ADVOCATES FOR CHANGE
Larner Students & Faculty Address Health Care Inequity

ALSO FEATURED: VACCINATING VERMONTERS • CONVERSATION RESEARCH • COMMENCEMENT 2021
A pioneer in the field of pediatric cardiology, JACQUELINE NOONAN, M.D.’54, was a renowned researcher, clinician, and mentor to many new physicians throughout the course of her decades-long career. In 1963, she became the first person to characterize a hereditary disorder typified by heart malformations and accompanied by a unique set of physical characteristics, a disorder that would later be named “Noonan Syndrome.” She was also the first to describe hypoplastic left heart syndrome. Her impact on younger generations of Larner graduates can be felt to this day, says ANNE MARIE VALENTE, M.D.’96, director of the Boston Adult Congenital Heart Program and associate professor of pediatrics and medicine at Harvard Medical School. “Dr. Noonan was always incredibly supportive and encouraging,” she says. “Particularly in the field of cardiology, this mentorship proved to be invaluable and I am deeply grateful to her for her leadership.” The College celebrated Noonan’s impact on the field of medicine through her receipt of the 2009 UVM Medical Alumni Association’s A. Bradley Soule Award and the first-ever Distinguished Service Award in 1996. She was a consistent and generous supporter of the 21st Century Fund, the Larner Endowed Loan Fund and, more recently, the UVM College of Medicine Fund. When Noonan died in July of 2020 at the age of 91, she donated $285,000 to the College through her estate to support the Dean’s Strategic Fund for Medical Research & Education. Her generosity will help to support the most pressing needs of the College and help recruit and support new faculty members.

(Above) Jacqueline Noonan, M.D.’54, at Medical Reunion 2009

For information about how you can support the work of the UVM Larner College of Medicine and its affiliates, please contact the Medical Development and Alumni Relations Office:
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On the Cover (From left to right): Students Erik Zhang, Tyler Harkness, and Krisandra Kneer—all members of the Larner Social Justice Coalition.
Summer in New England is special, made even more so here at the Larner College of Medicine by welcoming new and returning students. Our new medical students and graduate students arrive to a world that seems to change every day. UVM faculty, staff and students have behaved admirably throughout the past 18 months, and so have our fellow Vermonters, but at this writing, we are not yet out of the woods. We have seen what science can accomplish, at breathtaking speed, and we will continue to contribute to every effort to bring our College back to whatever “normal” future we have in store.

We have just welcomed the newest members of our Larner community, the medical Class of 2025 and our incoming graduate students. In addition to new students, we are welcoming staff and newly recruited staff and faculty. Among these recruits is Dr. Randall Holcombe, the new director of the UVM Cancer Center and Division Chief for the Division of Hematology and Oncology in the Department of Medicine, about whom you can read more in this issue.

While we look forward to embarking on new challenges, we realize that there is still much important work dating from before the pandemic that calls for our continued attention. Thrown in high relief during the past year has been the need you’ll read in this issue, Dean Luginbuhl passed away in late June. I was honored to our College. It is clear that the spirit of cooperation and teamwork evident during the past several years to foster health equity. As we affirm in the Statement on Professionalism that guides our Larner community, a sense of altruism and social responsibility are key drivers of our work every day.

I expect that many of you received your diplomas from former Dean William Luginbuhl, who led our College for more than 20 years in the 1970s and 1980s. As you’ll read in this issue, Dean Luginbuhl passed away in late June. I was honored to visit with him and his wife, “Vi,” in 2019, and hear their memories and aspirations for our College. It is clear that the spirit of cooperation and teamwork evident during our latest challenges is a longstanding tradition.

Please mark your calendars. We plan to welcome our alumni back to campus for the first in-person reunion since 2019. I look forward with great expectation to seeing as many of our graduates as possible over the October 8-9 weekend.

With warmest regards for your continued health and safety,
**AMERICAN THORACIC SOCIETY HONORS BATES, PARSONS, KAMINSKY**

Three members of the Department of Medicine were honored at the 2021 American Thoracic Society (ATS) International Conference held in May.

Jason Bates, Ph.D., D.S., professor of medicine, received a Recognition Award for Scientific Achievement, which “recognizes outstanding scientific contributions in basic or clinical research to enhance the understanding, prevention and treatment of respiratory disease or critical illness” and is given “based on contributions made throughout their careers or for major contributions made at a particular point in their careers.” E.L. Amidon Chair and Professor of Medicine Polly Parsons, M.D., received the Edward Livingston Toulouse Medal, which recognizes “individual with lifelong major contributions to prevention, diagnosis and treatment of lung disease through leadership in research, education, or clinical care” and “acknowledges exemplary professionalism, collegiality and citizenship in the ATS community.”

David Kaminisky, M.D., professor of medicine, received the Assembly on Respiratory Structure and Function, Professor Dr. Robert Crapo Memorial Lifetime Achievement Award in Pulmonary Diagnostics. This award recognizes the recipient’s “lifetime of dedication and accomplishment in the study of pulmonary diagnostic testing.”

**Shukla Garners Cancer Research Award**

Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Arti Shukla, Ph.D., was recognized for outstanding cancer research with the Society of American Asian Scientists in Cancer Research (SAASCR) award during the annual International Conference held in May 2021. SAASCR is a non-political and non-profit organization with more than 8,000 scientists from Asian (mainly Indian) origin and working in the U.S. and Canada in the field of cancer research.

**Warshaw Named University Distinguished Professor**

David Warshaw, Ph.D.’s, professor and chair of molecular physiology and biophysics, is a 2021 recipient of the University Distinguished Professor Award—the highest academic honor that UVM can bestow upon a faculty investigator from the biomedical and quantitative/modeling fields. Warshaw is an internationally renowned leader in the structure and function of the myosin molecular motors that power both muscle contraction and the transport of intracellular cargo. He developed technology to measure the molecular-level force generated by these tiny motor proteins, an advance that was critical to his paradigm-shifting discovery that patients with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM) have a genetic mutation to the cardiac myosin that can lead to heart failure and sudden death in young athletes. This discovery led to the development of drugs to “throttle back” the heart’s molecular motor in patients with HCM.

**Kirkpatrick Honored as University Scholar**

Beth Kirkpatrick, M.D., professor and chair of psychiatry and neurobehavioural sciences, has been named one of three 2021-2022 University Scholars. The University Scholars program recognizes UVM faculty members for sustained excellence in research, scholarship, teaching and creative arts. Kirkpatrick began her career with research interests in enteric infections, mucosal immunology, and vaccines. In 2004, she launched the UVM Vaccine Testing Center, now a multi-disciplinary team that has received a clinical trial sponsor license for the commercialization of vaccines. Kirkpatrick is also the principal investigator of a National Institutes of Health-funded Center of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) grant—the Translational Global Infectious Diseases Research (TGIR) Center—which focuses on the development of the next generation of vaccines. Kirkpatrick’s research is among the world’s most highly cited in the field of infectious diseases.

**Dostmann Receives Teaching Award**

Wolfgang Dostmann, Ph.D., professor of pharmacology, was awarded the University of Vermont’s 2020-2021 Kroepsch-Maurice Excellence in Teaching Award at the rank of professor. The award recognizes Dostmann’s “commitment to the greatness and virtue of instruction and... efforts at cultivating an inclusive environment conducive to exceptional learning.” The awards memorialize Robert H. and Ruth M. Kroepsch and her parents, Walter C. and Mary L. Maurice. Robert H. Kroepsch served as Registrar and Dean of Administration at UVM from 1946-1956. His wife, Ruth, graduated from UVM in 1938 and her father, Walter Maurice, graduated from UVM in 1909. All four were teachers.

**Understanding the Adolescent Brain**

New brain activation data from the largest longitudinal neuroimaging study to date provides valuable new information on the cognitive processes and brain systems that underlie adolescent development. The study, published June 7 online in Nature Neuroscience, stands to clarify the psychological processes that put young people at higher risk for developing mental and physical health challenges. Since many mental health disorders emerge during this time, understanding neurodevelopment from 10 to 20 years old is key to improving outcomes for adults. However, most neuroimaging studies have historically focused on adults. This paper is part of the Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development Study, which launched in 2016 and is a 10-year-long longitudinal study that has enrolled nearly 12,000 youth aged 9 to 10 at 21 sites across the country. Using functional magnetic resonance imaging technology, the researchers observed brain activation during a battery of three different tasks. Results demonstrated which brain regions are involved in a range of psychological processes, including cognitive control, reward processing, working memory, and social/emotional function. “This study—likely the biggest task activation paper ever—shows the brain regions activated by each task, how well they capture individual differences, and will likely serve as a baseline for all the subsequent papers that will track the kids as they age,” said Hugh Garavan, Ph.D., professor of psychiatry and senior author. Boder Cheahori, Ph.D., assistant professor of psychiatry and the study’s first author, calls the brain activation maps the team developed “a gold standard for the neuroscience community” that could “help inform study design.”

**Mammography**

The pandemic has uncovered the insidious racism in medicine, forced us to address the plight of child hunger, to face the deep class divides in our country. As a physician, you have the privilege of a voice that will be respected and prioritized in conversations, so be a part of that conversation. Do not hide in silence.”

—Elizabeth Lynch, M.D. ’21, addressing her classmates at the 2021 medical commencement ceremony
“HAVE THE COURAGE TO BE A TRUTH TELLER”
CELEBRATING THE CLASS OF 2021

In a first-ever hybrid in-person/virtual commencement, the Larner College of Medicine celebrated its Class of 2021 M.D. graduates on May 23, 2021, during a ceremony that took place both at UVM’s Patrick Gymnasium and via Zoom. A total of 94 of the Larner College of Medicine’s 110 Class of 2021 medical graduates attended the ceremony, with 42 participating in person. All in-person participants complied with UVM’s strict COVID-19 safety protocols.

Family physician, epidemiologist, and anti-racism activist Camara Phyllis Jones, M.D., M.P.H., Ph.D., past president of the American Public Health Association, delivered the commencement keynote address. Jones counseled graduates that “being a social justice warrior is a legitimate and necessary part of being a physician.” She gave them four charges as they embark on their new careers: “Be courageous; be curious; be collective; and build community.” Jones gave examples of the behavior aligned with these charges, such as having the courage to be a truth-teller, asking serial “why?” questions, caring about the whole of humanity, and bursting “through our bubble” to make conversation with strangers in order to turn strangers into friends.

In her address, Senior Associate Dean for Medical Education Christa Zehle, M.D. ’99, told students “If the pandemic has taught us anything, it is the power disease has to upend daily life in ways we never thought possible.” She recognized the students’ commitment to advocating for social justice and equity and said, “Your voice will continue to be important throughout your career, so speak up for what is right, be a model of professionalism, and demonstrate kindness and respect in all that you do.”

SEE MORE PHOTOS AND A VIDEO OF THE EVENT AT MED.UVM.EDU/VTMEDICINE/WEB-EXTRAS
A new COVID Recovery Program created by a team at UVM Medical Center aims to provide services specifically to patients known as “COVID long haulers,” a group that experiences a constellation of disparate symptoms weeks or even months after initial infection.

David Kaminsky, M.D., professor of medicine, says a support group created for all UVM Health Network patients diagnosed with COVID-19 helped to identify the need for services specifically for COVID long haulers. He reached out to colleagues in rheumatology, infectious disease and family medicine to move forward with the COVID Recovery Program.

The group decided to anchor the COVID Recovery Program in the region’s primary care offices. Specialists created guidelines for primary care physicians to assess patients with persistent COVID symptoms and steer them to the appropriate services.

Katherine Merson, D.O., assistant professor of medicine, says long-term interventions like physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy seem to help with symptoms such as brain fog, chronic fatigue and muscle weakness.

The program should also help to understand how many UVM Health Network patients are experiencing Long COVID, a number that according to some estimates may range from 10 to 30 percent of patients diagnosed with COVID-19.

**NEW PROGRAM TREATS PATIENTS WITH LONG COVID**

“This guide is meant to help Black women feel safer, and to provide a modern framework for medical providers to actively address their own racism.”


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**Wellness Environment Launches WE MD App Study at Larner**

Launched seven years ago, the Wellness Environment (WE) program for UVM undergraduates is an incentive-based program focused on health promotion, illness prevention and behavioral change. For several years, students in WE have been given Apple watches and used the WE App, which was recently updated, to keep track of their health and wellness activities. On May 24, members of the WE program at UVM, in collaboration with leaders at Larner, opened a voluntary research study of the WE MD App in which medical students in the classes of 2022 and 2023 can enroll.

The latest creation conceived by WE founder and Director Jim Hudziak, M.D., professor of psychiatry and director of child psychiatry and the Vermont Center for Children, Youth and Families, the WE MD App was inspired by Hudziak’s experience as a medical student and that of his daughter, Vicenta Hudziak, M.D.’18. The WE App served as a foundation for the WE MD App, which was tweaked for a medical student user based on input from a team including Hudziak, William Copeland, Ph.D., professor of psychiatry, Lee Rosen, Ph.D., interim associate dean for students and assistant professor of psychiatry, Elizabeth Lynch, M.D., ’21, and medical students Alexandra Novelli ’23, Carly Watson ’23, and Hakeem Yousef ’22.

![The WE MD App homepage explains an overall personal wellness score as well as scores in the five main areas of well-being.](Image)

An arm of the WE program, led by Copeland, focuses on research based on the findings generated by students’ responses in the app, including a recent Journal of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry article on student wellness during the pandemic. The goal is to better promote wellness behaviors, provide individualized feedback, and offer incentives for engaging in reflection and wellness activities.

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**Bystander or Advocate? Who Do You Choose to Be?**

**Viewpoint**

Bystander or Advocate? Who Do You Choose to Be?

BY DIANE MAGRANE, M.D.

Culture change begins with acts of individual change. You may have heard the phrase “Be the change you aim to see.” This wisdom often is attributed to Mahatma Gandhi, but the actual author was high school teacher Afseem Lorraine, who first used it to advance a program in the poverty- and violence-challenged high schools of Brooklyn. Each of us can choose to be the change through actions that advance everyone’s opportunities while challenging traditional norms.

We can check the power language that maintains traditional equilibrium and facilitates marginalization, choosing instead to:

- Acknowledge transgressions in the space and time in which they occur. Politely. Firmly. Failure to do so by waiting until a private conversation after the meeting is called private allyship. It results in silently condoning the transgression.
- Address issues of bias and discrimination in real time, creating space to hear them out. Provoking the conversation away from the alleged sexism or racism towards a more neutral topic is called side-stepping. It leaves the challenge unexplained and diminishes the person feeling harmed by it.
- When we call it out power language, when we check our own use and readjust, we change the conversation in the room to make it more welcoming and inclusive.

Allow individuals to express their thoughts and feelings openly, without becoming defensive. Avoid tone policing that shuts down the marginalized person as being angry or emotional. And take care not to put their words into yours. People, even in the midst of their passion, are capable of speaking for themselves.

We can count and report the counts and gaps. We measure—and report—what we value. What do your counts show of gender and race in publications, appointments, conference speakers, awards that are not targeted to specific groups? What does that say about what we value as a community?

The Gender Equity Report Card being developed by medical student Stellar Levy with the Gender Equity Committee is a great example of counting and reporting.

We can acknowledge the good work in front of us. Pay attention to the behaviors described in the gender equity awards. Speak up in favor of these changes and encourage more. Consider how they might be replicated across the institution.

Twenty years ago, UVM faculty and students designed one of the first medical student curricula in the nation that integrated leadership development as a core theme. That theme, and in particular, the skills related to advocacy for the community, are even more important today as we recognize that equity is key to health, innovation, and productivity. How might UVM continue to lead the nation as ambassadors of this teaching and learning? Specifically, what do you value? What do your counts show of gender and race in publications, appointments, conference speakers, awards that are not targeted to specific groups? What does that say about what we value as a community?

Where do you have discretion and freedom to act? Will you choose to stand by as a protector of the status quo or will you choose to listen, speak and act to expand diversity, inclusion and equity in this community?
Study Shows Better Way to Pay for Pain Management

BY JANET FRANZ

Assistant Professor of Family Medicine Jon Porter, M.D., describes the people under his care as heroes: They fight daily battles against debilitating backache, arthritis, fibromyalgia, systemic inflammatory conditions, and chronic headaches, braving unrelenting pain to care for loved ones and manage their lives. For years, these individuals fought their pain with traditional medical weapons—opioid medications, steroid injections, surgeries—bringing short-term relief and, for some, addiction, depression and anguish. Still, Porter says, they persevere in quests for confidence and resilience. The surveys also gauge self-compassion, in social roles and sleep disturbance. Life, fatigue, anxiety, ability to participate in social roles and sleep disturbance.

“We want to demonstrate to society the value of this novel approach to pain,” said Porter. “Blue Cross wants to know if it works. They want their subscribers to be healthier and to reduce costs.”

The project models value-based care, a payment system offering financial incentives to medical providers for meeting health outcomes. It’s opposite of fee-for-service, the traditional model that reimburses providers for each procedure. If it works, Blue Cross may cover integrative therapies more broadly, for each procedure. If it works, Blue Cross may cover integrative therapies more broadly, for each procedure.

Study participants attend group meetings for culinary medicine classes and rooms for gentle movement, teaching kitchen skills and cooking classes. In a survey of medical appointments. I learned how they learned to cope with their pain, it will help them for decades.”

“Some details have been changed to protect patient confidentiality.

Viewpoint

Bearing Witness to the Patient Experience

BY FLORA LIU, M.D., ’21

I learned how they loved to garden, read, and hunt, and I began to understand how these medical conditions were impacting their lives—Flora Liu, M.D., ’21

My time with this patient and his wife has given me the opportunity to approach my work as a physician from a different perspective. After many months of battling with his health conditions, and more than a year of constant medical visits and adjustments to treatment plans, he finally said he felt better for the first time. He may not be the perfect answer in a test question, and his medical regimen may not be optimized, but his quality of life has improved. After improving for him for the past year, I saw him go through so many ups and downs. I am so thankful that they welcomed me on their journey. At my last visit with him, I was just so touched seeing him feeling better. They were proud that they could provide me this educational experience. Reflecting on my time with them, I consider this one of the most rewarding experiences of my medical education.
ONE DAY IN LATE APRIL, HOWARD SCHAFFRO, M.D. ’80, gathered with a group of about 50 nurses, vaccinators, pharmacists and support staff to pose for a group photo (at right). He stood toward the back, cracking a wide smile behind his mask. The photo was a tribute to the people who had worked to set up the COVID-19 vaccination clinic at the Champlain Valley Expo in Essex. Schapiro, UVM Health Network Chief Population and Quality Officer, remembered all too well how overwhelming it had seemed when they first began setting up the clinic four months earlier.

Months before the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) rolled out a system for patients to self-schedule appointments, before anyone even really understood how a mass vaccination system was going to work, the State of Vermont put out calls to health care organizations asking them to create high-capacity vaccination centers as fast as possible. The UVM Medical Center responded, administering the first COVID-19 vaccines in the state at a small clinic set up at the hospital.

But more was needed, and soon the most urgent and profound public health challenge of our lifetime fell onto Schapiro’s desk: How to vaccinate tens of thousands of people as quickly as possible.

“Today, sitting here, I think of that as a privilege,” he says. “But I didn’t think that on that day.”

Understanding what was at stake, he started building an army of allies, the vaccine their only weapon. He called in experts from UVM Medical Center’s pharmacy department and technology team, as well as the Network’s Critical Care Transport Team, who had experience setting up the UVM Health Network’s first mobile COVID-19 testing site. Next, the Expo, for help with the site and facilities. Green Mountain Messenger, for assistance shuttling vaccines back and forth every day from UVM Medical Center to the Expo, following exacting temperature protocols. The lineup of partners was long, but time was short.

Photos by Ryan Mercer
At times, there were significant hurdles, especially at the beginning. While the state had provided a list of first responders to contact—those in Tier 1A, eligible for the first vaccinations—the list was incomplete, with departments, police departments, EMTs and other first responders in Chittenden County didn't have complete contact information themselves. So, it was left to Schapiro's team to track down thousands of people.

"We started making hundreds and hundreds of phone calls every day," said Scott O'Seel, head of UVM Health Network's Patient Service Access Center. Schapiro tapped Todd Young, head of the UVM Health Network's Telehealth program, to help things move faster. Young worked with people like senior project manager Roberta Mitchel, to come up with a patient self-schedule model ahead of the CDC's rollout, allowing the number of vaccine doses administered to rise from a few dozen a day to hundreds.

By the end of January, the UVM Medical Center and the vaccine clinic at the Expo had administered more than 10,000 COVID-19 vaccine doses to frontline and community health workers.

From there, Schapiro, a former chair of the Department of Anesthesiology, put together a team of what he calls "very good thinkers." People like Nurse Manager Michael Consi, of UVM Medical Center's process improvement department, who took over from Mike Conti from the Critical Care Transport Team. Her mission: scale up operations as much as the vaccine supply would allow.

By late May, about 120,000 COVID-19 vaccine doses had been administered by Network COVID-19 clinics throughout the region, at least 65,000 at the Expo alone. "To a person, the team's commitment, their willingness to give their time, to think outside the box... to do whatever it took to get it done, has been just amazing," says Schapiro, who clearly enjoys talking about the whole experience... now. He credits his team for making the clinic what he refers to as "the happiest place on earth."
Bob Gramling, M.D., D.Sc., has witnessed grief in its many forms. As the inaugural Holly and Bob Miller Chair in Palliative Medicine and a professor of family medicine, he counsels seriously ill patients and their families while they navigate the challenging terrain between life and death. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Gramling worked with a UVM Medical Center team to provide critical support at a Burlington nursing home experiencing an outbreak. He sat with patients, often holding a phone or iPad, so they could say goodbye to loved ones who, because of safety precautions, couldn’t be present. The forced distancing was difficult, but moments of connection still emerged.

These moments—as brief as they may be—deserve attention, says Gramling. He wants to find the communicative patterns that develop. If his team can uncover a clearer picture of the exchanges that bring humans together in empathy and compassion, then perhaps medical professionals can collectively create end-of-life journeys that are a little less lonely and fraught with fear, and maybe even a little more joyful.

In their Vermont Conversation Lab in the Given Building at the UVM Larner College of Medicine, Gramling and his team have assembled a breadth of research expertise focused on parsing the sentences we use, the words we choose—and the silent spaces in between—to understand how conversations bring meaning and comfort to patients and their loved ones.

Although the work has been ongoing for over four years, the COVID-19 pandemic has infused it with a new sense of urgency.

“Whether it’s just the potential energy of this year or where our work has naturally evolved, we’re becoming more and more interested in this one fundamental question: What is human connection?” says Gramling. “What does it look like in different types of conversations? And then how do we foster that?”

The StoryListening Study is the newest project for his team. Funded through the Holly and Bob Miller Endowed Chair Fund in Palliative Medicine, UVM Continuing and Distance Education, and a generous donation from UVM Medical Center Foundation board member Kate Laud, the goal is to enroll 150 to 200 family members, friends or clinicians who experienced the death of a loved one or patient during the COVID-19 pandemic. These people are invited to tell their story—with no stipulations on how they tell it, or for how long, or what specifically they talk about. End-of-life doulas trained in UVM’s certificate program serve as the “listeners.” The exchanges between participants and end-of-life doulas happen via televideo—a key aspect of the study, says Gramling. He’s excited to discover more about how video affects human connection between participants.

Participants receive 15 questions before and after the exchange, designed to measure “the acceptability of the televideo StoryListening visit” and to understand “the aspects of the storytelling experience that are most beneficial to quality-of-life.”

A Search for Meaning

The StoryListening Study

Parses Words and Silences to Find Moments of Connection

By Erin Post
“Immediately following an emotional connectional silence, there’s an acknowledgement of the moment of gravity. Quotes that we hear are: ‘That’s a lot to take in,’ or ‘Can you tell me more?’”

—ANN WONG

The Conversation Lab’s database contains over one million words of conversation—more than ten thousand minutes of patients, family members and health professionals talking—all of which has been poured over to understand what defines moments of connection. In collaboration with his brother, David, Gramling has written studies, titled Palliative Care Conversations: Clinical and Applied Linguistic Perspectives. For the StoryListening Study, Gramling is excited to see how the work unfolds, leaving open the possibility for entirely new lines of inquiry to develop.

“We’re going to be seeing some things that we had only seen by assumption and by extrapolation so far, and there are things we’ve only seen in one or two conversations—quite literally the absence of words in two- to three-second intervals—for what the medical community might consider a normal conversation. If you don’t have any words in a discussion, you get a chance to tell it can be quite freeing,” Gramling says.

In the long-term, Gramling wants to define and delineate the value of these conversations. “If the medical system can shake loose some of the defensiveness in training the way we do in surgery, then we can’t only change the culture; we can change the way we think about the human connection. We’re doing it in some places, but not everywhere.”

No matter the story, there’s value in telling it. “Being able to tell your story to a really engaged listener who doesn’t have a vested interest in your story other than that you get a chance to tell it can be quite freeing,” Gramling says. “The expertise of being a doula is to bear witness to people’s unfolding story.”

The impetus for this work has been a personal one. “With all the things we’ve had to sacrifice, I have a real need to celebrate the life that was lost,” says Arnoldy. “And they want to share stories about this person. Whereas other storytellers want to express deep sadness and yearnings or some of the physical manifestations of grief. And other people, it’s maybe trauma, and I think that there’s a lot of the relationship or a painful relationship with this person.”

The conversations are critical to a process that hinges on context and culture. Each member of the team brings a unique viewpoint that taken together helps to arrive at a common understanding.

“We’re just starting to publish on some important ways of developing a taxonomy,” says Gramling. “What are they? And can we find them in ways that are reliable and valid and that are not overly culturally defined? Because what counts, what looks like context in one setting, in one context, in one person’s experience, may not be in another. We have to make sure that we’re open to all different definitions of what human connection looks like.”

The recording of the exchanges between participants and end-of-life doula caregivers is a critical part of the process. Researchers are listening to each conversation, analyzing the language, the silences, even the frequency of “turns” the speakers take, that may uncover when and how moments of connection are created. Once patterns emerge, machine learning can help scale the analysis across thousands of conversations, helping to hold in on in when barriers fall away. “It’s a new way of evolving around this concept of loneliness or feeling disconnected,” says Gramling. “And the converse of that: what does connection look like and how do we make it happen?”
FOSTERING
SOCIALLY-
CONSCIOUS
CLINICIANS

Addressing Health Inequity
Through the Vermont
Integrated Curriculum.

By Michelle Bookless

(From left to right) Larner
College of Medicine students
Erik Zhang, Krisandra Kneer,
and Tyler Harkness
Scientific advancements such as genome sequencing, mRNA vaccines and point-of-care ultrasound have saved countless lives. But new technologies are only as successful as the practitioners who use them.

In order to reduce the incidence of disease and improve health outcomes, particularly in historically underserved populations, the clinicians and systems that deliver patient care must also evolve.

In an article published in May 2021 by the Association of American Medical Colleges, titled “Medical Schools Overhaul Curricula to Fight Inequities,” Stacy Weiner notes that if medical schools succeed in weaving health equity inextricably around the country, they have recognized their own shortcomings in the areas of social justice and health equity. They’re hearing them say, “This isn’t an area I got trained on when I was in medical school; and I want to learn more;” he says. “I appreciate that Larner faculty are open, eager, and curious to learn.”

Here are some of the contributors to date:

**PROFESSIONALISM, COMMUNICATION, AND REFLECTION**

Since 2002, Larner’s Professionalism, Communication, and Reflection (PCR) course has served as an opportunity for preclinical medical students to reflect on their medical school experiences. The groups offer a non-judgmental environment with a small group of peers. By taking time for these reflections, says PCR Course Director and Associate Professor of Family Medicine Stephen Berns, M.D., “students learn how to develop skills in active listening, vulnerability, and how to seek support.”

Over the years, PCR has evolved in invaluable guidance from former course directors such as Yvette Pigion, Ed.D., Dana Walzath, Ph.D., Lee Rosen, Ph.D., and Shaden Eldakar-Hein, M.D. It was Eldakar-Hein who worked with Goyal, Epstein, Dawson, Brach, and Finnie to initially link social determinants of health topics more clearly with PCR sessions. Now, this work is in the midst of its next evolutionary leap with Berns at the helm.

In January 2020, Berns became PCR course director, and in the middle of a pandemic that brought the broken pieces of the American health care system into full view, he seized on the theme of structural change and began to reconfigure PCR once again.

PCR is now delivered in five modules. “Becoming a Physician,” “Humanity” and “Society and Medicine” are taught during the first year; “Advocacy and Social Justice” is addressed during the sophomore year; and during their third year, students engage in the final module—“The Medical Culture and Resilience.”

In the first three modules, students explore topics like self-identity, the burden of individual trauma, and the concept of implicit bias. As they enter the second year, Berns and course professors focus primarily on advocacy, asking the students to consider questions such as “What is a physician’s role as an advocate—for their patients, their colleagues, and their communities?” and “Why should or shouldn’t social justice be taught in medical school?”

During their third year, the final PCR module challenges students to find their meaning in medicine. They learn to approach situations of moral distress and investigate the “hidden curriculum,” which encompasses the “implicit messages about values, norms and attitudes” that students learn outside of the classroom, says Berns. As he continues to evolve PCR, Berns says he’s committed to increased training for faculty: “A lot of medical school faculty around the country have recognized their own shortcomings and have taken the time to envision a more just and equitable medical future.”

**UNDOING HISTORICAL INJUSTICES**

Undoing historical injustices hinges in part on open, honest discussion about the historical and cultural roots of injustice, says Timothy Lahey, M.D. M.M.Sc., professor of medicine and director of the Social Justice Coalition (SJC) Book Club. Lahey began an open and honest conversation with a small group of medical students in the Class of 2021 to discuss historic and current injustices in health care and medicine spurred by texts such as All God’s Children, The Warmth of Other Suns, and The Warmth of Other Suns.

Though thoughtfully curated discussion guides and a combination of large group discussions and small break-out rooms, club members share ideas and take a deep dive into each book. In the future, members hope to incorporate additional forms of media such as documentaries, poems, and podcasts onto their “bookshelf.” All faculty, staff, medical, graduate students, and alumni of the College are welcome to join.

Here are a few of the books the club has discussed.

**THE FIRE NEXT TIME**

By James Baldwin

Review by Erik Zhang ’24

“Do I really want to be integrated into a burning house?” author James Baldwin demands in this reflection on his experience with organized religion, the individual and collective Black American experience, and the nature of justice and injustice. Caught between his own non-violent vision for Black liberation and a growing militant Black Power movement, Baldwin wrestles with the paradoxical position of strength and weakness held by the Black community in the context of white supremacy.

Providing a unique perspective into the thoughts and experiences of one of America’s greatest writers and orators, The Fire Next Time serves as a key introduction for readers who are interested in understanding the dynamics fueling liberation movements of the mid-twentieth century.

**MEDICAL ETHICS**

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Providing a unique perspective into the thoughts and experiences of one of America’s greatest writers and orators, The Fire Next Time serves as a key introduction for readers who are interested in understanding the dynamics fueling liberation movements of the mid-twentieth century.
“Our current system is excellently equipped to deal with a faceless collection of symptoms,” says Erik Zhang ’24, “but once we begin laying in the interacting components of race, gender, mental health, language, and weight, to name a few of the big categories, in addition to the connotations and stigmas carried by each one, we lose the ability appropriately to address the issues being presented.”

It’s this understanding that motivated five Larner students to create the Social Justice Coalition in 2017. This group helped to drive creation of the formalized social medicine curriculum, which was piloted during the 2018-19 academic year. After its founding by Epstein, Dawson, Hauser, Goyal, and Lynch, the social medicine curriculum continued to evolve with involvement from Class of 2022 medical students Richard Brach, Sheridan Finnis, and Nikkole Turegeon; Class of 2023’s Krisandra Kneer; and most recently, Class of 2024’s Erik Zhang and Tyler Hardness.

Within the social medicine curriculum, the student-driven Social Medicine Theme of the Week (SMTW) weaves discussions of social determinants of health throughout all courses. SMTW themes are based on the seven learning objectives of the social medicine curriculum, including topics like appraisal of the intersection of social determinants with marginalized populations’ histories, perspectives, and experiences; synthesis of the United States’ role in the “global health narrative”; and tools and strategies to advocate for lasting social change. Themes align with relevant content taught during the pre-clinical foundational science courses and PCR. Examples include “The Genetics of Racism,” presented during the Foundations of Clinical Sciences course, when students learn about genetics and “Housing and Water,” during the Attacks and Defenses course, in which students learn about toxicology.

Although SMTW has helped raise student awareness of social determinants of health and their impact on health outcomes, the team has created a survey to gauge the level of success so far and guide further improvements to the curriculum. According to the paper that Goyal, Dawson, Epstein, Brach, and Finnis published, future goals include further integration of SMTW into pre-clinical and clinical training, faculty training, and assessment through student reflection and patient responses.

“Today’s system dedicates huge amounts of money, resources, and brain power to cutting-edge technology and medications, often at the expense of ground-level, socially-minded patient care,” says Hardness. “Things are changing, especially at Larner, but there needs to be a more deliberate shift in mindset for the ‘physicians of tomorrow.’”

"IF PEOPLE ARE FEELING UNDER-FIRE, UNDER-APPRECIATED, AND SLEEP-DEPRIVED, WE KNOW THAT THEY ARE MUCH MORE LIKELY TO DO SOMETHING UNETHICAL." — TIMOTHY LAFAYETTE, M.D., M.M.SC.

"We are feeling under fire, under-appreciated, and sleep-deprived," says Lahey. "If people are feeling under fire, under-appreciated, and sleep-deprived, we know that they are much more likely to do something unethical."

Medical ethics is tightly tied to health equity work, says Lahey. “It helps equity work thrive by revealing the full set of complex values that inform and even transcend justice. That guards against the human temptation to approach any value, including the value of fairness, too simplistically,” he says.

"PATHOLOGIES OF POWER: HEALTH, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND THE NEW WAR ON THE POOR" BY PAUL FARMER

Review by Richard Brach ’22

Paul Farmer’s Pathologies of Power: Health, Human Rights, and the New War on the Poor draws connections between today’s unprecedented levels of wealth and the exploitation of the poor. While wealthy countries revel in the advances of modern science and globalization, the global poor suffer from human rights violations and die from preventable diseases that cost less than $2 per day to treat. Farmer labels our ignorance “a stain on the conscience of modern medicine and science,” and emphasizes the importance of addressing the structural violence around us.

This book is an essential read for responsible healthcare professionals and should be required reading for anyone interested in global health and health equity.

"HEALING RESISTANCE: A RADICALLY DIFFERENT RESPONSE TO HARM" BY KAZU HAGA

Reviewed by Nikkole Turegeon ’22

Healing Resistance details author Kazu Haga’s life and training in the nonviolent legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Haga encourages the reader to envision a path towards the “Beloved Community” Dr. King described by explaining the Six Principles of Nonviolence and how readers can take steps to incorporate them into their lives. This book should be required reading for everyone as it provides context and a framework for Kingian principles, which have historically been whitewashed and often eliminated from traditional teaching about Dr. King.

"WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE: CHAOS OR COMMUNITY?" BY DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Review by Mahima Poreddy ’24

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. dreamt of “creative dissenters” across different races who strive for racial equity and abolish poverty. Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community expresses Dr. King’s revolutionary opposition against wealth inequality, the Vietnam War, and capitalism. His writing also explores the challenges of being a Black man: “To be a Negro in America is often to hope against hope. It means fighting daily a double battle—a battle against pathology within and a battle against oppression without.”

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"WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE: CHAOS OR COMMUNITY?" BY DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Reviewed by Erik Zhang ’24

Jacqueline Woodson’s multigenerational saga, Red at the Bone, is filled to the brim with poignant moments evoking both hope and despair. An ensemble of characters commands an empathetic response from any reader. Built on a scaffolding of a shared historical trauma, Woodson opens an inquiry into the most salient questions of class, gender, race, queerness, and institutions. Readers will find in Red at the Bone a deep exploration of the many facets of the Black American experience accessible only through fiction, unavailable through testimony and educational material alone.
Submit Class Notes Online
The UVM Alumni Association now offers an easy-to-use online form to submit class notes. You can also browse class notes by year, school or college, or note type. Submit your class note and read more from classmates.

go.uvm.edu/medclassnotes

1950s

ARMIN KERZNER (UVM ’51), OFCA, is a child psychiatrist, continues to love his work, and currently is a consulting psychiatrist at the Lighthouse School, interviewing children, supervising residents, and meeting with parents. At times, he consults with his daughter, Leslie Kerzner, M.D. ’85, oncologist at MGH. For R’n’R and boisterous culture, they retreat to their cottage in Cape Elizabeth, Maine. Arnie received the Distinguished Senior Fellow Award from the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. He would love to hear from his UVM buddies, as med school was “one fantastic experience.”

1960s

Ronald Nadel (UVM ’64) writes: “I retired in December 2020. I now spend my time in Boca Raton, Florida, and the residual time in my home in Longmeadow, Massachusetts. I continue to enjoy golfing, gardening, cooking, and reading.”

Annie Kerzner, child psychiatrist, continues to love her work, and currently is a consulting psychiatrist at the Lighthouse School, interviewing children, supervising residents, and meeting with parents. At times, he consults with his daughter, Leslie Kerzner, M.D. ’85, oncologist at MGH. For R’n’R and boisterous culture, they retreat to their cottage in Cape Elizabeth, Maine. Arnie received the Distinguished Senior Fellow Award from the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. He would love to hear from his UVM buddies, as med school was “one fantastic experience.”

1970s

Jean Pillsbury Jacobs (UVM ’71) writes: “We celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary this year, school or college, or note type. Submit your class note and read more from classmates.

go.uvm.edu/medclassnotes

2000s

Also in this issue of Vermont Medicine, we celebrate the life and legacy of one of our most treasured alums, past A. Bradley Soule Award winner Dr. Jackie Noonan. A 1954 graduate, she passed away in July of 2020. Not only did she transform the field of pediatric cardiology—she discovered a rare congenital heart condition known as the Noonan Syndrome—she selflessly gave time and energy to the College by serving on the Alumni Executive Committee for many years. I will always remember meeting her at Larner reunions. She was gentle, gracious, and insightful. Dr. Noonan chose to give back to her medical alma mater through a generous estate gift, which is helping the College to recuit the best and brightest new faculty and realize important strategic priorities. Lastly, as the details of Medical Reunion are still being worked out, I am pleased to let you know that it will be hosted live and in-person on campus this fall! (How long have we waited to see those words?)

Thank Mooooo Again!

The 2021 Match Challenge had a lofty goal of reaching 500 donors, from late February through Match Day. Thanks to the generosity of our loyal alumni, parents, faculty, staff, and friends, the Challenge exceeded that number well ahead of Match Day, reaching over 700 donors by its completion! Hundreds of donors are proudly wearing their limited edition Dr. Moo socks as a thank you for their participation. Although the Match Challenge is complete, there is always a reason to give—today’s students and researchers! Gifts of ANY size make a difference in student success. In addition, each alumni gift increases our alumni participation, an important indicator of alumni support.

To make your gift, please visit http://go.uvm.edu/givemed today.

LARGEST NUMBER OF DONORS IN A CLASS

Class of 1991

LARGEST AMOUNT RAISED IN A CLASS

Class of 1957

NUMBER OF YOUNG ALUMNI DONORS

95

NUMBER OF FIRST TIME DONORS

45
Robert G. Selly writes: “I have been extremely busy since October. Now, Sara and I will live where we have been for the last 31 years, but we may move soon. It is interesting to see the changes in the few years. I have been active in my profession for over 50 years and think that is enough.”

Jeffrey Back says: “We are all doing well. Jeff, Terry, Jeff’s sister, and I are senior services for LotusBayte, Calif. Our children all live within 10 minutes. We are doing well, and I retired at the end of March 2021. It is very freeing.”

Mark Penfield shares: “I have been practicing otolaryngology in New York City for 29 years. I have just retired in February 2021 due to lingering issues after contracting COVID in Scotland in March 2020. When my resident told me I was told not to see any patients I regretted my decision. I am doing hospital medicine and I look forward to retiring out of hospital medicine.”

Lorraine Parent Racusen has received the 2021 Robert H. Havel Award for Academic Achievement from the International Rural Health Organization. She is an emeritus professor at the University of Maine, School of Medicine where she did her residency in Family Medicine. She is former president of the American Academy of Family Physicians. She has made significant contributions to patient care, education, and research in primary care and rural health care.

Mark Popovski says: “My daughter is now a professor of Health Sciences at New York Medical College. Her medical device start-up is about to enter first-in-human-trials of a product—if successful—we will save 40,000 lives a year in the U.S. alone.”

John Alexander says: “My wife and I have been married for 49 years. We were married in Kingoton, Tenn., and serving as our community's medical writer. I’ve just recently moved from the daily to a virtual piano music (available on iTunes).”

Thomas Bodoch says: “I’m a retired from the University of Vermont School of Medicine. I am also an associate director of the Arts and Humanities Initiative at Harvard Medical School. I connect with physician writers and artists who bring their passion for the arts to medicine and beyond. This was a wonderful experience learning about the connections between the medical and human experience, and all of its amazing outdoor places.”

Emily Hannah says: “In June 2020, I moved from a job as a medical director of a newborn nursery in Camden, N.C. I love connecting with patients and the increased flexibility I enjoyed at that job. Let’s get more involved with our state chapter of the AAP. I love to travel, feel free to email and visit!”

Scott Mitchell says: “Very happy out here in Indianapolis and enjoying my time traveling through Indianapolis please let me know and will try to hang out or I can host you!”

Barbara A. McGovern is the former president of the American College of Radiology. She is now at a NYS Mass Vaccination facility. She is a Richmond County, New York-born native who is a great example for future radiologists. She has been challenged this year with the emergency physician staff and support to senior leaders, managing our New York City mass vaccination sites, and working for the fall 2022—just one more reason to get vaccinated.”

Congratulations to Joe Pare for receiving the Academy of Ophthalmology’s (AOA) Star in Racial Star in Racial Inclusion award. It recognizes an outstanding commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion (over the last five years since completing fellowship) who has demonstrated a commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.”
Rowland G. Hazard, M.D.’78, emeritus professor of orthopedics at the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth, has published a new book, Titled Back Talking: Published by Rowman and Littlefield, the book ‘brings the reader into the classroom on Managing Chronic Back Pain’.

In this ongoing series, Vermont Medicine shares a note of thanks from a student for the support they’ve received from alumni. Young Bo Sim ’23 sends his gratitude for the Dahl-Salem Family Endowed Scholarship. He also received the Dwight C. Dayette Scholarship.

Dear Dr. Dahl,
I hope you are staying safe and healthy during these uncertain times. I want to take this opportunity to sincerely thank you for your kind gift that has contributed to my education at LCOM. Although medical school has come with its own challenges, I constantly reflect on the privilege I have as a medical student, let alone receiving a scholarship that has greatly lessened the financial burden that comes with medical education. Your generosity has allowed me to receive education at a school where I can stay happy and am surrounded by other compassionate and aspiring physicians under the supervision of wonderful faculty. Although the delivery of the curriculum has changed given the unique circumstances of COVID, words cannot adequately describe how grateful I am for your generosity.

Best,
Young Bo Sim
LCOM Class of 2023

To support students like Young, visit go.uvm.edu/givemed

On May 6, 2021, Seth Frietze, Ph.D., associate professor of medical laboratory science in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, was invested as the inaugural Dr. Ronald W. Pero International Research Green and Gold Professor in the Department of Biomedical and Health Sciences. Established by Margaretha Pero, M.D., Ph.D., in honor of her late husband, Ronald Pero, Ph.D., a 1962 graduate of UVM, the professorship will support research related to the onset and spread of cancer and innovations in effective cancer treatment and prevention. Ronald Pero spent the bulk of his career at the University of Lund in Sweden, where he became a world-renowned expert on the role of DNA repair and DNA damage in regulating taxaimological mechanisms important to normal and tumour cell survival. Margaretha Pero, a child and adolescent psychiatrist, worked alongside her husband in his lab at Lund. Frietze joined the UVM faculty in 2015. In addition to running a large research program, his expertise in cutting-edge cancer genomic techniques is sought out by researchers internationally.

For more information about giving opportunities, contact: Manon O’Connor, associate vice president, major gifts, at Manon.OConnor@uvmhealth.org or (802) 734-0711

FRIETZE NAMED GREEN AND GOLD PROFESSOR

Alumni lead the way for Firestone campaign

A group of dedicated Larner College of Medicine alumni are playing pivotal roles in the development of the new Firestone Medical Research Building, a 62,500-square-foot, four-story structure set to open in the fall of 2022. The building, which will accommodate over 200 faculty, post-doctoral fellows, staff, and students, will feature cutting-edge modular facilities to improve efficiency and help interdisciplinary teams of researchers collaborate more effectively.

David Reines, M.D. ’72, is serving as chair of the Campaign Committee, a 13-member group tasked with leading fundraising efforts and sharing news about the project with alumni and community members. Steve Firestone, M.D. ’69, serves as honorary co-chair. He provided the lead gift for the new building, which is to be named Dr. Frederick and Mrs. Bobbie Firestone Medical Research Building in honor of his parents. Alums from across the class years have volunteered to serve on the committee.

Committee members include:

- Ray Anton, M.D. ’70, James Betts, M.D. ’73, Marilyn Cipolla, Ph.D. ’97
- Mary Evslin, Arnold Goran, M.D. ’58, James Habert, M.D. ’77, Frank Ittleman, M.D., Jeffery Lawson, M.D. ’90, Ph.D. ’92, Jennifer Lawson, M.D. ’90, Karen Meyer ’70, John Persing, M.D. ’74, Claudia Serwer ’67

For more information on the project, visit: med.uvm.edu/FirestoneBuilding

For more information about giving opportunities, contact:
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VERMONT MEDICINE

AWARDS

The UVM Larner Alumni Association Awards are presented every year at the Celebration of Achievements Ceremony during Reunion weekend. This year’s event is scheduled for Friday evening, October 8, 2021, on the UVM campus. All Larner Alumni are invited to attend. More details regarding this event can be found at med.uvm.edu/alumni.

2022 NOMINATIONS

Do you know a class member deserving of recognition? Send your nominations for the 2022 awards to: med.uvm.edu/alumni

A. BRADLEY SOULE AWARD
Presented to an alumnus/a whose loyalty and dedication to the Larner College of Medicine most emulate those qualities as found in its first recipient, A. Bradley Soule, M.D.’28.

Betsy Sussman, M.D.’81
Radiologist and Professor, Department of Radiology, UVM Medical Center and UVM Larner College of Medicine; 2021 American College of Radiology Fellow

Larson grade school, Betsy Sussman, M.D.’81, was inspired to study medicine after reading a biography of Elizabeth Blackwell, the first woman to graduate medical school in the U.S., in 1849. A Burlington, Vt., native, Dr. Sussman was also encouraged on this path by her father, Joe Sussman. Although he did not attend college, he had great respect for his brother, Ralph Sussman, M.D., a local pediatrician and founder of the Century Club of the UVM Medical Alumni Association.

After training in internal medicine and diagnostic radiology in Rochester, N.Y., Dr. Sussman returned to Vermont in 1987 as a body-imaging fellow in radiology. Encouraged by her mentor, Dr. John Tampas, she never left. She started as assistant professor in 1988, rising through the ranks to associate professor in 1994 and professor in 2001. Her interest in women’s imaging led to dual appointments in radiology and obstetrics and gynecology. Dr. Sussman has enjoyed teaching, serving on many local and national committees and volunteering on federal Indian reservations. She has joined classmate Peter Millard, M.D.’81, to teach ultrasound to medical students attending the Catholic University of Mozambique and has worked with her mentor, Kristen DeStigter, M.D., on the Imaging the World program scanning protocols in obstetric and breast ultrasound to improve healthcare in developing countries.

Dr. Sussman always emphasises the importance of work/life balance to new physicians. When in medical school, she attended a panel that included Marga Sproul, M.D.’76. As a young attending physician with a family, Dr. Sproul spoke about how, although she could not always read the latest journal articles when they came out, she managed to keep up and provide great care to her patients and her family. At the time, this was a revelation to Dr. Sussman. She has since mentored residents and medical students to choose a specialty they love and to do the best they can to achieve a healthy work/life balance.

Dr. Sussman feels humor and curiosity have served her well in her career. After looking up Elizabeth Blackwell for this bio, it came to light that Dr. Blackwell had befriended Florence Nightingale. Dr. Blackwell was interested in educating women to be physicians and nurses. Ms. Nightingale believed women should only be educated as nurses, causing a fallout between the two friends. Wouldn’t both of these famous women of medicine inspire others to do so as well?

ROBERT LARNER, M.D.’42 STUDENT AWARD
Presented to a current student(s) for his or her outstanding leadership and loyalty to the College and one who embodies Dr. Lanner’s dedication to not only supporting his medical alma mater, but to inspiring others to do so as well.

Luke Higgins
UVM Larner College of Medicine, Class of 2022

2022 NOMINATIONS

TIMOTHY S. CAREY, M.D.’76, M.P.H.
Research Professor of Medicine, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill

Presented to an alumnus/a from the UVM Larner College of Medicine’s Ph.D. or M.S. programs who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in basic, clinical or applied research; education, industry; public service; humanitarianism; and/or outstanding commitment to the Larner College of Medicine community.

Junjie Chen, Ph.D.’93
Professor and Chair, Department of Experimental Radiation Oncology, Division of Radiation Oncology, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

SERVIE TO MEDICINE AND COMMUNITY AWARD
Presented to alumni who have maintained a high standard of medical service and who have achieved an outstanding record of community service or assumed other significant responsibilities not directly related to medical practice.

TIMOTHY S. CAREY, M.D.’76, M.P.H.
Research Professor of Medicine, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill

Presented to alumni who have maintained a high standard of medical service and who have achieved an outstanding record of community service or assumed other significant responsibilities not directly related to medical practice.

IEARLY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
Presented to alumni who have graduated within the past 15 years in recognition of their outstanding community or College service and/or scientific or academic achievement.

PHILIP CHAN, M.D.’06, M.S.’04
Assistant Professor in the Department of Medicine and Department of Behavioral and Social Sciences at Brown University; Chief Medical Officer at Open Door Health; Medical Director at the Rhode Island Department of Health

DISTINGUISHED ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
Presented to alumni in recognition of outstanding scientific or academic achievement.

TOMmy S. Carey, M.D.’76, M.P.H.
Research Professor of Medicine, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill

PATICIA KING, M.D.’96, Ph.D.
Professor, Department of Medicine, Division of General Internal Medicine and Geriatrics, Larner College of Medicine, University of Vermont

FREDERICK ROGERS, M.D.’81
Adjunct Professor of Surgery, University of Pennsylvania; Perelman School of Medicine

DISTINGUISHED GRADUATE ALUMNI AWARD
Presented to an alumnus/a from the UVM Larner College of Medicine’s Ph.D. or M.S. programs who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in basic, clinical or applied research; education, industry; public service; humanitarianism; and/or outstanding commitment to the Larner College of Medicine community.

Junjie Chen, Ph.D.’93
Professor and Chair, Department of Experimental Radiation Oncology, Division of Radiation Oncology, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

ROBERT LARNER, M.D.’42 STUDENT AWARD
Presented to a current student(s) for his or her outstanding leadership and loyalty to the College and one who embodies Dr. Lanner’s dedication to not only supporting his medical alma mater, but to inspiring others to do so as well.

Luke Higgins
UVM Larner College of Medicine, Class of 2022

2022 NOMINATIONS

TIMOTHY S. CAREY, M.D.’76, M.P.H.
Research Professor of Medicine, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill

Presented to an alumnus/a from the UVM Larner College of Medicine’s Ph.D. or M.S. programs who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in basic, clinical or applied research; education, industry; public service; humanitarianism; and/or outstanding commitment to the Larner College of Medicine community.

Junjie Chen, Ph.D.’93
Professor and Chair, Department of Experimental Radiation Oncology, Division of Radiation Oncology, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

SERVIE TO MEDICINE AND COMMUNITY AWARD
Presented to alumni who have maintained a high standard of medical service and who have achieved an outstanding record of community service or assumed other significant responsibilities not directly related to medical practice.

TIMOTHY S. CAREY, M.D.’76, M.P.H.
Research Professor of Medicine, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill

Presented to alumni who have maintained a high standard of medical service and who have achieved an outstanding record of community service or assumed other significant responsibilities not directly related to medical practice.

IEARLY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
Presented to alumni who have graduated within the past 15 years in recognition of their outstanding community or College service and/or scientific or academic achievement.

PHILIP CHAN, M.D.’06, M.S.’04
Assistant Professor in the Department of Medicine and Department of Behavioral and Social Sciences at Brown University; Chief Medical Officer at Open Door Health; Medical Director at the Rhode Island Department of Health

DISTINGUISHED ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
Presented to alumni in recognition of outstanding scientific or academic achievement.

TOMmy S. Carey, M.D.’76, M.P.H.
Research Professor of Medicine, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill

PATICIA KING, M.D.’96, Ph.D.
Professor, Department of Medicine, Division of General Internal Medicine and Geriatrics, Larner College of Medicine, University of Vermont

FREDERICK ROGERS, M.D.’81
Adjunct Professor of Surgery, University of Pennsylvania; Perelman School of Medicine

DISTINGUISHED GRADUATE ALUMNI AWARD
Presented to an alumnus/a from the UVM Larner College of Medicine’s Ph.D. or M.S. programs who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in basic, clinical or applied research; education, industry; public service; humanitarianism; and/or outstanding commitment to the Larner College of Medicine community.

Junjie Chen, Ph.D.’93
Professor and Chair, Department of Experimental Radiation Oncology, Division of Radiation Oncology, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
Swing Time

For many years, the UVM Rapes Course was a regular part of Orientation Week for new students. We’re guessing that’s what’s going on in this image, but just exactly who’s on the rope(s), and who’s trying to lend a hand?

Send your thoughts to Erin.post@med.uvm.edu and we’ll include them in the next issue of Vermont Medicine.

FROM THE PREVIOUS ISSUE

Two alums responded to our last photo. First came Peggy Cyr, M.D. ’98, who identified the doctor in the center as Ed McCarthy, a psychiatrist who worked in Portland, Maine. Next came a message from the photographer herself—Halleh Akbarnia, M.D. ’06, who writes: “I got a good laugh when I saw the picture in the alumni magazine on the Flashback page. In fact, several people sent it to me first, before I even got my magazine in the mail! I took that picture in February of 1996 during my psychiatry clinical rotation at Maine Med. That was my first clinical rotation ever, and that was our attending for the month, Dr. McCarthy. From left to right: Jeff McKenna, Reono Bertagnolli, myself (Halleh Akbarnia), front row: Anne Brena, Dr. McCarthy, Matt Hueh.”

In Memoriam

Olin D. Samson, M.D., died May 27, 2021, in Hingham, Mass. He received his medical degree from UVM in 1958 and completed internal medicine training from 1963 to 1991. He began his career at Beverly Hospital in Beverly, Mass., and then spent many years at Hunt Memorial Hospital in Danvers, Mass., where he served as chief of staff. He also served on the board of trustees at Hunt Memorial Hospital before retiring in 1991. After medical school, Doc became a captain in the U.S. Army and was stationed in White Sands, N.M., between 1957 and 1959. After moving to Danvers, Dr. Samson set up his medical practice and his urology practice in Danvers. He worked as the business manager. He was a songwriter, funny, and kind to his family, friends, and his patients.

Charles Rudolph Brinkman Jr., M.D., died March 11, 2021, in Nashua, N.H. Dr. Brinkman died Feb. 21, 2021, at the age of 87. Born April 8, 1934, he graduated from Springfield College in Massachusetts and received his medical degree from UVM. After completing his residency at Yale University Medical School, Dr. Brinkman worked at the UCLAS School of Medicine as a professor in obstetrics and gynecology for 30 years, rising to chief of obstetrics and gynecology. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army, having served as captain, medical corp., at Ft. Ord Military Base in Monterey, Calif., during the Vietnam War. He retired as a professor emeritus from the UCLA School of Medicine.

Philip A. Goddard, Jr., M.D., died August 1, 2020, at the age of 82. He received his undergraduate degree and medical degree from UVM. After completing his residency at George Washington University Hospital in Washington, D.C., Dr. Goddard volunteered for the Army’s 82nd Airborne Division at Ft. Bragg, N.C. He was trained as a pathologist and served as a medical doctor for his division, deployed for 14 months of combat duty in the Dominican Republic. After completing his two years of service, Dr. Goddard began four years of surgical training at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center in Hanover, N.H. Ultimately, he was chosen to be the chief resident surgeon. He thoroughly enjoyed surgery, especially how quickly operations could fix patient’s ailments. He said he was more than once, “If they didn’t pay me to do surgery, I’d pay to do it.” Once his surgical residency was completed, he set up his practice at Copley Hospital in Manchester. There he was able to share his love of surgery and zeal for medicine with his father, who also worked at Copley. They became “Dr. Phil” and “Dr. Tony” to distinguish the two Dr. Goddards. When his father died in 1976, much of his father’s practice became his. Tragically, on the age of 48, he was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis and could no longer perform surgery. For five years he continued with his general practice patients on a part-time basis and later served on the admissions board for the UVM Lerner College of Medicine and on the Vermont State Medical Review Board.

Robert D. Orr, M.D., C.M., died May 29, 2021 in Burlington, Vt., at the age of 80 after a five-year battle with cancer. Born March 16, 1941, he studied at McGill University Faculty of Medicine, earning the M.D., C.M. degree in 1966. After service in the U.S. Navy, he practiced family medicine in Brattleboro, Vt., for 18 years. He established Brattleboro Memorial Hospital’s first ethics committee and helped to found the Brattleboro Area Hospice, serving as its first president and volunteer medical director. He pursued a postdoctoral fellowship at the Madrid Center for Clinical Medical Ethics at the University of Chicago. He served for 25 years in various professional roles including professor of medical ethics and director of clinical ethics of Loma Linda University Medical Center; professor of family medicine and director of clinical ethics at UVM Lomer College of Medicine; professor of bioethics at Trinity International University; and professor of bioethics at Union University Graduate School. His numerous awards include Alpha Omega Alpha Honorary Medical Society (MOA), University Scholar (MOA), Vermont Family Doctor of the Year; the American Medical Association’s Isaac Hayes and John Bell Awards for Leadership in Medical Ethics and Professionalism, the Servant of Christ Award from the Christian Medical and Dental Associations; and several teaching awards from various academic institutions.

In Memoriam

Dean William H. Luginbuhl

Dr. Luginbuhl, the thirteenth dean of the UVM Lomer College of Medicine, died June 21, 2021, at age 92, in Pennsylvania, where he had lived for many years.

Born March 11, 1929, in Des Moines, Iowa, the son of a physician and a schoolteacher, Dr. Luginbuhl attended Iowa State University and received his medical degree from Northwestern University in 1953, after which he completed an internship and residency in pathology at Northwestern. He pursued additional training in Cleveland and was drafted into the U.S. Army, spending two years as the only pathologist in Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Dr. Luginbuhl joined the UVM faculty in 1960, in what was then known as the Department of Pathology and Oncology. He served the College as assistant dean in the 1960s, during the deanship of Edward Andrews, M.D., and was a leader of the significant curricular reforms during that decade that paved the way for today’s Vermont Integrated Curriculum at the College.

Upon Dr. Andrews’ becoming president of the University in 1970, Dr. Luginbuhl became dean of this institution, as well as dean of what was then the Division of Health Sciences, and led the College for 21 years—the second-longest tenure of any of the College’s deans—through an era of great change and expansion of both the student body and research enterprise.

Dr. Luginbuhl also had a profound effect on the delivery of patient care in Vermont, as the key driver of the formation of the University Health Center in 1971.

Dr. Luginbuhl died March 11, 2021. He was 92.

Dean William H. Luginbuhl

In Memoriam

William D. Behrle, M.D. ’71

Dr. Behrle died Jan. 2, 2021, in Olympia, Wash., at the age of 75.

Dean William H. Luginbuhl

In Memoriam

Dr. Brinkman died Feb. 21, 2021, at the age of 87. Born April 8, 1934, he graduated from Springfield College in Massachusetts and received his medical degree from UVM. After completing his residency at Yale University Medical School, Dr. Brinkman worked at the UCLAS School of Medicine as a professor in obstetrics and gynecology for 30 years, rising to chief of obstetrics and gynecology. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army, having served as captain, medical corp., at Ft. Ord Military Base in Monterey, Calif., during the Vietnam War. He retired as a professor emeritus from the UCLA School of Medicine.

35 UVM LARNER COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

34 VERMONT MEDICINE SUMMER 2021
April 27, 2021
1:44 P.M.
Dean Rick Page adds his signature to dozens of other Larner faculty, staff and students who signed the last beam of the framework of the Firestone Medical Research Building, now under construction on the south end of the medical campus. Minutes later the beam was hoisted aloft and welded in place.
COME CELEBRATE AT MEDICAL REUNION 2021!

1 SAVE THE DATE
Mark your calendars for October 8-9, 2021 to join your classmates for a special celebration. It’s not too early to let us know you plan to attend! Add your name to the see who’s coming list at med.uvm.edu/alumni/reunion

2 BOOK YOUR HOTEL
It’s foliage season, and rooms fill quickly—but we have reserved special blocks for you and your classmates. Visit med.uvm.edu/alumni/reunion for more information.

3 RALLY YOUR CLASSMATES
Now is the time to reach out to your friends and build excitement about reunion. Get in touch with our office for a class contact list by emailing: medalumni.relations@med.uvm.edu.

Your reunion will be here before you know it and we’re making it easy for you to have a great in-person experience. It’s as simple as 1-2-3!

PHOTO: KRISTIN CARR, M.D.’15