

# The Vibe @

Summer 2010

## The School of Medicine

**Greetings and welcome** to **The Vibe**, a newsletter created with you in mind, a vehicle for communicating news about your alma mater and connecting you to your fellow alums. Twice a year, we'll let you know about new initiatives at the School of Medicine (SOM) and share ways that you can stay connected to both the institution and your classmates.

In this inaugural issue, you'll read about the major renovation to the anatomy lab made possible by a parents' gift and about recent class reunions. You'll learn about the construction of the school's newest and most ambitious facility, the Albert Sherman Center. You'll hear from a fellow alum and learn about ways to reconnect with others. And, we'll keep you informed about upcoming events. You'll also read about why your support is so important to the future of the SOM and the students who follow in your footsteps in their educational pursuits.

We hope you enjoy *The Vibe*. If you have news you'd like to share or have suggestions for future issues of the newsletter, drop us a note at [alumni@umassmed.edu](mailto:alumni@umassmed.edu) or call the Office of Alumni Relations at 508-856-1593.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

**Irvin (Irv) Heifetz, MD '79**  
SOM Alumni Association President

**Andrew (Andy) Miller, MD '79**  
SOM Alumni Association VP/Treasurer



### Anatomy lab gets a much-needed overhaul

ONE OF THE MOST memorable experiences in medical education is the first-year human anatomy course, when students are exposed to donated cadavers from which they will learn the intimate details of the human body. While many alumni will remember the lab space on A Level, future graduates will recall a bright, roomy, state-of-the-art facility, thanks to a major renovation.

The convergence of several factors—an increase in the school's class size, planned curriculum revisions and the need for technology upgrades to enhance the educational experience—led to a dramatic reworking of the anatomy labs last summer.

Funded in part by a \$100,000 donation from George and Joan

▲ School of Medicine Dean Terence Flotte (right) watches a demonstration of the clinical imaging system from Class of 2012 students James Ferguson (with back to camera) and Scott Cushman.

Psoinos, parents of Charles Psoinos of the Class of 2011, the renovations occurred quickly between spring and fall courses last summer. The labs now incorporate bright lighting that can be individually controlled and energy-saving features such as motion sensors.

Wall-mounted computers at every lab station integrate clinical imaging and expand the lab's use into the third and fourth clinical years.

Thanks to the generosity of the Psoinos family, this critical learning environment has been transformed. Their gift will have a lasting impact on the curriculum and will enhance the educational experience of future medical students for years to come. ■

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## JUNE

### 37th Commencement Ceremony

SUNDAY, JUNE 6, 2010

12 noon

Campus Green, UMass Medical School

### UMass Comes To You

FRIDAY, JUNE 25, 2010

9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Ocean Edge Resort & Golf Club, Brewster, MA

UMass Comes to You offers a series of short lectures on health care, current events and culture with some of the most prominent and accomplished faculty members from across the UMass system. \$50 per person includes continental breakfast, lunch and six lectures.

## SEPTEMBER

### Investiture

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2010

4 p.m.

UMass Medical School

### Convocation

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2010

10 a.m.

UMass Medical School

### Walk to Cure Cancer

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2010

12 noon

Aaron Lazare Medical Research Building

UMass Medical School

### Annual Alumni Scholarship Dinner

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2010

6 – 8:30 p.m.

UMass Medical School

## OCTOBER

### Pink—Lighting the Way to a Cure

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2010

6 p.m.

Aaron Lazare Medical Research Building

UMass Medical School

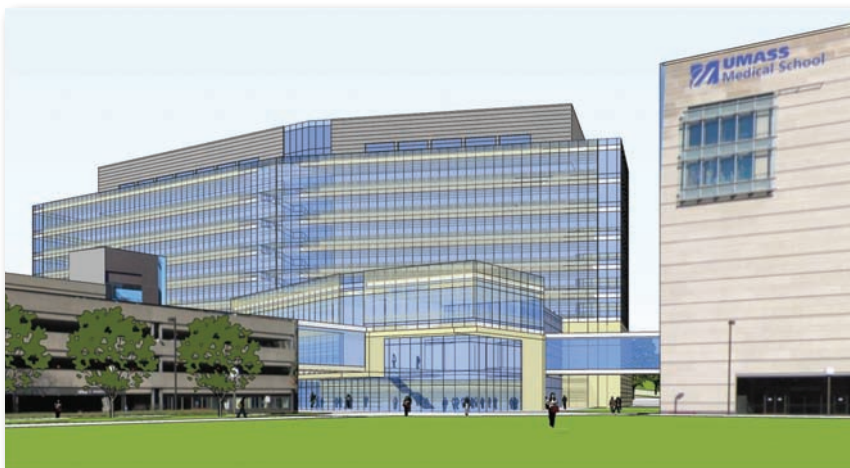
### UMass Memorial Children's Medical Center Starlight Celebration

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2010

Wagner Motors, Shrewsbury, MA

For more information about these events, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 508-856-1593, email [alumni@umassmed.edu](mailto:alumni@umassmed.edu) or visit [www.NetworkUMass.com/Medical](http://www.NetworkUMass.com/Medical).

## The Albert Sherman Center: a foundation for the future



APRIL MARKED the beginning of a new era in life sciences discovery with the start of construction of the Albert “Albie” Sherman Center, a \$400 million state-of-the-art research and education facility on the northwest side of the Worcester campus. Slated for completion in 2012, the center will strengthen the Medical School’s competitive position as a leader in the life sciences and double its research capacity. Last year, the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center approved \$90 million in funding for the Sherman Center in recognition of the institution’s positive economic impact on the commonwealth. When fully operational, the Sherman Center is projected to support 1,600 jobs and \$264 million in annual economic activity throughout the state.

▲ Rendering of the Albert Sherman Center (provided by ARC/Architectural Resources Cambridge)

The Center will be an interdisciplinary research and education facility that will foster interaction and collaboration among scientists and across disciplines. It will be home to the School of Medicine’s new learning communities that are integral to the new curriculum being launched with the incoming class of students. The UMMS Simulation Center will also be housed there. The Sherman Center will also be home to the Advanced Therapeutics Cluster, which includes the RNA Therapeutics Institute, the Center for Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine and the Gene Therapy Center, and will provide research space for more than 100 investigators. ■



► Enthusiastic School of Medicine students worked the telephones during our spring Alumni Phonathon. Thank you to all who generously donated!



## Alumni return to campus for Reunion 2010

ON MAY 1, 2010, School of Medicine classes of '75, '80, '85, '90, '95, '00, '05 were welcomed back to campus to celebrate their reunion. Reunion 2010 honored the past, embraced the new and heralded the future of UMass Medical School. Reunion attendees gathered for an informative campus tour showcasing the newest building and program additions; participated in The Vibe, Vital Signs and Vision, a school update provided by Chancellor Michael F. Collins and Dean Terence R. Flotte; and attended a cocktail reception to reconnect with classmates. Many remarked on the dramatic changes to campus and how much they enjoyed sharing tales of professional and personal achievement with classmates. Reunion photographs may be viewed online at <http://www.russcam.com/ummf/100501/>. ■



▲ Members of the class of 2000

## Physicians and nurses respond to Haitian crisis

A GROUP OF 15 PHYSICIANS and nurses from UMass Medical School and UMass Memorial Medical Center traveled to Haiti's capital, Port-au-Prince, for a weeklong medical mission following the devastating earthquake in January. The UMMS and UMass Memorial caregivers conducted clinics at four tent camps that had been awaiting medical relief since the earthquake struck weeks earlier. The team was assembled in response to a call for help from the Good Samaritan Hospital of La Romana in the Dominican Republic, an organization with which UMMS has a longstanding affiliation. ■



▲ In addition to Dean Terry Flotte, the following alums participated in the Haiti mission: Joseph DiFranza, MD '81; Katherine Harrison, MD '01; Alexandra Schultes, MD '87; and John Wixted, MD '97. Anthony Pellegrino, MD '81, also traveled to Haiti as a member of the Massachusetts DMAT team.

## Giving back

AS UMASS MEDICAL SCHOOL ALUMNI reflect upon and benefit from the excellence and value of their education, some show their gratitude by generously supporting the School of Medicine through donations to the Medical Education Fund and Alumni Scholarship Fund. The Medical Education Fund supports the latest in educational technology as well as advancements to curriculum and training programs that enhance student learning. The Alumni Scholarship Fund makes accessible a comprehensive and personally rewarding medical education of the highest quality for some students.

The impact of alumni support is critical to the student experience and leads directly to exceptional patient care in Massachusetts and beyond. With less than 10 percent of UMass Medical School's budget coming from state funds, philanthropic contributions are essential.

Every gift, no matter the size, has an impact. Please consider joining your friends and fellow School of Medicine alumni by supporting the Alumni Annual Fund Campaign. ■

## ALUMNI ANNUAL FUND CAMPAIGN

UMass Medical School recognizes donors to its Alumni Annual Fund Campaign at the following leadership levels. These levels of giving are based upon cumulative gifts received during each fiscal year, beginning July 1.

<b>Founder</b>	\$10,000+	<b>Partner</b>	\$5,000-\$9,999
<b>Patron</b>	\$2,500-\$4,999	<b>Benefactor</b>	\$1,000-\$2,499
<b>Friend</b>	\$500-\$999		

The Heritage Society recognizes donors who support UMass Medical School through bequests, life-income gifts, retirement plans, life insurance policies and other estate intentions.

**You may make a secure online gift at**  
**[www.umassmed.edu/foundation/onlinegiving](http://www.umassmed.edu/foundation/onlinegiving) or**  
**send your contribution to the UMass Medical School/**  
**UMass Memorial Development Office, 333 South**  
**Street, Shrewsbury, MA 01545.**

Office of Alumni and Parent Relations  
333 South Street  
Shrewsbury, MA 01545

*Address Service Requested*

Non-profit Org  
US Postage  
PAID  
Worcester, MA  
Permit No. 176



The School of Medicine

Office of Alumni and Parent Relations  
Diana Tsotsis, Director  
333 South Street  
Shrewsbury, MA 01545  
alumni@umassmed.edu  
508-856-1593  
www.NetworkUMass.com/Medical

To submit information to be  
considered for this newsletter, send  
an e-mail to [alumni@umassmed.edu](mailto:alumni@umassmed.edu).

*This is a publication of the University  
of Massachusetts Medical School Office  
of Alumni and Parent Relations. It is  
produced on behalf of Alumni and  
Parent Relations by the Office of Public  
Affairs and Publications.*

## Alumni Profile



**Name:** Barbara Stewart, MD

**SOM Class:** 1981

**Specialty:** Internal Medicine

After finishing medical school and residency  
at UMass Medical School, Barbara Stewart  
spent seven years at Harvard Community

Health Plan in Kenmore Square, where she  
trained as an internist. She eventually settled  
in to private practice in Newton Center,  
where she has been for the past 12 years.

In 2003, she formed Strategies for  
Health, a group practice that has evolved  
into a kind of family practice (the youngest  
patients are 16) where she and her  
colleagues can really get to know their  
patients. Strategies for Health is working  
toward becoming a "medical home,"  
though it is not currently certified as such.  
Complementing their practice site is an office  
dog, which many patients say makes the  
setting more home-like.

In addition to building her practice,  
Barbara has done a lot of teaching and will  
be working to do more soon—she plans  
to add an associate in the next couple of  
years. She has also become a competitive  
long distance runner over the past 10 years,

usually finding time for eight to ten  
races a year.

Barbara recently became a proud first-  
time grandmother when her daughter and  
son-in-law had a baby girl. She still lives near  
UMMS and has family in the Worcester area.  
Over the last few years, she has been lucky  
enough to return to campus about twice a  
year for various events and would love to  
hear from her classmates. ■

**Anyone with news to share is encouraged  
to send their class notes to [alumni@umassmed.edu](mailto:alumni@umassmed.edu). You may also submit  
notes by visiting the UMass Alumni Online  
Community at [www.NetworkUMass.com/](http://www.NetworkUMass.com/)  
Medical and clicking on "Class Notes."**