Hall A

PRESIDENT’S CORNER

At the Alumni Executive Committee meeting in October—my first one as your president—I had the opportunity to welcome David Johnson to the Larner College of Medicine. The gathering, which coincided with UVM’s alumni weekend and the Larner College of Medicine’s White Coat Ceremony, served as a fitting introduction to the alumni community that makes our institution so strong. Not only was it the largest meeting we’ve had in recent memory, with many new members and several past presidents in attendance; the group’s enthusiasm was contagious as we shared reasons to continue to stay engaged with our alma mater. There were common themes, chief among them: appreciation for the camaraderie of our committee and alumni community, the opportunity to stay connected to the inspirational mission of the institution, and the amazing chance to give back to current students. We truly are lucky to be among Larner College of Medicine alumni!

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Hall A

News & Notes for Larner College of Medicine Alumni

1950s

REUNION 2019: 1954 + 1959

James Daniels says: “We have been living on a beautiful sea island called Dattoh just outside of Beaumont, South Carolina, for 18 years. My wife, Cici, and I, celebrated our 56th anniversary this year. We enjoy good health and I play lots of golf. Cici does volunteer work and gardening. Our sons and families live in the San Francisco area and coastal Oregon, which we frequently visit. Mathewson is an ER physician (MD’97) in Oregon.

1970s

REUNION 2019: 1974 + 1979

John F. Beamsr says: “Received the 2017 Frank H. Layhe Award from Layhe Hospital & Medical Center for years of service to Layhe Clinic and commitment to values of Dr. Layhe. Also, the JF Beams Honor Lecture was established at Layhe to be given during the annual international pulmonology course. I am retired in Santa Barbara, California, keeping busy with non-medical volunteering.”

1980s

REUNION 2019: 1984 + 1989

Stephen Shao reports that after retiring in 2015 as a deputy director for the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, he returned to direct patient care and works part time at a clinic on Skid Row in Los Angeles, delivering mental health services to the homeless mentally ill. In April of 2018, he was named one of Los Angeles’ top doctors by Los Angeles Magazine.

1990s

REUNION 2019: 1994 + 1999

Stephen Leffler was named president of the Vermont Medical Society at the society’s annual meeting in October. Stew is a professor of surgery at the Larner College of Medicine. In January 2019 it was announced that he will assume another role in June 2019: interim president of the University of Vermont Medical Center, upon the retirement of current UVMMC president Ewen Whisman. He is currently chief population health and quality officer for the UVM Health Network, and is also the former chief medical officer at UVMMC and a current board member for OneCare Vermont.

The 2018 UVM Larner College of Medicine Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner in November of 2018. Dr. Kruger graduated from Fulton-Montgomery Community College in 1972 before earning a bachelor’s degree from SUNY Plattsburgh. He then joined the U.S. Air Force as a medical laboratory technician and officer. After medical school and residency, Kruger served as a geriatric intern medicine subspecialist at the Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center in Texas and deployed twice to Bahrain.

2010s

REUNION 2019: 2014 + 2019

Vito Imbasciani, M.D.’85 received the 2017 Frank H. Layhe Award from Layhe Hospital & Medical Center for years of service to Layhe Clinic and commitment to values of Dr. Layhe. Also, the JF Beams Honor Lecture was established at Layhe to be given during the annual international pulmonology course. I am retired in Santa Barbara, California, keeping busy with non-medical volunteering.

The 12th annual Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner in November of 2018. Dr. Kruger graduated from Fulton-Montgomery Community College in 1972 before earning a bachelor’s degree from SUNY Plattsburgh. He then joined the U.S. Air Force as a medical laboratory technician and officer. After medical school and residency, Kruger served as a geriatric intern medicine subspecialist at the Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center in Texas and deployed twice to Bahrain.

Mark Hamlin has been promoted to professor of anesthesia and surgery at the UVM Larner College of Medicine. The vice chair for clinical affairs and the director of quality and safety for the Department of Anesthesiology, he practices anesthesia care while teaching medical students and residents. Christa Zehl has assumed the role of interim senior associate dean for medical

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education at the UVM Lerner College of Medicine. She is the associate dean for students at the College and an associate professor of pediatrics.

2000s

Maria Azizian, a general surgeon in private practice in Cape Cod, has created a philanthropy organization to address medical needs in rural Armenia, her birthplace. The long-term project, approved by the Armenian Ministry of Health, seeks to provide a continuous rotation of American physicians at the medical center in Vardenis. Her first medical mission was last year, the second mission begins in April. Dr. Azizian welcomes physicians from all specialties to participate, including mid-level providers. Email maria.azizian@yahoo.com for further info.

David Lisle has been promoted to associate professor of orthopedics and rehabilitation family medicine at the UVM-Lamer College of Medicine. Dr. Lisle serves as head team physician and athletic medical director for St. Michael’s College Athletics, provides care for UVM athletes, and is team physician for the Vermont Lake Monsters. He has ten published articles and has participated in 38 regional and three national lectures.

Brian Irwin has been promoted to associate professor of surgery at the UVM Lamer College of Medicine. Dr. Irwin, along with his team, performed the first single site robotic-assisted laparoscopic procedure in New England. He has also developed a core curriculum in urology for surgery, and has published 20 manuscripts.

Julie K. Phillips has been promoted to associate professor of obstetrics-gynecology and reproductive sciences at the UVM Lamer College of Medicine. One of only six maternal-fetal medicine specialists in Vermont, she primarily sees high-risk patients in the obstetrics clinic. She has published 13 manuscripts, many of which focus on pregnancy-associated behavior issues, including weight management and smoking cessation.

2010s

Meghan Elizabeth Gunn says: “I am in my fifth year at Southern Vermont Medical Center in Bennington, Vermont, doing both inpatient, outpatient and newborn nursery care. I was recently appointed chair of pediatrics and medical director of SVMC Pediatrics. When not working, I enjoy spending time with my husband, Greg, and two children James, age 5, and Sarah, age 2. I am hoping to get back to Burlington for a reunion at some point in the near future!”

David Harari has been named a 2019 Laughlin Fellow of the American College of Psychiatrists. One of twelve residents selected from the United States and Canada, fellows are “deemed likely to make a significant contribution to the field of psychiatry. Each candidate is considered on the following criteria: demonstrated leadership and unique qualities, clinical excellence, dedication to teaching, community service and research and scholarly attainment.” Dr. Harari is currently a psychiatry resident at UVM Medical Center.

2013

Mohammad Mertaban, M.D.’17, and Melanie Ma, M.D.’17, were classmates for their four years at the Lerner College of Medicine. They recently reunited when they found themselves on call together at Kaiser-Permanente San Francisco, and posted the moment to Instagram. Said Mertaban: “Full circle! From first year of #medicalschool, to being on call together in the same hospital with the cutest Melania ever.” Mertaban matched into pediatrics at UC San Francisco. Ma went to Kaiser-Permanente San Francisco for OB/GYN.
Leavitt Selected for UMaine Alumni Achievement Award

Bruce J. Leavitt, M.D.’81, has been selected by the University of Maine Alumni Association to receive the Bernard Lown ’42 Humanitarian Award at the annual Alumni Achievement Awards dinner and recognition ceremony on April 5, 2019 at the UMaine campus in Orono. The award recognizes dedication to outstanding service and impact at the regional, national or global level through active engagement in saving lives, relieving suffering, and promoting human dignity.

A professor of surgery and division chief of cardiothoracic surgery at the Larner College of Medicine and University of Vermont Medical Center, Leavitt has traveled to Rwanda, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, Panama, Russia, and China to perform heart surgeries as a member of Team Heart, Doctors Without Borders, and other humanitarian aid organizations. He graduated from the UMaine in 1977.

Alum Publishes Book on Heart Health

Monique Tello, M.D.’01, is the author of a new book titled Healthy Habits for Your Heart: 100 Simple, Effective Ways to Lower Your Blood Pressure and Maintain Your Heart’s Health. Published by Adams Media in December of 2018, the book focuses on practical advice, and includes heart-related habits, exercises, and strategies to improve heart health and prevent disease.

Tello is a practicing primary care physician at Massachusetts General Hospital and an instructor at Harvard Medical School. She is a regular contributor for the Harvard Health Blog, reporting on clinical research, with a focus on diet and lifestyle studies. She also writes for MothersInMedicine.com and her own blog, GenerallyMedicine.

Alum Promotes Healing through Art Donation

In recognition of the healing power of art, and their long connection to UVM Medical Center, Howard Schapiro, M.D.’80 and his wife, Jan Carroll, have donated two sculptures now displayed on the UVM campus and outside of the hospital. Schapiro, an anesthesiologist, has worked at the UVM Medical Center for over 35 years and is currently UVM Health Network Chief Clinical Integration Officer.

Jan is the former UVM Medical Center Administrative Director of Nursing and current chief nursing officer of the St. Lawrence Health System in northern New York.

Both sculptures, created by Vermont artist David Stromeyer, show the couple’s commitment to UVM and to patients. “It is really important to have art around. It draws your attention away from daily humdrum and makes you think in different ways,” Schapiro says. “It is also great for patients and families to have that distraction and to have something that makes them look up and think. That’s helpful and, in some respects, healing.” “Clean Sweep” is located on the Hilton Wick Plaza; “Fugue” is outside of the Central Campus Residence Hall.

Celebrating 100 Years

On November 26, 2018, the Larner College of Medicine celebrated UVM Emeritus Professor of Surgery H. Gordon Page, M.D.’45 on the occasion of his 100th birthday. Page, a native of Groton, Vermont, earned an undergraduate degree in 1940 from UVM before going on to earn his M.D. in 1945. He completed his internship and residency at the former Mary Fletcher Hospital in Burlington. After serving as a U.S. Army Surgeon during the Korean conflict, Page returned to Vermont and practiced general surgery at the Medical Center Hospital of Vermont, now UVM Medical Center, and served as a professor of surgery, retiring in 1991. A longtime supporter of his medical alma mater, in 2005 Dr. Page established the Albert G. Mackay ’32 and H. Gordon Page, M.D.’45 Professorship in Surgical Education to further the academic mission of the Department of Surgery.
LEARNING THE ROPESSome traditions at an academic institution are planned from the beginning. Others, like the ropes course new first-year medical students take part in during their orientation week, grow into being a regular component of life at the College. Since sometime in the 1990s the entering class, within their first few days of arriving on campus, are bused out to a local facility for a day of arduous team-building. It’s unlabelled photos show just such a group, probably from the 90s or early “aughts,” huddling during the course.

FROM THE PREVIOUS ISSUE  One of the subjects of last issue’s Flashback, Colette Olszewski, wrote in to share her thoughts on her photo with fellow Office of Student Affairs staffer Ann Chauncey. “We were a team, Ann and I, and would always insist in a privilege to have such the challenging journey our UVMCOM students were on learning to provide THE BEST medical care, wherever life took them!”

OBITUARIES

George Frank Higgins, M.D.  Dr. Higgins, 85, died at his home in Presque Isle, Maine, on April 23, 2016. He was a Presque Isle native. He did his residency in OB/Gyn at Columbia University Medical Center in New York City. He then returned to Presque Isle to practice medicine for 30 years. He was an avid pilot and also served as an FAA Airline Medical Examiner for 56 years.

William M. Soylie, M.D.  Dr. Soylie, who during his life was a Colonel in the Army, Commander in the Navy, internist, and lecturer in medicine, died November 11, 2018. He was 88. He attended the University of Chicago before earning his medical degree at UVM. He completed 25 years of active service and reserve duty in the medical corps of the Navy and the Army, eventually assuming command of the 339th Reserve Field Hospital at Hanscom Field and at Fort Devens, Mass. During his life he earned his pilot’s license and led his fantasy of flying a World War I biplane. In retirement, he lectured at Boston University School of Medicine.

Donald N. Zehl, M.D.  Dr. Zehl, age 88, died on October 6, 2016. He received his Bachelor of Arts from the University of Connecticut, his Master’s Degree from Yale University, in addition to his M.D. from UVM. He spent two years in the Public Health Service in Washington, D.C. and then did an Ophthalmology residency at the University of Rochester. He practiced medicine and surgery and was also chief resident and professor emeritus at the University of Rochester from 1963 until 1980.

Edward M. Austin, M.D.  Dr. Austin, of Mt. Lebanon, Pa., died on October 6, 2016. He was born in 1955 in Brattleboro, Vt. He graduated from the College of Medicine in 1977. After serving as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Navy Medical Corps, he did a residency in obstetrics and gynecology at Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse, N.Y. He began his private practice in New Haven, Mass. in 1986 before moving to Burlington in 1992, where he was a respected physician for 40 years.

Christos A. Hasiotis, M.D.  Dr. Hasiotis died at his home on Cold Cell on October 28, 2016. After earning his medical degree, he completed his surgical residency at Boston City Hospital where he served as Chief Resident. Dr. Hasiotis served as chairman of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Mount Auburn Hospital, chief of surgery at Santa Maria Hospital, assistant clinical professor of surgery at Tufts Medical School, and chief instructor at Harvard Medical School. He was a fellow of the American College of Surgeons and member of the Boston Surgical Society, American Medical Association, Massachusetts Medical Society, as well as past president of the New England Hellenic Medical Society and past President of the Order of Aheia Chapter 24.

Scott Jay MacDonald, M.D.  Dr. MacDonald died on October 30, 2016 at UCLC Medical Center in Los Angeles after a brief illness. He was 86. He was born in Barre, Vt., and attended Spaulding High School before entering his bachelor’s degree at UVM before entering the College of Medicine. He completed his medical internship, residency and cardiology fellowships in Massachusetts. He first practiced as a cardiologist in Melissa/Wakefield Massachusetts from 1982 to 1986. He and his wife then moved to Las Vegas, Nevada, where he practiced as a cardiologist from 1986 to 2016.

James Douglas Kindl, M.D.  Dr. Kindl died on October 26, 2018 in Greenbrier, N.C., from a rare cerebral vascular condition. He received his undergraduate degree from UVM and was a member of Phi Beta Kappa before entering the College of Medicine. He did a residency in family practice at Moses Cone Hospital in Greensboro. Upon completing his residency, he worked in the Emergency Room at Weyl Long Hospital, also in Greensboro. He later went into private practice from 1988 to 2010. Additionally, he spent over 30 years providing medical care to the employees of Syngenta. In 2015, he left private practice and worked at Moses Cone Urgent Care until 2018.

Faculty

Carol Lee Phillips, M.D.  Dr. Phillips died on December 28, 2018. She was professor emerita of pediatrics and was chair of the Department of Pediatrics from 1983 to 1993. She also served as associate dean for admissions from 1977 to 1983, and then associate dean for academic affairs of this College of Medicine from 1985 to 1994.

Dr. Phillips came to Vermont in 1959 after earning her bachelor’s degree at Douglass College in New Jersey and her M.D. degree at Yale Medical School, where she also completed her internship in pediatrics prior to coming to Vermont. She left Vermont in 1963 to do training in pediatric virology at Baylor University in Houston, and returned in 1966, when she joined Drs. James McKoy and Gerald Lucas as the third member of the Department of Pediatrics. She went on to contribute actively to the growth and development of UVM’s pediatrics department, rising to professor in 1976. She was Vermont’s only board-certified pediatric infectious disease specialist for many years, publishing over thirty peer-reviewed manuscripts related to immunization and virology. As a national level, Dr. Phillips served on the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), Committee on Infectious Diseases (1985–1991) and was the associate editor for the 1988 and 1991 editions of the Red Book, the definitive infectious disease manual published by the AAP and used nationally and internationally by all pediatricians.

Dr. Phillips was the recipient of the Vermont State Chapter of the AAP’s Green Mountain Pediatric award for outstanding award as an educator and her dedication to the Heart of the Community Award in 2014 from the Land Center in recognition of her 20 years of dedicated service as the consulting pediatrician. She also received the New England AAP’s Distinguished Service Award and the HCP Student Leadership Award from primary care training. She has also served as an epidemiologist for the Vermont Department of Health after her retirement as chair and senior associate dean.

Leon Mann, M.D.  Dr. Mann died on December 28, 2018 at the Mandarin House of the Hospice of the Chesapeake near Annapolis, Md. He was 83. He joined the faculty at the University of Vermont in 1975 as chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and as professor with tenure. Dr. Mann was born and raised in Albany, New York. After obtaining his Bachelor of Science at Dartmouth College, he attended medical school at Albert Einstein College of Medicine, completing his residency in surgery at Lang Island Jewish Hospital, and then moved to Albert Einstein College of Medicine, for his Ob/Gyn residency. Subsequently, Dr. Mann undertook research training within the Department of Physiology at Yale University, and on the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, where he performed research within the fetal physiology section-behavioral biology branch. Before coming to UVM, Dr. Mann held positions at Cornell University Medical College, was an attending obstetrician-gynecologist at New York Hospital, and Director of the Laboratory of Perinatal Medicine at Cornell University. From 1973 to 1976, he was chairman of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Nassau County Medical Center and chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the State University of New York Medical Center Health Sciences Center in Stony Brook, New York.

At his time after UVM, Dr. Mann worked at Lilly research laboratories, Indiana University School of Medicine, and Cleveland Metropolitan General/Howard University Hospital. Dr. Mann was an avid researcher, with over 100 peer-reviewed publications and a focus on fetal behavioral development and metabolism related to sleep cycles, hypoxia and acidosis.

In Memoriam

Denise Jeanne Lheureux, M.D., ’80


VERMONT MEDICINE • SPRING 2019

HALL A | OBITUARIES
Ian McHale celebrates his graduation from the master of public health program during the UVM Graduate College hooding ceremony in Ira Allen Chapel. Nine students were the first to receive their MPH degrees from the UVM program, preparing them for a range of careers in public policy, advocacy, clinical fields, and research.

PHOTO: DAVID SEEVER
Reunion 2019 is Moo-ving!

SAVE THE DATE FOR MEDICAL REUNION
OCTOBER 4-6, 2019

You’ll experience special class celebrations, medical alumni awards, tours of the College and Clinical Simulation Lab, Nostalgia Hour, and the kind of autumn beauty that only Vermont offers!

BOOK YOUR HOTEL NOW

It’s foliage season, and rooms fill quickly. But the alumni association has reserved special blocks for you and your medical classmates. Visit med.uvm.edu/alumni for more information.

RALLY YOUR CLASSMATES

Medical alumni have two ways to connect online with classmates: A password protected, searchable alumni directory is available to alumni and current students of the UVM Larner College of Medicine. To access the new directory, you will need your 10-digit alumni ID. You can get your ID by emailing the alumni office at medalumni.relations@uvm.edu or calling (802) 656-4014.

Pairing nicely with the Medical Alumni Directory is UVM’s mentoring platform: UVM Connect. Everyone you interact with on UVM Connect has the unique experience of being a part of the UVM family. The UVM Larner College of Medicine has its own group within UVM Connect, making it the perfect place to network. Join UVM Connect today at: uvmconnect.org and be sure to join the College’s group once you’ve logged in.

1974 classmates Cajsa Schumacher, M.D., and Kathleen Meyer, M.D. (above), reconnect at reunion 2009. They hope to see each other and many more classmates in October for their 45th reunion.