

The Vibe @ The School of Medicine

Summer 2010

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 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 or visit 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.

Founder	\$10,000+	Partner	\$5,000-\$9,999
Patron	\$2,500-\$4,999	Benefactor	\$1,000-\$2,499
Friend	\$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 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
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Shrewsbury, MA 01545

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The Vibe @

The School of Medicine

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**To submit information to be
considered for this newsletter, send
an e-mail to 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. You may also submit notes by visiting the UMass Alumni Online Community at www.NetworkUMass.com/Medical and clicking on "Class Notes."