of Fridley, Minn., died June 9, 2011, from complications of pancreatic cancer. He was 68 years old. Dr. Baumer founded the non-profit Family Life Center in Anoka County, Minn., in 1978, where he served as Medical Director and offered his psychiatry services free of charge. He worked as a staff psychiatrist with Anoka Regional Treatment Center and later devoted his efforts to the Mental Health Initiative in Ramsey County. Dr. Baumer was a retired colonel of the U.S. Army who served as commander of a branch of mental health services at Fort Snelling. He was deployed to Germany in 1996 at the end of the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina to command the Mental Health Division at 67th Combat Support Hospital. Dr. Baumer enjoyed world travel. He is survived by his first wife, Bonnie, second wife, Debbie, and a son.
Lewis B. Newberg, MD, GME '69, of Baltimore, Md., died Oct. 22, 2011, of heart failure. He was 72 years old. Dr. Newberg was a retired ear, nose and throat specialist. A sufferer of sleep apnea and snoring, he developed a successful treatment which included a combination of ethmoid surgery and laser treatment of the nose and throat. He also wrote a book of humor and medical advice called *Snore or Roar: I've got the Cure*. Dr. Newberg was an opera fan and avid fly fisherman. He is survived by his wife, Barbara, five children and six grandchildren.

John E. Inman, MD '70, of Monroe, Wis., died Sept. 16, 2011, unexpectedly from a blood clot in the heart. Following a residency in obstetrics and gynecology at Charlotte Memorial Hospital in Charlotte, N.C., Dr. Inman practiced medicine at the Monroe Clinic until his retirement in 1997. A proud Eagle Scout, he was an active member of the Boy Scouts of America and led six World Jamborees. He also served as an elder at Union Presbyterian Church. Dr. Inman was involved with numerous state and local genealogy societies and medical societies. He is survived by his wife, Barbara, four children and 10 grandchildren.

Robert C. Friedrich, MD '77, of Stevens Point, Wis., died Sept. 3, 2011. He was 60 years old. Dr. Friedrich served as a flight surgeon in the U.S. Navy before completing his residency in diagnostic radiology in 1985. He then joined the Central Wisconsin Radiologists in Stevens Point, becoming department chair and president. In 2008, he was named chief of the medical staff at St. Michael’s Hospital. Dr. Friedrich loved sports and travel. He was preceded in death by a son. He is survived by his wife, Barbara, two children and grandchildren.

David L. Daniels, MD, GME '79, Fel '80, of Fox Point, Wis., died Nov. 2, 2011. He was 62 years old. Dr. Daniels was Professor Emeritus of Radiology at the Medical College of Wisconsin, having spent his entire career at the College. He received his MD and his BS in biology from the University of Illinois in Chicago. After completing his diagnostic radiology residency and neuroradiology fellowship at the College, he was appointed Instructor of Radiology in 1980 and then Assistant Professor of Radiology in 1981. He eventually attained the rank of full Professor in 1989. Dr. Daniels served as Director of the Section of Neuroradiology for 10 years and Program Director of the Neuroradiology Fellowship Program for 12 years. He enjoyed watching movies, telling jokes and drawing. Dr. Daniels was preceded in death by his first wife, Lynda. He is survived by his second wife, Amy, and three sons.

J. Emil “Jack” Geist, MD, Fel '92, of Milwaukee, died Dec. 23, 2011. He was 89 years old. Dr. Geist had a private practice in psychiatry in Milwaukee for 50 years and also taught at Marquette University School of Medicine/Medical College of Wisconsin in the 1960s and 1970s and at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Prior to those posts, he taught at Minneapolis General Hospital and Walter Reed Army Hospital in addition to hospitals in Pennsylvania and Maryland. He taught at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., and also was a retired captain of the U.S. Army. Dr. Geist was a member of more than a dozen medical associations including the American Medical Association and the American Psychiatric Association, as well as the Rotary Club of Milwaukee, Milwaukee Yacht Club and River Tennis Club. He was preceded in death by his wife, Beverly. He is survived by two children and four grandchildren.

June M. Dobbs, MD, MPH, of Keystone, Colo., died Jan. 10, 2012. She was 82 years old. Dr. Dobbs was a former faculty member in the Department of Pediatrics at the Medical College of Wisconsin and Director of the Child Development Center at Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin for 29 years. She joined the Medical College faculty in 1965 and retired as an Associate Professor in 1994. She previously held a faculty position at Temple University Medical School in Philadelphia. During her career, she received numerous awards and honors, including having a lectureship on child health named after her by the Medical College Department of Pediatrics. She also received the 1984 WAID Service Award for her years of service to infants and young children, the 1989 Sacajawea Award from Professional Dimensions as the outstanding professional woman in Milwaukee, and the 1993 Maternal & Child Health Coalition Achievement Award as Outstanding Maternal & Child Health Clinician. She received her MD from the University of Aberdeen in Scotland in 1952 and her MPH from Columbia University. She completed a residency in pediatrics in Louisville. Dr. Dobbs is survived by her husband, Harold “Hap” Dobbs, two daughters and four grandchildren.

Other special remembrances

MAKE A CONNECTION

The Medical College of Wisconsin’s Office of Sponsored Programs has created a Twitter account to keep current and former students apprised of tuition and loan deadlines, paperwork needs and regulation changes. Follow @mcwtuitionloans

To connect with the Medical College of Wisconsin via your preferred social media channel, visit mcw.edu/social
ALUMNI EVENTS

Specialty receptions
American College of Physicians
New Orleans, La.
April 19, 2012

Alumni Association Board meetings
May 4, 2012

Symposium for Senior Physicians
May 16, 2012

Alumni Scholarship Golf Classic
Aug. 20, 2012

CME RESOURCES

Requesting transcripts
To obtain a transcript of credits earned through the Office of Continuing and Professional Education at the Medical College of Wisconsin, please call the transcript request line at (414) 955-4896 or use the transcript request form. The form is available online at www.mcw.edu/cme under the “Transcripts” tab and can be faxed to (414) 955-6623.

Alumni receive one transcript per year free of charge. For all subsequent transcript requests, the charge is $5 per request.

2012 ALUMNI WEEKEND

May 4-5, 2012

Friday
2012 Alumni Banquet at the Pfister Hotel, including recognition of reunion class gifts and presentation of Alumnus of the Year, Humanitarian Award, Distinguished Service Award, and Honorary Alumnus Award.


Saturday
Continental Breakfast
Spouses’ Tour – Milwaukee Art Museum
Scientific Program
President’s Luncheon – with President and CEO John R. Raymond, Sr., MD
Guided Tours – of the Medical College
Estate Planning Seminar
Special Class Dinners and Events – taking place in the evening

CLASS OF 1962
50-YEAR REUNION

May 18-19, 2012

Friday
Commencement ceremony and recognition of the 50-year graduates – Milwaukee Theatre
Buffet Dinner – Pfister Hotel

Saturday
Class Brunch – Pfister Hotel
President’s Dinner – Medical College of Wisconsin

For more information about alumni events, contact the Office of Alumni Relations by:
Phone: (414) 955-4781
E-mail: alumni@mcw.edu
Internet: www.mcw.edu/alumni

Medical College’s Annual Report features unique collaborations

The Medical College of Wisconsin’s 2011 Annual Report and Honor Roll is now available to alumni online or in print upon request.

The 2011 annual report focuses on “Strength Through Collaboration.” Through collaboration, the Medical College and other partners leverage their complementary expertise and resources to create advances for health care not possible individually. The Medical College’s commitment to improving the health of people is strengthened by many partnerships across our missions of patient care, research, education and community engagement.

The report highlights examples of collaborations that engage the College’s major, long-standing partners in each mission and the benefits to people. Also included are an overview of other partnerships in each mission, and at-a-glance maps of many collaborations throughout the United States and the world.

View the annual report online at mcw.edu/publicaffairs or request a printed copy by contacting (414) 955-4700 or mcw.logo@mcw.edu.
Your social network awaits

Connect at Alumni Weekend 2012
May 4-5
Milwaukee, Wis.

See page 23 for more information