

VM

# A 50-YEAR RECORD

AS VERMONT MEDICINE HITS THE HALF-CENTURY MARK, WE LOOK BACK FONDLY OVER THE FIVE-DECADE CHRONICLE OF THE LIFE OF THE COLLEGE OF MEDICINE



**S**trapped into a passenger seat of a twin-engine aircraft a few hundred feet above White Plains, N.Y., John Mazuzan, M.D.'54, certainly had no time to think of the next 50 years stretching out ahead of him. Having another 50 minutes guaranteed would have been more than enough.

It was the spring of 1964, and Mazuzan, who'd only recently returned to Burlington to practice anesthesiology, had joined a group of College of Medicine alumni that called themselves the "alumni raiders," as they crisscrossed the nation soliciting their fellow graduates in the effort to raise funds to complete the College's building program, which would eventually produce the Given Medical Alumni complex. On this particular evening, Mazuzan accompanied John Maeck, M.D.'39 and Win Eddy, M.D.'45, on a round of visits to alumni in New York City and Hartford. Their day done, the group took off from Westchester County Airport at midnight, bound for Vermont. One engine of the small plane soon sputtered, and their pilot skillfully turned back and landed safely. Assuring his passengers that it had only been an easily solved problem of water vapor in their fuel line, the pilot quickly made some adjustments, and they were once again airborne.

"Then I turned to John Maeck in the seat beside me," recalls Mazuzan, "And I said 'why is he yelling Mayday?'" "Listen," said Maeck. It was more a matter of what couldn't be heard: the engine had now completely failed. They again turned back. After one harrowing missed pass, the plane finally bumped down safely on the runway. The shaken group switched to a car.

A few weeks later, on another fundraising visit, the team heard a fellow

alumnus complain that "the College only contacts me when it wants my money."

"That's not true anymore," said Maeck, pointing at Mazuzan. "He's going to start producing a College magazine to keep you informed."

"And that's how it all began," says Mazuzan. "Within a few months I was laying out the first issue at the old Lane Press building on Pine Street, standing next to the Linotype machine." Mazuzan wasn't sure what to call the magazine so, as a placeholder, he slugged in the title "Hall A," the name of the College's main lecture hall. "I couldn't come up with another name by press time, so we just kept it in," he says. Fifty years later that magazine, now known as *Vermont Medicine*, stands as one of the oldest continuously published medical school magazines in the nation.

Mazuzan was the obvious choice to spearhead founding a publication since, as he puts it, "It was well-known that I had printer's ink in my blood." His father had owned and edited the Northfield (Vt.) *News & Advertiser* for many years, and young John had grown up running proofs in the shop, and writing short news and sport pieces from his early teens. He had even



Written at the Mazuzan kitchen table and laid out at a Pine Street print shop, the first issue of *Hall A* appeared in the fall of 1964.



covered General Eisenhower's visit to Norwich University in 1946 for the paper, and had seen his write-up go national on the Associated Press wire.

"I don't know how I took on creating a magazine and still maintained a full-time practice," he says. He soon began to receive some help from the University's public relations office, but stayed on the magazine's masthead as editor until the late 1970s.

Five decades after the first issue rolled off the presses, the magazine has gone through several editorial and production changes. Originally an 8-inch square, it moved up to a full size publication in the early 1980s. Color came to its pages in 2001, as did a name change, since the readership had broadened to include recipients who had never sat in the Hall A lecture hall, which itself became a thing of the past a few years ago. (The alumni news and notes section, in tribute, retains the old lecture hall name.)

In the following pages, and through articles available on the *Vermont Medicine* website, readers can get a glimpse of the changing life of the College of Medicine from the 1960s to today. Even more important are the clear indications of what hasn't changed — the work to educate students and produce research that serves patients and the community.

— Ed Neuert  
Editor, 1998–present



During a recent interview, John Mazuzan, M.D.'54, the founding editor of the College of Medicine's magazine, looks over an early issue of *Hall A* in his Burlington living room.



The white space in this aerial view outlines the supports of the medical center. Many buildings are under construction. In the upper left, the old Hall A is visible. The old State Fairgrounds and the old State Fairgrounds are in the background.

**GROUNDBREAK IN AUGUST FOR PHASE III**  
All indications point to an August groundbreaking for the \$5,700,000 third phase of the medical center. The new wing, to be completed by the summer of 1968, will house the new research facilities in Phase III. This money came from the University's Alumni Magazine and by two subsequent major school marking grants awarded to the College of Medicine.

In late March Vermont's congressional delegation joined in securing a \$1,525,000 construction grant for research facilities in Phase III. This money came from the Division of Research, Facilities and the Center of the National Institutes of Health. Two weeks later Vermont's State and Federal Commissions on Higher Education had approved for Vermont and its College of Medicine a \$2,472,517 grant from the Bureau of State Services of the U.S. Public Health Service for research facilities in Phase III. The funding of Phase III marks another significant step in the history of the medical center. The two federal grants, totaling \$3,997,517, represent the largest amount of federal support ever granted for our facilities on the Vermont campus. Also this development has attracted the largest single amount of alumni and private philanthropy ever given for any Vermont building, including the largest single building gift to the University's history — the \$2,000,000 gift from the Green House Given and John L. Green Foundations.

Acting University President Lyman S. Russell, in announcing, said the support provided the College of Medicine by its alumni and friends and the major school grants "are a substantial testimony to the quality of teaching, research and service programs of the College of Medicine and its contribution to the state of Vermont."

To match the increase in student enrollment the new Burlington teaching hospitals are also expanding to provide more teaching beds. The DeFranco Memorial recently opened three new patient beds. Both with local and federal matching funds. Special teams with the medical school construction the Mar-Flacker will be utilized to utilize a seven-floor, 82,000-sq-ft patient care unit. Bed capacity of the two Burlington hospitals will then total nearly 900.

1965



1969



2000



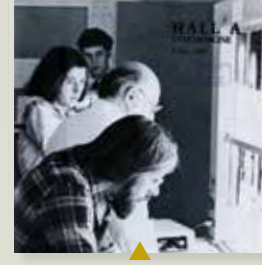
2005

### Students

More than anything else, alumni of the College always wish to be kept informed of what it is like to be a medical student *today*. Across all the "today's" of the last 50 years, the magazine has shown students throughout their daily life — navigating the worlds of the lecture hall and clinics, learning about the physician's life, and having a lot of fun along the way.



1971



1977



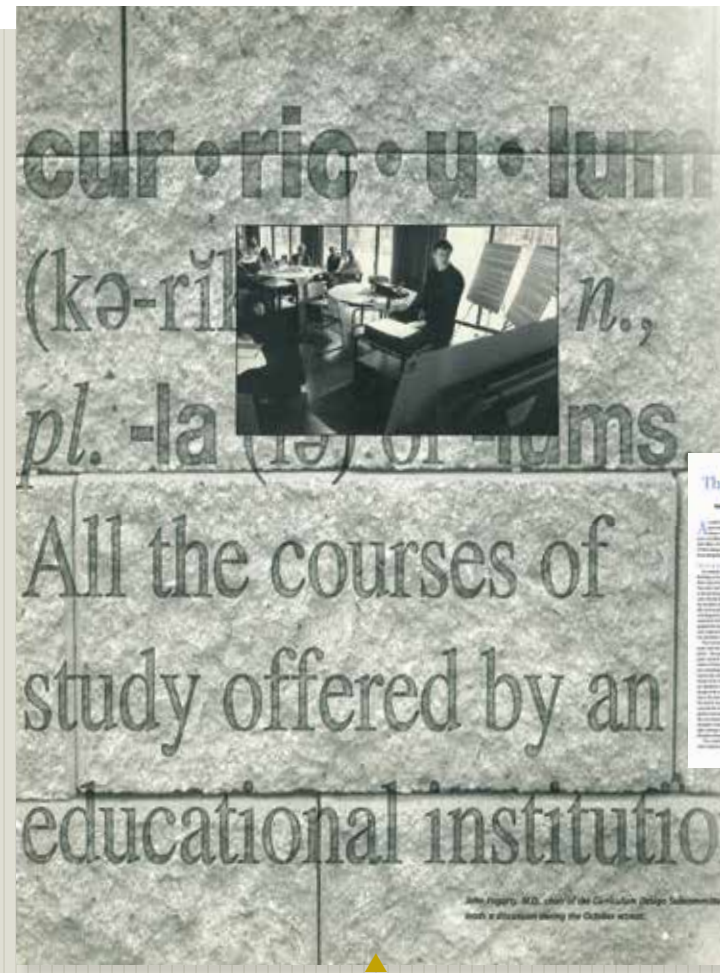
1997



2004

### Facilities

Over 50 years, the College's campus has not only changed — it's actually moved. Early issues of *Hall A* detail the plans for the Given complex and, in 1968, the move to the top of the hill — including the last class in the old Hall A that had served the school for more than 60 years. Later years saw coverage of the connection to Rowell Hall, and the rise of the Health Sciences Research Facility and the Medical Education Center.



1999

### Curriculum

Change is a constant in medical education, and nothing has been more of an indicator of the constant refinement and improvement of the art and science of medicine than the continuing evolution of the College's curriculum over the past 50 years. In 1967, the "new" curriculum introduced a radical change: early clinical experience. That spirit continued to inform the curriculum development process over the coming decades, eventually fostering the Vermont Integrated Curriculum's development in the late 1990s and early 2000s. Through all those years, the nation's need for more physicians drove the size of the student body to more than double.



1999



1999



1967



Read All About It!  
See the full stories featured here, plus many added articles from the last 50 years.  
Go to: [uvm.edu/medicine/vtmedicine](http://uvm.edu/medicine/vtmedicine)

### Women

It seems almost impossible to realize now, but in the 1960s it was headline-worthy to state that "A Medical Student... is Not Always a 'He'." Women had first been admitted to the College in the early 1920s, but their numbers in the student body had never been large. Beginning in the mid-1970s that changed fairly rapidly. One female student featured in the 1970s was Casja Nordstrom (later Casja Schumacher, M.D.'74), who went on to years of service on the Medical Alumni Association Executive Committee, including service as the first female president of the committee. (Her two daughters also earned their M.D.s at the College.) Today, as has been the case for many years, roughly half the student body are women.



1968



1972



2004



## Computer System Quickly Puts Finger On Medical Knowledge of World



Ms. Sara F. Nixon, reference librarian, taps out a call for information.

Physicians in Vermont, western New Hampshire and Plattsburgh, N.Y., are being provided quick access to the world's medical knowledge, through their own hospitals and the University of Vermont College of Medicine.

The new system answers an old problem: How can a physician find the specific needle of information he requires in the towering and always-growing haystack of medical knowledge?

The answer: Through a national high speed computer system linking him with a bank of information that is being constantly updated.

The system is called MEDLINE. In Vermont, the system's link is a small computer terminal in the College of Medicine's Dana Library. Physicians may obtain information from the system through the information center directors in the 31 hospitals participating in the College of Medicine's Hospital Library Development Services program.

To better acquaint these information center directors with the system, a one-day workshop was held Sept. 19 in Dana Library. Robert Selzerak, director of the Hospital Library Development Services, was workshop chairman. The workshop opened with a morning program on book selection. The work with MEDLINE, slated for the afternoon, was conducted by him, Ms. Cherie Hantz, assistant director, and Ms. Sara F. Nixon, reference librarian.

Ms. Nixon explained the ease with which the system can provide information to a physician. He can

ask, through his hospital or directly, for information on a specific topic. Ms. Nixon taps out this request on her terminal. As if waiting for exactly that question, the computer at the National Library of Medicine whips back an answer at a 360-word-a-minute pace. It first tells exactly how many articles have been published on that subject in the past four years in 1,200 of the world's leading medical journals.

"This posting is often up in the thousands," explained Ms. Nixon.

"As the search is limited by additional subject headings, the number of articles is reduced to a workable number of between 10 and 25 relevant citations," she continued.

When this has been done, the computer may be asked to send a list of these articles. It will reply with a list of the titles, in which the article is completed faster.

In most cases it and can decide what the journals are to them is simple.

Ms. Nixon continues to be available with searching for information. "For a few dollars use of the computer medical journals."



Here Comes [http://www.Ready\\_or\\_Not](http://www.Ready_or_Not)

12

1973

1997

## Research

One of the great stories in U.S. medicine over the last five decades has been the growth of the National Institutes of Health and other funding agencies, and the resulting growth of research work at medical schools throughout the nation. An article in a 1966 issue of *Hall A* told of the College's winning one of the first five federal grants for regional heart disease, cancer, and stroke programs — an early effort at translating the latest medical knowledge into clinical practice. As the College's research funding has grown, stories about those efforts have frequently appeared in the magazine.

## Technology

First and foremost comes the human dimension of medicine: the doctor/patient relationship. But augmenting that is the tremendous tide of technological innovation that has brought forth astounding new resources for better treatment and increased access to and sharing of information. Physicians are lifelong learners, and that has been apparent in these pages. Computers made an early appearance, the World Wide Web was born right before our eyes, and in the new millennium, the College of Medicine Educational Tools (COMET) became a 24/7 platform for medical student learning and sharing. Clinical simulation became a strong presence in the past decade.



2007



2012

## 'A BATTLE PLAN'

"Put the Vermonters ahead," a battle cry of the Civil War, has been repeated a century later on a scientific front.

The University of Vermont College of Medicine was chosen by the National Institutes of Health to receive one of the first five federal planning grants for regional heart disease, cancer, stroke programs.

Goal of the Program? — "To develop a realistic battle plan leading to the ultimate conquest of three diseases — heart disease, cancer and stroke — which now account for more than 70 per cent of the deaths in this country."

The University's initial grant was for \$294,770, and it is expected about \$300,000 a year will be received for a total of three years. The University will develop a plan not just for Vermont, but for the adjacent Northern New England area.

The other four universities receiving the initial grants were the University of Hawaii, University of Kansas, Yale University and the University of Missouri. Five more planning grants have since been awarded.

Dr. Robert J. Slater, dean of the College of Medicine, envisions the planning of a program for the region that will strengthen health services at the local



Dr. Robert W. Coon (above) will head Vermont's (Northern New England) regional heart disease, cancer, stroke program.

His appointment was announced by Lyman S. Rowell, president of the University.

Dr. Coon joined the Vermont faculty in 1955, is chairman of the department of pathology, and was involved in the "ground-floor" planning that preceded applying for the federal grant for this program.

He is a native of Montana and did his undergraduate study at North Dakota State College. He received his M.D. from the University of Rochester. He is a past president of the American Society of Clinical Pathologists.

1966



1974



2009



2001

## Clinical Practice

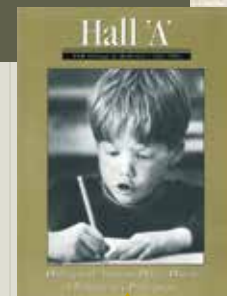
The delivery of medical care has changed in many ways over the last 50 years. Medicare and Medicaid were introduced a year after the magazine was founded, and the huge changes over the years in practice structures, the introduction of new clinical fields such as emergency medicine, and the continuing need for more primary care doctors have been documented in *Hall A* and *Vermont Medicine*.



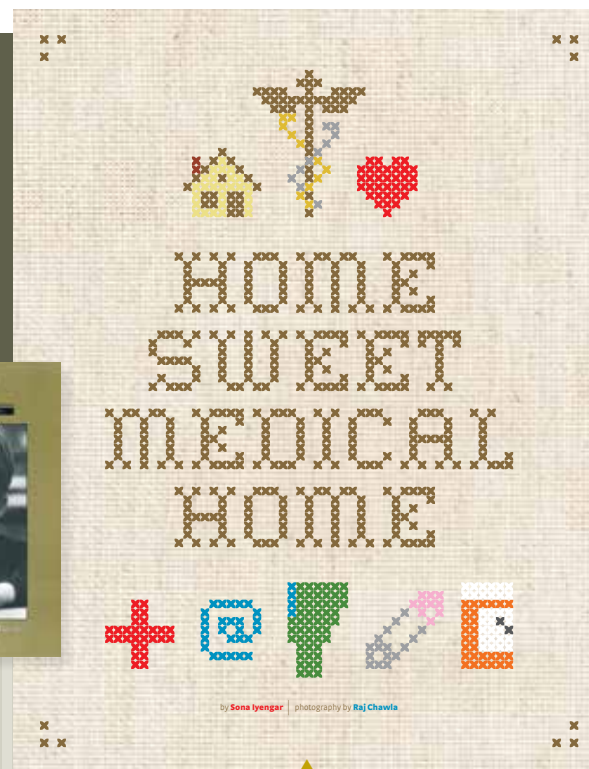
1968



1974



1995



2009



1936-2003

"WE JUST NEVER THOUGHT he could get really sick," says a former colleague of Joseph B. Warshaw, M.D. "He was just so big and optimistic, it seemed like nothing could ever get to him." By his death from multiple myeloma on December 29, 2003, the fifteenth dean of the College of Medicine had shown that he could face serious disease with the same courage, energy, and optimism that had been his hallmark in life. Here we present a selection of memories of Dr. Warshaw from a few of his close friends and associates.

# REMEMBERING JOE

A REMEMBRANCE OF DEAN JOSEPH B. WARSHAW, M.D.

photograph by KEN BURRIS

## Faculty

There is no recognized formula for a successful medical school, but if it had to be reduced to a mathematical equation, that would certainly involve adding an intelligent and curious student body to a dedicated, knowledgeable, and caring faculty. Many members of the College faculty have been celebrated in these pages through the decades — people who helped form the physicians of today, and whose reputations and influence continue. **VM**

2003



Read All About It!  
See the full stories featured here, plus many added articles from the last 50 years.  
Go to: [uvm.edu/medicine/vtmedicine](http://uvm.edu/medicine/vtmedicine)