A most citable honor
Northwestern’s Dr. Frank Palella has authored the single most-cited paper in the field of HIV/AIDS research, according to the journal Science. Read more about the medical school’s impact on the fight against HIV/AIDS. 6

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Dean’s Message

Northwestern’s research impact can be measured in myriad ways, from publishing groundbreaking laboratory research to evaluating the efficacy of new therapies in clinical trials. In our cover feature, we highlight our HIV/AIDS clinical and research programs. Learn why the journal Science ranked Northwestern among the top 10 institutions with the greatest influence on advancing HIV/AIDS research.

We increasingly recognize that the precursors of many common adult diseases, such as diabetes or asthma, are influenced by genetic and environmental events that occur during childhood. Medical school investigators have embarked on a longitudinal study that will follow children in Cook, DuPage, and Will Counties in Illinois to assess the many factors that influence the development of childhood diseases. This planned Children’s Health Study will be one of the largest U.S. studies of child health ever conducted. In this issue, we profile faculty member Dr. Jane Holl, including the life and career events that led her to become the principal investigator of this historic study.

When medical students speak, the Student Senate listens and makes sure they are heard. In the third feature, student government representatives demonstrate through their actions the value and influence of open communication.

I also want to introduce you to another talented new leader, Dr. William Muller, chair of pathology, as he seeks to spark interdisciplinary collaborations and promote translational research opportunities throughout the medical center. In our final feature, Dr. Muller shares his vision for accelerating progress at our medical center.

Best regards,

J. Larry Jameson, MD, PhD

Vice President for Medical Affairs and Lewis Landsberg Dean
An alum remembers
Though I only go back slightly less than half of your 150-year comments in the “Then & Now” article that appeared in the fall 2008 Ward Rounds, there are other changes since my time. Though I finished medical school in March 1947, I didn’t receive my [Northwestern] MD degree ‘til after my internship in June 1948, hence my class is 1948. I received a bachelor of medicine degree in 1947, which was the rule then.

I noted your picture [on page 4 of the magazine] of the Class of 1944 in a Sumner Koch hand surgery lecture. One reason it is so crowded down front, and few in the rear, is that Dr. Koch had such a soft voice, only those near him could hear him. Also most of the students were in the Army ASTP or Navy V-12 (as I was) programs during WWII.

Your mention of tuition made me try to recall what we paid as civilians, and I think it was $300 per year.

Dudley J. Fournier, MD ’48
San Francisco, California
Facing
At this year’s In Vivo show, Dr. Stevie Mazyck, instructor in medicine, opened the annual student performance with faculty “guest stars” by reading from “The Angina Monologues,” a Dr. Suess-style presentation of a clinical encounter. He ended with, “Live from Chicago, it’s In Vivo 2009!” Find out more about the fun on page 30.
Diversity drives the success of Northwestern’s HIV/AIDS research—among the most cited in the country

by Janet DeRaleau

MACS, WIHS, ACTG, HOPS, DDCF, BMGF, PEPFAR. Those familiar with HIV/AIDS research will recognize this alphabet soup of study acronyms. The medical school has been a part of them all—and many more—playing a vital role in HIV/AIDS research since the epidemic began in the early 1980s.

As any researcher knows, all of those studies have resulted in published manuscripts that have led to further advances in research and understanding of the virus and its clinical impact. Researchers and clinicians in Northwestern’s Division of Infectious Diseases have worked diligently and recently received an unexpected honor that has affirmed their productivity and made other research institutions sit up and take notice.

The prestigious journal Science identified Northwestern University as one of the top 10 institutions with the highest impact on HIV/AIDS research based on citations per published paper. It gets better. Frank J. Palella, MD, GME ’92, associate professor of medicine, holds the distinction of authoring the single most-cited paper. His study “Declining Morbidity and Mortality among Patients with Advanced Human Immunodeficiency Virus Infection,” published in the New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM) in 1998, reported that potent effects of anti-HIV cocktails led to a steep decline in disease and death in the United States.

“The Science article knocked me for a loop,” remarks John P. Phair, MD, professor emeritus of medicine and former chief of the division, who played a key role in the formation of Northwestern’s HIV/AIDS research program. In fact, he recruited Steven M. Wolinsky, MD; Robert L. Murphy, MD, GME ’84; and Dr. Palella—Northwestern’s triple threat to the HIV virus. “I knew Frank’s article was frequently quoted, but I didn’t know that our citation index was so high.”

In its July 24, 2008, special issue “HIV/AIDS: Money Matters,” Science, with help from Thomson Reuters Institute for Scientific Information, assessed the impact of more than 120,000 HIV/AIDS-related papers published between 1998 and 2007. Researchers who had the most citations per paper, with a minimum of 100 publications, were deemed as having had the most impact.

Here comes the really good part. According to the analysis, the average number of citations per Northwestern research paper published was 30.5, while the average paper was cited 12 times. Only one organization had more citations than NU—the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases led with 35.7. Harvard University, which ranks second in National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding, averaged 26.2.

The article found a strong correlation between NIH funding and impact, with the exception of Northwestern. How can an institution ranked 23rd in NIH funding rank second in citation impact? To quote Science writer Jon Cohen, “Money speaks volumes, but it often doesn’t have the final word.”
There does seem to be a single word, though, to describe the reason for the distinction: diversity. “We have an incredibly diverse research portfolio. That’s why we are so productive,” says Dr. Murphy, John Philip Phair, Professor of Infectious Diseases and director of global health research for the division, “I don’t think there’s a more multifaceted program in the country.”

With Dr. Murphy’s own particular geneticist, making discoveries in the laboratory; Dr. Murphy working internationally to bring HIV/AIDS therapies to parts of the world where there are none; and Dr. Palella conducting clinical trials, research studies and published papers are, indeed, varied and abundant at Northwestern.

Dr. Palella became interested in infectious diseases as a resident in internal medicine when he worked in the HIV outpatient clinic. He was offered a fellowship in infectious diseases in 1990 and then stayed on at the medical school as a faculty member at Dr. Murphy’s mentor invited him to the front lines of the war on AIDS through the President’s Special initiative against AIDS. In 1992, Dr. Murphy’s focus shifted from and expanded beyond Chicago. For the past five years, he has concentrated his work in Nigeria through the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). Started by former President George W. Bush, the project involves 16 countries. The project involves 16 countries. “We’ve ramped up therapy to approximately 60,000 people at 31 different sites,” says Dr. Murphy. He recalls arriving in Nigeria to find no clinics, laboratories, or even beds for the sick. “People were lying on the ground just waiting to die.”

Dr. Murphy helps train Nigerian physicians and other medical personnel in performing clinical trials. He also oversees the building of clinics and labs. Through a grant from the NIH-funded Fogarty International Center, Dr. Murphy has brought Jonathan Musa, MD, a Nigerian physician, to the medical school to train. Dr. Musa will then take his newly acquired knowledge back to his homeland.

Dr. Murphy and Dr. Phair also serve as investigators in the largest network of clinical trials units in the world. Despite the enormous strides made in HIV/AIDS research and treatment in the United States, Europe, Australia, and parts of South America, the hardest hit areas, such as sub-Saharan Africa and parts of Asia, largely remain without adequate access to care or drugs, notes Dr. Palella.

There is one more important aspect to the outstanding work of Northwestern’s HIV/AIDS team that is central to its success—and that is patient trust. “If the population that is at risk trusts you, then you can do a lot of work,” says Dr. Phair. “Patient trust underlies our success in clinical investigation.”

For more than a decade, Dr. Frank Palella has provided HIV and primary care to patients such as Sean Tramutola of Chicago. The chronic nature of the illness leads to particularly strong physician-patient bonds.
that Jane Holl, MD, took in December from Sydney, Australia, back to Chicago lasted 24 hours. Yet despite the time change, she was in her office the very next morning to check in with her various research groups and return phone calls, a panoramic view of Lake Michigan glittering through the windows behind her.

Finally, by late Wednesday afternoon as Dr. Holl made dinner plans with her husband, Leon G. Epstein, MD, chief of neurology at Children’s Memorial Hospital (CMH) and professor of pediatrics and neurology at Northwestern University’s Feinberg School of Medicine, she couldn’t help but yawn. Jet lag was catching up with her. Before bed, though, she had to decide on a meal for herself, Leon, and their youngest son.

“You’re taken aback by her passion and endless energy,” says Melissa Gorski, RN, MBA, patient safety project manager at CMH under Dr. Holl’s direction.

As associate professor of pediatrics and preventive medicine at the Feinberg School, Dr. Holl heads multiple research projects. With a team of researchers at the Institute for Healthcare Studies (IHS), she has earned numerous grants for patient safety research, but, more recently, her dominant project focuses on the National Children’s Study—the largest, most comprehensive children’s health investigation ever attempted in the United States.

Shares Dr. Holl, “A study of this magnitude, this breadth, had never been done anywhere.” However, it was half a decade in the making.

In 2002 Dr. Holl attended a presentation on the newly established National Children’s Study (NCS), which proposed to gather data about the health of 100,000 children across America by following them from before birth until age 21. Researchers would gather biological and environmental data about each child as well as their families, schools, and neighborhoods. The investigators would also look at diets, air and water quality, and general safety.

“Nobody in the room could believe the scope of the study,” recalls Dr. Holl, who remembers walking away shaking her head. “I couldn’t imagine how we could ever fund this or how it could logistically take place.”

For five years, she tracked the progress of efforts to launch the study through e-mail messages from a listserv. When the opportunity to apply for the study finally came in early 2007, many investigators in Chicago showed interest in applying. But Dr. Holl understood that the National Institutes of Health wanted a single bid from Chicago academic institutions. She spent endless hours convincing colleagues at the University of Chicago and University of Illinois at Chicago that the group at Northwestern would make a great partner.

With the other institutions’ respect and collaboration, Dr. Holl took the lead and applied for the NCS. She secured a contract from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development for the first two “study locations”—Cook 1 and Cook 2—in 2007 and in 2008, respectively. She applied for and was awarded the contract for the two remaining study locations in DuPage and Will counties. The total federal funding for the first five years of the study in the Chicago area totals $61 million.

Explains Dr. Holl, “This is going to be ‘the’ major study of children’s health in the United States.” To date, the NCS has culled a team of researchers from the three area institutions to help determine the Cook County communities and neighborhoods from which to recruit study participants. The team is also engaging area birthing hospitals where study participants will deliver their babies.
Dr. Holl points to a map that illustrates how her clinical duties to focus exclusively on research. As Dr. Holl began looking at residency programs, she realized she would have to leave the country she called home. Only 10 pediatric residency spots existed in all of Belgium. It was then that Dr. Holl’s father reminded her of her U.S. citizenship. Dr. Holl left to train in pediatrics at Lenox Hill Hospital in New York City. And what she saw there surprised her.

In New York, Dr. Holl learned to adjust from the universal health care system she’d known during medical school training in Europe to the U.S. system. “[In Europe] I had never witnessed anyone turned away from an ER. No one asked if [the patients] could pay.” But New York was different. Dr. Holl saw nurses talk to patients on gurneys in the emergency department (ED) before admitting them and then turning certain patients away supposedly because the ED was “full.” Though the adjustment wasn’t easy, she began to wonder about the underinsured — how they coped, where they went. The problems struck with her and years later, she would choose to study uninsured children.

Dr. Holl noticed something else during her training. There was a physician roaming the hospital halls in thick, leather mountain climbing boots. Having done some climbing in Europe, the young resident approached him to see what he was doing. He introduced himself — Leon — and told her he was trying to break the boots in before a trip to the Rockies in a few weeks.

Within the year, the two married and then later had three sons. After living in the New York City area for a decade, the family moved to Rochester, New York, where Leon was offered a position at the University of Rochester. There, Dr. Holl joined the pediatrics department to continue her training as a health services research fellow. She worked part time and enjoyed it. Life included teaching, music, and sewing. “I had the best of both worlds,” she says. “I was able to be home and spend adequate quality time with my children while they were young and yet, I was able to be part of the child health care community.”

She says that her energy today exists because she is “not at all burnt out.” As a society, Dr. Holl says, “We need to really think about ways to allow women to remain professionally engaged and active but perhaps not have to work so intensely when their children are young.”

The women she saw day after day at the clinic were far removed from such a world. They could barely afford for their children health care. In the wealthier countries, Dr. Holl had made her new home, she was troubled by the poverty, particularly of women with young children.

One morning, Dr. Holl read a story in The New York Times about dramatic changes in the national welfare program. Then-President Bill Clinton was pushing for major social welfare reform across the country. Dr. Holl jumped to her mind. She recalls, “I thought, ‘Do any of these women know that a new law is about to be enacted? Do they know what they’re going to do when their cash assistance is stopped?’” So Dr. Holl recruited some student researchers to conduct surveys asking these very questions.

One afternoon, while reviewing the completed surveys, she came across a survey with some answers left blank. When Dr. Holl inquired why the mother had not responded, the student replied that the mom had answered the question but that she, the student, didn’t feel comfortable writing down her answer. The patient had stated that she or her boyfriend would have to go back to dealing drugs.

Dr. Holl cared deeply for her patients in Rochester, but in 1998 she followed Leon to Northwestern, where he was being recruited as head of pediatric neurology. “I was the ‘trailing spouse,’” she remarks. “I was beginning my research career and looking for a home.” She settled at the IHS and started seeing patients at Children’s Memorial.

On the research side, Dr. Holl collaborated with investigators at Northwestern University who were doing a study about the impact of welfare reform on Illinois families. She says, “One of the major promises of welfare reform was job training for the mothers, and very few of our women ever got much. It isn’t entirely surprising that during the past 10 years they’ve had a hard time in the job market.”

For the women, the changes proved beneficial; the reforms gave them the push they needed to get into the workforce. Other women, though, who suffered from physical or mental health problems that kept them from holding jobs altogether, have not done so well. “From a policy perspective, we kept saying that these women need more skills to access better jobs,” says Dr. Holl. “They’re not going to be able to get out of poverty just because we wanted them in it.”

Many of the women need mental and medical health services that have been simply inaccessible to them. They need society’s support.

During her fellowship and early years of her research career, Dr. Holl was constantly being asked how care for low-income children but eventually made a conscious decision to change her focus. “The problems were persistent,” she remarks, adding that she didn’t believe she was making “a great contribution by just continuing to report that we had problems if there weren’t going to be solutions and interventions to test.”

The National Children’s Study, however, might bring her back to some of those health care access issues. Dr. Holl hopes to design adjunct studies to look at ways that the health care system works and doesn’t work for children.

Europe might have been her first home, but Dr. Holl has focused more than 20 years of her energy on the United States—its women, children, health, and health care system. Over the years, she has asked herself if she made the right decision to study problems solely in this country. What about the AIDS pandemic in Africa or infant malnutrition? In conversation it’s apparent that Dr. Holl’s experiences growing up overseas and as an adult, visiting her older son in Australia, certainly give her a unique perspective. She knows how simultaneously small and infinite the world can seem.

However, she reasons, the United States has plenty of its own issues that need her attention. “We’re entering a period where health care reform may have to happen. It’s potentially a rewarding time for those of us who have been concerned for many years about how the U.S. health care system has functioned.”

After her two-week December trip halfway across the world to visit her son, Dr. Holl’s colleagues were visibly happy to have her back. “Seeing her, you realize how much you have missed her,” says Gorski. “At least three things happened while she was gone that I thought, ‘Oh, I wish Dr. Holl was here for this.’”

In addition to the National Children’s Study, Dr. Holl studies patient safety at CMH with the help of a close-knit, dedicated team that includes (from left) Rafael Irivarren, Aranee Ticzon, and Terry Alamode. Another team member, Melissa Goriski, serves as patient safety project manager.
It has been an exciting time in government, and Illinois has had its share of the highs and lows of politics. The state finds itself front and center in the public eye as home to both a new U.S. president and to an impeached and ousted governor under federal investigation. Both politicians hail from Chicago, which is also the locale of another microcosm of democracy—the Student Senate of Northwestern University’s Feinberg School of Medicine.

Considered the official representative organization of the medical student body, the Senate serves as a conduit between the students and the University, Feinberg School of Medicine, hospital administration, and medical school faculty. “Simply put, the Senate is the voice of the medical school,” states Senate Vice President Darren Boyd of Sydney, Australia, a second-year medical student. “We get many different kinds of input from the students. Topics could range from lectures not finishing on time to possible curriculum changes or public safety issues.”

The Student Senate is composed of five representatives from each class: the class president and four senators. The Medical Scientist Training Program (combined MD/PhD curriculum) has one representative. The Senate features seven officers. The first four sit on the Executive Board: president, vice president, treasurer, and secretary; and there are three committee chairs for academic affairs, campus affairs, and student organizations. Any student pursuing a medical degree on a continuing basis and who is in good academic standing may serve on the Senate.

The Executive Board meets monthly with medical school deans to discuss the various issues affecting the student population. Known as the Dean’s Lunch, this forum provides the senators an opportunity to voice medical student concerns and receive feedback from the medical school’s administration. Presiding at a conference table covered with box lunches and soda pop cans, the student representatives present an agenda and run the meeting. “It is an avenue toward general communication,” says Raymond H. Curry, MD, GME ’85, dean for education and professor of medicine and president of the McGaw Medical Center of Northwestern University. “The meetings also allow us to provide support for the various student activities, new and existing.”

Other key administrators who work with the Senate include John X. Thomas Jr., PhD, senior associate dean for medical education and professor of physiology; Mari-anne M. Green, MD, associate dean for medical education and competency achievement and assistant professor of medicine; John E. Franklin, MD, MSc, associate dean for minority and cultural affairs and associate professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences; and Warren H. Wallace, MD, associate dean for admissions and assistant professor of medicine.

Recent Dean’s Lunch agenda included the Feinberg Formal, funding for student groups, and concerns about late night safety and security for students. All the topics showed the depth and range of the Senate’s responsibilities, and all were given their due from the deans. “We try not to limit ourselves,” says Senate President Lindsay Kuo of Newton, Massachusetts. “If we find a need, we address it. Although change is brought about slowly, we see that things do happen.”

A third-year medical student, Kuo, who attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology as an undergraduate, has long been involved with the Senate. Last year she served as treasurer and currently represents her class college, known as the Bennett College. Each medical school class is divided into four colleges, named after the faculty member who mentors the subsequent smaller group of students. Members of the Executive Board may come from former class presidents; they provide continuity within the student organization. Adds Kuo, “Being involved with the Senate shows you the significant scope of how the school works.”
This year the president is implementing some changes of her own. She would like to see greater and earlier alumni involvement with the school and its future alumni.

Included would be an increase in the presence of more recent graduates in medical school events, such as those held during Alumni Weekend. Already in place is the occasion for a young alumni/na to mentor a medical student. This individual could serve as a contact for the student after graduation and a continued link to the medical school for the alum. The opportunity for mentoring also can be found at Northwestern through the Medical Student Societies. Grouping one college from each class into a society of its own creates a community that involves all student levels of the medical school; that is, a society would consist of one college each from the first, second, third, and fourth year’s classes. Each society bears the name of a notable alumus.

“In the short term, belonging to a specific society has a positive social effect on a student. The newer students would consist of one college each from the first, second, third, and fourth year’s classes. Each society bears the name of a notable alumus. Working to promote a sense of community at the level of the individual identity.

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Taking the lead at Northwestern. The 2001–02 Senate was instrumental in developing the student honor code. Others have advocated aggressively for various causes. In the 1970s, due to an increase in educational costs and a decrease in federal funding, universities across the nation were forced to raise tuition rates. Jack Snarr, PhD, professor emeritus and former associate dean for student programs, recalls one incident in which Student Senate action was of particular significance. “During the 1976–77 academic year, the University announced that the medical school tuition for the following year would increase by 47 percent, with similarly sizable increases in law and dental school tuitions,” says Dr. Snarr. “Understandably, this generated considerable student reaction, leading the Senate president at the time, Al Ferrari, to organize a campus-wide meeting in the ‘old’ Thorne Hall. The University administration sent an associate provost to explain the University’s perspective on the increase and things went from bad to worse.

Reminisc of the student protests of the 1960s, the students picketed outside of the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago during a visit by First Lady Rosalynn Carter. They also rallied together and raised funds to hire an attorney to battle against the University’s trustees. Continues Dr. Snarr, “The case was brought before the Illinois Supreme Court andargued by Al Ferrari. While he lost the case, the impact it created did prompt a greater spirit of interest and communication on the University’s behalf and led to significant improvement in student financial assistance programs for the Chicago campus.”

The Senate’s action and followup set a precedent for future senates.

Arjun Venkatesh, MD ’08, was a member of the Student Senate for four years. “Having earned my MBA during my fourth year I was interested in medical education financing. The end of the Federal Consolidation Program during my time in medical school brought this to the forefront,” recalls Dr. Venkatesh. “One of my primary concerns as a student was to get involved was to get involved was to serve as an advocate for students to improve scholarship funding and to create more regular and sophisticated financial advising services. I believe that a degree of improvement was achieved on both of these goals thanks to the leadership of the deans.”

Dr. Venkatesh, as the 2008 class representative, orchestrated a new program for his classmates to give back to their alma mater. The youngest alums to raise money in support of scholarships, the members of his class have pledged $20,08 each annually for the next five years. The summer prior to the class’ five-year reunion, the total will be matched by the Dean’s Office. The goal of this new program is $50,000 in support of a Class of 2008 Scholar, to be named in the fall of 2013. Explains Dr. Venkatesh, “For a young graduate, the thought of a large gift is overwhelming. But giving a small amount over time is less daunting and the results are substantial.”

Dr. Venkatesh is now in his first year of residency training in the Brigham and Women’s Hospital/Massachusetts General Hospital Harvard Affiliated Emergency Medicine Residency program. His leadership continues as the vice chair of the Emergency Medicine Resident’s Association Research Committee and as the resident representative to the Quality and Performance Committee of the American College of Emergency Physicians.

The election for Student Senate offices is held in April for the following school year. Each candidate has two minutes to give a speech without any other candidate present. At the conclusion of the meeting, the newly elected senators take office. Although these young leaders have much on their plates—foremost the demands of medical school—their passion for making a difference has many benefits. Not only do they give their fellow students a legitimate platform to voice their concerns but also the senators hone their skills as future physician-leaders—a definite win-win situation for the Northwestern community and beyond.  

"It is especially interesting to me to see how to best use the funds," says Boyd, 39, who puts his MBA degree to good use as a senator. “For example, after last year’s Silent Auction I compared the amount of money taken in with the number of student hours devoted to the event.” The senators are expected to participate fully in Senate projects and serve on one of the three committees, time management is crucial.

Second-year medical student Elizabeth Groothuis of Evanston, Illinois, serves as Senate treasurer as well as on the Executive Board. This Pomona College graduate’s duties include recording Senate meeting minutes, maintaining a list of current contact information for the leaders of all the student organizations, and participating on the SOC. “Now that I am part of the Senate, I see things in a larger perspective,” she shares. “I appreciate that people are different, yet I have to look at what is good for the group. And, I think the Senate knows more about the school than anyone!”

The experience has helped Groothuis develop her leadership skills and ability to interact closely with the administration. She is currently working with Northwestern’s Management Information Systems group to update the student listserv. Apart from her duties as senator, Groothuis has volunteered to serve as a student representative on the search committee for a new associate dean for student programs and professional development.

"We ask that the student organizations submit a budget plan for the upcoming school year,” explains second-year student Amy Fruehwald of Indianapolis, who serves as Senate treasurer. "Then, after re-evaluating their finances, they submit one other budget in January.” In her treasurer role, this graduate of Vanderbilt University also serves on the Student Organization Committee (SOC). She maintains all the financial records of the Senate, as well as the SOC. "Having helped raise funds for all events, the Senate, along with the Dean’s Office, provides additional assistance whenever possible.

“I think the Student Senate works well as a system,” says Dr. Curry. "Year after year, the students have a very effective job of representing their peers. Leadership development, one of our overarching goals, is part of the curriculum, and the Senate provides an important avenue for many students to realize their leadership potential. This helps the students appreciate their capacity to effect change.”

The senators have brought to the table a growing concern among the student body about the conflict of interest between commercial and medicine. Discussion of this issue is contributing to the establishment of an institution-wide policy on strict disclosure rules. Addressing such a controversial topic prepares the students for the ethical choices they will face as physicians and scientists.

Senates of the past have left a legacy at Northwestern. The 2001–02 Senate was instrumental in developing the student honor code. Others have advocated aggressively for various causes. In the 1970s, due to an increase in educational costs and a decrease in federal funding, universities across the nation were forced to raise tuition rates. Jack Snarr, PhD, professor emeritus and former associate dean for student programs, recalls one incident in which Student Senate action was of particular significance. “During the 1976–77 academic year, the University announced that the medical school tuition for the following year would increase by 47 percent, with similarly sizable increases in law and dental school tuitions,” says Dr. Snarr. “Understandably, this generated considerable student reaction, leading the Senate president at the time, Al Ferrari, to organize a campus-wide meeting in the ‘old’ Thorne Hall. The University administration sent an associate provost to explain the University’s perspective on the increase and things went from bad to worse.

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The field of pathology fits at the interface between basic science and clinical medicine. In research laboratories and diagnostic laboratories at the affiliated hospitals, “Every day we try to understand how disease manifests itself at the cellular and molecular levels,” says Dr. Muller. “We’re in a great position to catalyze translational research across the medical center and continue moving our culture toward a more interactive one. That starts with our pathology department reorganizing itself in this way and reaching out to find those synergistic, collaborative opportunities for advancing biomedical science.”

One reason he came to Northwestern in 2007 was the collegiality. “People interact and cross traditional boundaries relatively easily here,” he remarks. “You can be talking to someone, and the next thing you know, you’re in that person’s lab borrowing a piece of equipment or discussing experimental design or ideas. People want those cross-disciplinary interactions to happen, but somebody needs to inject the energy to initiate them. We’re going to do that in pathology.”

Upon his arrival, Dr. Muller traded research space with the Department of Microbiology–Immunology so that his department’s lab space now spans the interconnected third floors of the Ward and Tarry buildings. In addition, he moved the administrative offices and main conference room to the third floor of Ward to increase the chances of spontaneous interactions.

Despite the stereotype, science does not advance via a series of isolated “Eureka!” moments. “By the time you convince yourself that the evidence is strong enough to publish, you’ve been doing experiments for months if not years,” says Dr. Muller. “Science advances by the sharing of ideas and knowledge. Often people don’t feel comfortable sharing wild ideas in official meetings or e-mails, but if colleagues run into each other at the water cooler or whatever, they just might throw them out there.” He continues, “Nine times out of 10, those ideas don’t go anywhere, but that 10th time strikes gold. I’d like to facilitate an environment where these conversations take place that might lead not just to the next logical step but would leap over it and get the big result that changes everything.”

He plans to further stack the odds by recruiting a “critical mass” of researchers focusing on inflammation, his own field of study. Dr. Muller’s lab team conducts studies of the molecular biology of adhesion events responsible for the binding and emigration of leukocytes across vascular endothelial cells. These processes are crucial in inflammation, which is at the root of most diseases, including atherosclerosis, arthritis, and aspects of acquired autoimmunity. Inflammation is the body’s response to tissue damage of any kind, according to Dr. Muller. He explains, “Even in neoplasia, inflammation plays a critical role in how a tumor grows, where it grows, and whether it metastasizes and where.”

William A. Muller, MD, PhD, makes no small plans. “I’d like ours to be the best academic pathology department in the world,” he states.

Magerstadt Professor and chair of pathology at Northwestern University’s Feinberg School of Medicine, Dr. Muller continues, “I want a department where at all levels we have researchers talking to each other, diagnostic pathologists talking to each other, and clinicians and researchers all interacting and reaching across traditional departmental lines to spark collaboration.”
At Northwestern Memorial Hospital, among people who may think they’re investigating the role of inflammatory bowel disease, a strong program project grants, and strategies to other areas in his nar series, program project grants, and inflammation in organ transplanta-

The department is seeking a new director of Northwestern University particu-
larly attractive. “Our increased emphasis on inflammation will pro-
vide links to those investigators,” says Dr. Muller. Additionally, the medical school has programs in inflammatory bowel disease, a strong rheumatology department and also coordinate the core resources run by laboratories at Northwestern Memorial Hospital.

For example, the pathology labora-
tories at Northwestern Memorial

Dr. Muller plans to add faculty
members to the clinical and anatomic pathology laboratories at the affili-
ated hospitals. “Our clinical faculty
in different fields but probably have more in common than they realize.” The shared core resources run by pathology faculty members also bring scientists together. For exam-
ple, the flow cytometry core facility members are too busy,” he states. “We have about half the number we need to handle the caseload and still have time for research and teaching.” For example, the pathology labora-

tories at Northwestern Memorial Hospital (NMH) processed about 7 million specimens last year. When Dr. Muller was recruited, NMH already had an experience with the same pathology floor to add faculty and promote interactions among these diagnostic specialists to support the department’s interactive theme. Dr. Muller then recruited Kurt Reed, MD, professor of pathology and an expert in zoonotic infections (animal-to-human transmission), to direct the clinical pathology labora-
tories. These specialty labs analyze body fluids such as blood, plasma, and urine from patients. They are working on a protocol to identify without growing them in culture, which may take days or even weeks. For example, one diag-
nostic test amplifies the DNA of microorganisms that cause MRSA, a serious nosocomial infection. These new and improved molecu-
lar diagnostic techniques blur the lines between anatomic and clinical pathology. “We’re going to be doing more cutting edge and move up in the

Anjen Chenn, MD, PhD, associate professor of pathology and director of the molecular diagnostics laboratory, says, “The expansion of molecular diagnostics is ushering in a new era of diagnostic medicine. The number of new tests is rapidly growing. These new tests will enable highly personal-
ized medical care by facilitating rapid and specific diagnoses to guide indi-
vidual treatment decisions.”

These techniques provide diag-
nostic and prognostic information by differentiating between strains of a

particular microbe or by identifying the stage and severity of a disease. Dr. Chenn notes that one such test can identify microscopic amounts of acute promyelocytic leukemia that responds well to all-trans retinoic acid, a vitamin A derivative. Another type can predict the patient’s response to chemo-
thepathological conditions such as Huntington’s disease.

Genomic information on numer-
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A great training program needs lots of interesting cases, which we have,” says Dr. Reed. “It’s important that we be in the forefront of leading-
edge technology and techniques in pathology because we’re teaching the next generation of practitioners.”

“It becomes an upward spiral,” says Dr. Muller. “As our research and clinical services become more advanced, we’ll attract better residents and fellows and other top-notch fac-
ulty who will want to come here. They, in turn, will elevate our exper-
ise in research, translational science, and patient care. That will boost our reputation as a department, a school, and a university, and then the whole cycle begins again.”
Ordering Up the Pepperoni Hypothesis

What’s the worst that could happen after eating a slice of pepperoni pizza? A little heartburn, maybe?

But for women with “painful bladder syndrome,” or interstitial cystitis, enjoying that pizza has painful consequences.

Spicy food—along with citrus, caffeine, tomatoes, and alcohol—can intensify symptoms. Pelvic pain becomes so intense some women administer anesthetic lidocaine into their bladders via a catheter for relief. Patients typically also feel the need to urinate frequently and fear leaving their homes in case they can’t find a restroom.

“This disease has a devastating effect on people’s lives,” said Northwestern’s David Klumpp, PhD, principal investigator and assistant professor of urology. “It affects relationships with family and friends.” Some women (only 10 percent of patients are men) who suffer from interstitial cystitis become so depressed, they attempt suicide. Previously, chemicals produced by digesting these foods were thought to irritate the bladder. However, applying their recent animal study to humans, medical school clinicians believe the colon is to blame. Dr. Klumpp worked with Charles Rudick, PhD, a postdoctoral fellow, on the paper published in the September issue of Nature Clinical Practice Urology.

The colon’s role in the pain may be caused by the wiring of pelvic organ nerves from the bladder, colon, and prostate that all plug into the same region of the spinal cord. The bladder nerves of people with interstitial cystitis constantly transmit pain signals. When the colon is irritated by spicy foods, colon nerves also send pain signals to the same area, intensifying the message.

The new model suggests bladder pain can be treated with an anesthetic in a suppository or gel. Another possibility is an anesthetic patch applied to pelvic skin.

Studies in back pain show anesthetic patches applied to the skin can reduce back pain, according to Dr. Klumpp. The next step will be to prove that the virus actually infects the immune cells in the vaginal tract. Researchers found that HIV penetrated the genital skin barrier primarily by moving quickly—in just four hours—between skin cells to reach 50 microns beneath the skin, a depth of about the width of a human hair. Some immune cells targeted by HIV are located at this depth. If confirmed by future studies, these results will provide information to help develop microbicides and vaccines to protect against HIV.

The next step will be to prove that the virus actually infects the immune cells in the vaginal tract. Reported Dr. Hope, “A key experiment in the future is to identify the first cells to get infected in the epithelium, which is not necessarily where people would have looked for them before.”

Therapeutic Dialing Improves Depression

The problem with psychotherapy long has been that nearly half the patients quit after a few sessions. Therapy can’t work if patients stop attending. But a new meta-analysis has found that when patients receive psychotherapy for depression over the phone, most of them stick with it. Telephone therapy is becoming more widely used by health care providers and employee-assistance programs.

Medical school researchers discovered that the average attrition rate for telephone therapy was only 7.6 percent compared with nearly 50 percent in face-to-face therapy. Telephone therapy also was effective in reducing depressive symptoms. The results appear similar to conventional therapy.

“Most problems with face-to-face treatment has always been very few people who can benefit from it actually receive it largely due to structural barriers,” said David C. Mohr, PhD, professor of preventive medicine and lead author of the study, published in the September issue of Clinical Psychology: Science and Practice. “The telephone is a tool that allows the therapists to reach out to patients, rather than requiring that patients reach out to therapists.”

“One of the symptoms of depression is loss of motivation,” explained Dr. Mohr. “It’s hard for people with depression to do the things they are supposed to do. Show up for appointments is one of those things.” Dr. Mohr began using telephone-administered therapy with patients who had multiple sclerosis and could not get to a therapist’s office.

As a follow up to this work, Dr. Mohr launched a new study with the Northwestern Medical Faculty Foundation that directly compares therapy delivered in the traditional face-to-face manner with therapy delivered over the phone in a randomly selected patient population. Dr. Mohr’s research team also secured a National Institutes of Health grant to develop Internet-based intervention tools that potentially may provide more cost-effective and widely available ways to manage depression.

Men, Women, and HIV

Researchers have discovered a critical new way a man can transmit the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) to a woman. Scientists long believed that the normal lining of the female vaginal tract was an effective barrier to the HIV virus during sexual intercourse—the large HIV virus couldn’t penetrate the tissue. But new research from Northwestern University’s Feinberg School of Medicine shows for the first time that the HIV virus can, indeed, penetrate a woman’s normal, healthy genital tissue to gain access to its immune cell targets.

“This is an unexpected and important result,” said Thomas J. Hope, PhD, principal investigator and professor of cell and molecular biology. “We have a new understanding of how HIV can invade the female vaginal tract.”

Dr. Hope, his Northwestern colleagues, and collaborators at Tulane University discovered that interior vaginal skin is vulnerable to HIV invasion at the level where it naturally sheds and replaces skin cells, a point where the cells are not as tightly bound together. The researchers presented the findings at the American Society for Cell Biology’s 48th annual meeting in December.

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Transplant Trickery in Diabetic Mice

Researchers at the medical school have found a way to trick the immune system of mice into accepting transplanted islets; the system views the transplants as its own. The technique eliminates the need for immunosuppressive drugs after islet transplantation in mice with chemical-induced diabetes.

“This technique is a highly attractive potential therapy for human islet cell transplantation,” said Stephen Miller, PhD, principal investigator and professor of Microbiology-Immunology. Dr. Miller and his colleagues reported their research results in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences last fall.

Nearly 3 million people in the United States may have type 1 diabetes, an autoimmune-mediated disease that often develops in children and adolescents. About 50 to 70 islet transplants, an experimental procedure, are performed annually in North America to treat it.

More than 70 percent of the mice receiving transplanted islet cells maintained the transplants long term. Dr. Miller’s research indicated that the host’s tolerance to these transplanted cells may be permanent, lasting for at least 152 days in the mice. Nephrologist Xuming Luo, MD, PhD, assistant professor of medicine at Northwestern, was the study’s other co-investigator.

The investigators took a type of white blood cell, called splenocytes, from the islet donor’s spleen and treated them with a chemical that masked the cells’ identity. They then injected these chemically treated cells into diabetic mice before and after the mice underwent islet cell transplantation. As a result, the immune system of the mice didn’t perceive the transplanted cells as foreign. When the same test was done without pretreated cells, the mouse immune system rejected the transplanted islets within 15 days.

Dr. Miller and his research team are exploring this technique for treating other autoimmune diseases such as multiple sclerosis.

Chronic Pain Rewires Brain’s Network

Northwestern scientists peered at the brains of people with baffling chronic pain and discovered changes in the network of tiny, white “cables” that dispatch messages between neurons, known as the brain’s white matter. These patients’ brains also showed an atrophy of the neurons, or gray matter, themselves similar to that previously shown in other types of chronic pain patients.

The new finding, published November 26 in Neuron, begins to explain a mysterious condition the medical community had doubted was real.

“This is the first proof of a biological underpinning for the condition,” said A. Vanja Aparkian, PhD, professor of physiology at Northwestern’s Feinberg School of Medicine and principal investigator of the study. “Scientists have been trying to understand this condition for a long time.”

Using anatomical magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and diffusion tensor MRI, the brains of normal people were compared with those of patients with complex regional pain syndrome (CRPS). The condition usually begins with a significant injury to the hand or foot. In most individuals, the pain disappears once the limb is healed. But for 5 percent of patients, the pain lingers on long past the healing stage and sometimes for the rest of their lives.

The experience changes in skin color to blue or red as well as skin temperature (hotter or colder) contrary to that previously shown in other types of chronic pain patients. They then injected these chemically treated cells into diabetic mice before and after the mice underwent islet cell transplantation. As a result, the immune system of the mice didn’t perceive the transplanted cells as foreign. When the same test was done without pretreated cells, the mouse immune system rejected the transplanted islets within 15 days.

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Established faculty enjoy first endowed professorship celebration

An assembly of individuals so accomplished rarely is seen on any campus. Special interests in diverse as modern medicine itself, the distinguished professors who gathered at the Inaugural Endowed Professorship Celebration in late fall not only lead the medical school's many departments, divisions, and centers, but also national consortiums and global efforts in Northwestern's name. In the early evening of Thursday, October 30, President Henry Bienen, Provost Daniel Linzer, Dean Larry Jameson, and notable philanthropists gathered at the Robert H. Lurie Medical Research Center to honor the Feinberg School Professoriat's name.

In recognition of the honor bestowed upon them, Dean Jameson called each named professor to the stage to receive a Feinberg Rosette. Provost Linzer presented the rosettes, which professors will wear while on campus to denote their standing in the medical professoriate.

At the ceremony's close, Musicians in Medicine performed W.A. Mozart's Quartet in A Major, K. 298. Composed of first-year medical students—three of whom are enrolled in the Medical Scientist Training Program in pursuit of PhD and MD degrees—the group showcased the extraordinarily diverse and talented students enrolling at the medical school.

As the evening came to a close, all in attendance were grateful that this extraordinary collective, the Feinberg School of Medicine's Professoriat, is making contributions to medicine here at Northwestern.

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Matthew Dunn
Northwestern University appoints new president

Morton Owen Schapiro, PhD, president of Williams College, professor of economics, and one of the country’s leading experts in the economics of higher education, has been named president of Northwestern University. Patrick G. Ryan, chair of Northwestern’s board of trustees, made the announcement December 16. Dr. Schapiro, 55, will become Northwestern’s 16th president, effective this September 1. He will succeed Henry S. Bienen, PhD, who will step down after a highly successful presidency spanning 14 years.

In early January Dr. Schapiro visited Northwestern University’s Feinberg School of Medicine and met with medical school and hospital leaders during an introductory tour of the Chicago campus. “It was so impressive to see how proud they are to be a part of Northwestern and how ambitious they are for the medical school,” he said during a speech and reception for faculty and staff members of all of the professional schools on the Chicago campus.

“We are delighted that President Schapiro has accepted our offer to become Northwestern’s next president,” said Ryan in his announcement of the new president. “I am confident that with his passion for education and experience fostering interdisciplinary teaching and research that he is a great match for Northwestern. He shares the aspirations of the Board of Trustees and University community for further enhancing the excellence of Northwestern.”

Dr. Schapiro has been president of Williams, located in Williamstown, Massachusetts, since 2000. For six years prior to that, he was the dean of the College of Letters, Arts and Sciences at the University of Southern California (USC), where he was a perfect fit for Northwestern.”

Dr. Schapiro has a strong commitment to undergraduate education and he has continued to teach while president: introductory microeconomics, a tutorial on the economics of higher education, and two interdisciplinary seminars, one on the economics and philosophy of education, and the other on disease, culture, and society.

He is among the nation’s premier authorities on the economics of higher education, with particular expertise in the area of college financing and affordability, and on trends in educational costs and student aid. He has testified before U.S. Senate and House committees on economic and educational issues and often quoted in the national media. He has written more than 100 articles and five books, and has edited two others, most with his long-time coauthor Michael McPherson. Dr. Schapiro has received research grants and contracts from the National Science Foundation, the U.S. Department of Education, the World Bank, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Spencer Foundation, the College Board, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, and other groups to study the economics of higher education and related topics.

Dr. Schapiro’s selection follows a nine-month search by a committee that included trustees, faculty, students, staff, and alumni. The committee was chaired by William Osborn, a 1969 graduate of Northwestern’s Winchell College of Arts and Sciences and a 1973 graduate of the Kellogg School of Management. Osborn is chair of the board of trustees budget committee and chair of the Northern Trust Corp., Chicago. “The search committee received numerous excellent nominations for the position, but President Schapiro was the unanimous choice of the search committee,” said Osborn. “His grasp of the issues facing higher education, the complexities of a research university, his impressive record of academic achievement and leadership and his instant rapport with all the members of the committee made it clear that he was a perfect fit for Northwestern.”

Dr. Schapiro received his bachelor’s degree in economics from Hofstra University in 1979 and his doctorate in economics from the University of Pennsylvania in 1979. He and wife Mimi have three children: Matt, Alissa, and Rachel.

Dr. Morton Schapiro will kick off the 2009–10 academic year at Northwestern’s 16th president.

School adds another ALS laboratory

The opening of the medical school’s second Les Turner ALS Foundation laboratory was celebrated at a November reception in the atrium of the Robert H. Lurie Medical Research Center. Directed by P. Hande Ozdinler, PhD, assistant professor of neurology, this new lab strengthens Northwestern’s reputation as one of the nation’s premier centers for research into the causes of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS).

Teepu Siddique, MD, the Les Turner ALS Foundation/Francis C. Wenke Foundation Professor of Neurology and director of the Neuromuscular and Neurogenetic Disorders Program continues to direct Northwestern’s first lab. Established in 1979, this laboratory became the first of its kind to be dedicated to ALS research in the United States. Both laboratories receive funding and support from the Les Turner ALS Foundation, the Chicago area’s only independent, publicly supported nonprofit organization devoted solely to the elimination of ALS, better known as Lou Gehrig’s disease.

The Herbert C. Wenke Foundation also funds the second lab. Dr. Ozdinler, who comes to Northwestern University’s Feinberg School of Medicine from Harvard Medical School, will be leading the research lab. Her work focuses on the cell biology of neurons that specifically die in ALS. These are the motor neurons in the cortex and in the spinal cord. Dr. Ozdinler studies the corticospinal motor neurons that reside in the cortex and send out projections to the spinal cord. These neurons, together with spinal motor neurons, control our movements and progressively degenerate in ALS. The cellular and molecular mechanisms of their survival and death are not known.

For Dr. Ozdinler, the journey to become an ALS researcher began in her native Turkey. After completing undergraduate and master’s degrees in molecular biology and genetics in her homeland, she came to the United States. She earned her PhD degree in molecular biology, anatomy, and neuroscience at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center. Her interests in neuroscience and cell biology led her to Harvard, where she trained under the direction of Jeffrey Macklis, MD, a world-renowned expert on stem cell biology, and the first scientist to identify the molecular controls directing differentiation of corticospinal motor neurons. Drs. Ozdinler and Macklis developed new approaches to purify and culture these neurons, which then allowed them to dissect the mechanisms by which their morphology is regulated. They published their groundbreaking discovery in 2006 in Nature Neuroscience, showing that insulin-like growth factor (IGF-1) specifically enhances corticospinal motor neuron axon outgrowth both in vitro and in vivo. These results may help guide future efforts to use IGF-3 to enhance the outgrowth and functional connectivity of damaged neurons.

At Northwestern Dr. Ozdinler will focus on the subtype-specific neuron populations in the cortex and investigate the cellular and molecular mechanisms that are important for their survival, differentiation, and cell-type specific degeneration in disease. “It is important to understand the cell-type specificity in neurodegenerative diseases,” she says. “We hope to make contributions to the understanding of the biology of the disease.”

Gita Pryma
VA grant advances palliative, end-of-life care

The Veterans Administration (VA) awarded a one-year contract last fall to Northwestern University to develop a program to help meet the palliative care needs of veterans and their families and caregivers.

Explains Linda L. Emanuel, MD, PhD, Buehler Professor of Geriatric Medicine at Northwestern University’s Feinberg School of Medicine and principal investigator on the contract, “The VA has a long-standing effort to build comprehensive palliative care services at every Veterans Integrated Service Network [VISN] across the country. We’re in the privileged position of providing our VA colleagues with the opportunity, venue, and resources to adapt our curriculum for their use.” Dr. Emanuel was the founding director of the EPEC Project and heads the Buehler Center on Aging, Health & Society at Northwestern.

The current director of EPEC and co-investigator on the VA contract, Joshua M. Hauser, MD, GME ‘07, says the new collaboration arose from discussions at EPEC conferences. Dr. Hauser, assistant professor of medicine, and Michael Pre- odor, MD, associate director of the EPEC Project and adjunct instructor in medicine, talked with Scott Shreve, DO, national director of hospice and palliative care for the VA. Subsequently, F. Amos Bailey, MD, director of palliative care at the Birmingham (Alabama) VA Medical Center, joined as chair of the EPEC for Veterans Workgroup.

“Scott wanted to do more in palliative care at the VA and do it in a more system- atic fashion,” says Dr. Hauser. “This was consistent with other adaptations of EPEC, which is about teaching the principles of palliative care. This gives us an opportunity to apply our curriculum in an integrated health care system.” Most veterans receive care from VA physicians at VA hospitals, and in VA-affiliated hospices and long-term care facilities, all linked through electronic medical records.

“Palliative and end-of-life care are clearly impacted by the military experi- ence,” says Dr. Emanuel. “Veterans who have seen combat have a unique set of associations when it comes to symptom management and the last stages of life. Post-traumatic stress disorder and the social circumstances confronting veterans as they return from war have to be considered.”

Dr. Hauser lists four goals for this first year of formal collaboration with the VA. The first is to adapt the curriculum to specific needs of veterans and their families. The second is to develop and implement new curricular modules that arise from that adaptation. A third goal is to translate the curriculum into Spanish for the first time. The fourth and final goal is to hold a training conference for groups of caregivers from every VISN.

Such VA teams may include physicians, nurses, social workers, and other health care providers.

Michael Nyquist

Medical school welcomes new communications director

On January 5 Tom Garritano joined the medical school as senior executive director of communications for the Office of Communications.

Most recently marketing director for the Chicago Tribune, Garritano brings to Northwestern more than 15 years of print/online/cable promotion, cross-media sales, sponsorship activation, and business growth experience. He was responsible for marketing both Chicago Tribune and RedEye print products. Garritano also directed all aspects of media and public relations and internal and external communications for the Chicago Tribune.

In his new role, Garritano will provide strategic direction and tactical oversight for a comprehensive array of marketing and communications projects for external and internal communications that support the mission and goals of Northwestern Uni- versity’s Feinberg School of Medicine. He will supervise the newly created Office of Communications. This office will include the former Office of Publications and Public Relations and have responsibility for the Office of Development’s communications function and the medical school’s web site.

Garritano joined the Chicago Tribune in 1993 as a senior media manager. In 2002 he was named marketing director. He holds a BA degree in film and video production from Columbia College in Chicago.

Remembering Dr. Barry Shapiro

He was a larger-than-life person who could be intimidating but equally care- ing...an intellectual powerhouse who was witty and articulate and had an opinion about almost everything...a perfectionist who didn’t tolerate less than first-class care—a man with boundless energy and a wild sense of humor. This is how friends and colleagues remembered Barry A. Shapiro, MD, during a celebration of his life held November 15 at Prentice Women's Hospital.

Dr. Shapiro, former anesthesiology chair at Northwestern, died September 25 in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, after a six-month battle with pancreatic cancer. He was 71.

M. Christine Stock, MD ’81, GME ‘94, James E. Eckenhoff Professor and chair of anesthesiology, commented, “Today we take critical care medicine as a recognized specialty almost for granted. You are standing on its shoulders— Barry a leader among them—who were mavericks. They embraced the radical notion of a critical care team that brought together physicians, nurses, respiratory therapists, pharmacists, and other health care professionals. This was a departure from the way medicine was practiced until the early 1980s.” She added that her teacher and mentor could “elucidate concepts with near magical clarity.”

Dr. Shapiro earned his BA and MD degrees from the University of Michigan, where he also completed his internship, anesthesiology residency, and fellowship in intensive respiratory care. He joined the Northwestern faculty in 1975, received an MM degree from the Kellogg School of Management in 1994, became the Eckenhoff Professor and chair of anesthesiology in 1995, and retired four years later to Florida.

Scott J. Greene, MD ’78, associate professor of anesthesiology, had a 25-year relationship with Dr. Shapiro, starting from when he was a medical stu- dent to becoming his colleague and part- ner. He will always remember Dr. Shapiro’s advice, among them: “When you come to a crossroad, choose the path that closes the least number of doors behind you; life is what happens to you when you’re busy making plans, and wishing doesn’t make it so — you really have to work at what you want.”

William T. Peruzzi, MD, GME ’88, professor of clinical anesthesiology, described Dr. Shapiro as “an egalitarian” who also strongly believed in a meritoc- racy. “Barry was the most unpretentious and inclusive man I’ve ever met,” Dr. Peruzzi said. “We didn’t always agree, but he listened. We could agree to dis- agree. He appreciated differences among thinking, thoughtful people.”

“Barry understood the organized approach to critical care — he was decades ahead of his time in improving health care. His legacy will live on in those he taught,” added Dr. Peruzzi.

Dr. Shapiro’s national leadership in critical care medicine led to the formation of the Society of Critical Care Medicine and the American College of Critical Care Medicine, both of which have phsy- cians and other health care profession- als as fellows. Survivors include wife Patricia Prange, son David Shapiro, daughter Leslie Fox, and grandchildren Carly and Drew Fox.

Ellen Soo Hoo

Orthopaedics chair steps down from post

Michael F. Schafer, MD, GME ’72, Edwin Warner Ryerson Professor of Orthopae- dic Surgery, announced in December plans to step down after 29 years of ser- vice as chair. He has agreed to serve as chair until a successor is identified. A national search currently is underway.

Dr. Schafer will continue his patient care activities at Northwestern Memorial Hospital and Children’s Memorial Hos- pital and his educational activities with residents and medical students. He will be involved in the integration of the ath- letic activities of Northwestern Univer- sity, the faculty foundation, and Northwestern Memorial. In addition, he will maintain his active involvement on various committees for the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons. The longest-serving chair of orthopa-edics in the medical school’s history, Dr. Schafer specializes in sports medicine and spinal deformity surgery. He has served as an orthopaedic consultant for the Chicago Cubs for more than 25 years and also spent a number of years provid- ing orthopaedic care for the Chicago Bears. Dr. Schafer’s dedication to educa- tion includes serving as a member of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education’s residency review committee for orthopaedic surgery and chairing several committees on educa- tional issues for the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons. In 2008 he was honored with the Orthopaedic Research and Education Foundation’s highly prestigious William W. Tipton Jr., MD, Leadership Award.
Students, staff, and faculty come out to play at In Vivo

Medical school is a gas! That was especially true for Jeremy Grey and John Beckwith (second-year students Andrew Karaba and Dan Fuchs), the “Med School Crashers” of the title skit in this year’s 30th anniversary In Vivo, the comedy-variety show written, performed, and produced by medical students. Using memorized rules of engagement, Jeremy and John crash orientation week parties at several medical schools. They end up at Northwestern, where John falls in love, and Jeremy nearly loses his best friend.

The January 23 and 24 show opened with several faculty members auditioning for the show’s opening act. Appearing on the Thorne Auditorium video screen, John X. Thomas, PhD, senior associate dean for education, said, “I have three letters for you: J, X, T.” Another video featured Kristin Fontes (first-year student and one of the In Vivo producers) trapped in the lab of “mad scientist” James F. Baker, PhD, professor of physiology, who used transcranial magnetic stimulation to make Fontes slap herself when she didn’t give him the answers he wanted. Larry Cochard, PhD, assistant professor of medical education, promoted himself saying, “Larry Cochard doesn’t audit. Let’s talk about what Larry Cochard wants.”

But it was Stevie H. Mazycz, MD, instructor in medicine, who opened the show reading “The Angina Monologues” from an oversized book that presented a patient encounter in a Dr. Seussian fashion. “Aha! Now I know just what you have, or at least I’ll give it my best stab. It’s not bifida of the spina, but simple everyday angina. Don’t pack up yet, you have to stay, because I’ve got one last thing to say: Live from Chicago, it’s In Vivo 2009!”

At Northwestern’s orientation week, Jeremy quickly draws the interest of PEX (Physical EXams skill unit of PPS)-crazed HPME student Gloria (second-year student Rob Eilers) and John is falling for Claire (second-year student Claire O’Connell). John is crestfallen when Sack Lodge (second-year student Ami Patel), and John is falling for Claire (second-year student Claire O’Connell).

In Vivo 2009!

After PEX on the beach with the infatuated Gloria, Jeremy tells John, “We gotta get out of here, pronto! I’ve got a Stage 5 clinger!” But Jeremy agrees to go as Gloria’s possessively takes Claire away.

Sack has discovered that John and Jeremy aren’t really medical students and exposes their ruse. However, Jeremy later discovers that John secretly has been studying for the MCATs and reluctantly accepts John’s invitation to the upcoming White Coat Ceremony. In the final scene, John declares himself a changed man to Claire. She dumps Sack and chooses John for the happy ending.

The Dance Interest Group made three appearances, dancing to the music of Dan-ity Kane, Missy Elliott, Flo Rida featuring T-Pain, and Leona Lewis, with choreography by first-year student Tiffany Jean and second-year students Ami Shah, Terrance Lee, and Mariciana Lee.

Students, staff, and faculty appeared in a number of videos spoofing the medical school experience. For example, a three-part video, “Peter Scott: A Beautiful Mind,” featured the curriculum coordinator’s inner dialogue as he proctored an exam. Another video featured a superhero, “Competency Crusader” (first-year student Jason Chin), whose weapons of choice were throwing stars shaped like the Northwestern Competency Compass. Other titles included “White Coat Extenders,” “Transplantes de Amor,” and “Smooth Muscle Cell,” a song-and-dance skit featuring Sack and choosing John for the happy ending.

Second-year student Mahesh Polavarapu (one of the producers along with Fontes and classmates Lauren Meyerson and Ashwini Varadhi) reprised his role as anchor for the Feinberg (pronounced fine-BARE) Report. First-year student and pianist Peter Chang sang “Bilirubin Turns Me Yellow,” with graphics featuring the cartoon character SpongeBob SquarePants. The Audio Notes, second-year students Rebecca Cantone, Theadora Sakata, and Emily Zander, provided other live music. With all three singing, they played cover tunes with original lyrics, including a rousing “Anatomy Times,” to the tune of Don McLean’s “American Pie”: “Bye, bye, to those anatomy times/ I’ve heard somatopleure and splanchnopleure until I could cry.”

Proceeds from the show went to the Range of Motion Project, which was founded in 2005 to provide quality prosthetics and orthotics for needy people in the developing world.

Michael Nyquist
President’s Message

This winter we celebrate the sesquicentennial of the medical school. This 150th anniversary will be recognized and lauded all year but most memorably at Alumni Weekend during the reunion ball, CME, and other alumni events. Please plan to attend Alumni Weekend (April 24-25) for the camaraderie and celebration.

While the wars, financial climate, and new political changes bring uncertainty to all of us, the future of health care is an issue of change as well. We will be experiencing a time of financial instability in our practice, academic, and group/managed care lifestyles. Hospitals will be facing tough decisions to maintain viability as well. Medical schools may be facing fewer applicants and a greater need for scholarship money. As we go forward, I wish all of you success and patience in dealing with the changes ahead.

Northwestern is changing in a very positive fashion. Many centers of excellence are thriving at our University. As you review this issue of Ward Rounds, take pride in all your alma mater continues to accomplish through its students, faculty members, and, most important, its loyal alumni. Ward Rounds has also made some changes in recent months in its appearance and content that we hope continue to meet—if not exceed—your communications needs.

Please share your thoughts with us by sending comments and suggestions to medalum@northwestern.edu or ward-rounds@northwestern.edu.

Sincerely,

Bonnie L. Typlin, MD ’74
President, Alumni Association

National, global honors go to faculty members

In January Theodor Krupin, MD, professor of ophthalmology, began his two-year term as president of the American Glaucoma Society. He also received the Life Achievement Honor Award from the American Academy of Ophthalmology at its November 2009 Joint Meeting held in Atlanta.

The American College of Physicians has named Robert O. Bonow, MD, Max and Lilly Goldberg Distinguished Professor and chief of cardiology, the recipient of the 2009 John Phillips Memorial Award for Outstanding Work in Clinical Medicine.

In January Theodore Krupin, MD, professor of ophthalmology, began his two-year term as president of the American Glaucoma Society. He also received the Life Achievement Honor Award from the American Academy of Ophthalmology at its November 2009 Joint Meeting held in Atlanta.

M. Marsel Mesulam, MD, Ruth and Evelyn Dunbar Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, received the Afzyn Libman Award of the International Neuropsychiatric Association on December 3 at its 7th international congress of neuropsychiatry in Cancun, Mexico.

Jeffrey Weiss, PhD, research professor of medicine, has been named director for research core planning in the medical school’s Office of Research. He will also serve as the liaison to the Center for Comparative Medicine and the core facilities administration in the Office of Research.

The Neurosurgical Society of America has nominated H. Hunt Batjer, MD, Michael J. Marchese Professor and chair of neurological surgery, to a one-year term as vice president. He was also named member-at-large of the Executive Committee of the American Academy of Neurological Surgeons.

In March Bharat B. Mittal, MD, GME ’90, chair and professor of radiation oncology, will begin his term as president of the Society of Chairs of Academic Radiation Oncology Programs (SCAROP). He also was appointed chair of the Government Relations Committee of the American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO) in 2008.

Michael J. Avram, PhD, associate professor of anesthesiology, has been appointed to the editorial board of Clinical Pharmacology & Therapeutics, the principal journal for those involved in the discipline of pharmacology.

With this winter issue, the medical school is launching an interactive electronic version of Ward Rounds to give you expanded coverage beyond the print version as well as additional news and information about your alma mater. Located at wardroundsonline.com, Ward Rounds Online features easy to navigate sections, ranging from alumni news and progress notes to special features, announcements, and back issues. It will include everything printed in the magazine and more.

NOW PRESENTING...

Ward Rounds

ONLINE

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33 WARD ROUNDS NEWS
Standing atop a light armored vehicle (left), Dr. Erin Felger and her then-fiancé—now-husband Ripley were stationed in Iraq during the same time period. She is now completing an endocrine surgery fellowship at Johns Hopkins University.

Navy experience hones young surgeon’s skills

In February 2006 a military plane landed in the Iraqi province of Al Anbar, after some 36 hours of transporting U.S. Navy personnel from Camp Pendleton, California. At about 12 p.m. Lieutenant Commander Erin A. Felger, MD ’98, climbed into bed and prepared to get some much needed sleep on her first night in Iraq.

“Reluctantly tired, we had settled in for about an hour when an improvised explosive device (IED) went off,” she recalls. “It shook the bed. It shook the little hut we were in. It was very loud, even though it was six miles away.” Perhaps not the welcome she wanted, but certainly one of the many experiences that this alumna of Northwestern’s Honors Program in Medical Education will never forget.

A member of one of the Navy’s mobile forward resuscitative surgical units, this general surgeon spent the next seven months stationed at a base between Fallujah and Ramadi—some 50 miles from Baghdad. Fifteen minutes from the scene of myriad skirmishes in this volatile war zone, Dr. Felger’s team cared for casualties ranging from U.S. soldiers to Iraqis, Cubans, and even other soldiers who since has been promoted to the rank of major—and his company of soldiers to the very same area in Iraq where Dr. Felger was stationed. On the one hand, she had the opportunity to see him. On the other hand, she absolutely didn’t want to see him as a patient in her medical unit. “It was definitely awesome at times, him being nearby,” shares Dr. Felger.

If the anxiety level of her role on the surgical unit were not enough, Dr. Felger also had to worry about her then-fiancé—now-husband, Ripley Rawlings. The Marines had deployed Captain Rawlings—who since has been promoted to the rank of major—and his company of soldiers to the very same area in Iraq where Dr. Felger was stationed. On the other hand, she had the opportunity to see him. On the other hand, she absolutely didn’t want to see him as a patient in her medical unit. “It was definitely awesome at times, him being nearby,” shares Dr. Felger. “Whenever his guys would get hurt and were being brought in, I wouldn’t know until I saw the injured whether he was among them or not.”

Dr. Felger decided during high school that she would serve as the only general surgeon in the region. “I don’t think until you are in that situation can you really be prepared to understand what it is and what it means,” she explains. “It’s definitely a different environment. War adds a new level of stress, that’s for sure.”

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“If someone had said to me when I was in medical school that you are going to be a naval officer, serve your country, and fight in a war, I would have said, ‘Oh, really?’” says Dr. Felger, who received three awards from the Navy. “I am extremely proud of my time in the military and being able to take care of the men and women who willingly volunteer to serve our country and sacrifice their lives to protect our freedom. I will always feel that I was part of something historical. Although I had to admit I didn’t sleep well at night and had horrible dreams when I returned, I would—I was needed—to do all over again.”

Cheryl SooHoo
In March Andrew P. Lazas, MD ’82, GME ’87, of Highland Park, Ill., will begin a one-year term as vice president-elect of the American Academy of Dermatology, the largest dermatology organization in the world. He will assume the position of vice president in 2012.

Former U.S. astronaut Joseph P. Kerwin, MD ’57, of College Station, Texas, gave a lecture on the space program and his experience as a member of NASA’s Skylab I mission at the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum on January 13. At the event, Dr. Kerwin signed copies of his book, Space: The Skylab Story.

Peter G. Trober, MD ’84, GME ’86, of Houston received a distinguished alumni merit award at the 76th annual Northwestern Alumni Association Alumni Awards ceremony held September 26 at the Chicago Cultural Center. Former president and chief executive officer and executive dean at Baylor College of Medicine, Dr. Trober was among 20 Northwestern alumni to be honored at the event.

Richard D. Ferkel, MD ’77, of Van Nuys, Calif., was named one of Los Angeles magazine’s “Super Doctors” in the December 2008 issue.

Neil J. Stone, MD ’88, GME ’79, of Winnie, Ill., professor of clinical medicine at Northwestern, was named a master of the American College of Physicians. He was also asked to cochair the Adult Treatment Panel IV of the National Cholesterol Education Program.

Mark B. Schiff, MD ’77, has been appointed vice chair of cardiovascular medicine and chief of clinical cardiology at Lenox Hill Hospital in New York. He and his wife, Stephanie, reside in Manhattan.

Arnold “Arnie” L. Widen, MD ’53, GME ’59, of Chicago, associate professor of medicine at Northwestern, received the Unity Globe Award from the Rainbow PUSH Coalition and the Citizenship Education Fund last July. The award honors Dr. Widen’s continued support of the Rainbow PUSH Coalition’s health initiative and of improving access to care for African Americans.

George A. Williams, MD ’78, of Bloomfield Hills, Mich., was elected to the membership of the American Academy of Ophthalmology to the board of trustees of the academy. His term began in January. He continues to serve as chair of the Department of Ophthalmology at William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak.

William C. Sheldon, MD ’57, GME ’62, of Pepper Pike, Ohio, received the 2008 Distinguished Alumni Award given by the Cleveland Clinic Alumni Association. The award recognizes those who have shown exceptional, enduring achievements and leadership that have brought pride to the Cleveland Clinic community. In 1962 Dr. Sheldon completed his fellowship training in cardiovascular disease at the clinic, and became a full staff member two years later. He recently published Pathfinders of the Heart: The History of Cardiology at the Cleveland Clinic.

Arnold R. Eiser, MD ’74, of Bryn Mawr, Pa., received the Laureate Award from the Pennsylvania chapter of the American College of Physicians for lifetime achievement in medical practice, research, and education. Dr. Eiser is vice president of medical education for the Mercy Health System of Southeastern Pennsylvania and associate dean and professor of medicine at Drexel University.

Stephen M. Howell, MD ’81, of Elkhart, Calif., received the President’s Award from Methodist Hospital of Sacramento. Renowned in the field of ACL reconstruction, he is professor of mechanical engineering, Division of Biomedical Engineering, at the University of California at Davis (UCD). While a student at Northwestern, he met his wife, Lydia P. Howell, MD ’81, currently vice chair and director of anatomic pathology at UCD’s medical center.

1947

Hugh S. Collett, MD, of Elko, Nev., and his late father, George A. Collett, MD, were featured in a special publication of his local newspaper in late December. Both surgeons, the Drs. Collett practiced at the Elko Clinic in Elko County, the fourth largest county in the United States. The senior Dr. Collett, a graduate of Rush Medical School, helped found the clinic in 1948. “He was one of the first to be certified by the American Board of Surgery,” writes Dr. Collett, who was still in training when his father died. Continuing his father’s work, this Northwestern alum practiced for 35 years at the clinic before retiring in 1984.

1954

Arnold R. Heyman, MD, of Los Angeles continues to prove that “one medical experience never ends.” He remains active by working at his company, NeoTech Products, Inc. Founded 25 years ago and still growing, NeoTech manufactures neonatal intensive care products for neonatal intensive care units around the world.

1955

Gael R. Frank, MD, of Kansas City, Mo., reflects on his past achievements. “I am reminded of one of the Progress Notes from years past. It stated simply, ‘I finally achieved my lifetime goal of doing absolutely nothing. Sometimes retirement seems like that, but at least I made it to retirement!’ Dr. Frank has never regretted his decision to stay on the faculty of the University of Oklahoma (OU) College of Medicine for 10 years after completing his orthopaedic surgery residency at UO and before entering private practice. Receiving further specialization at a time before fellowships came into their own, Dr. Frank’s association with Don H. O’Donoghue, MD, a renowned sports medicine pioneer, amounted to “a fellowship in sports medicine with a fellowship in power negotiating included.” One of Dr. Frank’s 12 grandchildren is a freshman medical student at UO.

1960

Stephen B. Webster, MD, of La Crosse, Wis., has retired from his clinical practice of dermatology after 47 years. His career included 7 years in the Army, 2 years at Henry Ford Hospital, and 38 years at Gunderson Lutheran Medical Center. He continues to serve as associate executive director of the American Board of Dermatology and works with the medical center’s Business Health Department at local community health fairs and skin cancer screenings. In 2006 he received the Gold Medal from the American Academy of Dermatology. He shares, “I have been very proud of my medical education background from Northwestern.”

1968

Neil J. Stone, MD, GME ’75, of Winnie, Ill., and professor of clinical medicine at Northwestern’s Feinberg School of Medicine, proudly announces the birth of his first granddaughter, Abigail, born in April in Boston, and his first grandson, Benjamin, who “arrived” in September in Washington, D.C.

When in Rome or in Shenyang, China . . .

Northwestern alumnus Donald M. Coder, MD ’62, begins his sixth year of teaching at Shenyang University and Shenyang Medical College in China. He has embraced his new home and its culture. “The people love anything American and have accepted me and my wife, Ann,” he says. “Life is very good here in this amazing land, and we enjoy every minute of it.” At a party Dr. Coder and one of his Chinese graduate students, Julianna, perform a rousing rendition of “My Love”—a popular Chinese song in China.

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Send items for Progress Notes to ward-rounds@northwestern.edu or to the street address on page 39.
NASA astronaut Michael R. Barratt, MD ’85, GME ’89, of League City, Texas, is scheduled to arrive aboard a Soyuz spacecraft at the International Space Station this year. Assigned to Expedition 19, Dr. Barratt will fly with his Russian commander, Gennady Padalka. They leave from Kazakhstan on March 25. The Barratt family will be watching “lift off” from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. He and his family (from left) son Prazad, 14; son Joseph, 18; daughter Meeta, 16; wife Michelle, MD ’85, GME ’88; daughter Angela, 20; and son Anthony, 18, visit Moscow’s Red Square during one of their trips abroad.

In Memoriam


J. Kent Nelson, MD ’66, of Logan, Utah, died November 15, 2008.

Rodney L. Palmer, MD ’45, of Castro Valley, Calif., died November 2, 2008.

Eugene B. Sharpe, MD ’52, of Asheville, N.C., died August 24, 2008.

Jack E. Steele, MD ’50, of Dayton, Ohio, died January 19, 2009.

Roy L. Swank, MD ’38, of Portland, Ore., died November 16, 2008.

Thomas S. Tyczka, MD, GME ’72, of Downers Grove, Ill., died October 29, 2008.

Herbert W. Waechler, MD ’49, of Napa, Calif., died December 7, 2008.

More than 70 alumni and guests attended the medical school’s first Alumni Brunch of 2009 held January 25 in Beverly Hills. Dr. Larry Jameson and Dean Harrison, president of psychiatry and behavioral sciences, discussed his department’s cutting-edge activities that contribute to achieving the medical school’s goals. Alum Dr. James McPeek, a physiatrist and concert pianist, is recording a CD of rock classics with daughter Rachel, 22, a Northwestern University graduate who sings in an a cappella group, and son Julian, 17, a rock drummer.

Progress Notes

1998

Jane (James) Dimer, MD, GME ’92, of Mercer Island, Wash., enjoyed celebrating her 20th medical school reunion with classmates at Alumni Weekend in April. Grateful for all she learned at Northwestern, Dr. Dimer notes that her education empowered her “to serve the medical profession of the future.” She serves as an obstetrics and gynecology specialist for the Group Health Cooperative in Seattle, as well as the chair of the Women’s Health Service Line that boasts 54 practitioners. A member of the clinical faculty at the University of Washington, she teaches fellow faculty members, residents, and students. Dr. Dimer also serves as chair of the Washington State section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Describing her participation in the section, she says, it’s “a terrific way to help our patients by advocating for access to high-quality health care for women in our state.”

1999

Natalie Diaz, MD, GME ’04, and Joseph “Jay” Thomas, MD, GME ’04 (Medicine), of Torrance, Calif., welcomed Elena Grace on December 1. The family’s newest addition joins brother Jacob and sister Sofia. Natalie is assistant clinical professor of neurology at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center. She specializes in movement disorders. An interventional cardiologist, Jay recently joined the staff at Harbor-UCLA.

Plastic Surgery

Jerome D. Chao, MD, GME ’22, of Niskayuna, N.Y., was named chief of plastic surgery at Albany (N.Y.) Medical Center last July. The division currently has seven residents in its training program.

GME Programs

Neurology

Natalie Diaz, MD, GME ’04, and Joseph “Jay”’ Thomas, MD, GME ’04 (Medicine), of Torrance, Calif., welcomed Elena Grace on December 1. The family’s newest addition joins brother Jacob and sister Sofia. Natalie is assistant clinical professor of neurology at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center. She specializes in movement disorders. An interventional cardiologist, Jay recently joined the staff at Harbor-UCLA.

Rehabilitation Medicine

Richard T. Katz, MD, GME ’88, of Clayton, Mo., a physiatrist and concert pianist, is recording a CD of rock classics with daughter Rachel, 22, a Northwestern University graduate who sings in an a cappella group, and son Julian, 17, a rock drummer. Rachel will be attending medical school at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. The entire family was featured in the December 2008 issue of Skating magazine when the publication profiled mom Stacey L. Smith, MD ’91, who was a three-time U.S. ice dancing champion with partner John Summers and now practices in the St. Louis area. Percival H. Pangilinan Jr., MD, GME ’23, of Saline, Mich., was promoted to assistant professor of physical medicine and rehabilitation at the University of Michigan Health System in Ann Arbor.

‘Northwestern alumni brunch, 90210’

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Fusion 2009 circles the globe

Even a particularly chilly winter evening in Chicago couldn’t keep medical student performers from sizzling in the 2009 Fusion show held in Thorne Auditorium January 16. An annual multicultural event, the variety show featured ethnically-influenced song, dance, fashion, and other acts as well as raised $1,500 to benefit several nonprofit community and volunteer groups.

Flying aboard Northwestern’s imaginary “purple plane” with medical student emcees Laura Matthews and Nitin Yerram cheerfully guiding them, the Fusion audience “made stops” in countries around the world. They experienced performing arts ranging from traditional Irish dance to Indian music infused with modern rock and Bollywood hits.

Five multicultural student organizations worked to bring this year’s high-energy production to the Northwestern community, according to Fusion show coordinator and medical student Nitin Mehdiratta. They were the Asian Pacific American Medical Student Association (APAMSA), Chinatown Clinic, New Life Volunteer Society, South Asian Medical Student Association, and Student National Medical Association.

The student-run Fusion show blended traditional and modern song and dance from a variety of cultures and countries.

The student-run Fusion show blended traditional and modern song and dance from a variety of cultures and countries. The student fundraising efforts will go to support such groups as Combat Blindness, Westside Health Authority, and PCC Community Wellness Center. Along with donating proceeds of the show to Chicago’s Chinatown Clinic, APAMSA will perform hepatitis B screenings in this community as well as the city’s Argyle neighborhood. They hope to target Asian populations at risk for the disease.