Spring Fling Barbecue Luncheon is a Hit with Students
Two hundred students enjoy a spring fling picnic at Scott Hall.

The President’s Greeting
From Carol Clark, M.D.

Alumni Reunion Welcomes 260
Annual reunion festivities and celebration. See also: 2004 Medical Alumni Award Recipients.

Alumni Attend “Party of the Decade” at Hard Rock Café
Hard Rock Café Detroit hosted alumni from the classes of 1980 through 2003.

Future Docs Event Coming in Fall 2004
Save the date: Saturday, Sept. 11 for the second annual “Future Docs” event.

Alums Keep in Touch
Alumni directory is in the works.

In Memoriam

Alumni Association Life Membership

Class Notes

DEVELOPMENT NEWS

Endowed Chair Feature: David Rosenberg, M.D.
Dr. Rosenberg discusses the benefits of being the Miriam L. Hamburger Endowed Chair for Child and Adolescent Neuropsychiatric Research.

New Endowments Established at WSU School of Medicine
The WSU School of Medicine extends thanks to generous donors and supporters of 10 new endowments.

Resident Profile: Dr. Hanna Works to Promote Understanding
Mona Hanna, M.D., founder of The Hispanic Language & Culture Initiative, helps physicians learn conversational medical Spanish.

Sign Up for Mini Med School
Participation is encouraged for Mini Med School: An Exploration of Health Sciences, a first-hand look at what it takes to pursue a medical career.

Upcoming Events and Meetings

GRADUATE ALUM NOTES

Dear Graduate Alumni
From Kenneth Palmer, Ph.D., associate dean for graduate programs

Biomedical Science Graduates, May 2004

Graduate Alumni Profile: Dr. Raymond Menard
Dr. Menard’s work in pharmacology and breast cancer continues at Wayne State and the University of Chicago.
The Medical Alumni Association hosted a Spring Fling Barbecue Luncheon for all School of Medicine students on Monday, April 26. Nearly 200 students enjoyed the festivities, which included a picnic-themed lunch, music and Frisbees. The luncheon, which was in the Scott Hall cafeteria, spilled outside so students could enjoy the beautiful spring weather.

Students enjoyed the 2004 Spring Fling.

Year I student Ijeoma Nnodim enjoys lunch at the Spring Fling.

Tamia Watts, ’07, has fun with her new Frisbee.

Students take the party outside.

Students have a great time socializing.
Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Greetings on behalf of the Wayne State University School of Medicine Alumni Association Board of Governors.

It is with great pride that I begin my term as president of the Medical Alumni Association Board. The Medical Alumni Association is an integral part of the School of Medicine. As the needs of the school have grown, the role of alumni has become increasingly important for its continued success.

This year, the Medical Alumni Association will continue its efforts to expand its programs and activities to meet the changing needs of our alumni. I encourage you to support the School of Medicine by joining or renewing your membership in the Alumni Association, if you’re not already a member, and to consider a philanthropic gift to the school. I also look forward to welcoming our recent graduates as they become our newest members.

At a time when it’s more important than ever for us to be a positive part of the future of medicine, each one of us can make a difference by being involved in our alma mater.

Thank you.

Carol L. Clark, M.D. ’85
President
Wayne State University
School of Medicine
Medical Alumni Association

The President’s Greeting

Alumni Reunion Welcomes 260

On Saturday, May 8, 2004, more than 260 alumni and guests attended a special class reception, dinner and awards ceremony at the Somerset Inn, in Troy, Mich.

This year’s recipients of the Distinguished Alumni Award were Drs. Stuart C. Gordon, ’79; Sidney L. Stone, ’51; and Joyce D. Kales, ’60. The recipient of the Recent Alumni Award was Dr. Mark S. Juzych, ’89. The recipients of the Lawrence M. Weiner Awards were Drs. John W. Phillis and Sean C. Blackwell. Dr. Charles Lucas, ’62, was also honored with a special portrait presentation by Dr. Mervin Goldstein, ’72.

Earlier in the day, nearly 100 alumni attended the four-credit continuing medical education program, “You Heard it Here First: Experts Discuss the Latest Advances in Their Fields.” The program provided the latest information on metabolic syndrome, the “deadly triad” of obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease; obesity/hypertension; bariatric surgery; general surgery; and cardiology. Speakers included Drs. Michael Doyle, Paulos Berhanu, John Flack, Anna Marie Ledgerwood and William O’Neill.

Alumni and guests also attended a luncheon in the Scott Hall cafeteria. Dr. William O’Neill, president of the Medical Alumni Association, hosted the luncheon program, which included Dean John Crissman’s state of the school address, alumni student awards, certificate presentations to the classes of 1954 and 1979, and the Medical Alumni Association’s annual business meeting.

At the State of the School luncheon, members of the Class of 1954 who celebrated their 50th reunion included (back row from left to right) Drs. Fred Armstrong, Patrick Daoust, William McAllister, Anatol Hoaki, Roger Kempers, Clark Herrington, Mauauli Ilana, (front row from left to right) Charles Schoenhals, Robert Borchak, Norman Schakne, Margaret Levin and John Mackenzie.


Margherio Scholarship recipient Aniel Majjhoo holds his certificate and poses with, from left, Drs. Tom Ditkoff, ’71; William O’Neill, ’77; and Aniel’s parents, Pervin and Shori Majjhoo.

Dr. Mervin Goldstein, ’72, unveils a portrait of Dr. Charles Lucas, ’62.
Alumni Attend “Party of the Decade” at the Hard Rock Café

Alumni from the classes of 1980 through 2003 gathered at the new Hard Rock Café Detroit on Tuesday, April 27, 2004, to enjoy the company of their former classmates. Dr. Paul Chuba, class of 1992 and president-elect of the WSU Medical Alumni Board of Governors, attended the party and said, “If you have this party again next week, everyone would attend again. This is a great venue.” Next year, the WSU School of Medicine Alumni Association plans to invite all metropolitan Detroit alumni to this event. It should be great fun! ■

Dr. Craig Whitmore, ’00, and Carol Whitmore

Future Docs Event Coming in Fall 2004

The WSU School of Medicine will conduct the second annual “Future Docs” event at Scott Hall on Saturday, Sept. 11, 2004. This three-hour event will offer kids, ages 6 through 12, exciting hands-on workshops and activities designed to introduce them to the medical profession in a fun and informative way.

The event sold out quickly last year and is sure to be an even greater success in 2004. If you would like advance information about this year’s event, please contact Natalie DiGiovanni @ (313) 993-4181 or e-mail ndigiova@med.wayne.edu. ■

ALUMS KEEP IN TOUCH

The Medical Alumni Association will be working with Bernard C. Harris Publishing Company, Inc on the next Alumni Directory, which is scheduled to come out in March, 2005. Soon, locating fellow alumni will be as easy as turning a page with the Wayne State University Medical Alumni Directory. You may reserve your personal copy when your Harris representative calls. Don’t delay because only pre-publication orders will be guaranteed.

In Memoriam

The Office of Alumni Affairs in the School of Medicine has received notification of the deaths of the following alumni. On behalf of the university community, we extend sincere sympathy to family and friends.

M. Andrew Sapala, M.D., 1941
David Tyrrell, M.D., 1957

Editor’s note: We know that timely reporting of alumni deaths is important to our readers. At the same time, we must ensure that our reports are accurate. Therefore, we ask that friends and family send us either an obituary or a letter of confirmation notifying us of someone’s death. Please write to the WSU Medical Alumni Association, 101 E. Alexandrine, Detroit, MI 48201 or e-mail alumni@med.wayne.edu.

In Memoriam

The Office of Alumni Affairs would like to recognize new Medical Alumni Association Life Members

February 19, 2004–May 11, 2004

David A. Colosimo, M.D.
John D. Everett, M.D.
Thomas G. Goergen, M.D.
Rosalind E. Griffin, M.D.
Matthew J. Kraay, M.D.
Robert L. Leeser, M.D.
Michael E. Maddens, M.D.
Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Sferra
Sandeep Sood, M.D.
John A. Stancher, M.D.

Thank you to those who have signed up for the life installment plan. We look forward to you becoming full-fledged life members in the near future.

Would you like to receive your membership renewal via email?

If you would like to receive future membership renewal notices via email, please send an email note containing your name, graduating class, and email address to:

Denise Smith
Membership Coordinator
WSU, School of Medicine
EMAIL: dsmith@med.wayne.edu

Please type “Membership Renewal” as the subject of your note.

Thank you!
George Ritter, M.D., is now editor of The Providence Hospital Medical Bulletin.

John Edward Pasko, M.D., recently took a leave of absence from a 33-year general surgery rotation at Mercy Memorial Hospital in Monroe, Mich. His son, Jonathan Edward Pasko, M.D., and daughter-in-law Laura Katz (Pasko), M.D., both 1996 graduates of the WSU School of Medicine, are in active practice in Monroe.

Bruce Deschere M.D., served as Team USA physician at the World Synchronized Skating Competition in Zagreb, Croatia, in April. Two teams represented the U.S. Figure Skating Association: the Crystallettes from Dearborn, Mich., and the Haydenettes from Lexington, Mass. The USFSA arranges for a physician and a physical therapist to deal with medical issues whenever U.S. figure skaters travel. Dr. Deschere has been involved with providing medical coverage at skating events for the past five years. Dr. Deschere dealt with multiple medical problems, sprains, bruises and cuts, but all skaters were able to perform when time came to compete. The Haydenettes finished a strong fourth, and the Crystallettes did very well by finishing ninth in their fourth place finish.

Mark S. Iuzycz, M.D., MHSA, and his wife, Nadia Iuzycz, Ph.D., welcomed their second son, Nicholas Mark George, on Saturday Feb. 7, 2004. Their first son, Daniel, is excited to be promoted to “Big Brother.” Dr. Iuzycz is associate professor and vice chairman of Kresge Eye Institute and the Department of Ophthalmology at Wayne State University School of Medicine. He is also the residency program director for Kresge Eye Institute, the chief of ophthalmology at Sinai-Grace Hospital and serves on the admissions board for the WSU School of Medicine.

Robert Pannullo, M.D., is married with two children. From 1995 to 1999, he completed his residency in physical rehabilitation and medicine at Cornell Medical Center. In 1999, he was appointed as medical director of Penn State Gersgener Rehabilitation Hospital. In 2000, he completed his fellowship in interventional pain management. Dr. Pannullo is board certified in physical medicine and rehabilitation as well as pain management. He is currently employed at Seaview Orthopaedic, in Neptune, N.J.

Troy Thompson, M.D., reports that after practicing family medicine for four years in Stevensville, Mich., he and his wife moved with their two children to Almaty, Kazakhstan, for a year. While there, they studied Russian, practiced medicine and adopted two infants. They have returned to Michigan, are home-schooling their children and are considering further international trips.

Charmagne Goodman Beckett, M.D., is currently performing research at the U.S. Naval Medical Research Unit #2 in Jakarta, Indonesia. Dr. Beckett, who was promoted to lieutenant commander in the U.S. Navy, is board certified in internal medicine and infectious diseases. She is grateful to the School of Medicine for a great medical education.

Laura Benjamins, M.D., is starting a combined adolescent-medicine/primary-care fellowship at the University of Texas, in Houston, in July. She is working on her M.P.H. at the University of Texas as well.

Jennifer Briscoe, M.D., reports that after completing her residency at St. John Hospital, in Detroit, she moved to a rural county in North Carolina to conduct full-spectrum family practice, including obstetrics. She works in the hospital and office and is providing true “cradle-to-grave” care!

Bradley P. Mudge, M.D., a former general surgery resident at the WSU School of Medicine is now a plastic surgeon. He and his wife Leanne, have a 6-year-old son, Connor.

Tom Rifai, M.D., BCPNS, reports that in addition to becoming a board-certified internist, he has become one of Michigan’s first board-certified physician nutrition specialists. Dr. Rifai credits WSU nutrition professor, Vish Sardesai, Ph.D., for helping to guide him into the field of medical bariatric management. His work, which is conducted at the multidisciplinary North Pointe Health Center, in Berkley, Mich., is now balanced between intensive medical weight management and medical support for bariatric surgery patients. He also lectures for the WSU Department of Nutrition & Food Science on obesity and the science behind the Mediterranean Diet. Dr. Rifai serves as an advisor for the Michigan Department of Community Health’s Cardiometabolic Health Task Force and as a member of The Detroit News Health Advisory committee.

Amanda Yancy, M.D., formerly Amanda Johnson, has opened a private obstetrics-gynecology practice in the greater metro Detroit area with two colleagues, Nicole Metcalfe, M.D., and Dione Dickerson, M.D. All three physicians trained together at Hutzel Women’s Hospital. She can be contacted at (248) 355-2852 or at dr_mon23@hotmail.com.
2004 Medical Alumni Award Recipients

The Distinguished Alumni Award

Wayne State University Medical Alumni Association initiated the Distinguished Alumni Award to be presented annually to an alumnus who has made outstanding contributions to humanitarian causes, whose contributions to the health field in the broader sense are outstanding, or for service to WSU School of Medicine.

Stuart C. Gordon, M.D. '79
Dr. Gordon currently works as director of Gastroenterology-Hepatology at William Beaumont Hospital. He has authored or co-authored over 80 scientific publications and book chapters and is the editor of the textbook, "Management of Chronic Viral Hepatitis," published in 2002. Among his contributions to the field of hepatology include the first description of the cholestatic variant of hepatitis A and the observation that the outcome of chronic hepatitis C infection varies according to the mode of its acquisition. Dr. Gordon remains at the forefront of clinical research of new strategies and therapies for viral hepatitides and other liver diseases, and is an advisor to several pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies in their research and development of novel treatment regimens. He is involved in the teaching of medical students, residents and fellows, and is clinical associate professor of medicine at WSU School of Medicine. He has been consistently named in "Best Doctors in America" and Hour Magazine's "Best Doctors in Michigan" and he has an active practice in Royal Oak.

Sidney L. Stone, M.D. '51
Dr. Stone and Wayne State University have been inseparably linked since he began his undergraduate studies in 1943. Although the relationship was interrupted by service in the U.S. Army during World War II, it resumed immediately after when Dr. Stone returned to Wayne University and enrolled in the premedical program. He graduated from the School of Medicine in 1951. In 1955, Dr. Stone entered private practice as a solo practitioner and continued his work until retiring after 46 years in 2001. Dr. Stone was appointed a clinical instructor at the School of Medicine in 1955, promoted to clinical assistant professor in 1976 and to clinical associate professor in 1997. Dr. Stone and his wife, Betty, were inducted into the Anthony Wayne Society in 1984. He served on the Board of Governors of the School of Medicine Alumni Association from 1985-1989 and served as its president 1990-1991. In May, 2003, Dr. Stone was elected an honorary Member of the Board of Governors. The Wayne State University Alumni Association presented him with the Homer D. Strong Award on February 9, 2004 at the Leadership Recognition Reception.

Joyce D. Kales, M.D. '60
Joyce Kales was a 1952 Cass Tech Graduate who went on to study Pharmacy at Wayne University, where she graduated with highest distinction in 1956. She received her M.D. from the School of Medicine in 1960. Also that year, she married Anthony Kales, M.D. whom she met when both were freshman at Wayne. She completed her residency in Psychiatry at the UCLA affiliated Brentwood Veteran’s Administration Hospital. During her career, Dr. Kales served in many critical roles in the Department of Psychiatry at the College of Medicine of Pennsylvania State University, including director of clinical and educational programs and associate director of the Central Pennsylvania Psychiatric Institute (CPP1). She has authored and/or co-authored 130 scientific articles and book chapters including the book, “The Evaluation and Treatment of Insomnia,” which she co-authored with her husband. She has an Endowed Chair in Community and Social Psychiatry named in her honor at Penn State for her many accomplishments and contributions in community mental health training. She returned with the rank of professor emerita in 1997 and has continued to provide consultation and guidance to the CPP1.

The Recent Alumni Award

The Recent Alumni Award, established in 2003, is presented to alumni who received a medical degree from WSU School of Medicine within the last 15 years and have demonstrated outstanding professional achievement, community contributions or service to WSU School of Medicine.

Mark S. Jucyech, M.D. '89
Mark Jucyech, M.D., MHSA is associate professor and vice-chairman of Kresge Eye Institute (KEI), Department of Ophthalmology at Wayne State University School of Medicine. He is also the residency program director for KEI, serving as the lead educator and mentor to 21 residents annually. Dr Jucyech graduated from Wayne State University with a Bachelor’s degree in Biology in 1985 and WSU School of Medicine in 1989, graduating Phi Beta Kappa and Alpha Omega Alpha, respectively. He completed his residency in Ophthalmology at KEI in 1993 and furthered his education with a glaucoma fellowship from Johns Hopkins University in 1995 and a Masters in Health Services Administration from the University of Michigan in 1998. Presently, he is chief of ophthalmology at Sinai-Grace Hospital. His work in clinical research has led to more than 35 peer-reviewed publications, several book chapters, and more than 80 published abstracts.

The Lawrence M. Weiner Award

The Lawrence M. Weiner Award, established in 1979, honors outstanding contributions of non-alumni to the School of Medicine through the exceptional performance of their teaching, research, and/or administrative duties. These individuals have met the high standards created by Dr. Lawrence Weiner’s outstanding record of service to the School.

John W. Phillips, Ph.D.
John W. Phillips was born in Port of Spain, Trinidad, W.I. in 1936. After schooling in Trinidad, England and Australia, he studied Veterinary Science at Sydney University, graduating with honors in 1958. In 1961, Dr. Phillips was appointed as a Wellcome Research Fellow at the Agricultural Research Council Institute of Animal Physiology in Cambridge, England. He returned to Australia in 1961 as a lecturer in Physiology at Monash University in Melbourne, and later moved to Canada where he held positions in the Department of Physiology at the University of Manitoba, and subsequently the headship of the Department of Physiology at the University of Saskatchewan. In 1981, Dr. Phillips became chair of the Department of Physiology at Wayne State University, a position that he held until 1997. He has published a monograph, “The Pharmacology of Synapses” and edited or co-edited five books, together with numerous book chapters and over 370 research papers. Three of his publications have been identified as Citation Classics or Landmarks. He was a founding editor of Progress in Neurobiology and served as Editor of the Canadian Journal of Physiology and Pharmacology from 1978 through 1981.

Sean C. Blackwell, M.D.
Sean C. Blackwell, M.D. received his medical degree from University of Illinois School of Medicine in Rockford, Illinois. Dr. Blackwell was an executive chief resident in Obstetrics & Gynecology at Wayne State University and was awarded the Arthur G. Seski, M.D./Chairman’s Award for Overall Excellence in Obstetrics and Gynecology. He also completed his fellowship in Maternal Fetal Medicine at Wayne State University.

Dr. Blackwell is currently the medical director of Informatics, the director of Antenatal Testing and an assistant professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Wayne State University School of Medicine. He is currently completing a NICHD Women’s Reproductive Health Scholar’s Grant Award and is the alternate principle investigator at WSU for the NICHD Maternal Fetal Medicine Unit Network. Dr. Blackwell recently co-wrote the ACOG Technical Bulletin on “Shoulder Dystocia” and won the Grand Prize Award at the 71st Annual Meeting of the Central Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists for his paper entitled “Prolonged In Utero Meconium Exposure Impairs Spatial Learning in the Adult Rat.” He has authored over 35 peer reviewed journal articles, nine chapters, and 119 published abstracts.

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Endowed Chair Feature
David Rosenberg, M.D.

In the early 20th century, epilepsy was seen as a psychological problem rather than a neurological disorder. People who suffered from the disease were viewed as insane. They were told to try and stop having seizures. David Rosenberg, M.D., sees a correlation between how society treated individuals with epilepsy with how many people with mental disorders are treated today. “I see a child with mental problems no differently than someone with diabetes. It is a biological disorder. You can’t tell someone with diabetes to simply stop having the disease, nor could you ask the same of someone with mental problems. It must be treated.”

Dr. Rosenberg, a professor in the Wayne State University School of Medicine Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurosciences and research director of child and adolescent psychiatry currently holds the Miriam L Hamburger Endowed Chair for Child and Adolescent Neuropsychiatric Research at Children’s Hospital of Michigan and Wayne State University. “This chair is truly an enormous benefit for this department,” he explained. “This funding is now here forever.”

Dr. Rosenberg has been with the School of Medicine since 1996 and became the chief of child psychiatry in January of 2004. “Children have been the orphans of the health care system for far too long — especially children with mental problems. They suffer not only from their condition but also from social stigmas that surround those conditions. Only knowledge can defeat this stigma,” said Dr. Rosenberg. “Truly one of the benefits of this chair is its ability to bring the message of education about mental disorders right to the community and to inform and promote research and understanding to the community and inform them of the importance of child and adolescent psychiatric research.”

The Miriam L Hamburger Endowed Chair for Child and Adolescent Neuropsychiatric Research at Children’s Hospital of Michigan and Wayne State University was established in 2000 to support the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurosciences and assists researchers like Dr. Rosenberg in their quest to promote understanding. “The key is getting the word out and informing the public,” he explained. “The research we’re doing here in child psychiatry is very important and this chair is a mandate forever that allows us to do that research and serve the mission of the department.”

The presence of a chair in the department has also secured funds to allow for the purchase of state-of-the-art equipment and enhanced the overall reputation of the School of Medicine, helping to attract the highest quality researchers, students, post-doctorate candidates and physicians. “The generosity of Miriam Hamburger and others like her have helped this department become a center of excellence and allows us to act as a bridge to students and attract the next generation of researchers,” said Dr. Rosenberg.

As the field of child and adolescent psychiatry develops new methods of research and discovery, like brain imaging and genetic analysis, Dr. Rosenberg and his fellow researchers at Wayne State University are making new discoveries. “We’re beginning to unlock the areas in the brain that will help us predict the best possible treatment for various disorders,” he said. “These are good kids with good families. We know that these are true medical conditions and not simply behaviors that people can choose to, or not to, display. We are now learning the causes for many of these disorders,” he explained. “Knowledge is the message that we must communicate through research, training and education.”

New Endowed Chair Feature
David Rosenberg, M.D.

The Wayne State University School of Medicine extends its sincere appreciation to the following families and community leaders for their support and generosity in the establishment of endowments this year. Their commitment to the enhancement of our School’s educational programs and research initiatives is exemplary.

Atallah Endowed Scholarship Fund
Dr. and Mrs. Pierre Atallah established this fund to benefit medical students at Wayne State University School of Medicine. Dr. Pierre is an associate professor of medicine at the school and hopes this fund will improve the learning experience for students.

The Anne V. and John G. Bielawski, M.D., Endowed Student Scholarship
Dr. John Bielawski graduated from the School of Medicine in 1943 and has been a practicing cardiologist for 50 years. The scholarship he has established will assist medical students with financial support. It is his hope that this will aid students as they face the financial challenges of going to medical school.

The William R. and Mary-Jean Bristol Endowed Scholarship Fund
Dr. William Bristol attended Wayne State University School of Medicine, and Mary-Jean Bristol Yarnold was a researcher at the School of Medicine when they met. This endowment has been established by Mrs. Bristol Yarnold and her daughter, Susan Bristol. It is a tribute William and Mary-Jean’s commitment to science and health care in this community and will provide assistance to students in financing their educations at the School of Medicine.

Joseph Ferguson, M.D., Endowed Research Award Fund
In 1869, Dr. John Ferguson graduated from the Detroit Medical College, what later would become the School of Medicine, as the school’s first African-American graduate. Lorna Thomas, M.D., has established this fund in memory of her great, great, great grandfather, Joseph Ferguson, M.D. Its purpose is to encourage continued progress and to provide assistance to African-American students in financing their education at Wayne State University School of Medicine.

The H. John Jacob, M.D., Head and Neck Cancer Research Endowment for Residents
Dr. H. John (Tony) Jacob, as a member of the WSU faculty, served as a mentor to numerous medical students and residents throughout his career. He cared deeply for providing the best of all possible care to his patients. Dr. Jacob’s family has established this fund in his memory for residents in the field of otolaryngology in order to continue his great love and dedication to his field and his great legacy of helping others.

The Drs. Anthony and Joyce Kales Endowed Professorship in Sleep Disorders Medicine
Drs. Anthony and Joyce Kales are both Wayne State University School of Medicine graduates. Anthony Kales, a pioneer in the field of sleep research and sleep disorders medicine, became founding chair of the Department of Psychiatry at the College of Medicine of Pennsylvania State University. Joyce Kales served in many critical roles, including director of clinical and educational programs, director of hospital consultation/liaison psychiatry, director of community and social psychiatry, and associate director of the Central Pennsylvania Psychiatric Institute. They have established this fund to provide support for clinical activity, teaching and research in the Center of Sleep Disorders Medicine in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurosciences.

Herbert Mendelson, M.D., Endowed Chair Feature
Dr. Greg G. Messenger, M.D., Endowed Fund in Dermatology
This award has been established in honor of Herbert Mendelson, M.D., a Wayne State University School of Medicine alumnus, by his four children, Jeffery, David, Stephen and Diane – all of whom are School of Medicine alumni. This award was established in hopes of easing the financial burdens of medical students.

Greg G. Messenger, M.D.

Endowed Fund in Dermatology
Dr. Greg G. Messenger is a 1980 graduate of the WSU School of Medicine. A consistent supporter of the School, Dr. Messenger, a dermatologist, has created this endowment to support the Department of Dermatology.

Erin T. Patton Endowed Memorial Scholarship Fund
Tammy and Clifford Patton have established this fund in memory of their daughter, Erin, who was born with severe cardiac complications. The family greatly appreciates the exceptional care that Erin received at Children’s Hospital of Michigan and it is their hope that these funds will work to enhance the training that future physicians will receive.

Carol E. Pearson, M.D., Endowed Fund
Dr. Carol E. Pearson, a Wayne State University faculty member, has established this fund to improve the educational experience at the WSU School of Medicine. Dr. Pearson is extremely interested in the School of Medicine’s urban mission and hopes to further the educational opportunities that are provided to students, faculty and the medical community.
Resident Profile: Dr. Hanna Works to Promote Understanding

One year ago, second-year pediatric resident, Mona Hanna, M.D., was working in the emergency room. A bleeding child came into the hospital. He was in pain and frightened.

“I wanted to comfort him, but it was very hard. The boy only spoke Spanish and I did not,” she explained. “Sometimes, all a child needs to hear a doctor say is, ‘Don’t worry,’ and it can do a lot to comfort them.”

Dr. Hanna’s frustration gave her an idea and, a year later, a solution. She founded The Hispanic Language & Culture Initiative, a four-month class designed to provide physicians with conversational medical Spanish. On May 5, 2004, physicians with conversational Spanish participated in the inaugural graduating class, which was divided fairly evenly between medical students and faculty. The course featured many resources for students, including textbooks, conversational medical handbooks for quick references and Palm-based texts.

“We hope to continue this program next year and expand it to possibly include other languages,” Dr. Hanna said. “Due to the excellent support we received this year, it looks as though this initiative will continue.”

The course was arranged by the professional development department at Wayne State University and was offered to all students and faculty at the School of Medicine. It focused on teaching key phrases and terms as well as important cultural values.

“It took roughly a year to put together,” said Dr. Hanna. “PEDIATRICS Chair Dr. Bonnie Stanton was instrumental in organizing this project. She secured the necessary funding from the pediatrics education office.”

All graduates participated in a “pinning ceremony,” where they received a button stating, “¡Hola! ¿Cómo estás usted?” to be worn on their lab coats to easily identify doctors with Spanish skills.

“The goal was not to create a false fluency for physicians,” said Dr. Hanna. “The goal was to establish a conversational bridge so that doctors could communicate directly with patients. We have interpreters at the DMC that can assist us with the large number of Hispanic patients here but, at times, it can be frustrating for physicians.”

The Hispanic Language & Culture Initiative was developed in an effort to improve the basic care that is offered at the Detroit Medical Center. The inaugural graduating class was divided fairly evenly between medical students and faculty. The course featured many resources for students, including textbooks, conversational medical handbooks for quick references and Palm-based texts.

“We hope to continue this program next year and expand it to possibly include other languages,” Dr. Hanna said. “Due to the excellent support we received this year, it looks as though this initiative will continue.”

Sign Up for Mini Med School

In September, 2004, Wayne State University School of Medicine and the WSU Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences will come together to present “Mini Med School: An Exploration of Health Sciences.” Faculty, alumni and friends are invited to bring a college-bound high-school student to this event to provide them with a first-hand look at what it takes to pursue a career in medicine today.

Becoming a medical professional is a long and sometimes difficult road that is filled with new and exciting challenges. This exclusive Mini Med School will provide insight into the lives of our students. Participants will actively learn about gross anatomy, pharmacology, neurology and ophthalmology. Activities will simulate some of the classes and labs that a typical medical student encounters. Participants also will learn about how new technologies, like full-body simulators and brain imaging, are incorporated into medical diagnosis, treatment and research.

“Mini Med School: An Exploration of Health Sciences” will be held on four successive Tuesday evenings, Sept. 7, 14, 21 and 28. Students are required to attend all four sessions and will be presented with a certificate of achievement upon completion. Admission information will also be available for students seeking medical education.

Last year’s Mini Med School was a great success. If you’re interested in participating this fall please contact Mike Gentile in the office of development and alumni affairs at mgentile@med.wayne.edu or (313) 577-9098. Space is limited.

Wayne State University School of Medicine Upcoming Alumni Events and Meetings

September 2004
Alumni Department of Urology Reception
Location to be determined

Wednesday, Oct. 6, 2004
Annual Alumni Kick Off Reception
Location to be determined

Wednesday, Nov. 3, 2004
Alumni Reception during MSMS Annual Meeting
5:00 p.m., Somerset Inn, Troy, Mich.

September 2004
Alumni Department of Internal Medicine Reception
Traverse City, Mich.

Members of the WSU Mini Med School class of 2003 participated in hands-on experiences.
Dear Graduate Alumni

Abundant sunshine and warm breezes have finally made their way to Michigan again! But, sun has not been the only source of cheer in the WSU School of Medicine. Our May 2004 commencement celebrated the graduation of another group of intelligent, highly trained students, who proudly fulfilled their goals and aspirations for careers in science. The accompanying list identifies these outstanding individuals. Congratulations and best wishes to each!

Although graduate student social groups have existed in the School of Medicine for a number of years, only recently have our students, directed by co-leaders Stephanie Conant, (a recent IMM graduate) and George Proteasa (BMB), worked so diligently to establish the first formal Graduate Student Council. The WSU’s Dean of Students recently reviewed our graduate students’ petition and approved the group as a formally constituted student organization. As such, the Graduate Student Council is eligible for access to a number of academic and financial resources granted to established university student organizations. Many students and faculty credit the IBS core curriculum (required of all new PhD students) and the sense of community it engenders for encouraging students to work together to attain such a worthwhile goal. The opportunity to explore academic, professional and social concerns in a formalized setting will provide students with a greater sense of participation in and self-direction of their personal career development – not to mention a few parties along the way!

Finally, the birth of new academic programs doesn’t occur very often, but the School is pleased to announce the pending approval of its new master’s in public health program. The Department of Community Medicine has radically revised its existing master’s degree in community health services to provide the platform for this new program. Dr. Antonia Abbey, interim chair of community medicine, expects this new professional degree program to attract students with a wide array of health-profession and science backgrounds. The opportunity to study in one of three very topical concentrations – public health practice, quantitative health sciences or occupational and environmental health – should prove her right!

As always, your keen interest in WSU School of Medicine and the progress of our graduate biomedical science training is warmly appreciated.
As a post-doctorate student at the University of Chicago, Dr. Raymond E. Menard has his friends to help him unwind. “We have gotten together a few times to play guitar since I moved to Chicago. It’s a great way to relax and it’s a lot of fun to make good music with my buddies,” he said.

At the School of Medicine, Dr. Menard had similar ways to deal with stress. In the pharmacology department, he could also count on his friends to help him relax. They were always good for a cup of coffee or a good talk when things got too demanding. Dr. Menard found an environment that not only provided the resources necessary for a challenging and competitive career in biomedical research, but also offered supportive faculty and friendly classmates.

When choosing a program, Dr. Menard sought a school that had a reputation for being one of the best biomedical research facilities in the country. “I felt that I would have the opportunity to do some interesting and rewarding research at Wayne,” he said, “and that certainly turned out to be true.”

Dr. Menard worked closely with his advisor Dr. Raymond Mattingly and credits him with much of his own success. Dr. Mattingly was recently awarded the Ralph C. Wilson, Sr. and Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Medical Research Foundation, Research Grant for Discovery in the Biomedical Sciences and has been designated a “Wilson Scholar” based partly on work established in Dr. Menard’s dissertation in 2003. “Dr. Mattingly was a great advisor and is a very knowledgeable scientist,” he said. “Working in his lab provided me with excellent guidance and was a great experience.”

Dr. Menard’s dissertation dealt with the study of p21 activated kinase 1 (PAK1) and its potential role in breast cancer. He showed that when this protein is activated it can assist cells in continuing to divide, even in environments that would normally cause death.

“In other words, active PAK1 may lead to tumor formation. So from a therapeutic stand point, if you inhibit PAK1 you may reduce the likelihood of tumor formation,” he explained. “So, in a nutshell, if active PAK1 helps cells bypass the death pathway, it may therefore be key in breast cancer formation.”

Dr. Menard’s research has been published in two journals this past December and January, and he has also received a cancer biology training grant for the last two years of his research. “PAK1 has been shown to be active in various human breast cancer cells line and therefore makes a good possible therapeutic target,” he said. “The last part of my thesis was investigating the role of PAK1 in rescuing MCF10A human breast epithelial cells, from undergoing anoikis, which is induced cell death. Some of the work in these cells has led to Dr. Mattingly’s work on mammary epithelial hyperplasia.”

Dr. Menard said he found a place at the School of Medicine that led to great success for him as a researcher. As he worked on his doctorate, he also found time to help others through his involvement with Graduate Research Day. “I was on the committee for two years and thought it was a great way for students to showcase their work,” he said.

Currently, Dr. Menard’s work focuses on a protein that has been shown to be present at low levels in certain prostate cancers and how it might regulate the formation of cancer cells.

Dr. Menard in his laboratory

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