Cardiologist propels his field forward

Reunion classes return to Milwaukee for social events

Medical and Graduate School Alumni of the Year honored
With origins dating back to 1893, the Medical College of Wisconsin has a heritage worth preserving. I am proud to be part of a lineage that has viewed each year as an opportunity to improve and grow, these efforts building as the College has gained in productivity and stature.

I believe in being a student of history. By respecting the past and learning from the giants upon whose shoulders we stand, we can become more effective as individuals and as an institution.

To both chronicle and honor our heritage, the Medical College has begun an oral history project that captures the perspectives and recollections of members of the College community. Those interviewed on video have been generous enough to share their memories about their experiences at the Medical College and describe how those experiences helped shape their careers and lives.

The oral history project is a work in progress, one we intend to expand to reflect the diverse viewpoints and deeply rooted past of the school, its faculty, staff, students, alumni and stakeholders. A number of our videos were published this year in conjunction with Women’s History Month and Black History Month, with contributors adding to the mosaic of these aspects of our institutional history.

We have engaged alumni in this project, but we welcome the input of many more to help tell our common story. Among the alumni who appear in oral history videos thus far are Sister Mary V. Annel, MD ’71; Beth A. Drolet, MD, GME ’95; Amadou Camara, PhD ’95; Mary M. Horowitz, MD ’80, GME ’89, MS ’91; Catharine Malmsten, MD, Fel ’10; and Mary F. Otterson, MD ’84, GME ’90.

To watch the oral history videos that have been created to date, visit the College’s YouTube channel via mcw.edu/oralhistory.htm and see this perfect example of how instrumental alumni are in helping us retain our rich history.

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

ASSOCIATION MESSAGE

Since joining the board of the Medical College of Wisconsin/Marquette Medical Alumni Association in 2007, I have been impressed by the enthusiasm of alumni who volunteer their time to strengthen the relationships between the Medical College and its graduates. Now that I have the honor of serving as Alumni Association President, I look forward to spending the next year reaching out to even more alumni to share news of their alma mater’s growth and success.

I had an opportunity to do so immediately, as I was celebrating my class’s 25th reunion on the night I was sworn in as president. For those of you who have yet to attend Alumni Weekend, please consider joining us the next time your class is celebrating.

The chance to reconnect with longtime friends is priceless, but Alumni Weekend is so much more than a reunion. You get a glimpse of how today’s students are learning the art of medicine; you get to see how the Medical College has become a prominent force in the local and national community; and you get to hear directly from leadership about the innovative and conscientious efforts that drive fulfillment of the College’s missions in education, research, community engagement and clinical care. Even the most humble of us should feel a sense of pride in our school when they hear of these achievements.

If you are a recent graduate awaiting your first reunion at the 10-year mark, I can attest that the experience will be one that you will cherish.

There may be five years between each reunion, but there are frequent options to engage with the College and classmates at Alumni Dinners held in cities throughout the U.S. The Alumni Association sponsors these events as a way to bring the Medical College of Wisconsin to you. Visit the Association Web pages at mcw.edu/alumni for the most current event information and a dinner near you.

Also enjoy the photo galleries in this issue of Alumni News featuring the 2012 reunion classes, including those from the Class of 1962 who celebrated 50 years in medicine. Alumni of all eras deserve our congratulations and the occasion to celebrate.

Kathleen S. Stokes, MD ’87, GME ’91
Alumni Association President
A MOMENT’S NOTICE
Providing a brief look inside this issue of Alumni News

His reputation precedes him

Upon concluding an inspiring term as President of the American College of Cardiology, Dr. David Holmes was honored by another group of peers as he was named the 2012 Medical School Alumnus of the Year. For more than three decades, Dr. Holmes has served as a consummate clinician, mentor, investigator, innovator and leader in cardiology at the Mayo Clinic and its College of Medicine.

Classes represented in this story: ‘71

Cultivating the pharm

Dr. Daniel McDermott has dedicated his career to the development of new drugs and study of their safety and efficacy in patient populations. His remarkable body of work led to his selection as the Medical College’s very first Graduate School Alumnus of the Year.

Classes represented in this story: ‘69

Starr quality

After a rewarding career as a general surgeon, Dr. Clifford Starr determined he still had more to give. He and his wife have since journeyed on 17 medical mission trips to rural Guatemala to serve displaced people with little access to care. For his humble generosity, he has received the 2012 alumni Humanitarian Award.

Classes represented in this story: ‘37, ’56

Distinguished company

Dr. Victoria Vollrath’s contributions to the Medical College have comprised nearly every form and function but always with her fullest level of commitment. She has earned the 2012 alumni Distinguished Service Award for her extensive involvement with her alma mater.

Classes represented in this story: ‘56, ‘77, ‘11

New alumni leader urges service

Dermatologist and Alumni Association President Dr. Kathleen Stokes encourages alumni to follow her example and discover an opportunity to lead in service of the Medical College of Wisconsin.


Support from the Alumni Association allowed a group of Medical College of Wisconsin students to enter the 18-hour MISSION Adventure Race in Muscatatuck County Park in North Vernon, Ind., this May. Event challenges included running, trekking, biking, kayaking, and rope skills. Team members were (L-R) Cory Siebe, MD ‘12; Katelin Engerer, Class of 2013; Katherine Gavin, MD ‘12; Arran Seiler, MD ‘12; and Jordan Maresh, MD ‘12.

Classes represented in this story: ‘71
Graduation festivities for the Medical College of Wisconsin began on May 17 with a special hooding ceremony for medical school graduates, a new tradition at the College. Members of the Class of 2012 received individual honors at their senior awards dinner later that night.

The 99th annual commencement took place on May 18 at the Milwaukee Theatre, at which the Medical College of Wisconsin and its Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences awarded 202 MD, 38 PhD, 27 MS, 4 MA, and 18 Master of Public Health degrees.

The 2012 commencement address was given by T. Michael Bolger, JD, President Emeritus of the Medical College who served as the school’s top executive for 20 years before retiring in 2010.
Bleeding disorder research granted $10 million

With a five-year, $10 million grant from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, a team of Medical College of Wisconsin, BloodCenter of Wisconsin and Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin researchers will continue genetic studies that seek to improve the molecular and clinical understanding of Von Willebrand disease, the most common hereditary bleeding disorder. The principal investigator is Robert R. Montgomery, MD, GME ’90, Professor of Pediatrics, Senior Investigator at the BloodCenter’s Blood Research Institute and pediatric hematologist at Children’s Hospital.

Von Willebrand disease is caused by a deficiency of Von Willebrand factor, which is necessary for normal blood clotting. This study will determine the clinical and genetic characteristics of a large number of patients as well as carriers of genes for various forms of the disease. The researchers will also explore the impact specific combinations of these genes and unrelated mutations may have on individuals and families.

Participating in the study are seven primary clinical centers (Milwaukee, Atlanta, Detroit, Pittsburgh, New Orleans, Indianapolis, and Iowa City) and more than 25 secondary clinical centers throughout the U.S. that recruit research subjects and send the samples to Milwaukee for the specialized testing. More than 600 families have been recruited for this project.

MCW second best medical school for postdocs

The Medical College of Wisconsin is ranked second among U.S. medical schools and universities for postdoctoral training, according to a new survey released by The Scientist magazine. Overall, the College is the 15th best place in the country for postdoctoral scientists to conduct their research, moving up four spots in rank from last year’s list. The magazine surveyed more than 1,500 non-tenured scientists for the rankings, which were released in The Scientist’s March 29, 2012, online edition.

Bacteria in gut may predict heart attack risk

The types and levels of bacteria in the intestines could be a predictor of a person’s likelihood of having a heart attack, according to new research published by Medical College and Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin investigators. John E. Baker, PhD, Professor of Surgery (Cardiothoracic), Pharmacology and Toxicology, and Biochemistry, is lead author for the study, published online in the FASEB Journal. The discovery, made in rats, could lead to diagnostic tests and therapies that physicians can use to prevent and treat heart attacks. Additionally, the research suggests that probiotics may be able to protect the heart in patients undergoing heart surgery and angioplasty.

Gift to Global Health Program honors late pediatrician, alumna

The John M. Kohler Foundation has given $250,000 to the Medical College of Wisconsin Global Health Program in memory of Elaine Kohler, MD, Fel ’68, a former associate professor of pediatrics (1968-1981) at the Medical College. The award establishes the Dr. Elaine Kohler Summer Academy of Global Health Research and the Dr. Elaine Kohler Global Health Elective Scholarship.

The summer academy supports up to six first-year medical students with a 10-week, hands-on research experience addressing health disparities. This summer, six students are working with faculty and their partners in Vietnam, Uganda, El Salvador and the Netherlands addressing the global health issues of injury, cancer, HIV/AIDS, and water respectively.

The global health elective scholarships give learners the opportunity to experience health care settings outside of the United States. The gift funds up to 25 stipends for international electives and helps expand the number of learners who can participate in the two programs. Travel stipends are available for medical students, graduate students, residents and fellows.

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Dr. Kohler focused her research primarily on juvenile diabetes, but believed in a call to service and worked to improve the health of children locally and in Africa. Her work addressed growth hormones in children and the public health issues of lead paint poisoning in Milwaukee’s central city.
His reputation precedes him

Cardiologist David Holmes is respected worldwide for his knowledge, rigor and integrity

At the institution he has called home for the last 36 years, David R. Holmes Jr., MD ’71, has been respectfully dubbed the “Preacher from the Prairie” for his evangelical lecture style. As his close friend and colleague at the Mayo Clinic, Robert D. Simari, MD, explains, “he brings a lot of himself to his lectures in a way that is informative but highly entertaining as well. He must be close to the most sought-after speaker in cardiology if not all academic medicine.”

As a faculty member at the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine, a clinical leader and a pioneering scholar in cardiology, Dr. Holmes demonstrably practices what he preaches. He has been chosen Medical School Alumnus of the Year by the Medical College of Wisconsin/Marquette Medical Alumni Association.

Dr. Holmes is Professor of Medicine in the Department of Cardiovascular Diseases at Mayo Clinic and the Edward W. and Betty Knight Scripps Professor in Cardiovascular Medicine. He has served as Director of both Electrophysiology and Pacing and the Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory. After beginning his career interested broadly in cardiac electrophysiology, his focus shifted as he progressed to interventional cardiology, and he has been at the forefront of therapeutic technologies that have helped transform the field. He describes the growth that has taken place in cardiology during the past three decades as revolutionary and leading to improved outcomes for patients.

“We have learned more about optimizing specific patient care and applying technological improvements as well as system improvements to optimize that care,” Dr. Holmes said. “We can now take patients with acute heart attack, who in the past were treated with bed rest, get them into the hospital, and within three days they can be dismissed to a rehabilitation program.”

Deaths by cardiovascular disease have decreased by 30 percent in this time, he said, despite evidence that the population has become more sedentary and overweight. He points to a disease like aortic stenosis to demonstrate how advances in cardiac care have led to improving results for patients.

“The field of structural heart disease continues to blossom, so we now have strategies for patients we never had before,” Dr. Holmes said. “We saw patients with types of diseases that were once inoperable because of severe comorbidities, like aortic valve diseases, and now we can treat them with catheter-based approaches.”

Coordinating the heart team

Despite authoring 178 book chapters and co-authoring 17 books in his field, despite serving as principal or co-investigator on more than 70 National Institutes of Health and industry-sponsored studies, and despite a list of honors that...
includes the American College of Cardiology Distinguished Scientist Award and an Honorary Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland, Dr. Holmes considers his most significant contribution to medicine to be furthering team-based care. Optimizing care for patients depends on cooperation between different disciplines, such as cardiovascular surgery and interventional cardiology, an understanding he has worked hard to foster.

His emphasis on collaboration is an example of his humility, said Dr. Simari who was trained by Dr. Holmes and is now Vice Chair of Cardiovascular Diseases and Dean of Clinical and Translational Research for all of Mayo. Among the leading experts worldwide in interventional cardiology, Dr. Holmes has also been an early adopter of emerging technologies and procedures, including coronary angioplasty, Dr. Simari said.

“David learned from the founders of the art but became a skilled leader and top educator in the field of interventional cardiology,” he said. “He became a go-to operator in the most difficult cases worldwide. His reputation grew for intracoronary procedures, and people came from all over the world to see him.”

Dr. Holmes brought sanity to the revolution of interventional cardiology, Dr. Simari said, by engaging in thoughtful, critical research that eschewed self-interest while seeking to develop leading-edge therapies. His work expanded to include the development of devices implanted in the heart to prevent stroke in patients with sustained irregular heartbeat.

He was principal investigator on the recent PROTECT AF (Watchman Left Atrial Appendage System for Embolic Protec-

tion in Patients with Atrial Fibrillation) trial. The study found that occlusion of the left atrial appendage (a part of the heart’s anatomy where blood tends to pool and clot in patients with atrial fibrillation) is effective in preventing thromboembolism without long-term anticoagulant therapy.

With atrial fibrillation affecting about six million Americans, the study’s results are meaningful for those patients for whom warfarin treatment is contraindicated due to increased risk of serious bleeding. The study also points to one of the strengths of cardiology that helped ignite Dr. Holmes’ interest in the field.

“I think cardiology has served as the role model for evidence-based care,” he said. “There have been more randomized trials in cardiovascular disease than in the majority of all other specialties because it’s a field that has embraced the concept of large-scale randomized trials and large-scale registries. There is a wealth of information upon which to base guidelines of care.”

**Imparting expertise**

Having helped advance the field of cardiology through scientific pursuit, Dr. Holmes has also contributed to its legacy by mentoring a generation of cardiologists. His trainees can be found in prestigious positions across the globe, and he continues to interact with residents and medical students on a daily basis. His dedication supports his assertion that one of his greatest sources of pride is the opportunity to put science and education at the forefront of his discipline.

This is a theme that resonated with the membership of the American College of Cardiology (ACC), who elected him President of the society last year. Throughout his one-year term, which concluded at the end of March, Dr. Holmes has emphasized educational enhancement as well as building collaborative relationships with surgeons and other heart team members.

Dr. Holmes’ commitment to the ACC has spanned 34 years, nearly his entire career. A Fellow of the ACC, he has served on its Board of Trustees, led numerous committees and is a former Governor of its Minnesota chapter.

Currently, Dr. Holmes is Chairman of the ACC FAME (Foundation to Advance Medical Education) Initiative, Chairman of the Procedure Training Working Group, Co-Director of the Heart House Interventional Cardiology Course, and Co-Director of the annual Cardiology at Big Sky meeting.

Dr. Holmes is also a Fellow of the American Heart Association and a Fellow and Past President of the Society for Cardiac Angiography and Interventions. He served in the U.S. Navy at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., and retired from the Reserve as a captain in 2004 after more than 25 years of service. He and his wife, Ginger, have raised three sons and a daughter.

His life’s journey has been both purposeful and serendipitous, and his path from the Medical College of Wisconsin to the Mayo Clinic is one upon which he can reflect with satisfaction. “I didn’t envision an academic career path, initially,” he said. “I was uncertain which direction to go. I lighted here and was lit by here.”
mid the scientific rigor, the extensive regulations, the staggering investments, and the exciting promise of an emerging therapy, Daniel J. McDerrett, PhD ’69, has found the essence of pharmaceutical clinical trials is in the patients who participate. The view from the bench or the board room doesn’t always include a direct line of sight to patients, so Dr. McDermott values his opportunities to interact with patient populations, something he believes offers special insight into the impact of such research.

While with 3M Pharmaceuticals in the 1990s, Dr. McDermott was a Program Director for the Immune Response Modifiers (IRM) family of drugs and led the team that performed the work to gain approval for the topical formulation of Aldara, first used to treat genital warts caused by HPV. To gain a better understanding of how women were affected by the disease, Dr. McDermott was involved in a nationwide focus group conference call where trial participants discussed their experiences living with genital warts and the effect they thought a new treatment might have for them.

“All but one had not been treated adequately for removal of genital warts. Their relationships were all in varying degrees of decay, and the disease had become a personal catastrophe,” he said. “During a break in the session, I suggested the ladies all talk with each other so we could ‘eavesdrop’ to gain a better understanding of the initial population for which this drug would be used. For many of these women, it was their first interaction with anyone who had sympathy for the devastation they were experiencing. Having interaction with the patients for whom this drug would be useful was just a moving, remarkable experience.”

Dr. McDermott’s 40-year journey in pharmaceuticals underscores the industry’s challenges and proves the worth of its rewards. His professionalism and distinguished body of work throughout this time led the Medical College of Wisconsin/Marquette Medical Alumni Association to name him its inaugural Graduate School Alumnus of the Year.

Dr. McDermott can count Aldara (imiquimod) among the successes to which his work at 3M contributed. The drug made a significant difference for patients with genital warts, he said. It subsequently was approved for several skin cancers, which now represents the most common use for the drug, evidence of the industry’s fluidity and how projects do not always follow the initial application.

Although serendipity can aid science, surprises can also derail a promising project. As an investigator in pharmaceuticals, Dr. McDermott said it is as important to learn from failures as it is to enjoy successes.

“There are disappointments associated with this work, and everything does not turn out as you anticipate,” he said. “You have to understand those disappointments will occur, and you can’t allow them to inhibit your enthusiasm.”

Reveling in teamwork

Dr. McDermott experienced success early in his career when he joined G.D. Searle & Co. in Skokie, Ill. He was serving on the Medical College of Wisconsin faculty as Assistant Professor of Physiology after earning his PhD, when a “persuasive recruiter” con-
“The projects I’ve been involved with are the consequence of multidisciplinary teams of people in industry and academic medicine who come together in the common goal of studying the safety and efficacy of certain drugs in target populations,” he said.

Across various industry roles and dealing with dissimilar drugs, Dr. McDermott’s work fundamentally has required an understanding of disease conditions and the ability to interface effectively with people in academe who will be interacting with patients. Compliance with all of the ethical and scientific dictates of the clinical protocol is central to the completion of a successful clinical trial, he said.

Without protocol compliance, unnecessary variability is introduced and uniformity lost. This results in flawed data about the safety and efficacy of a drug. That can lead to millions of wasted dollars and FDA rejection.

Wrong turns

Dr. McDermott experienced some of the pitfalls in pharmaceutical development following his transition from Searle to Smith Laboratories, a start-up founded by his mentor. The small team set out to develop and introduce chymopapain, an enzyme derived from the papaya plant, for the treatment of patients with a herniated nucleus pulposus of the lumbar spine. Venture funding was obtained, and as Vice President and Medical Research Director, Dr. McDermott helped lead the work to obtain FDA approval. After a massive education program for spine surgeons, the drug was provided to select hospitals.

According to Dr. McDermott, litigation eventually ensued due to alleged misuse of the drug in the clinical setting, leading to a decline in enthusiasm for the procedure. Although the drug was shown to be an effective alternative to surgical care, Dr. McDermott said, it was eventually discontinued and is no longer commercially available.

After leaving Smith Laboratories in 1986, he spent several years with the Boots Company, which was developing a balanced vasodilator (flosequinan) for patients with refractory congestive heart failure. The drug had FDA approval, but because a subsequent study showed greater mortality with the drug when compared to placebo, the company elected not to take it to market.

Dr. McDermott subsequently joined San Diego-based Gensia Pharmaceuticals, where he was involved with adenosine, a drug that decreased ischemia in the heart by causing increased release of the vasodilator adenosine. Its initial application was for patients undergoing coronary artery bypass graft surgery. The first phase II clinical trial for efficacy showed adenosine was extremely effective in reducing myocardial infarction vs. placebo.

As the drug moved toward a phase III trial, however, Dr. McDermott said he began to develop grave reservations about the course of the research to definitively evaluate the drug. He chose to leave prior to the program’s completion, and his concerns became reality when ensuing studies showed conflicting results, leading to an FDA request for another trial. The investors chose not to provide additional funding, so the development of the drug was terminated.

“The disappointments I’ve had in industry have not been associated with the drugs but with the lack of appreciation for what is needed to get a drug approved and the benefits versus the risks of the process,” he said.

After Gensia, Dr. McDermott made his move to 3M, where he eventually became Manager of Clinical Pharmacology. Since 2005, he has been serving as a consultant in pharmaceutical and medical device development.

As he transitions toward retirement, Dr. McDermott is enjoying spending time with his wife of 43 years, Jan, in their home state of Minnesota.

“I am truly grateful for the training and education that the Medical College of Wisconsin provided, which launched me on my lifetime adventure,” he said.
Starr

quality

Alumnus and wife care for underserved in Guatemala year after year

One of the most rewarding experiences in the medical career of Clifford H. Starr, MD '56, GME '63, MS '63, was the time he was paid in chicken. Technically, the chicken was a gift—and still alive—but for the family of the boy he treated, it reflected the magnitude of the situation.

It was springtime during one of Dr. Starr’s many month-long trips to rural Guatemala, and the retired general surgeon was presented with an anemic 5-year-old boy with amoebic dysentery.

“We treated him for the infections, which is fairly routine medicine unless you don’t have the medication. Then it becomes profound,” he said. “The family came back to see us in the fall with the healthy little guy, and they gave me a live chicken in a bag, which is really touching, since a chicken to them is a significant gift.”

Since 1998, Dr. Starr and his wife, Nancy, a former nurse, have traveled 15 times from their Wisconsin Rapids home to San Lucas Tolimán and twice to Guatemala City on medical missions lasting at least a month. San Lucas Tolimán is a village of about 6,000 people in a mountainous, agricultural area not far from the Mexico border. Its residents are primarily Mayan, many of whom are displaced and living in poverty following a 36-year civil war that ended in 1996.

The health care he helped provide is one component of a comprehensive mission serving the village and surrounding areas (about 23,000 total people) that also focuses on schools, clean water and land ownership. Dr. and Mrs. Starr would travel throughout the region conducting day clinics during their trips. At the beginning, organization was lacking, he said, but as time went on, trained local health care providers joined the team, schedules were coordinated, and the Starrs implemented a medical records system.

Overcoming obstacles

For a couple past retirement age without prior instruction, learning to communicate with monolingual Spanish speakers, plus navigating numerous Mayan dialects, was a great challenge but one Dr. Starr considered good exercise for the brain. Accessing appropriate medications was an ongoing challenge as well, but as the Starrs became veteran missionaries, they developed their own formulary, enabling them to have most essential drugs on hand.
“It was frustrating if you went to a community and you could tell a patient what was wrong but had nothing to fix them,” he said. “We got to a point where we had that pretty well controlled and had a system to get what we needed.”

Toward that end, the 500 pounds of luggage that accompanied the Starrs on each trip was predominantly composed of medical supplies. They self-funded the vast majority of these items but were also heartened by the generosity of others, including a hospital administrator who helped them purchase generics in bulk and strangers who gave small donations after hearing about their work through word of mouth.

“Without having hat in hand and looking for funding, we got some voluntarily, and we thought that was much more meaningful than if we leaned on people,” Dr. Starr said.

Friendship in hardship

The Starrs’ work in Guatemala has been both vocation and passion. They formed great friendships; through one such relationship, they were named God parents for a little girl, with whom they remain in contact.

They also became a lifeline for strangers amid disaster, such as the mudslide in 2002 that killed 37 people. The Starrs had only arrived in San Lucas a day earlier with a friend who was finishing an emergency medicine residency when victims began pouring into their clinic in the pitch dark of night. They treated compound fractures, lacerations, dislocations and other trauma in patients drenched with wet volcanic earth.

“It was sort of miraculous that we were there and had just arrived. That was an experience,” Dr. Starr said. “It was rewarding because it was fortuitous we were there but sad because of the people who died.”

Two of the Starrs’ trips served a different group of people, those living within the mammoth city dump in Guatemala City. Here, large canyons have functioned as landfills filled with trash. As the land is reclaimed, it has no official ownership, leading displaced people to squat on the site and live off of what they scavenge from the dump. Their health problems are myriad.

Wisconsin roots

These experiences abroad bear little similarity to Dr. Starr’s career of more than 35 years spent in central Wisconsin. When he began his surgical practice, his group was small, but over the years grew to about 10 physicians. He was the only surgeon, so the workload, though rewarding, became quite demanding.

A part-time Army Reservist and Guardsman, Dr. Starr contemplated ending his career by serving in the active military, but he decided to stay in the community where he had forged so many bonds. His new enterprise was with Consolidated Papers, where he consulted on compensation issues, industrial injuries and occupational medicine. He enjoyed this for 10 years and recalled the advice he received as a medical student from then Dean John S. Hirschboeck, MD ’37, MS ’41, to “find a place you’d like to live, raise your family, do a good job, and you’ll be taken care of.”

His life’s journey has born that out. He and Nancy have six children and nine grandchildren, who have brought much joy to their lives. And Dr. Starr is reminded of a conversation he once had with a group of friends, all doctors, who met regularly to socialize and unwind. The men were in their 50s when one asked the group: “Would any of you like to be younger?”

“And all around the whole table, no one wanted to be younger,” Dr. Starr said. “Each day as you go along is kind of exciting. I don’t want to go back. I want to keep on going and seeing new things.”
Victoria Vollrath, MD ’77, GME ’80, gained insight into the quality of her medical education early on in her internship, when she encountered a patient in congestive heart failure in the emergency department. She knew exactly what needed to be done, while another resident (educated elsewhere) had a detailed understanding of the chemical pathways involved in the available drugs choices but lacked the practical knowledge to make a sound decision in the case.

“I really care about the Medical College of Wisconsin,” Dr. Vollrath said. “I think its emphasis on patient care and on people is what really sets it apart from other medical schools I’ve had contact with over the years.”

The Medical College’s focus on clinical experience in education is a trait she continues to notice today and one of the reasons she has remained deeply involved with her alma mater. For her contributions to the school and the Medical College of Wisconsin/Marquette Medical Alumni Association, she received the 2012 alumni Distinguished Service Award.

A family physician who practiced in Madison and Waukesha before retiring in 2000, Dr. Vollrath found philanthropy to be a gratifying way to support the College. She joined its largest giving society—the Walter Zeit Fellowship—in 1985, and in 1993, she accepted a role on the fellowship’s Executive Committee.

“I became a Zeit Fellow because my education at the Medical College of Wisconsin allowed me to practice medicine and live the life I have. Without it, I wouldn’t have been a doctor,” she said.

Her work on the committee presented many new opportunities that Dr. Vollrath viewed as chances to help those in and entering the profession. She served two terms on the Alumni Association board from 1997-2003. She is a perennial member of reunion committees for her class (she says she loves attending the meetings so she can visit with classmates) and participant in alumni dinners near her Madison-area home.

She has given considerable attention to addressing student debt. Her parents, who created a fund to award sizeable scholarships to Sheboygan County high school students, instilled in her the importance of supporting education. Dr. Vollrath has been a strong contributor to the Class of 1977 Endowed Scholarship Fund at the Medical College. She also found a mentor in the late Kathryn Bemmann, MD ’56, an alumna who was a support system for many women medical students and was the driving force behind the Medical College’s Women’s Student Loan Fund, for which Dr. Vollrath served on the steering committee.

Recently, Dr. Vollrath merged a tribute to family medicine with a tribute to a family member. Her passion for primary care had inspired her parents to establish an award at the Medical College in her name that is given to a graduating senior entering family medicine. Then, when her son, Christopher Vollrath Schumacher, MD ’11, graduated from the College last year, Dr. Vollrath provided a donation that made “Chip” a Zeit Fellow and renamed the award the Victoria A. Vollrath, MD and Christopher Vollrath Schumacher, MD Award in Family Medicine.

“I think primary care is really important, especially the idea of health of the whole family, not just physical but emotional health as well,” she said. “Family practice is a very low-paying specialty, so I thought anything we could do to help people in family medicine would be worthwhile.”

Dr. Vollrath’s many ties to the Medical College also include its Parent’s Fund, Legacy Society and Women in Science program. Formerly an assistant clinical professor at the College, she also volunteers at the Saturday Clinic for the Uninsured, a partnership between the College and Columbia St. Mary’s.

She supports environmental health as a board member of the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters. She is President-elect of Friends of the Library of Elkhart Lake. In addition to Chip, she and husband Steve Schumacher have two more sons, Mike and Rob.
Dermatologist elected Association President

Her transition into leadership of the Medical College of Wisconsin/Marquette Medical Alumni Association places **Kathleen S. Stokes, MD ’87, GME ’91**, in her preferred position: at the convergence of patient care, teaching and academic opportunities.

For 20 years, Dr. Stokes has practiced dermatology with Affiliated Dermatologists SC in Brookfield, Wis., where she currently serves as President. It has been a strong fit due to the group’s academic interest. It has allowed her to practice clinical dermatology as well as be involved with the Medical College as a Clinical Associate Professor of Dermatology. In this capacity, she teaches dermatology residents once a month at the VA Medical Center. In her role as the new Alumni Association President, Dr. Stokes encourages other Medical College alumni to discover their own opportunities to lead in service.

“What role can you, the individual, play in promoting and supporting the Medical College?” she asks her peers. “Every volunteer effort is composed of numerous individuals. I believe every joint effort starts as a group of individuals acting together. Your role is vital. Get involved. There are wonderful things happening at MCW. This is a decade of growth and expansion. Be part of that change.”

Dr. Stokes is encouraged by the new era of leadership at the Medical College, believing that President and CEO John R. Raymond, Sr., MD, and Dean of the Medical School and Executive Vice President **Joseph E. Kerschner, MD ’90, Fel ’98**, are the right people to move the school forward. She is equally enthused about the growth of her specialty and its important role in preserving health.

As a dermatologist, Dr. Stokes interfaces regularly with primary care physicians in the dermatologic cutaneous manifestation of systemic disease. She is often the first line of defense in the diagnosis and treatment of skin cancer for her patients. She enjoys that her field encompasses both diagnostic and procedural work.

“I love being a dermatologist. I see all ages and care for a wide variety of medical issues throughout the age spectrum,” Dr. Stokes said. “In my field, I think the current advances in genomics will be critical. When we understand disease on a molecular level, then we can target new and novel therapies.”

A relevant example, she said, is the new drug vemurafenib, approved just last year by the FDA for the treatment of metastatic melanoma in patients with a mutation of the BRAF gene. Another medication, vismodegib, may offer promise for advanced, locally destructive basal cell cancer.

Dr. Stokes stays connected to emerging issues in her field through her involvement in state and local organizations. She has served as President of the Wisconsin Dermatological Society as well as its Executive Board. She is a current state Vice Chair for the Dermatology Foundation, a member of the Milwaukee Academy of Medicine and TEMPO.

Outside of medicine, Dr. Stokes enjoys dance and travel. She and her husband, William Greaves, MD, MPH, an Associate Professor in the Medical College of Wisconsin’s Institute for Health and Society, have three sons.
The 2012 Alumni Weekend paved the way for new memories to be made in Milwaukee as alumni from the classes of 1952, 1957, 1967, 1972, 1977, 1982, 1987, 1992, 1997, and 2002 met to honor their peers and reunite with classmates. The annual alumni awards were presented on May 4, and reunion events continued through May 5. Award recipients and elected officers are featured in this issue of ALUMNI NEWS, and reunion photos of the celebrating classes can be found throughout the pages that follow.
For all the time Linda T. Mellowes spends at the Medical College of Wisconsin, she probably knows its halls as well as any student. There is no question she fits right in as an Honorary Alumna.

The dedicated community volunteer received the honor from the Medical College of Wisconsin/Marquette Medical Alumni Association on May 4. Ms. Mellowes is a past Chairman and Emeritus Trustee, serving on the College’s Board from 1994-2012. She is a founding member of the College’s Women in Science lecture series, and she has spearheaded the effort to raise $5 million for the Women’s Health Research Program. She and her husband, John, established the Linda and John Mellowes Chair in Medicine, currently held by Roy L. Silverstein, MD. In 2002, Ms. Mellowes received an Honorary Doctorate from the College and in 2005, the Warren P. Knowles Humanitarian Award.

For more than 30 years, Ms. Mellowes has focused her volunteer activities on health care and education. She has served as Chair of the Board of Directors of the United Way of Greater Milwaukee; Columbia St. Mary’s, Inc.; Columbia Health Systems; the Greater Milwaukee Foundation; the University School of Milwaukee; and Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin. She is also a member of the Greater Milwaukee Committee.
KEEPSAKES

Extra copies of ALUMNI NEWS and reunion Memory Books are available upon request, as are digital copies of photos. E-mail alumni@mcw.edu or call (414) 955-4781.

1952

1957

(Seated, L-R): Jason Weisfeld, Alan Wartenberg, Gary DaMert, Robert Di Ulio. (Standing, L-R): Daniel Schrinsky, Tracy Cogbill, Robert McWhirter, Peter Holzhauer, Terrence Wilkins.


1987

(L-R): Matthew Goldblatt, Christopher Sobczak, Timothy Crummy, Holly Leider, Michelle Fleischmann, George Waxter, Scott Siebel.


mcw.edu EXTRA
Class photos & additional reunion snapshots at mcw.edu/reunions2012.
Members of the Class of 1962 were guests of honor at the Medical College of Wisconsin’s 2012 commencement. As part of their 50-year reunion, classmates participated in the graduation ceremonies and received commemorative diplomas to recognize their contributions to medicine.
Graduating medical students at the Medical College of Wisconsin, and their peers nationwide, were matched to their residency positions via the National Residency Matching Program on March 16.

Of the 202 fourth-year medical students at the Medical College, 196 students obtained first-year residency positions on Match Day. Of the remaining six, five obtained positions outside the match and one student decided to defer residency.

Sixty-nine of the Medical College’s graduating seniors (34.1 percent) will remain in Wisconsin for their residency training.

Primary care fields attracted 32 percent of Medical College graduates this year. Those fields include pediatrics (11 percent of the class), internal medicine (10 percent), family medicine (eight percent), and medicine/pediatrics (two percent). The three top choices of specialty were anesthesiology (15 percent), radiology (10 percent), and emergency medicine (8 percent).

The remaining 35 percent of graduating physicians selected specialties including obstetrics/gynecology, orthopaedic surgery, ophthalmology, radiation oncology, pathology, child neurology, neurology, neurosurgery, general surgery, thoracic surgery, urology, physical medicine and rehabilitation, child psychiatry, psychiatry, dermatology and otolaryngology.

Alumni Association awards multiple scholarships to medical students

Eight students received scholarships from the Medical College of Wisconsin/Marquette Medical Alumni Association this year. Pictured (L-R) are College President and CEO John R. Raymond, Sr., MD; Kristine Sullivan, M2; Chelsea Tessler-Verville, M2; Laura Tisch, M2; Craig Anderson, M2; Madeline Pokorney, M3; Cory Robers, M1; Monica Stout, M1; and immediate past President of the Alumni Association John T. Bjork, MD ’71, Fel ’76. These students received scholarships funded by the Alumni Scholarship Golf Classic.

Not pictured is M3 Joshua Bonis, who received the Retired Physician Fund Scholarship.

Medical College seniors celebrate Match Day

Nancy Lee, MD ’12, receives a hug from Registrar Lesley Mack after matching to her first choice for residency. She will study anesthesiology at Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York after her transitional residency.

By Theresa Maatman, MD ’11

GETTING OUT ALIVE
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

George M. Bohigian, MD, GME ’66, was awarded the 2012 Citizenship and Community Service Award by the Missouri State Medical Association. Dr. Bohigian practices ophthalmology in St. Louis.

1970s

James T. Breeden, MD ’70, was sworn in as the 63rd President of the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) in May. Dr. Breeden is President of the Carson Medical Group in Carson City, Nev., where he has practiced OB/GYN for 35 years. He also has held a variety of positions at the Carson Tahoe Hospital and Sierra Surgery Hospital. Dr. Breeden served as a lieutenant commander in the U.S. Navy and was a staff physician in OB/GYN at the Port Hueneme Naval Hospital in California before moving to Nevada.

Clarence P. Chou, MD ’77, Fel ’83, was re-elected to a two-year term as a Wisconsin Medical Society delegate to the American Medical Association. Dr. Chou is a psychiatrist in the Behavioral Health Division of Milwaukee County’s Department of Health and Human Services. He is also an Associate Clinical Professor at the Medical College of Wisconsin.

Sridhar V. Vasudevan, MD, GME ’77, has been appointed to the Medical Examining Board of the State of Wisconsin. Dr. Vasudevan is Clinical Professor of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the Medical College of Wisconsin and serves as Medical Director of the Center for Pain Rehabilitation at Community Memorial Hospital in Menomonee Falls, Wis. He is board-certified in physical medicine and rehabilitation, pain medicine, electrodiagnostic medicine and independent medical evaluations.

A. John Capelli, MD ’78, GME ’81, received a 2012 Physician Citizen of the Year Award from the Wisconsin Medical Society. Dr. Capelli was honored for his community leadership, his energetic fundraising and the way he balances life and service to his patients, community and family. Dr. Capelli is an internal medicine physician with Aurora Medical Group in Kenosha.

1980s

Robert Rohloff, MD ’81, GME ’84, received a 2012 Physician Citizen of the Year Award from the Wisconsin Medical Society. Dr. Rohloff was honored for his commitment to developing and instituting a medical home model at Children’s Medical Group Southwest Pediatrics, where he practices in New Berlin, Wis. Dr. Rohloff also formed a parent advisory board for families of children with special health care needs and hosts an ADHD support group. He is an Associate Clinical Professor at the Medical College of Wisconsin.

Cliff Titcomb, MD, GME ’81, was appointed Vice President and Chief Medical Director of Hanover Life Reassurance Company of America. Dr. Titcomb previously served as vice president and secretary for International Medical Risk Consultants. He also has served on numerous industry committees including the Morbidity and Mortality Liaison Committee, the Board of Insurance Medicine and the American Academy of Insurance Medicine.

David C. Gregg, MD ’82, GME ’87, was appointed Medical Director of Imaging at Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin. Dr. Gregg is Assistant Professor and Vice Chief of Pediatric Radiology at the Medical College of Wisconsin. He has special interest in scoliosis, vascular interventional radiology, neuroradiology, nuclear medicine, cardiac CT and MRI.

Robert Rushakoff, MD ’82, MS ’80, is Professor of Medicine at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism and Medical Director for Inpatient Diabetes. Dr. Rushakoff also is a member of the UCSF/Mount Zion Diabetes and Endocrinology Research Lab, where he is investigating the use of the Internet to train physicians, nurses and patients in diabetes management.

Steven Weinshel, MD ’83, GME ’89, is entering his third year of law school at Marquette University in Milwaukee. Dr. Weinshel maintains a neurological surgery practice at the BayCare Clinic in Green Bay, Wis., with special interest in disc replacement surgery. He is a member of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons, the Brown County Medical Society, Wisconsin Medical Society and the Congress of Neurological Surgeons.

Randall Kuhlmann, MD ’84, PhD ’81, was named Program Director of the Fetal Concerns Center of Wisconsin. The center is a joint program of Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin, Froedtert Hospital and the Medical College of Wisconsin. Dr. Kuhlmann is Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Chief of Maternal-Fetal Medicine at the College.

Philip S. Clifford, PhD ’85, was chosen to receive the National Postdoctoral Association’s 2012 Distinguished Service Award. Dr. Clifford is Professor of Anesthesiology and Physiology and Associate Dean of Postdoctoral Education at the Medical College of Wisconsin. He regularly conducts career planning workshops at national meetings and regional postdoc conferences, and serves as a guest speaker at numerous local institutions.

Gail McNutt, MD ’85, Fel ’91, moved to Madison, Wis. to accept a position as Associate Chief of Staff at the William S. Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital. Dr. McNutt previously served for 11 years as a program manager for the Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center’s northern community-based outpatient clinics.

Emily Grade, MD ’87, GME ’91, joined the staff of Banner MD Anderson Cancer Center in Gilbert, Ariz. Dr. Grade is board certified in therapeutic radiology and specializes in oncology and radiation oncology. She has a special interest in brachytherapy for breast and prostate cancers and partial breast irradiation.

Dennis Han, MD, GME ’87, was appointed to the Prevent Blindness Wisconsin Board of Directors. Dr. Han is the Jack A. and Elaine D. Klieger
Professor of Ophthalmology at the Medical College of Wisconsin. His interests include age-related macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, hereditary and degenerative eye disease and eye trauma.

Paul A. Larson, MD, GME ’87, was elected Vice President of the American College of Radiology (ACR) in April. Dr. Larson was chair of the ACR Commission on Quality and Safety from 2006 until 2012. He has been in practice with Radiology Associates of the Fox Valley in Neenah, Wis., since 1987.

Patrick D. Conway, MD ‘88, GME ‘92, was inducted as a Fellow in the American College of Radiology (ACR) in April. Dr. Conway is a radiation oncologist in the radiation oncology department at Gundersen Lutheran Health System in La Crosse, Wis., and specializes in radiation oncology, cancer and blood disorders. He is co-chair of the joint ACR/American Society for Therapeutic Radiation and Oncology Committee on Radiation Oncology Practice Accreditation.

Philip Redlich, MD, PhD ’89, was re-elected to a one-year term as the representative of the Medical Schools Section of the Wisconsin Medical Society’s Board of Directors. Dr. Redlich is Associate Dean for Curriculum and Professor of Surgery at the Medical College of Wisconsin.

Ann K. Rosenthal, MD, Fel ‘89, was appointed Chief of the Division of Rheumatology at the Medical College of Wisconsin and named the Will and Cava Ross Professor of Medicine. She will assume the new position of Vice Chair for Faculty Development in the Department of Medicine. Dr. Rosenthal was also selected to participate in the 2012-13 Hedwig van Ameringen Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine® (ELAM) Program for Women. ELAM is a core program of the Institute for Women’s Health and Leadership at Drexel University College of Medicine in Philadelphia. It prepares senior women faculty for leadership at academic health centers.

1990s

Larry Teuber, MD, GME ‘91, is the Physician Executive of Black Hills Surgical Hospital in Rapid City, S.D., which he founded in 1997. He also is founder and managing partner at the Spine Center in Rapid City and President of Medical Facilities Corporation. Dr. Teuber provides consultative services and expertise for physicians on developing surgical facilities and centers of excellence for spine and neurosurgical care.

Kenneth Sparr, MD ‘93, GME ‘98, joined Ministry Medical Group Urology Services in Stevens Point, Wis. Dr. Sparr is a board-certified urologist whose interests include cystoscopy, bladder cancer, ureteroscopy and stone treatment and laparoscopic nephrectomy for benign or cancerous disease.

Tosha B. Wetterneck, MD ’95, was inaugurated in April as the 161st President of the Wisconsin Medical Society, after serving on the society’s Board of Directors for several years. Dr. Wetterneck is an internal medicine physician and hospitalist at the University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics in Madison, and an associate professor at the UW School of Medicine and Public Health. She is a researcher at the Center for Quality and Productivity Improvement and an associate faculty member in the Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering. As a member of the Systems Engineering Initiative for Patient Safety at UW-Madison, she is leading a study evaluating the use of a pre-visit planning intervention to improve the care of elderly patients in primary care clinics.

Judy E. Kim, MD, GME ’96, received a 2011-2012 Faculty Vitality Award from the Medical College of Wisconsin for her scholarly work. Dr. Kim is developing a Teleophthalmology Program incorporating Teleophthalmology. She is testing the feasibility of telemedicine for wider use as a screening and education tool for diabetes care. Dr. Kim is Professor of Ophthalmology at the Medical College.

2000s

Dean A. Grove, MD, MPH ’00, was recently presented the Meritorious Service Award from the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM). He was honored for his membership on the Board of Directors for nearly a decade and his service as President from 2001-02. Dr. Grove is a corporate medical consultant in Bellevue, Wash.

Tara Sander, PhD ’00, was named to The Business Journal’s 2012 Forty Under 40 list, honoring people in the greater Milwaukee area under the age of 40 who are making a difference in their professions and communities. Dr. Sander is Associate Professor of Pathology at the Medical College of Wisconsin and Scientific Director of Molecular Diagnostics at Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin. She investigates hereditary responses to drugs and directs the development, operation and expansion of the new Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory at Children’s Hospital.

Roger Fons, MD, GME, ’97 and ’10, was appointed Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology at the Medical College of Wisconsin. Dr. Fons is board certified in anesthesiology and family practice. His clinical interests include pain management and regional anesthesia, as well as providing health care in underserved areas both locally and internationally.

Sameer Pathare, MD ’01, was appointed Division Chief of the Pediatric Hospitalist Division at CHOC (Children’s Hospital in Orange County), Calif., this year. Dr. Pathare is Assistant Clinical Professor of Pediatrics, University of California-Irvine and Adjunct Clinical Professor, Dartmouth Medical School. He was appointed to the Board of Directors for the Pediatric Subspecialty Faculty group at CHOC and to the Joint Governance Committee of the CHOC Medical Foundation last year.

Xiulu Ruan, MD, GME ’02, has achieved seven medical board/subspecialty board certifications in the United States, setting the world record for the most medical board certifications, according to the World Records Academy. His U.S. certifications are: Diplomate, American Board of Pain Medicine; Diplomate, American Board of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation; Diplomate, American Board of Interventional Pain Physicians; Diplomate, American Board of Electrodiagnostic Medicine; Diplomate, American Board of Addiction Medicine; Diplomate, Subspecialty of Pain Medicine by American Board of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation; Diplomate,
Subspeciality of Neuromuscular Medicine by American Board of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation. Since 2003, Dr. Ruan has been practicing interventional pain management in Mobile, Ala., where he is co-owner and Medical Director of Physicians’ Pain Specialists of Alabama.

Staci Milosavljevic, MD, Fel ’03, GME ’08, was appointed Assistant Professor of Medicine (Cardiovascular Medicine) at the Medical College of Wisconsin. Dr. Milosavljevic is board certified in internal medicine and focuses on consultative cardiology and cardiac imaging. She sees patients at the Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center.

Rowena Punzalan, MD, Fel ’04, was appointed Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at the Medical College of Wisconsin and sees patients at Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin. Dr. Punzalan also serves as a medical director at the BloodCenter of Wisconsin. Her clinical interests include thrombosis in children, bleeding disorders and immune cytopenia.

Kristen E. Holland, MD, GME ’04, was named Medical Director of Dermatology at Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin. Dr. Holland is a pediatric dermatologist and Assistant Professor of Dermatology at the Medical College of Wisconsin.

Jennifer Knight, MD ’04, was appointed Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine in the Division of Psychosomatic Medicine at the Medical College of Wisconsin. Dr. Knight works clinically with the Psycho-Oncology program at the Froedtert & The Medical College of Wisconsin Clinical Cancer Center, and conducts research on the immunobiologic effects of psychosocial factors in bone marrow transplantation with the Center for International Blood and Marrow Transplant Research.

Max Liebl, MD ’05, is completing a fellowship in vascular surgery at Southern Illinois University in Springfield. He will join Kaiser Permanente in Los Angeles as a vascular surgeon in August.

Marc Serret, MD ’05, recently completed his residency in the integrated Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery program at Case Western Reserve University. He is returning to Wisconsin to practice plastic and reconstructive surgery in the Fox Valley area, joining the private practice group Fox Valley Plastic Surgery. Dr. Serret was married to Nicole in 2007. Their son, Parker, was born in 2012, and the couple is expecting a daughter this year.

Travis Webb, MD, GME ’05, received the Association of Surgical Education Philip J. Wolfson Outstanding Teacher Award. Dr. Webb is Associate Professor of Surgery (Trauma and Critical Care) at the Medical College of Wisconsin. Dr. Webb is Director of the PGY2 curriculum, Co-Director of the Resuscitation and Perioperative Medicine clerkship for third-year medical students, and Co-Director of the Injury Prevention and Control fourth-year Medical Student Selective. Dr. Webb also graduated in May from the University of Illinois at Chicago with his Master of Health Professions in Education degree.

Christopher N. Deyo, MD ’06, GME ’11, was appointed Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology at the Medical College of Wisconsin. He provides care at Froedtert Hospital and the Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center.

Travis Fisher, MD ’06, GME ’10, was appointed Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine at the Medical College of Wisconsin. His academic interests include inpatient psychiatry, mental health care in the primary care setting and education of medical and psychiatric trainees. Dr. Fisher previously completed a psychosomatic medicine fellowship at the University of California-Davis in Sacramento.

Jorge Marquez de Leon, MD, Fel ’06, was appointed Assistant Professor of Neurology at the Medical College of Wisconsin. Dr. Marquez de Leon’s clinical interests include muscle and nerve diseases, epilepsy and disorders of the autonomic nervous system. Dr. Marquez de Leon previously was a staff physician in the neurology department at Immanuel St. Joseph’s Hospital and Marsh Street Mayo Clinic Health System in Mankato, Minn.

Jeffrey Quintana, MD ’06, GME ’11, was named Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology at the Medical College of Wisconsin. He provides care at the Pain Management Centers at Froedtert Hospital and the Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center. Dr. Quintana’s clinical interest is in pain medicine.

Katherine Recka, MD ’06, GME ’10, was appointed Assistant Professor of Medicine (Hematology/Oncology), specializing in palliative care, at the Medical College of Wisconsin. She previously completed a fellowship in hospice and palliative medicine at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. Dr. Recka’s interests include quality improvement and bioethics.

Michael O’Connell, MD ’09, will remain as a junior faculty member at The Ohio State University Medical Center in Columbus, where he has been a resident in emergency medicine. Dr. O’Connell will continue clinical work in the Emergency Department, while focusing on resident and medical student education, simulation and teaching.

2010s

Parin N. Desai, MD, GME ’11, was appointed Assistant Professor of Medicine (General Internal Medicine) at the Medical College of Wisconsin. His clinical interests include acute medical issues and inpatient hospital medicine. His recent research projects have investigated adenovirus in kidney transplant patients and improving the care of patients suffering from cirrhosis. Dr. Desai sees patients at Froedtert Hospital and the Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center.

Thomas Giever, DO, GME ’11, was appointed Assistant Professor of Medicine (General Internal Medicine) at the Medical College of Wisconsin. Dr. Giever sees patients at the Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center. His clinical interests include hematology and oncology.

Amit Taneja, MD, Fel ’11, was named Assistant Professor of Medicine (Pulmonary and Critical Care) at the Medical College of Wisconsin. Dr. Taneja’s clinical interests include various aspects of adult critical care medicine and advanced techniques in bronchoscopy.

Erin Prelonger, MD ’12, was named a recipient of the Wisconsin Medical Society Foundation’s 2012 Houghton Award during her senior year at the Medical College of Wisconsin. The award is given to medical students who excel in their knowledge of both the scientific and socioeconomic issues related to medicine. Dr. Prelonger is now serving her pediatric residency at the University of Colorado in Denver.
Dominick DiMaio, MD '40, of New York, died March 31, 2012. He was a forensic pathologist.

Louis J. Cella Jr., MD '48, of Palm Springs, Calif., died Nov. 7, 2011, after a lengthy neurological illness. He was 87 years old. Dr. Cella held a private medical practice for more than 30 years at the Santa Ana Clinic in Orange County. In the early 1960s he spearheaded a group of fellow physicians to buy and operate a community hospital, which led to the development of three other doctor-owned hospitals in Orange County. Dr. Cella was involved in numerous civic organizations including the Arthritis Foundation, Boys and Girls Club and Goodwill Industries. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Ann, and his second wife, Beverly. His survivors include two sons and two grandchildren.

John L. Raschbacher, MD '50, formerly of Big Bend, Wis., died Oct. 14, 2011, in West Melbourne, Fla. He was 91 years old. Dr. Raschbacher was an instructor at the Medical College of Wisconsin and the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health. He was a member of the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Medical Association and the Waukesha County Medical Society. Dr. Raschbacher was a veteran of the U.S. Navy and survived the attack on Pearl Harbor during World War II. His survivors include his wife, Leona, three children and four grandchildren.

David C. Bleil, MD '51, GME '54, of Kenosha, Wis., died Jan. 12, 2012. He was 87 years old. Dr. Bleil was preceded in death by his wife, Barbara. His survivors include four children and seven grandchildren.

William Edward Lenahan, MD '51, of Fullerton, Calif., died Feb. 20, 2012, of cancer. He was 86 years old. Dr. Lenahan served in the Army Air Corps as B-24 bombardier/navigator in World War II. He provided more than 44 years of family practice in Fullerton until his retirement. A member of Mission Doctor’s Association and Amigos de la Americas, Dr. Lenahan traveled to Africa, the Dominican Republic and Guatemala to provide medical care to the poor. His survivors include his wife, Pat, six children, 16 grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

John L. Claude, MD '53, of Oconomowoc, Wis., died Feb. 6, 2012. He was 84 years old. Dr. Claude was an OB/GYN in the Oconomowoc area for 41 years. Prior to medical school he served as a pharmacist’s mate in the Naval Medical Corps and was stationed in Trinidad for three years. He took a hiatus from medicine in 1979, moving his family to Augsburg, Germany, where he served three years as a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army. He was preceded in death by his wife, Mary. His survivors include seven children, 11 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Donald L. Schaefer, MD '53, of Ann Arbor, Mich., died Dec. 20, 2011, of heart failure. He was 85 years old. Dr. Schaefer served in the South Pacific with the U.S. Army Air Forces in World War II. He later was a captain in the Wisconsin National Guard and a major in the Michigan Air National Guard. Dr. Schaefer was a psychiatrist in private practice for 50 years. He also served as Psychiatric Director of the University of Michigan Student Mental Health Clinic and Medical Director of Family Service and Children's Aid in Jackson, Mich. Dr. Schaefer was a member of the American Psychiatric Association and the Michigan Psychiatric Society. His survivors include his wife, Anna Marie, four children and three grandchildren.

John J. Brady, MD '84, of Belleair, Fla., died Nov. 4, 2011, from complications of Parkinson’s disease. He was 84 years old. Dr. Brady served as a captain in the U.S. Air Force Medical Corps. He was a Fellow of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology. He practiced in Milwaukee for 12 years before entering private practice at Morton Plant Hospital in Clearwater, Fla., until his retirement in 1998. His survivors include his wife of 57 years, Mary, eight children and 19 grandchildren.

Sherwood B. Stolp, MD '54, GME '60, Fel '62, of Wauwatosa, Wis., died April 4, 2012. Dr. Stolp was retired from practice in internal medicine and nephrology.

Steven To June Lee, MD '55, of Beckley, W. Va., died July 22, 2011, of liver cancer. He was 82 years old. Dr. Lee spent two years as a captain in the U.S. Army Medical Corps in Colorado Springs, Colo. He began his career as a surgeon at the Miners Memorial Hospital, now the Beckley Appalachian Regional Hospital. He was a founding member of the Southern West Virginia Clinic in 1964, where he worked until his retirement in 2001. He also practiced general and thoracic surgery at Raleigh General Hospital in Beckley and trained medical students and surgical residents. Dr. Lee was a member of the American College of Surgeons, the Raleigh County Medical Society and the West Virginia Medical Society. His survivors include seven children and several grandchildren.

Robert Schroeder, MD '56, of Long Beach, Calif., died Aug. 27, 2011, after a lengthy illness. Dr. Schroeder was a urologist for 37 years at Providence Little Company of Mary Medical Center in San Pedro, Calif. Dr. Schroeder was preceded in death by his daughter, Kimberly. Survivors include his wife, Patricia, and five children.

Donald John Chrzan, MD '57, of Muskego, Wis., died May 1, 2012. He was 80 years old. Dr. Chrzan served two years as a captain and medical officer in the U.S. Army in Ft. Carson, Colo. He subsequently practiced otolaryngology in Milwaukee and served as Chairman of the Department of Otolaryngology and President of the Medical Staff at St. Luke’s Medical Center. His survivors include his wife, Dolores, four children and eight grandchildren.

William M. Lamers, MD '58, of Malibu, Calif., died Feb. 2, 2012. He was 80 years old. Dr. Lamers was a pioneer of the home care hospice movement, developing palliative care methods for the dying that are used widely around the world today. In 1974, after several years of practice in child and family psychiatry, Dr. Lamers co-founded the first hospice of its kind in his own home in San Rafael, Calif., now known as Hospice by the Bay. Dr. Lamers also helped create the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization that sets standards for end-of-life care and was the medical adviser to the Hospice Foundation of America. He served as a lieutenant commander at the Oak Knoll Naval Hospital in Oakland, Calif. His survivors include his wife, Elizabeth, three children and two stepchildren.
Ingrid Jurevics, MD, GME ’60, died March 29, 2012, in Chicago following a stroke. She was 85 years old. Dr. Jurevics was born in Riga, Latvia, and emigrated to Canada during World War II. She practiced ophthalmology in Milwaukee and Brookfield and was a Fellow of the American College of Surgery and the American Academy of Ophthalmology. Dr. Jurevics brought medicine, medical instruments and surgical training to ophthalmologists in Latvia following the fall of the Soviet Union. Dr. Jurevics was preceded in death by her husband, Alfred. Her survivors include three children and six grandchildren.

John William Curtin, MD ’61, of Scottsdale, Ariz., died Jan. 14, 2012. He was 78 years old. Dr. Curtin was a family practitioner and one of three founders of Mountain View Medical Clinic in Phoenix, Ariz. He was a past president of the Arizona Academy of Family Physicians. Dr. Curtin subspecialized in addiction medicine and helped hundreds of people suffering from chemical dependency. He was preceded in death by a daughter. Survivors include his four sons and four grandsons, along with numerous foster children he parented.

Jerome J. Veranth, MD ’61, GME ’66, of Racine and Lake Tomahawk, Wis., died March 9, 2012, in Scottsdale, Ariz. He was 77 years old. A Naval Reservist, Dr. Veranth served as Assistant Chief of ENT service at the U.S. Naval Hospital in Philadelphia. Following his honorable discharge as a lieutenant commander in 1968, he began practicing medicine as an Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeon in Racine and volunteering on the clinical otolaryngology faculty of the Medical College of Wisconsin. Dr. Veranth served as President of the Milwaukee Society of Head and Neck Surgery and was the founding President of the Racine Area Physicians Association. He also served terms as Chief of Surgery and Vice Chief of Staff at St. Mary’s Medical Center in Racine. In 1994, he established the Ear, Nose and Throat Department at Rhinelander Regional Medical Group in Rhinelander, Wis., where he practiced until his retirement in 2000. His survivors include three sons and nine grandchildren.

Ward J. Mahowald, MD ’62, GME ’68, of Dallas, Texas, died Nov. 26, 2011. He was 73 years old. Dr. Mahowald served the U.S. Army 7th Calvary Division in Schweinfurt, Germany, as a physician. He established an ophthalmology practice at the Oak Cliff Eye Center and surgery practice at Methodist Hospital in Dallas. Dr. Mahowald continued to volunteer at Methodist Hospital following his retirement. His survivors include four children and 11 grandchildren.

Raymond J. McDermott, MD ’71, GME ’73, of Milwaukee, died March 11, 2012. He was 68 years old. Dr. McDermott served as Assistant Clinical Professor of Internal Medicine at the Medical College of Wisconsin and past Medical Director of AC Sparkplug and Delco Electronics of Oak Creek, Wis. He was a charter Fellow of the American College of Emergency Physicians and charter Diplomate of the American Board of Emergency Medicine. His survivors include his wife, Claudia, seven children and one grandchild.

Ephrem “Appachen” Thopillil, MD, GME ’78, died Jan. 31, 2012. He was 65 years old. Dr. Thopillil served as a staff physician at St. Luke’s Medical Center in Milwaukee and was a past president of the Wisconsin Society of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. His survivors include his wife, Thersiama, two children and two grandchildren.

Jane A. Kilsdonk-Sliwinski, MD ’82, MPH ’90, of Green Bay, Wis., died Feb. 4, 2012. She was 56 years old. Dr. Kilsdonk-Sliwinski worked as an occupational medicine physician with Prevea of Green Bay. Her survivors include her two children, one stepson and a step-granddaughter.

Carol M. Meils, MD ’83, of Milwaukee, died April 1, 2012, following a lengthy battle with breast cancer. She was 59 years old. Dr. Meils was a critical care nurse before earning her MD. She was the first female fellow in interventional cardiology at Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Meils practiced cardiology in Milwaukee and helped develop the cardiovascular program at All Saints Hospital in Racine. In 2010, Dr. Meils became the first Wisconsin recipient of the American Heart Association’s Lifetime Achievement Award. She was a founding member of the Medical College of Wisconsin’s Women in Science series. Survivors include her husband, Eric, and two daughters.

Ward J. Mahowald, MD ’62, GME ’68, of Dallas, Texas, died Nov. 26, 2011. He was 73 years old. Dr. Mahowald served the U.S. Army 7th Calvary Division in Schweinfurt, Germany, as a physician. He established an ophthalmology practice at the Oak Cliff Eye Center and surgery practice at Methodist Hospital in Dallas. Dr. Mahowald continued to volunteer at Methodist Hospital following his retirement. His survivors include four children and 11 grandchildren.

Ray S. Bender, Jr., MD ’92, GME ’96, of Mequon, Wis., died May 7, 2012 after a brief illness. He was 64 years old. Dr. Bender taught as a junior high and high school science teacher for many years before attending medical school. A psychiatrist in private practice, Dr. Bender was an attending physician at Columbia St. Mary’s Hospital in Milwaukee. He was a Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association and a Diplomate of the National Board of Medical Examiners. Survivors include his wife, Michelle, and two daughters.

Mary Pat Kunert, PhD ’94, of Milwaukee, died March 16, 2012. She was 62 years old. Dr. Kunert spent her early career as a registered nurse in the public health field. She later earned a PhD in physiology. Dr. Kunert taught for 10 years at the College of Nursing at Marquette University and was a member of the College of Nursing at UWMilwaukee until her death.

Michael A. Samuelson, MD ’94, of Seal Beach, Calif., died suddenly July 6, 2011. He was 44 years old. Dr. Samuelson was a sports medicine orthopaedics specialist at Fullerton Orthopaedic Group and volunteered as team doctor for Fullerton High School. Dr. Samuelson was a member of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, the California Orthopaedic Association, the American Medical Association and the Arthroscopy Association of North America. Survivors include his wife, Michelle, and two daughters.

Other special remembrances

Sanford J. Larson, MD, PhD, of Milwaukee, died March 15, 2012. He was 82 years old. Dr. Larson founded the Medical College of Wisconsin’s Division of Neurosurgery in 1963 was the first Chairman of Neurosurgery. He created the College’s Spine Fellow Program in Neurosurgery and is credited with establishing the department’s research program as the most productive for injury biomechanics in the country.

Ahmed H. Kissebah, MD, PhD, an internationally recognized obesity researcher and father of the field of study on metabolic syndrome, died May 17, 2012, at home in Brookfield. Dr. Kissebah was Professor of Medicine and Director of the TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) Obesity and Metabolic Research Center at the Medical College of Wisconsin. He was 74 years old.

mcw.edu EXTRA

More on the vast contributions of Dr. Larson and Dr. Kissebah at mcw.edu/Summer12obits.
CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION EVENTS

The 5th Annual Midwestern Conference: Update Course in Surgical Pathology
19.0 Category 1 AMA/PRA Credits™
Sept. 14-16, 2012
Milwaukee, Wis.
Contact: Patti Wolf
pwolf@mcw.edu
(414) 805-8449

2012 Association for Academic Psychiatry
19.0 Category 1 AMA/PRA Credits™
Oct. 10-13, 2012
Nashville, Tenn.
Contact: Dawn Levreau
dlevreau@mcw.edu
(770) 222-2265

Regional Cancer Therapies Meeting (Surgical Oncology)
4.25 Category 1 AMA/PRA Credits™
Aug. 25, 2012
Milwaukee, Wis.
Contact: Dana Schmidman
dschmidman@mcw.edu
(414) 805-5602

ALUMNI WEEKEND
May 3-4, 2013
Events will include the Alumni Banquet at the Pfister Hotel, presentation of awards, tours, CME and special class dinners.

50-YEAR REUNION
May 17-18, 2013
Class of 1963 reunion will be held in conjunction with the The Medical College of Wisconsin’s 2013 Commencement weekend.

ALUMNI EVENTS

Specialty receptions
American Academy of Otolaryngology Washington, D.C.
Sept. 10, 2012
American College of Surgeons Chicago, Ill.
Oct. 1, 2012
American Society of Anesthesiologists Washington, D.C.
Oct. 13, 2012
American Society of Plastic Surgeons New Orleans, La.
Oct. 28, 2012
Nov. 11, 2012
Symposium for Senior Physicians
October 2012

ALUMNI GOLF CLASSIC
Aug. 20, 2012
The 18th annual Medical College of Wisconsin Alumni Scholarship Golf Classic will take place at Broadlands Golf Club in North Prairie, Wis.
Proceeds from this event fund medical student scholarships at the College. Since 1995, the golf classic has provided $262,000 in scholarships to 145 medical students.
Call: (414) 955-4781  E-mail: alumni@mcw.edu

CLINICAL CONFERENCE ’13
Feb. 25-March 1, 2013
Educational sessions for CME credit are scheduled, and a variety of recreational activities, including golf, hiking, horseback riding, swimming, tennis and biking are available. Social receptions are also planned. Register now.
Call: (414) 955-4781  E-mail: alumni@mcw.edu

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT
Medical School Alumnus of the Year
The person selected for the 2013 award will have achieved professional success leading to peer recognition. Areas may include, but are not limited to, clinical teaching, academic medicine, research or leadership in professional societies.

Graduate School Alumnus of the Year
The person selected for the 2013 award will be recognized for their career achievements in science, industry, medicine or health. Areas may include, but are not limited to, research, education, academia, leadership, policy or public health.

2013 Humanitarian Award
Eligible for nomination are alumni who have, throughout their careers, demonstrated a significant humanitarian commitment in their medical practice or volunteer activities.

Fax or E-mail your nominations to:
(414) 955-6699  alumni@mcw.edu
Volunteer and financial support of the Medical College are not criteria for these awards.
The Southwest beckons

Earn CME credit at the 2013 Clinical Conference

Sponsored by the Medical College of Wisconsin/Marquette Medical Alumni Association

February 25 – March 1, 2013
The Westward Look Wyndham Grand Resort & Spa
Tucson, Arizona

Turn to page 27 for more information