Students, families, and friends convened at Severance Hall July 13, listening with reverence as Pamela B. Davis, M.D., Ph.D., dean of the School of Medicine, described the occasion’s significance. “This ceremony welcomes you into the community of physicians, adorns you with one of its most important symbols, and commits you to the profession’s contract with society,” said Dean Davis. “But it is only a beginning—you will need to earn that white coat every day of your life.”

Dean Davis commented on the stunning academic credentials and talents of the incoming class. Collectively the group has published 46 papers, completed 43 posters or presentations at national meetings, and conducted work in 16 countries. Two students arrived with doctorates and 24 hold master’s degrees. The Class also boasts 10 musicians, a nationally ranked badminton player, a champion body builder, a mountain climber, and a former nuclear weapons plant engineer.

Faculty members and distinguished alumni joined Dean Davis in distributing the coats. Among them was head of the Blackwell Society, Elizabeth McKinley, M.D. ’87, M.P.H., who delivered a poignant speech regarding her personal lessons in compassion as a physician, breast cancer survivor, and wife of a patient.

Dean Davis closed the ceremony, remarking on the 165-year School of Medicine legacy the students are joining. “Whether you realize it fully or not, you have made a covenant with the profession, with your teachers, and with your patients, to be the best doctor you can,” said Dean Davis. “We will help you, but the whole premise of our curriculum—the curriculum you have chosen—is that learning is inner-driven and lifelong.”

Best wishes to the Class of 2012 as they embark on their exciting journey.

The Class of 2012 received a formal welcome with words of wisdom and inspiration as they entered the medical community of scholars and healers.
A Letter from Dean Davis
Helping Students Find Their Path

We endeavor to attract the best and the brightest and guide them as they work to improve human health. As our School of Medicine alumni, you are among the elite. You are the medical leaders, the research innovators, and the compassionate clinicians. You are what our students aspire to be.

Our newest class is one of our finest. Students are attracted to the School of Medicine was the greatest moment of my life. I served as Medical Alumni Association Board President for the past two years during another new era—under the leadership of Pamela Davis for the School of Medicine and Barbara Snyder for the University. They are doing a remarkable job to position this institution for a positive and stable future.

I’m proud of all the Board accomplished in these two years. We increased our national presence, recruited six out-of-town Board members, expanded our communications priority. Michael Sheahan, M.D. ’69, was integral in launching “Within3,” an exclusive networking website for School of Medicine alumni and non-alumni faculty. We planned creative events all over the country with our wonderful alumni staff, Committee Chair Heidi Moawad, M.D. ’95, and Mirfee Ungier, M.D. ’80.

With our Chairman Allen Roth, M.D. ’83, and dedicated alumni staff, we exceeded our medical annual fund goal for Fiscal Year 2008. Abby Goulder Abelson, M.D. ’79, led a committee to update our bylaws and improve the Board’s succession plans. Alison Hall, Ph.D. ’88, helped us bring the hundreds of Ph.D. students who spend their entire education program within the School of Medicine, under the School’s alumni umbrella.

It was my pleasure to represent you as president. I look forward to my continued service as a Board member.

Sincerely,

Edwin H. Eigner, M.D. ’54
Medical Alumni Association Board, Immediate Past President

Class News and Notes

We’d love to hear from you—submit your Class News and Notes to somalumni@case.edu, call 800-315-4438, or mail to:

Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine-Alumni Relations 10900 Euclid Avenue Cleveland, Ohio 44106-4423

1943
William L. Huffman, M.D. (Class Rep)

1944
Raymond N. Ferreri, M.D. (Class Rep)

1945
Scott Inksley, M.D. (Class Rep), is involved with University Hospitals, a trustee of the Natural History Museum and the former mayor of his village. He has five children, one of whom recently died of ALS, 11 grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren. He enjoys traveling, reading about history, and driving his tractor.

1946
Robert M. Eiben, M.D. (Class Rep)

1947
William S. Haubrich, M.D. (Class Rep), and his wife Eila are proud of their grandchildren, Eila Oderwsky, who entered the Case Western Reserve School of Medicine in August 2008. Haubrich is a long-time class representative for 1947.

1948
Clement A. Furry, M.D. (Class Rep)

1949
60th Anniversary Reunion October 22-24, 2009
Mary F. Helfenstein, M.D. (Class Rep)
Hugh J. Leslie, Jr., M.D. (Class Rep)

George G. Browning, M.D., and his wife Catherine celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in June 2006 with their children and grandchildren. They regularly volunteer with Meals-on-Wheels, visit their children in Louisville and Washington D.C., and travel. Edward F. Morris, M.D., and his wife Eleanor (FP) enjoy their retirement village in Tusita, OK, and spend summers at their Cape Cod home. Their sons are both Case Western Reserve School of Medicine graduates, Ned ’87 and Chris ’95. Their granddaughter Carrie is a Harvard graduate.
The annual Doc Opera occurred Saturday, December 6 at Lakewood Auditorium, treating the audience to a spectacular variety show comprised of skits and song and dance numbers. More than 100 School of Medicine students exchanged their stethoscopes for microphones, musical instruments, and dancing shoes to pull off the event. Each song parody and skit is completely written, directed, and performed by the students.

This year, the School of Medicine Department of Alumni Relations hosted a reception for alumni, students and parents at the venue prior to the show. The evening is one of many fundraisers the students hold throughout the year to raise dollars for the Free Medical Clinic of Greater Cleveland. This year’s Doc Opera generated almost $10,000.

Preparation for the show began three months ago when students submitted ideas for skits and song-parodies. A tribute to the 25th Anniversary of Michael Jackson’s song “Thriller” through a song and dance parody about a GI-related procedure was one of the many highlights.

According to Anjuli Sinha ’11, one of the show’s four co-directors, the best part is the end result. “It’s a lot of work, but seeing it all come together in this awesome show and knowing it’s for a good cause—that feels really good,” says Sinha. “It makes it all worthwhile.”

Meet Our New Medical Alumni Association Board President
Norton Greenberger, M.D. ’59

We’re pleased to introduce you to our new Medical Alumni Association Board President. We sat down with Dr. Greenberger to learn more about his goals and vision for the Board.

What would you like to accomplish with the Board?
This School set me on a path to a rewarding career, and now it is time for me to give back—as John F. Kennedy once said, “Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country.” I am looking forward to energizing our alumni about the accomplishments and needs of the School of Medicine. Especially in this difficult financial time, it is important to me to find support for scholarships for young medical students and general support for our School.

Are there any special initiatives you foresee?
We will be enhancing the infrastructure of the Board with some specific goals and strategies for engaging the alumni base. For example, increasing communication with alumni remains a top priority.

As an out-of-town Board President, how will you stay in touch?
When I took on the responsibility of Board President, I made a commitment to be available as much as my predecessors. I am from Cleveland, and I will go where and when I’m needed to support my alumni staff, Board, and School.

Education: A.B. — Yale University; M.D. — Case Western Reserve School of Medicine.
Training: Residency at University Hospitals and Harvard Medical School; fellowship at Massachusetts General Hospital; research fellowship with the U.S. Public Health Service with NIH funding.

Research Focus: Gastroesophageal reflux disease, intestinal absorption of iron, inflammatory bowel disease, alcoholic liver disease, hepatitis C, and acute and chronic pancreatic disease.

Honors: The 2006 Julius Friedenwald Medal for Distinguished Service from the American Gastroenterological Association (AGA), the highest honor the AGA bestows; numerous awards for outstanding teaching; Distinguished Alumnus of the Year by Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine; Honorary Alumnus of the Year by the University of Kansas School of Medicine.

Affiliations: Dr. Greenberger is a clinical professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School and a senior attending physician at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston. He has authored or coauthored more than 240 publications and 23 text books. He is a past president for the American Gastroenterological Association, American College of Physicians, American Professors of Medicine, American Federation of Clinical Research (Midwestern Section), and Central Society for Clinical Research.
Looking Back, 2008 Reunion Weekend

Alumni celebrating five to 75 year reunions returned to campus October 2-4 to reminisce with classmates, enjoy familiar scenery, and learn about the exciting achievements of their contemporaries. It also was an opportunity to catch up on the new developments at the School of Medicine and experience the expertise of current faculty members.

The weekend kicked off with a private reception for medical alumni at the Cleveland Botanical Gardens. On Friday, the Grand Classes Reunion Luncheon brought together all attendees from across schools and class years at the historic Adelbert Gym.

With the national election top of mind, School of Medicine attendees enjoyed a lecture and panel discussion on health care policy.

Later, Dean Davis hosted a festive Welcome Back Gala at the Silver Grille featuring dinner, dancing, and alumni awards. The honorees shared remarks about their careers and achievements during the Dean’s Breakfast on Saturday.

Alumni caught a glimpse of the future with a tour of the Mt. Sinai Skills and Simulation Center, a lab that allows students to practice responding to a range of medical emergencies through computerized manikins. There were also opportunities to go back in time with a tour of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Reunion Weekend concluded with class photos and one last dance at the Dean’s Farewell Reception held at the Ritz-Carlton.

Planning is already underway for Reunion Weekend 2009, which will be October 22 – 24. All classes ending in 4 or 9 will be celebrating a special five-year reunion. If you are interested in participating in your class reunion committee, please contact the Alumni Office at 216-368-2574.
Amy Louise Kuhn Feldstein, M.D., ‘31

Amy Louise Kuhn Feldstein, M.D., experienced a cultural transformation in our country, firsthand, as a 1931 School of Medicine graduate and throughout her life as a physician.

“In my day, 10 percent of the medical students were women and 10 percent were Jewish, and I was both of those,” says Dr. Feldstein. “I was impressed with what the School did for me—they made it possible for me as a woman to go to medical school, and I think I received a good education.”

After a one-year internship in Iowa, Dr. Feldstein moved to Virginia with her husband, Marc Feldstein, an Adelbert College graduate. She worked for the Washington D.C. Health Department for almost 10 years and later went into family medicine.

“Things have come a long way,” comments Dr. Feldstein, recalling the prejudice she witnessed from her practice. “I would refer black patients to obstetricians and they wouldn’t take them—sometimes because the building owners wouldn’t allow it.”

While Dr. Feldstein believes many of these barriers have been overcome, she understands the financial burden of medical school remains a challenge for many students. “I lived at home as a student, which helped with the significant cost of medical school at that time, but I think the expenses are even more daunting today.”

When Dr. Feldstein decided to sell her home on 60 acres near Manassas, Virginia, she donated her property to Case Western Reserve University to create a scholarship fund at the School of Medicine through a charitable remainder trust. “If I was going to make a contribution, I wanted it to support student tuition and help those who need it most, students like me,” says Dr. Feldstein. In doing so, Dr. Feldstein made a significant gift to the students without the tax burden she would have faced in selling the property.

“I’ve had a very good life,” says Dr. Feldstein. “Part of that was my medical experience and the other was my marriage. I hope my donation will help students find the same kind of satisfaction that I have had.”

In Memoriam

Sidney Katz, M.D. ‘30, died in March 2008. He was assistant clinical professor emeritus of anesthesiology at the Case Western Reserve School of Medicine. Dr. Katz served in the U.S. Army during World War II. He is survived by two sons and two grandchildren.

Earl F. Nation, M.D. ‘31, died January 1, 2008. Dr. Nation was elected president of the American Urological Association in 1978. He wrote hundreds of essays about the history and culture of medicine and a memoir of his Depression-era medical student years appeared in the spring 2007 issue of The Pharo, the Alpha Omega Alpha honor medical society journal.

Robert R. Richards, M.D. ‘38, of Westlake, OH, died May 11, 2008. He was preceded in death by his wife Jean and son James. He is survived by three children, six grandchildren, and six great grandchildren.

Valdaze H. Huston, M.D. ‘46, died May 17, 2008 in Upper Sandusky, OH. He was a U.S. Army veteran, serving as a medical officer in Korea. In retirement, he sang in a barbershop chorus, taught students to build model airplanes, and enjoyed discussions with fellow science professionals.

Talmadge R. Huston, M.D. ‘46, died November 30, 2007. Dr. Huston was a World War II Army Air Forces veteran. During his 37 years at Euclid Hospital, he was chief of surgery and chief of staff. He was president of the Cleveland Surgical Society. In retirement, he sang in a barbershop chorus, taught students to build model airplanes, and enjoyed discussions with fellow science professionals.

Bert Ewing, M.D. ‘46, died February 24, 2008 in Macun, GA. Dr. Ewing was World War II and Korean War veteran. He was a diplomat of the American Board of Dermatology and a past president of the Georgia Society of Dermatologists. He was predeceased by his first wife, Ruthama Patton Ewing. Survivors include his wife, Eloise K. Ewing, two daughters, three grandchildren, seven step-children, seven step-grandchildren, and one step-great-grandchild.

Garfield L. Suder, M.D. ‘46, died June 24, 2007. Dr. Suder had a 50-year career as a respected urologist. He served as an Army doctor and was a founding member of the American Urological Association. Dr. Suder flew his own single-engine airplane, played trumpet, fished, gardened and enjoyed ham radio. He is preceded in death by his first wife, Betty Jane. He is survived by his wife, Rebecca, as well as two children and two grandchildren.

Milton S. Totten, M.D. ‘47, died January 10, 2008 in Northfield, MN. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Laura, as well as seven children and 11 grandchildren.

Irving Berke, M.D. ‘49, died July 22, 2007. He attended Western Reserve University through the U.S. Army and served in Korea. Dr. Berke spent 13 years on active duty and 17 years in the reserves, retiring as a full colonel. Following private practice in Youngstown, OH, he moved to California. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Ruth and his daughter Nancy, both of whom dealt with Multiple Sclerosis. He is survived by his wife, Teresa Sears, and two children and grandchildren.
Christina Shenko always felt certain she would enjoy being a doctor. Fortunately after three years of medical school she still feels this way, but for different reasons than what originally drew her to medicine.

“I thought I would like the challenge of diagnosing and problem solving—putting together the pieces of each patient’s puzzle,” Christina Shenko explains. “While I do find that interesting, I’ve discovered the real challenge comes after the diagnosis—putting together a treatment plan that will work for the patient and fit into their lifestyle. That’s what I really find enjoyable.”

As a recipient of an Amici Medicinae (Friends of Medicine) Scholarship, which covers about half of her tuition, Shenko is grateful that she can worry less about student loans and focus more on her career in family medicine.

“I love the variety of people you get to meet and help in family medicine,” comments Shenko. “When you find yourself treating a person who is homeless and a person who is very affluent in the same day, it really changes your perspective on the world.”

Shenko entered the School of Medicine after receiving a B.S. in biochemistry from Case Western Reserve University as a member of the pre-professional scholars program. She credits the intensity of the medical school experience for the close bonds she has with her classmates.

“I know people in many different areas of practice and will be able to refer patients to them and draw on their expertise,” she says. “I think that will be a big help after school.”

Shenko, a Connecticut native, expects to return to the East Coast with her fiancé to practice medicine.
Calendar of Events

To attend an event, or for more information, please contact Special Events at 216-368-3109.

February 27, 2009 (Friday)
Alumni and Friends Event – San Francisco
5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Four Seasons
Join us as we present Dr. Sanford Markowitz and his quest to develop better ways to detect colon cancer risk.
Host: Joe Mandato, E.D.M. ’04, Managing Director of De Novo Ventures

March 2009
Alumni and Friends Event – Columbus Area
Date to be determined.

March 19, 2009 (Thursday)
Doctoral Fitting and Match Day 2009
11:45 a.m. – Wolstein Research Lobby
Join us for the exciting Match Day gathering.

March 27, 2009 (Friday)
Dean Pamela B. Davis, M.D., Ph.D., Guest Speaker at the City Club of Cleveland
Noon – City Club of Cleveland
To attend, contact the City Club at 216-621-0082.

April 3 – 5, 2009
Second Look Weekend
Would you like to host a small group for a Second Look Weekend dinner at your Northeast Ohio home? Please contact Sheila Evensen at 216-368-3501. Dinners will take place Saturday, April 4.

May 15, 2009 (Friday)
School of Medicine Reception for Ph.D. Graduates
4:30 p.m. – Biomedical Research Building Lobby
Celebrate our newest group of School of Medicine Ph.D. graduates at this special commencement weekend reception hosted by Dean Davis and the M.D. graduates.

May 16, 2009 (Saturday)
Student Awards Ceremony
3:00 p.m. – Strosacker Auditorium
Congratulate outstanding members of the Class of 2009 during our awards and recognition ceremony.

May 17, 2009 (Sunday)
Commencement
11:15 a.m. – Severance Hall Diploma Ceremony

Spring/Summer 2009
Alumni and Friends Event – Guilford, Connecticut
Date to be determined.

June 2009
Alumni and Friends Event – New York, NY
Date to be determined.

October 22-24, 2009
Reunion Weekend
Mark your calendars to return to campus and reconnect with fellow alumni.