New York Area Alumni Event

Katie Couric joined School of Medicine alumni and friends as Dr. Sanford Markowitz presented his research success in the fight against colon cancer—the second leading cause of cancer deaths in America.

The Alumni and Friends event, held on June 19 at Neue Galerie in New York City, was an opportunity to celebrate Dr. Markowitz’s success in identifying the genetic causes of the disease and creating novel approaches to early detection—research Katie Couric has directly impacted over the years.

Couric became an active proponent for colon cancer awareness, screening, and research after losing her husband, Jay Monahan, to colon cancer in 1998. Both she and Dr. Markowitz are keenly aware that deaths from colon cancer are, in theory, completely preventable if caught in its early and most treatable stages.

While on the “Today” show, Couric propelled Dr. Markowitz’s research by making an on-air request to recruit participants for his study of families with a history of polyps or colon cancer. Dr. Markowitz received 5,000 calls and recruited 500 participants in two months, a process that normally takes years.

With this study, and other investigations over the course of two decades, Dr. Markowitz and his team developed a simple, noninvasive stool-sample test that has gone to market and is approved by the American Cancer Society.
A Letter from Dean Greenberger:
Sustaining A Proud Legacy

Looking toward Reunion, I can’t help but look back and think of the unique and wonderful education we received at Case Western Reserve School of Medicine and take note of the amazing careers that started here. Whether you attended 50 years ago or more recently, our colleagues’ achievements are overflowing in the “News and Notes” of this newsletter.

I reflect on the world-class scientific underpinnings of the faculty who taught us 50 years ago, and I feel reassured when I look around and see the same qualities that exist today. The School continues to attract world-class scientists and educators, all of whom are teaching the next generation of students the same core values that we took away—values that we know are essential to maneuvering the ever-changing medical landscape.

What is much different today is the burden of debt students face. This next generation needs the continued support of the medical alumni. In doing so, we can help the School continue to attract the best and most talented students. Especially in this time of Reunion, let us reflect on the value of the education we received, and turn our appreciation and feelings of gratitude into support for those just starting out.

Sincerely,

Norton J. Greenberger, M.D. ’59
Dean, School of Medicine
Vice President for Medical Affairs, Case Western Reserve University

A Letter from Dr. Greenberger:
Medical Alumni Board President

In this newsletter, we’re pleased to share with you many stories that highlight our outstanding students, and the achievements of our remarkable alumni. We continue to recruit outstanding students who will turn into outstanding alumni like you. Our present class contains a wonderful mix of students from the politically savvy (a former Congressional intern for Rahm Emanuel) to the wilderness-wise (a trekking guide from the Adirondacks) to the entrepreneurial holder of four patents and founder of a company!

However, don’t limit your contact with us to these pages! In addition to the upcoming 2009 Reunion Weekend, we are planning events around the country to help you connect with classmates and colleagues throughout the year. We want to introduce you to the researchers who are driving discovery from lab to life and the students who are continuing the proud legacy to which you belong. Come and visit with us when we arrive in your area, and do return to see the transformed campus where you got your start as a physician.

What hasn’t changed is that special spark we seek in our students. As Elizabeth Phillips ’11 notes in her student profile, despite difficult economic times and controversy surrounding healthcare policy, our students are looking ahead and preparing themselves to shape our future as healers. Civic professionalism is alive and well at CWRU.

But they cannot do it alone. Your guidance and support is deeply meaningful to our students as they work to define themselves in medicine. I hope you will consider supporting them through gifts to the Annual Fund which provides scholarships, or by connecting with students who are coming to your city for residencies, or who are interested in your specialty. Your experience, support, and wisdom is a tremendous gift as our students strive to follow you into the adventure that is modern medicine.

Sincerely,

Pamela B. Davis, M.D., Ph.D.
Medical Alumni Association Board 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—Office of Alumni Relations
10900 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44106-4923

1946

Phillip T. Doughten, M.D., resides in New Philadelphia, Ohio, with his wife Molly. They enjoyed a major family gathering in Colorado last year with all six children, ten grandchildren, and three great grandchildren. They are looking forward to golfing at Elderhostel in Gulf Shores, Alabama, and visiting friends in Florida.

James Murray, M.D., lives in Eden Prairie, Minnesota, with his wife Lynda. After residency, he joined the Dakota clinic in Fargo, North Dakota, as the second thoracic surgeon in the state. He later helped expand it to a hospital. He retired to sail around the world from Bayfield, Wisconsin, to New York City, Bermuda, the Panama Canal, and the Galapagos Islands.

Sterling G. Pollock, M.D., of Lompoc, California, enjoys working outside, mowing etc. He reports, “My health is unusually good, not even a headache or other problems. I think I must have chosen the right parents with good genes.”
Reunion Reminder

The 2009 Reunion Weekend is upon us with festivities taking place October 22 – 24. All alumni are welcome to attend and get reacquainted with the School of Medicine, classmates, and colleagues.

If your class year ends in “4” or “9” this reunion year marks a special milestone! Don’t regret missing out on the fun—there’s still time to register for events, contact Marissa Patsey in the Office of Alumni Relations at (216) 368-2574.

WEEKEND HIGHLIGHTS

Friday and Saturday Morning Programs

• Campus Tours
• Politics of Healthcare Symposium (Panel Discussion)
• Estate Planning in Turbulent Financial Times
• Mt. Sinai Skills and Simulation Center Demonstration

Friday Afternoon

• Grand Classes Reunion Luncheon

Friday Night

• Welcome Back Gala at the Ritz-Carlton and Awards Presentation

Saturday Night

• Individual Class Parties and Class Photos

Donal R. Ross, M.D., retired in 1996 from family practice in Bay Village with an emphasis on obstetrics; he had taken over his father’s practice. He and his wife Eileen have lived in Naples, Florida, in retirement. They have five children and 14 grandchildren, and 16 great-grandchildren have appeared.

James Shumaker, M.D., resides with his older daughter and her husband in West Los Angeles. He missed the 60th reunion for a very important reason; he was at his stepmother’s 100th birthday party.

Robert S. Tillet, M.D., and his wife reside in Louisville, Kentucky. They enjoy visiting siblings in North Carolina, Arizona, and Ohio. They report the birth of their first great granddaughter and the graduation of their grandson from the University of Notre Dame and Officers Training in the Army, as well as a grandson presently attending Notre Dame.

Richard W. Watts, M.D., finished his autobiography and hopes to publish next year. He spoke at the 17th Richard Watts, M.D., Cardiology Conference at Fairview Hospital in April. He resides in Naples with his wife, Audrey. When in Cleveland, he sees patients at North Coast Health Ministry.

Russell Weisman, Jr., M.D., says “June and I have nothing new to report except her comment one morning about a month ago, ‘I’m the happiest I ever been in my life!’” We visit frequently with her children here in Oregon and keep close in touch with the others.

1947

John P. (Jack) Craig, M.D., enjoyed an academic career at the Downstate Medical Center of the State University of New York. He remarks, “teaching medical students has been the most fun and rewarding of all my activities. Often I reflect on the high quality of our learning experience at Western Reserve and the devotion of a faculty working under wartime pressure.”

Frederick S. Geist, M.D., resides in Dallas, Texas. He and his wife Mildred continue to enjoy concerts performed by the Dallas Symphony Orchestra. Dr. Geist still does lap swimming two or three times a week.

William S. Haubrich, M.D., comments from La Jolla, California, “By sitting in on the weekly teaching conferences at the Scripps Clinic I have become acquainted with the bright and engaging young people who are our successors. I admire their comprehension of an increasingly complex field of study. At the same time, they exhibit a commendable capacity for caring for their patients. The profession is in good hands.”

2009 Reunion Weekend
Class Leadership List

OVERALL REUNION CHAIRMAN
J. Richard Briggs, M.D.’59

60TH REUNION | CLASS OF 1949
Class Co-Chairs
Mary Hellerstein
Pete Bowerfind

55TH REUNION | CLASS OF 1954
Class Committee
Edwin H. Eigner
Nancy K. Johnson
James Farmer

50TH REUNION | CLASS OF 1959
Class Committee
J. Richard Baringer
Richard Briggs
Peter J. Goldblatt
Norton Greenberger
Dan Hostetler
Don Junglas
Kermit Newcomer
Ed White
James D. Wismar
Frank Yatsu

35TH REUNION | CLASS OF 1974
Class Committee
Dee Banks
Joann Hempel
Lawrence Kent
Jim Lieberman

30TH REUNION | CLASS OF 1979
Class Committee
Avery Goulden Abelison
Steven M. Altschuler
Barbara Baetz Greenwalt
Martha E. Hackett
William Holiday
David M. Hutt

25TH REUNION | CLASS OF 1984
Class Committee
Martin Grady
Alex Konclow
Raymond J. Salomone, Jr.
Beth Sersig

20TH REUNION | CLASS OF 1989
Class Committee
P. Gregg Greenough
Philip Meyers

10TH REUNION | CLASS OF 1999
Class Committee
Lynn Milner
Gaylee McCracken

Abby Goulder Abelson
Ava Kaufman
Lois A. McDavid
Teresa D. Puch
Patrick J. Tchou
Gary W. Waltz
Commencement 2009

Formal commencement activities took place Sunday, May 17, 2009, launching a new class of 166 doctors into the world—including the first graduating class from the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine.

Dean Pamela B. Davis presided over the School of Medicine Diploma Ceremony at Severance Hall, noting, “this year’s class has attained intellectual mastery of the curriculum and matched to the best group of residencies ever. Most importantly, they have internalized the core values of the profession—putting the patient first.”

Dr. Tadataka (Tachi) Yamada, president of the global health program of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, delivered the keynote address.

2009 Class Stats:

- 121 University Program graduates
- 28 Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine graduates
- 17 MSTP graduates
- 166 Total graduating class

Match Day

Students, along with families, friends, and faculty, crowded the Wolstein Research Building lobby on March 19, 2009, anxiously waiting the little white envelope that determines their future. The spectacle is duplicated across the country as National Match results, distributed precisely at noon, reveal where students will go for four to seven years of residency training following their medical school graduation.

“I was just happy to find out I matched,” says Amanda Tencza, M.D. “I got my first choice, University of California San Francisco in orthopaedic surgery. It’s a six year program, and they only take one person, so I’m very excited—it’s an affirmation of all the hard work.”

The Match is created through the National Residency Matching Program, which uses a computer algorithm to align the preferences of applicants with the preferences of residency programs to fill the thousands of training positions available at U.S. teaching hospitals.

Connect with a med student near you!

Would you be interested in meeting future students coming to your area for residency? Call the office of Alumni Relations at (800) 315-4438 to add your name to our Regional Leadership Council list. Whether you’re available for a brief phone call or a cup of coffee, your advice will be truly appreciated as students set off for residency destinations around the country.

Paul Kimball, M.D., served two years in the Army and the Marines after training as an ophthalmologist through the Navy. Dr. Kimball maintained a solo practice in Denver for 20 years, including four years as head of the residency program at Denver General Hospital. He kept up an active reserve military status for 28 years. He and his wife reside in Kansas City.

Edwin L. Smith, M.D., enjoyed solo practice of internal medicine plus teaching hospital house staff, spending stimulating time going to courses and conferences, learning about new medications, treatments, and procedures, and believes, “young doctors are just as devoted to medicine as was our class and will take excellent care of their patients.”

Paul Visscher, M.D., of Bozeman, Montana, feels he made good use of the excellent education through WRU and the Navy V-12 program. He comments, “There were times during World War II when I felt guilty to have had a free ride, albeit a rough one, while others were subject to hazardous duty. However, with the Korean conflict, the Navy exacted its pound of flesh when I served as a medical officer with the First Marine Division in the bitterly fought Chosin Reservoir campaign.”

1949 60th Reunion (Oct. 22 - 24, 2009)
1954 55th Reunion (Oct. 22 - 24, 2009)

1956

Carl F. Doershuk, M.D., F.A.A.P., was recently honored by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), receiving the Edwin L. Kendig, Jr., M.D. Award for excellence in Pulmonary Medicine from the AAP section on Pediatric Pulmonology. Dr. Doershuk lives in Northeast Ohio.

1959 50th Reunion (Oct. 22 - 24, 2009)
1964 45th Reunion (Oct. 22 - 24, 2009)

To share your news and notes, or to become a Class Rep, contact somalumni@case.edu or call (800) 315-4438.
White Coat Ceremony

The newest class of medical students arrived at Severance Hall on July 12 for the White Coat Ceremony—an occasion that marks their introduction into the profession, and adorns students with one of its most important symbols. The incoming class is already quite accomplished. Three students arrived with Ph.D. degrees, and one is a doctor of chiropractic. Among them are musicians, dancers, and a president of a cheese club, as well as a congressional intern, museum docent, wilderness guide, and four eagle scouts. All together, they have published 68 papers and conducted international work in 20 countries.

Keynote speaker, Edward M. Barksdale, Jr., M.D., the recently appointed Robert J. Izant Jr. Professor of Surgery, Chief of Division of Pediatric Surgery at Rainbow Babies and Children’s Hospital and Vice-Chairman of the Department of Surgery at University Hospitals, commented, “You are about to embark on the most important journey of your life, but the adventures ahead are not in seeing new landscapes, but to develop new eyes.”

Second Look Weekend

Of the 5,500 applications received, the School of Medicine accepts approximately 360 applicants—all with exceptional academic records and extraordinary personal accomplishments. For students with multiple offers of admission, the School of Medicine created “Second Look Weekend” as a way for potential matriculants to meet with current students, faculty, alumni, and potential classmates in a more relaxed and informal setting than the interview day.

Second Look Weekend occurs Saturday, April 10, 2010. To host a group of students for dinner in your Northeast Ohio home, contact (800) 315-4438.

Inaugural Student Clinician Ceremony

Second-year medical students participated in the first-ever Student Clinician Ceremony at Case Western Reserve School of Medicine in March, celebrating their transition to full-time clinical immersion.

Students recited the Oath of Professionalism they wrote upon their entrance to the School of Medicine, and Dr. Jerome Lowenstein, professor of medicine at NYU Medical Center, delivered a keynote speech with personal anecdotes from his book, “The Midnight Meal,” describing the important lessons and extraordinary experiences doctors gain in caring for sick patients.

Resident Focus:
Las Vegas Orthopaedics Event

Alumni from the Case Western Reserve Orthopaedic Residency Program gathered in Las Vegas in February for the 2009 Herndon Society dinner, held during the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons conference. All graduates of the Case Western Reserve Orthopaedic Residency Program are inducted into the Charles H. Herndon Alumni Society, which provides alumni opportunities to maintain contact with each other and share ideas.

1965

Robert Resnik, M.D., was elected president of the American Gynecological and Obstetrical Society. He will start his tenure in the fall of 2009. Dr. Resnik is Professor Emeritus of Reproductive Medicine, UCSF School of Medicine, and also serves on the Alumni Board of Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine.

1969 40th Reunion (Oct. 22 - 24, 2009)


1976

David M. Oliva, M.D., received the Massachusetts Medical Society’s 2009 Grant V. Rodkey Award for outstanding contributions to medical education and medical students. He is a professor of medicine at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. The Rodkey Award marks his 25th student-derived education award, among his many other awards for teaching.

Mark Knepper, M.D., Ph.D., received an honorary doctorate from the University of Aarhus, Denmark, on September 11. He and his wife Cathy Knepper, Ph.D., are proud of their alumnus son, Ben Knepper, M.D. ’07, who is now the flight surgeon for a Marine Harrier jet squadron based at Cherry Point Marine Air Station, North Carolina. (Pictured left: Mark Knepper, M.D., Ph.D. and his son, Ben Knepper, M.D.)

1979 30th Reunion (Oct. 22 - 24, 2009)

1980

Cecil L. Parker, Jr., M.D., was honored during the 8th annual Sickle Cell Regional Conference in Mobile, Alabama. The keynote address was named the “Cecil L. Parker, Jr., M.D. Distinguished Lectureship” in his honor. Dr. Parker is a clinical
Academic Societies and Society Deans

Providing 24/7 Guidance, Direction, and Flavor to the Medical School Experience

In the space between the medical school application and Match Day, students have four brief years and six curriculum blocks to learn how to be a doctor and determine what their personal contribution to medicine will be. No small feat.

That is why from the very beginning, each student is assigned to one of four Academic Societies headed by a Society dean. Established in 2006, the Academic Societies create small, cohesive groups within the medical school while Society deans serve as academic advisors, teachers, and mentors who get to know each student throughout their four years.

“The Western Reserve 2 curriculum challenges students early on to take responsibility and control of their education,” comments Steven Ricanati, M.D., dean of the Wearn Society. “But you can’t just take the best and brightest, hold them up to high expectations, and not support them in some way. That’s why we created the Academic Societies…of which the Wearn Society is by far the best,” he says with a wink.

Indeed, there is a hint of friendly competition between the Societies, as well as a sense of respectful camaraderie between the students and the Society deans—all elements that are a distinct part of the School of Medicine’s culture and strategy for shaping tomorrow’s doctors, the Society deans explain.

“It is very satisfying to work with students over four years, to guide them in their small groups, to advise and mentor them—I learn so much from them,” says Satcher Society dean, Charles Kent Smith, M.D. “But, we, as a faculty, also are very aware of what students learn from us—not just inside the classroom, but in how they see us interact with each other. There is an atmosphere of professionalism and collegiality here, and I think that’s a very unique part of what we teach.”
Robert L. Haynie, M.D., Ph.D., Robbins Society dean, describes the importance of teaching students to maintain their sense of humor and balance. “My role is to teach students not only how to take care of people, but how to allow themselves to perform in this environment. We’re in a profession where every time you step up to the plate, you’re expected to hit a home run,” says Dr. Haynie. “We have to have ways to let our hair down and learn how to balance all of this to meet that high standard. As Society dean, I can really get to know the students and develop these skills.”

This sense of familiarity allows the Society deans to provide valued guidance as students seek their place in medicine. “We spend a lot of one-on-one time with students, so we can help them define their goals and maneuver the maze of available opportunities,” says Blackwell Society dean, Elizabeth McKinley, M.D., M.P.H. “I love having the opportunity to help guide students on this path—to help them to be excited about medicine and to find out where they can really shine in an area that fits their interests, goals, and lifestyle.”

The Society deans are also there to help when major life events get in the way. “Medical Students are at a time in life when they’re getting married, encountering illnesses in family members, and having big relationship changes—all of which can impact their academic careers,” says Dr. Ricanati. “If you zone out for a day or two you can really become lost, so an important part of what we do is to advise students through the process of remediation to achieve mastery of the curriculum. We don’t want to graduate competent doctors; we want to graduate masterful doctors.”

Learn more about the Academic Societies at http://casemed.case.edu/student_affairs/academic.cfm.

George L. Anesi ’11, presented at the Huntington Disease Society of America (HDSA) Northeast Ohio annual meeting in May 2009 and discussed how genetic diseases, and Huntington Disease (HD) in particular, are taught as “paradigm diseases” in newly emerging medical school curricula. Through small case-based groups, students learn how to apply the teachings from these diseases to their independent study of other diseases in clinical medicine.

Hari Keshava ’11, received the prestigious Roche Presidential Student Mentor Award from American Society of Transplant Surgeons for his work on ex vivo lung perfusion for lung transplantation. With his research mentor, David Mason, M.D., of Cleveland Clinic, Keshava is establishing a reliable ex vivo model to assess the important physiologic measures of human lung functioning, which could extend the viability of human lungs for transplantation.

Sixto Leal ’13, received the National Research Service Award fellowship from the National Eye Institute for a grant proposal submitted on the immunology of fungal corneal infections. The grant includes a stipend, tuition, and institutional allowance for graduate school and the final two years of Leal’s medical training. Leal is a member of the Medical Scientist Training Program at the School of Medicine.

Andrew Wright ’12, is revisiting the research his alumnus father, Gregg Wright, M.D. ’74, conducted during medical school, which analyzed the role, training and future of the county health officer. Andrew Wright will replicate the process conducted in 1970, to examine the field of public health through the prism of historical change over the past 40 years.

Students in the Spotlight

Take 3 steps to make a difference

1995
Katrina Fritik, M.D., is a mother, writer, and neurosurgeon. She resides in Connecticut where she operates out of a private-practice partnership and is a clinical assistant professor at Yale University School of Medicine. Dr. Fritik was featured in the Cornell Chronicle Online after her lecture and book signing there for Another Day in the Frontal Lobe.

Honnie P. Spencer, M.D., is medical director of the Cabarrus Community Health Centers, Inc. and Perdue Wellness Center. She is an attending faculty physician for Cabarrus and an adjunct assistant professor at University of Chapel Hill School of Medicine. An accomplished pianist, Dr. Spencer founded the Logan Community College Music School, which provides music theory and piano instruction to underserved children and adults.

1996
May Hsieh Blanchard, M.D., was elected fellow-at-large at the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) annual clinical meeting. Dr. Blanchard is the general OB/GYN division chief, residency program director, and assistant professor of OB/GYN for University of Maryland School of Medicine. She is also medical director for Penn Street Women’s Health Clinic, University of Maryland Medical Center.

1997
James Merlino, M.D., vice chairman of the Digestive Disease Institute at the Cleveland Clinic, was named chief patient experience officer. Dr. Merlino remains a staff surgeon in the Department of Colorectal Surgery.

1999
Gaylee McCracken, M.D., joined the Lu-Jean Feng Health and Wellness Clinic as an internist specializing in preventative medicine. She also provides medical aesthetic procedures such as BOTOX, Restylane, and laser removal of lentigines. She lives in Cleveland Heights with her husband Chris McCracken, LAW ’77.

2003
Drs. Tim Auran and Michelle Auran (Stringham) welcomed their first child, Henry Thomas Auran, in March 2009. Dr. Tim Auran works as an interventional radiologist in San Luis Obispo, California. Dr. Michelle Auran is taking time off from pediatrics to take care of Henry.
We sat down and asked Craig R. Smith, Jr., M.D., F.A.C.S. ’77, about his memories of the School of Medicine and how it feels to operate on a U.S. President and hold the human heart in one’s hands.

Was your path to Case Western Reserve School of Medicine clear?
After dropping out of a Ph.D. program in biophysics, I was a telephone lineman for a while in White River Junction, Vermont. Dean Caughey was in charge of admission decisions at the time, and saw something in me. Case Western Reserve was the best medical school that accepted me.

How was it to operate on President Bill Clinton?
Much less stressful than people seem to think. He was an excellent patient, and his wife was an excellent spouse to work with. It was a relatively straightforward operation (quadruple bypass), and I managed to protect myself from the media circus.

What do you love about your work?
You’re playing for all the chips. I do 250 to 300 cases a year, and that’s where the juice is—that’s the most compelling part of my day. There are a lot of successes that get tied to me personally, but I’ve had the good fortune to keep together a group of incredibly talented colleagues who make all of it possible.

What of your career experiences are most significant to you?
Currently, we’re looking at ways to insert aortic heart valve replacements with a catheter, instead of through open heart surgery. It is one of the most intensely watched trials as it compares a new device to a well-established gold standard of treatment.

Any favorite mentors/teachers that prepared you for your career?
Oscar Ratnoff was a towering figure in hematology, and quite a character. Ken Warren, too—to this day I remember his lectures in parasitology. He was quite a lecturer, a real spellbinder.

Most important lessons gained in medical school?
I had been a marginally lazy student in high school, and better in college, but in medical school I tried to match the example of Dan Wolpaw, who was one of my lab partners. I learned that if you study hard enough you can do it; you can master a subject. I tell this to all of my children.

Craig R. Smith, Jr., M.D., F.A.C.S. ’77, is interim chair of the Department of Surgery at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons of New York and the Calvin F. Barber Professor of Surgery. He is chief of the Division of Cardiotoracic Surgery at New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center and is an attending surgeon. Dr. Smith and his colleagues were featured in Charles Morris’ book, “The Surgeons.” He will serve as president of the American Association for Thoracic Surgery in 2012.

Dr. Smith resides in Bronxville, New York and will be celebrating 40 years of marriage next year with his wife Patricia McGuire Smith, a Case Western Reserve law alumna. They have three daughters and just celebrated the birth of their first grandson.
Enjoy the Benefits of Giving Now: Charitable Gift Annuities

Part investment, part gift, a charitable gift annuity enables an individual to make a difference by giving to the School of Medicine during his or her lifetime—while receiving charitable income tax deductions now and fixed annual payments for life, or for the lives of a husband and wife.

The process begins with a gift of cash, stock, or other property to the School of Medicine. You receive an income tax deduction and may save capital gains tax as you receive fixed annual payments (each year the gift annuity ends, its remaining principal goes to the School of Medicine).

The payment you receive from a charitable gift annuity is fixed from the outset and depends on the age of the annuitant(s) at the time of the gift. It will neither increase nor decrease. Whatever happens to interest rates or the stock market, Case Western Reserve University is contractually obligated to make the payments.

Many gift annuity donors are retired, want to increase their cash flow, seek the security of guaranteed payments, and would like to save taxes. To learn more about how to establish a charitable gift annuity, contact Irwin M. Feldman, director of Planned Giving, at (877) 477-1143, or visit www.case.edu/giving/planned.

Students, faculty, and friends celebrated the research accomplishments of medical students during the annual Irwin H. Lepow Medical Student Research Day. All students are invited to present research they have conducted since entering medical school.

More than 80 posters were presented. The top six were selected for oral presentations, based on quality and breadth of research, including:

- George Anesi: HIV-1 negative factor (Nef) protein in Kaposi’s sarcoma.
- Alex Davis: Investigation of the biomechanical consequences of sub-fracture damage of cancellous bone.
- Candida (Didi) Desjardins: A remote and non-contact measurement of the blood pulse waveform with a laser Doppler.
- James Gatherwright: Augmentation of the regeneration of peripheral nerve defects with the transplantation of donor-derived bone marrow stromal cells.
- Sungho Lee: Mouse model of Alzheimer’s disease deficient for fractalkine receptor exhibits reduced beta-amyloid deposition.
- Aaron Lindsay: Inner ear protein networks and biomarkers in a mouse model for deafness in Usher Syndrome 1F and DFNB23.

Outstanding Medical Student Research Featured on Lepow Day

In Memoriam

Leonard Lewin, M.D. ’38, died in March. He was the beloved husband of the late Evelyn; loving father of Dr. Jonathan (Dr. Linda) Lewin, Claudia Lewin, and Valerie (Dr. David) Montano; devoted grandfather of Sarah, Benjamin, Jeremy, and Tiffany.

Myron F. Kanter, M.D. ’39, a Cleveland surgeon and physician, died February 3. He spent four years as a captain in the medical corps during World War II, serving in Europe and the Aleutian Islands. He and his late wife were married for 50 years. He is survived by his children, Syril Silverman and Dr. Lawrence Kanter, and grandchildren. He was an accomplished golfer, tennis, and bridge player.

Janet Dingle Kent, M.D. ’40, was a tenacious advocate for family planning and volunteered as a physician with Planned Parenthood of Northeast Ohio, from 1943 to 1973. She was the first woman president of Case Western Reserve University’s Medical Alumni Association Board. She was predeceased by her husband, Gerald Kent, M.D., ’40. She is survived by her children, Lawrence Kent, Linda Boothby, and Susan Kent; seven grandchildren; a great-granddaughter; and a brother. Dr. Dingle died December 18.

Robert C. Kirk, M.D. ’42, of Rocky River, Ohio, died June 9. He was a distinguished physician with a longtime ophthalmology practice in Lakewood. He is survived by his wife, Ruth; children Karen, Robert Jr., and Richard; and grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Karl.

Comparative Interest Rates

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Philip M. Meyers, M.D. ’89

A self-described “plumber,” Philip Meyers, M.D., is clinical director of the Neuroendovascular Service at the Neurological Institute, New York Presbyterian Medical Center and associate professor of radiology and neurological surgery at Columbia University, College of Physicians & Surgeons.

As an active teacher and clinician, he “fixes leaks and unclogs pipes” due to aneurysms, strokes, arteriovenous malformations (AVMs), and other vascular disorders of the brain and spinal cord.

Dr. Meyers recalls the moment in medical school when he realized his passion for neuroscience. “I remember studying an anatomy atlas containing slices of the brain showing gray matter nuclei and white matter tracts. It was possible to understand some diseases just by knowing which pathways were involved. I memorized them right away, and the rest of the course came easily to me,” says Dr. Meyers. “I didn’t know what I wanted to do when I entered medical school, but I hoped for a moment of clarity and I had it! I knew neuroscience would be the right subject for me.”

Following residency in his hometown of Cincinnati and fellowship in San Francisco, Dr. Meyers came to New York, where, in addition to clinical activities, he studies neuroplasticity. “When parts of the brain become damaged, we may see very rapid relocation of function—we want to understand why and when the brain decides to make these adaptations, so we can improve our approaches to surgical and stroke recovery.”

Dr. Meyers is a generous supporter of the Medical Annual Fund with a commitment to sustaining the School’s legacy. “I give back because I feel like I received a great education at Case Western Reserve—they prepared me well, and I feel it’s my duty. I hope all Case Western Reserve alumni feel the same way,” says Meyers. “I know the School of Medicine puts donations to good use, and I am impressed by work that Dean Pamela Davis and President Barbara Snyder are doing.”

Dr. Meyers resides in Scarsdale, New York with his family, including his wife Jennifer, three daughters, and one son. His eldest daughter is an attorney studying for her L.L.M. in tax and estate at New York University. Dr. Meyers is a fellow of the American Heart Association. He also is treasurer of the Society of NeuroInterventional Surgery and will co-chair the Society’s 2010 annual meeting in San Diego, California.

Ralph C. Lohrey, M.D. ’43, was a first lieutenant in World War II, and later served in the Army Medical Corps. In 1946, he began practicing as a pediatrician. He volunteered at the Salvation Army’s Booth Memorial Hospital and worked with Drs. Sunshine and Hermann to found the Greater Cleveland Poison Control Center. Following retirement from Euclid Mednet in 1980, he worked with the Euclid Public Schools. He passed away July 1. He is predeceased by his wife, Martha, and is survived by three daughters and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Charles A. White, M.D. ’43, passed away June 18. He served as Battalion Surgeon, 90th Division, in Patton’s Third Army late in World War II, receiving the Purple Heart and Bronze Star. He was a fellow of the American College of Physicians, a fellow of American College of Cardiology, and president of the Cleveland Area Heart Society. He founded and directed the Cleveland Children’s Diagnostic Heart Clinic, and was chief of staff and chief of medicine at two major Cleveland hospitals. He is survived by his wife, June, three children, and grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Nancy.

Philip J. Landsman, M.D. ’49, passed away April 20. He was a proud U.S. Army Veteran of World War II and the Korean War. He practiced medicine over 40 years at the North East Clinic and was affiliated with Euclid General, Lake County West, and Hillcrest Hospitals. He was preceded in death by his wife, Frances. He is survived by his three children and their families.

Hugh J. Leslie, Jr., M.D. ’49, passed away in July at the age of 83. He is fondly remembered as a caring physician, dear father, and loving grandfather. Dr. Leslie served in the U.S. Navy and was a veteran of the Korean Conflict. He was an active alumnus of the School of Medicine and served as a past Medical Alumni Board President.

Walter R. Funk, M.D. ’57, died January 3. He served in the Navy medical corps and was a chief of staff at Southwest General Health Center. Dr. Funk had a medical practice in Strongsville, Ohio, and doctored the wrestling and football teams of Olmsted Falls High School. He became proprietor of Uncle Wally’s Ace Hardware Store. He was the beloved husband of the late Judith Funk; father of seven; grandfather of 16; and great-grandfather of six.

To share your news and notes, or to become a Class Rep, contact somalumni@case.edu or call (800) 315-4438.
Elizabeth Phillips arrived at Case Western Reserve with impressive credentials and a bold vision. As a third year student, the list of those who recognize her outstanding abilities is growing, and introducing her to unique opportunities, grant funding, and the freedom to forge her own path.

Prior to medical school, Phillips completed two years of training at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) National Human Genome Research Institute examining race in relation to social constructs and human genomics.

Based on her work at the NIH, Phillips’ Society dean encouraged her to apply for the 2009 American Medical Association Foundation Minority Scholars Award, a $10,000 scholarship. She was one of 12 recipients in the nation.

Another boost to her academics came from the Inamori International Center for Ethics and Excellence, which was honoring Phillips’ past director at the Genome Research Institute, who is now director of the NIH, Francis S. Collins, M.D., Ph.D. “I happened to ask the Inamori Center if they support research fellows because I need to do a thesis for my duel degrees in medicine and bioethics,” notes Phillips.

The Inamori Center was so impressed with Phillips that the board tweaked their bylaws, making her the first Inamori research fellow. She will receive $10,000 for her qualitative research project that examines the physician perspective on healthcare structure in a variety of cultures.

“I’m shocked at how the physician voice is often underutilized, so I hope to publish and provide a good addition to the discussion on health reform.”

Phillips will be interviewing emergency physicians in the U.S., Costa Rica, the UK, and Japan, noting ER doctors tend to identify weaknesses within the healthcare system since they treat the patients who fall through the cracks.

Phillips also is considering emergency medicine as a career, as it would provide the flexibility to practice medicine and pursue her interest in influencing policy.

“Case Western Reserve has really fostered my desire to be a physician leader,” says Phillips. “We need patient advocates on the front lines providing care, but we also need people advocating for an effective structure to do this work. I’m thrilled that we seem to be entering this era where you see the possibility of change.”
The test’s simplicity represents a major advantage since the gold standard for early detection has traditionally been colonoscopy. The hope is that Dr. Markowitz’s screening test, and its adoption into clinical use, will translate into saving many lives that would otherwise be lost to colon cancer. He is currently working to develop a blood test to further improve early detection.

Dr. Markowitz is head of the Cancer Genetics Program at the Ireland Cancer Center of University Hospitals of Cleveland, and holder of the chair in medical genetics—a position endowed with funds from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute—one of only 300 members nationwide and the only member in Ohio.

New York Area Alumni Event (continued)

Corrections?

Please know we strive for accuracy in every issue. However, if you notice an error or would like to report a change in your information, please contact Erin Henninger, Manager of Special Projects, at (216) 368-4761.

Calendar of Events

To attend an event, or for more information, please contact the Alumni Office at (216) 368-6830 or somalumni@case.edu.

October 15 (Thursday)

Doc Opera – 25th Anniversary Performance!

Allen Theater, Playhouse Square

Medical students perform skits and song-and-dance numbers that parody the medical school experience. Proceeds benefit the Free Medical Clinic of Greater Cleveland. An alumni and friends reception will precede the performance.

October 27-29 (Thursday, Friday, & Saturday)

Combined Medical specialty and Alumni event

During RSNA Conference

Chicago Area

An evening reception will be held for alumni in the Chicago area and all alumni in town for the 2009 Radiological Society of North America conference.