

**Boston University**

# SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Campus & Alumni News

SPRING/SUMMER 2008



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## MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

**This academic year just ended has been incredibly eventful.** In the fall, we celebrated the 60th anniversary of the Framingham Heart Study, which included a visit by U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Mike Leavitt. This important study, begun in 1948 to determine why Americans increasingly were dying of cardiovascular disease and strokes, defined the term “risk factor” and identified the correlation of hypertension and hypercholesterolemia with cardiovascular mortality. Boston University has been home to the Framingham grant for 40 years. Today, our Framingham investigators are collaborating with the study participants in a 500,000 gene-chip study to determine genetic risk factors in the extensively characterized three-generation study.

In the spring, we welcomed many of you back to BUSM for Alumni Weekend and enjoyed sharing incredible stories about your work since graduation. BUSM has outstanding alumni who make a difference in the lives of those they serve. You will read about two of them, Drs. Apuzzo and Shemin on page 9 of this issue.

And finally, we just bestowed medical degrees on 152 medical students, and PhDs upon 50 graduate students, and welcomed both groups into their chosen professions as physicians and scientists. I hope that you will take the time to read and understand some of the challenges facing our students in this issue. While student debt continues to climb nationally, we must find ways to decrease the tuition and living costs of a medical education, to help our students realize their dreams without burdening them with lifelong student debt.

In this issue of *Campus & Alumni News*, you will read many stories about the important contributions of our faculty and the accomplishments of our extraordinarily talented students. *The School, however, is poised to invest in an initiative that will transform student life on campus.* We have recently purchased a large parcel of land adjacent to the campus on which we will construct our first student residence. The prospect of funding a \$40 million building project may seem daunting, but we need to successfully fund this project because our alumni and friends know firsthand the importance of low-cost student housing. Having safe, convenient, and affordable student housing on campus will allow our students to focus on why they came to Boston University School of Medicine—to become the next generation of world-class physicians, researchers, scientists, and professors. (See page 4 for a description of this initiative.)

The generosity of our donors continues to be one of the many strengths of BUSM. We are all grateful for the continued support of countless individuals and foundations. Without the support of the people you will read about in this issue of *Campus & Alumni News*, BUSM could not continue to meet the growing needs of our medical community. You will read about Lily Moo Young, MD '65, who established a scholarship in honor of her parents, and the establishment of the Peter Paul Assistant Professorships, which support new junior faculty members until they can apply for research funding.

I have talked to alumni who tell me they read *Campus & Alumni News* “from cover to cover.” Whatever your connection to this institution, while you read through the pages of this magazine and remember your experiences at BUSM, I hope you continue to feel a great sense of belonging and community. Together, we provide an academic family, working to decrease the burden of illness, as physicians, scientists, and educators. No other endeavor is more important.

Karen Antman, MD

Provost, Medical Campus  
Dean, School of Medicine

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**BOSTON  
UNIVERSITY**

## School of Medicine

Campus & Alumni News  
Spring/Summer 2008

Boston University School of Medicine:  
Campus & Alumni News is published by  
Boston University Medical Center,  
Department of Corporate Communications,  
on behalf of the Boston University  
School of Medicine.

Ellen Berlin, Director  
Mary Hopkins, Publications Coordinator

DESIGN AND PRODUCTION:  
Boston University Creative Services

DESIGNER:  
Garyfallia Pagonis

PHOTOGRAPHERS:  
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# Becoming a Physician: Pursuing the Dream, Shouldering the Financial Burden

*"In dreams begins responsibility."*

—WILLIAM BUTLER YEATS

**Each and every one of the students who** crosses the threshold of the Boston University School of Medicine has a dream. During their years here, with drive and determination, they give shape to the dream of being a physician. For most, the path is not clear at the start. Medical school is a process of expanding horizons as well as concentrating focus.

But whatever path is chosen, be it as a primary care physician or a surgeon or a researcher developing new treatments, the process is a costly one. At the time of their commencement, the debt for the estimated 86 percent of students who have borrowed money for their medical education is startling. Today's BUSM graduates owe an average of just over \$160,000 at the same time that physician income is lagging.

In "Losing Ground: Physician Income 1995-2003," the Community Tracking Study Physician Survey found physician income increasing at only 1.45 percent annually, substantially below the rate of increase of the Consumer Price Index. A Medical Group Management Association's recent six-year study indicated an annual income rate of increase at 2.6 percent for primary care physicians and 4.3 percent for specialists. From 2001 to 2006, private medical school graduate debt increased at a compound rate of 5.92 percent according to the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC).

The AAMC reports that at the end of a three-year residency using debt deferment, the amount owed by private medical school graduates will have grown from \$160,000 to \$205,000. Additionally, rates for federal loans have more than doubled in the last four years. These young doctors will be required to commit approximately 9 to 12 percent of their after-tax income for educational debt service.



Despite these troubling figures, BUSM students have chosen to assume the responsibility of this debt because their life dreams are tied to medicine. It is not a financial commitment taken lightly, and the consequences are a stark reality. But as stated by Jonathon and Gretchen Struempf, husband and wife members of the Class of 2010, "We don't see any other way to do what we want."

Here are the stories of a few of these students.

**Jonathon and Gretchen Struempf '10** met as undergrads at University of Notre Dame, where both were attracted to the school's major in premedical studies and its reputation for high acceptance rates to medical school. Gretchen, whose dad is an internist and mother is a nurse who received her training at BU, knew since early childhood she wanted to be a doctor, while Jonathon realized later that his math and science talents could be combined with his desire to work with people in the practice of medicine. She describes the New Mexico town she grew up in as both rural and underserved, for which she attributes her inclination to practice primary care or pediatrics. A native of Jefferson City, Missouri, he is considering surgery or cardiology.

Gretchen's undergraduate education was supported by her parents, loans, and scholarship assistance. Jonathon funded his bachelor's degree primarily by loans and some scholarship aid along with help from his parents. While their parents continue to provide emotional support and some help with living expenses, the financial burden of medical school is their own. Following graduation, they estimate their combined debt will be \$500,000. "It is scary to think about," says Gretchen. "Debt is a part of life but this is unrealistic. We can only think of it as a wise investment—positive returns on our 100 percent loans." Jonathon acknowledges the pressure this kind of financial burden places on them. "I know there is a long-term effect, but in the big scheme of things we're not going to let it dictate our lives. We're going to deal with it."

Their strategies for the future include possibly joining the National Health Service Corps (NHSC), which offers a loan repayment program in exchange for service in underserved areas of the country. This appeals to both Gretchen and Jonathon as they are interested in rural practice and working with underserved populations. They are also considering moving to an area of the country like the midwest or west where the cost of living is



lower and accepting long-term repayment as part of reaching their goals. "I fully expect to be 80 years old and still sending checks off for med school debt," says Gretchen.

Both wish for more scholarships today. "Medical education debt is bad for health care in general because of the consequences for practice choices, but I don't think raising physician salaries to compensate is the way to go," notes Jonathon. "That will only result in higher health-care costs. There has to be a better way to fund medical education."

Trained at Carnegie Mellon in piano performance, **Jocelyn Chapman '08** discovered that the uncertain financial life of a musician was not for her while freelancing with orchestras and teaching piano. Attracted by the diversity and humanitarian nature of medicine, she decided to put her math and science skills to use in a premed program at Columbia University.

The program took five semesters and cost \$80,000 in loans but it gave her the opportunity to come to BUSM. "Being trained at BUSM has been a great experience," Chapman says. "I love how dedicated the doctors here are." She is looking forward to doing her residency in obstetrics and gynecology at University of California San Francisco with a focus on gynecologic surgery and oncology.

She notes that her parents are highly educated, but not wealthy. Her father is a teacher and her mother runs a bed-and-breakfast. "My parents believe that if you are smart, money should not be a barrier to entry into any field," says Chapman. "Education is not viewed as an expense, but an investment in yourself, in doing what you want to do."

Married to a PhD student, Chapman has been paying her tuition with loans. Scholarship aid has been elusive and she continues to look for avenues of relief like Massachusetts Medical Society scholarships to defray the \$300,000 loan commitment she will be carrying after graduation. "This is scary and the only way to get through those moments is to think I'll find a way to do it," acknowledges Chapman. She is drawn to ob/gyn because she likes the primary care aspects of it, but feels that realistically she will need the higher compensation that a specialty provides to keep her debt more manageable.

"We have come to the point where we know education is not a privilege but a right," states Chapman. "The balance is off with the debt so high. Our society needs physicians, especially primary care doctors, and should make a commitment to support medical education."

"Doing research is my life's dream," offers **Alexandra Dimitrova '08**. Born in Sofia,

Bulgaria, she came to the United States to study human physiology as an undergraduate at BU. During this period, she worked part time as a cardiac stress technician to hone her knowledge and supplement her income. After getting her bachelor's degree she spent five years doing research at the Harvard Clinical Research Institute before applying to BUSM.

Now a permanent U.S. resident, she will be starting her internal medicine internship at Mt. Auburn Hospital in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and then her neurology residency at New York Hospital Columbia University Medical Center after graduation. Her interest lies in exploring alternative therapies, and studying and finding new applications for the treatment of pain. She took a year between her third and fourth years at BUSM to do neurologic research at Boston's Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center Laboratory Center for Non-invasive Brain Stimulation. Working with narcolepsy patients, she produced a paper in which she was first author.

"This is a great time to be in medicine," says Dimitrova. "I believe that this is a better climate for integrating alternative treatments into clinical medicine."



***"I know there is a long-term effect, but in the big scheme of things we're not going to let it dictate our lives. We're going to deal with it."***

—JONATHON AND GRETCHEN STRUEMPFLER '10



***"Covering my loans is my prime goal and I will find creative ways to support myself. You have to have a positive outlook, you cannot think otherwise."***

—ALEXANDRA DIMITROVA '08



***"Our society needs physicians, especially primary care doctors, and should make a commitment to support medical education."***

—JOCELYN CHAPMAN '08



With interest, her educational debt comprised of federal and private loans will be \$230,000 when she graduates in May. "I will have to plan out every aspect of my life for the next 20 years," she notes. "I am driven to do research and am very grateful for the opportunity to go to medical school. I appreciate that I could even apply for loans." She will defer loan repayment while in residency during which time she will investigate grant opportunities. She plans to seek a National Institutes of Health Fellowship in the Clinical Training Program, which offers loan repayment programs for clinical investigation. She also hopes to lecture and write books. "Covering my loans is my prime goal and I will find creative ways to support myself," she says. "You have to have a positive outlook, you cannot think otherwise."

**Esohe Ohuoba '09** grew up in what she calls a service-oriented family where giving back is not only a value, but a way of life. "My parents stressed the importance of paying back and closeness with immediate and extended family," says Ohuoba. She has four brothers in her hometown of Raleigh, North Carolina, with whom she is very close, and she recalls that when she earned her first paycheck, she had to share it with them.

While in high school and college, she worked as a pharmacy technician, which sparked her



***"I'm not going to let debt stop me from pursuing my goals and dreams."***

***"I tell myself that if I'm going to be in debt it might as well be for something worthwhile."***

—ESOHE OHUOBA '09

interest in healthcare. Combining her service-oriented nature and interest in health care, she joined premedical organizations and biomedical groups as an undergraduate at North Carolina State University.

"I was excited to learn of my acceptance to BUSM because it is statistically one of the hardest medical schools to get into, considering the class size and the many early pathway programs," said Ohuoba. "I also knew I wanted to study public health." She is pursuing a master's in public health at BUSPH in maternal/child health and international health as well as her medical degree. Planning to do her residency in obstetrics and gynecology, she would eventually like to work in Nigeria in reproductive health advocacy and education. "There is so much that needs to be done to help women in underserved areas like Nigeria," says Ohuoba. "I'd like to try and make a difference."

With two of her brothers in college at the same time as her, she learned to stretch financial resources. Medical school has not been any different. Using mostly federal and school-based loans and 10 percent of her education expenses covered by scholarship aid, Ohuoba knows she will face a six-figure debt upon graduation. She is considering joining the National Health Service Corps or doing a National Institutes of Health research fellowship. Her religious faith also gives her great support and a positive outlook on life. "I know people have done this before me," she asserts. "I'm not going to let debt stop me from pursuing my goals and dreams."

Ohuoba wishes BUSM had more scholarship support to offer students. She tries to make her own contribution to needed resources by volunteering as a BUSM Alumni Association Annual Fund phonathon caller and asking alumni to donate to the School.

"People think being a doctor is glamorous, but it's just plain hard work," she notes. "I tell myself that if I'm going to be in debt it might as well be for something worthwhile." ★

## We Can Bring Down the Student Debt! Here's How:

Make a gift of any size to:

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**The Alumni Association  
Scholarship Fund**

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**The Scholarship Fund for  
Minority Students**

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**The Aram V. Chobanian  
Scholarship Fund**

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**The Medical School Scholarship Fund**

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**Contribute to a named scholarship  
fund during reunion year with your  
class year featured.**

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**Create a personally named scholar-  
ship fund with a minimum gift of  
\$100,000.**

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**Adopt a student for \$5,000 a  
year for four years.**

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Together we can make a difference  
in the lives of young physicians.

For more information, please  
contact Lynn Hendricks, Associate  
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School of Medicine, 715 Albany Street,  
L-219, Boston, MA 02118,  
617-638-4570, [lhendric@bu.edu](mailto:lhendric@bu.edu).

# BUSM to Build Medical Student Housing

## On-campus housing for medical students

has long been a goal of the School of Medicine and the University. With the recent purchase of a 39,000-square-foot parcel of land, that goal is one step closer to being fulfilled. "With the purchase of this property, Boston University School of Medicine is poised to provide safe, convenient, and affordable apartment housing for students," said Dean Karen Antman, MD.

"The addition of on-campus housing has been something that the medical school has talked about for decades," said BU President Robert Brown, PhD. "With the support of our friends and alumni, the concept of student housing at BUSM will become a reality."

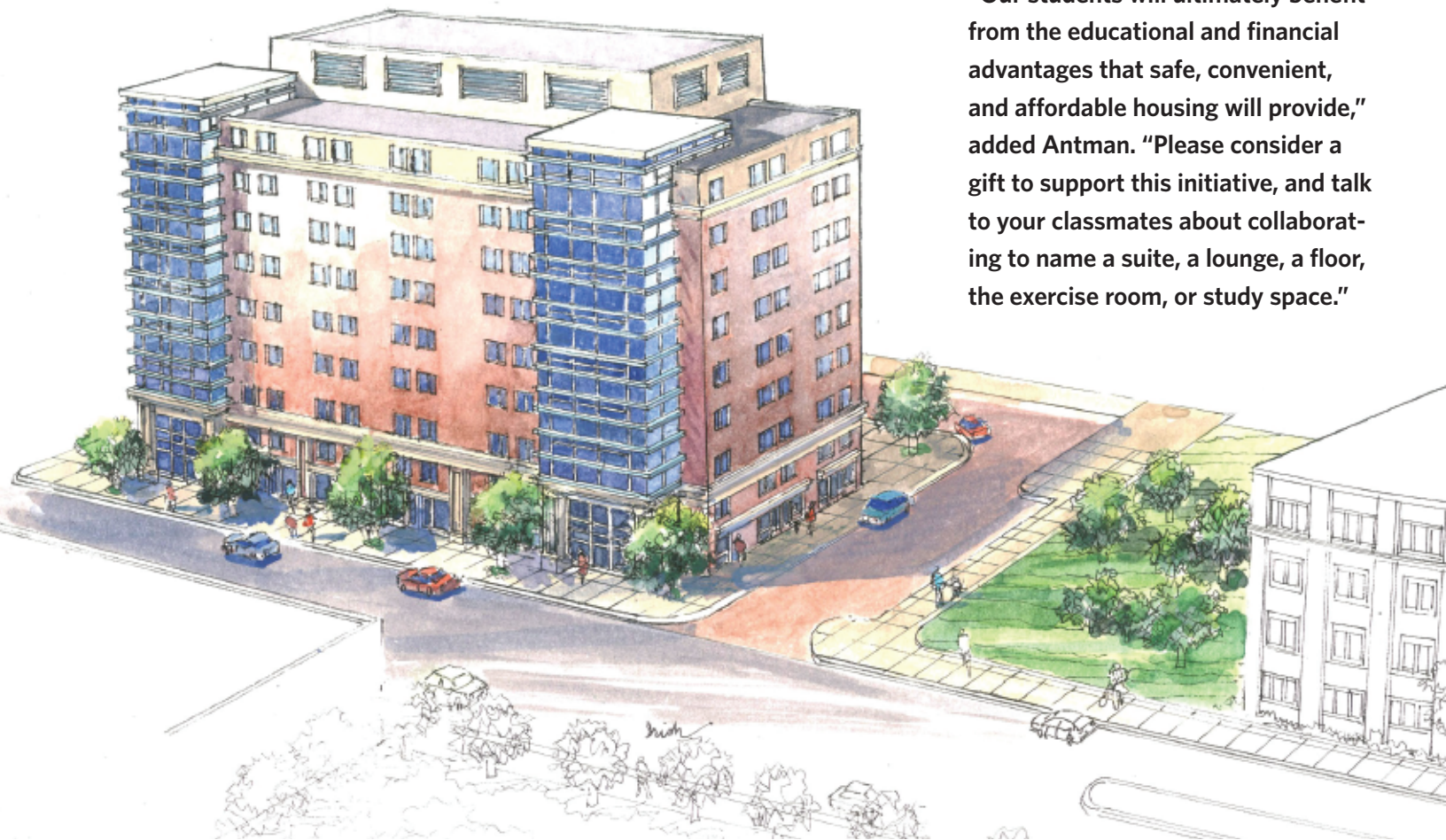
The total cost of the new student housing facility will be approximately \$40 million. Boston University will provide half the construction costs of the building. BUSM must raise \$20 million for the residence as soon as possible. Once fundraising is complete, the regulatory process can be facilitated and construction scheduled.

The property, located at 817 Albany Street, just a few blocks from the medical school, will be developed into a nine-story building with 104 units that will accommodate upward of 208 first-year medical students. "We want to group our first-year medical students in the new facility so that the adjustment into medical school is easier,"

stated Antman. "Students who live and study together develop an *esprit de corps* that facilitates team building. Below-market rents would also decrease student debt. Some of our students commute to school from as far away as Rhode Island. On-campus housing would eliminate the need, and expense, of a car."

Currently, many School of Medicine students face monthly rental fees above \$2,000 in the South End of Boston and some students are forced to move farther away from the School to secure lower housing costs. Rent for students in the new facility is targeted to be very affordable for students who traditionally have to stretch financially to attend

"Our students will ultimately benefit from the educational and financial advantages that safe, convenient, and affordable housing will provide," added Antman. "Please consider a gift to support this initiative, and talk to your classmates about collaborating to name a suite, a lounge, a floor, the exercise room, or study space."





medical school. "The time that students have traditionally spent commuting to and from BUSM can now be spent focusing on their studies, on patient care, on research interests, and on building a stronger sense of community," commented Robert Witzburg, MD, associate dean for admissions. "Having a residential campus will be a major improvement in the quality of life and the quality of education we offer, while simultaneously reducing the annual cost of attendance."

In the few months since purchasing the parcel of land, BUSM has already raised approximately two million dollars toward the cost of the facility.

"We are grateful to the donors who have already stepped forward to pledge their sup-

port for this facility, which will transform student life at the School of Medicine," stated Dean Antman. "We are talking to a few potential donors about a major gift that would name the building."

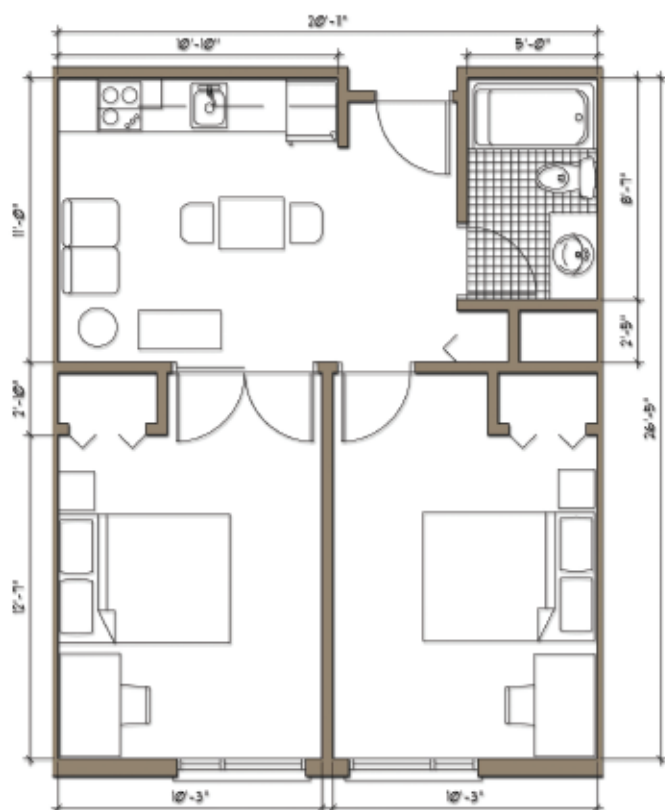
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*For more information on student housing at BUSM or to make a donation, please contact Lynn Hendricks, associate vice president and director of development, at 617-638-4570.*

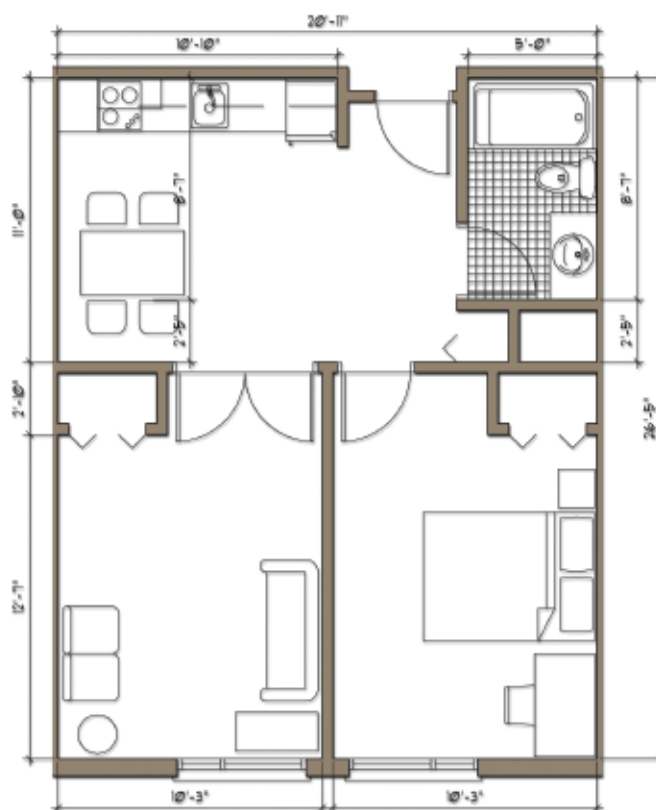
## Naming Opportunities BU School of Medicine Student Residence

|                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Residence Hall Naming | <b>\$20 million</b>  |
| First Floor Lobby     | <b>\$1.5 million</b> |
| First Floor Lounge    | <b>\$1.5 million</b> |
| Individual Floor      | <b>\$1 million</b>   |
| Elevator Lobby        | <b>\$250,000</b>     |
| Exercise Room         | <b>\$500,000</b>     |
| First Floor Study     | <b>\$500,000</b>     |
| Individual Suite      |                      |
| Corner Suite          | <b>\$150,000</b>     |
| Standard Suite        | <b>\$100,000</b>     |

Additional naming opportunities are available. Gifts of any size are greatly appreciated to help make the student residence a reality.



TYPICAL 2 BEDROOM UNIT



TYPICAL 1 BEDROOM CONVERTED UNIT

## Parents Attend Medical School for a Day

In what has now become an annual tradition at BUSM, parents of current medical students spend a day on campus getting to know the who, what, and where of their children's medical education.

"This is the day for parents to get acquainted with this institution that is now integral to your daughters' and sons' lives," said Dean Karen Antman in her welcoming remarking to the gathering of parents. "Your role in their being here is significant, and we want you to feel a part of this great experience of their becoming physicians."

During this year's Parents Day, mothers and fathers attended a "mini-medical school" to give them a taste of what medical classes are like. Dean Antman donned her faculty hat and spoke on "Cancer Risks and Medical Education," while three members of the Department of Emergency Medicine, including Jonathan Olshaker, MD, professor and chairman of the department, lectured on "Simulation in Medical Education: The New Frontier in Patient Care and Safety."

Presentations were also given by two medical students, Katherin Simon '08 and Annely Richardson '08, on international health electives in Africa and NIH research experience. Tours of the Medical Campus also were offered to give parents the opportunity to see with their own eyes the classrooms, library, laboratories, and patient care facilities where medical students spend much of their time.



## Top Washington Health Officials Honor Framingham Heart Study Participants

U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Mike Leavitt visited Framingham to express the nation's thanks to those who have taken part in medical research.

**Honoring the Framingham Heart Study's** 60th anniversary, the nation's top health officials recently visited Framingham to pay tribute to the thousands of individuals who have participated in the landmark study.

The Framingham Heart Study is widely considered to be one of the most important epidemiological studies in the history of American medicine. Since 1948, more than 15,000 local people have participated in the study, which has helped researchers better understand the risk of heart attack, stroke, and many other diseases.

U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Mike Leavitt was joined by Elias Zerhouni, MD, director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and Elizabeth Nabel, MD, director of NIH's National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, which funds the research, as well as others involved in the study, which is carried out in conjunction with BUSM. BU President Robert Brown, PhD, and BUSM Dean Karen Antman, MD, provost of BU Medical Campus, also attended.

"Our scientific progress in biomedical research depends on the willingness of thousands of Americans to take part in research," said Leavitt. "The Framingham Heart Study is a stand-out example, as it spans three generations and has yielded some of our most

important basic knowledge about heart disease. Today, Framingham is poised to make important new contributions based on extensive genetic data from the study."

In 1948, the study's researchers recruited 5,209 men and women between the ages of 30 and 62 and examined them every two years. The plan was to find the common factors that contribute to certain diseases by following a large group of people over a long period of time. Over the past six decades, the study has been credited for identifying many of the risk factors, such as high blood pressure, high blood cholesterol, obesity, and others, associated with cardiovascular disease.

"Through decades of research we've learned not just about taking care of sick people, but keeping healthy people well," said Philip Wolf, MD, principal investigator of the study and professor of neurology and medicine at BUSM.

President Brown noted that "the American research university is designed to stand most successfully on three pillars: the creation and dissemination of new knowledge, education, and community service. Nowhere do these three pillars find firmer footing than here in Framingham, Massachusetts, in the Framingham Heart Study." ★



# A New Center for the Science of the Mind

**Neuroscience holds the promise of** delivering new insights into difficult treatment areas such as addiction and mental illness, making it one of the fastest-growing fields in research and academia.

Now Boston University is poised to expand its presence in these areas with the creation of the new Center for Neuroscience, which will bring scientists from both the Charles River and Medical campuses together to promote collaboration and innovation.

"The new center, along with work done through the Spivack Center for Behavioral Neuroscience at the Medical Campus, signals the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration in advancing research and education in neuroscience," stated Dean Karen Antman, MD.

The center's research mission is to foster the development of working groups that take on topically related issues, either in fundamental or translational areas of the science, or combinations of the two.

"There is a push from the government, and from the directions that research has taken, to bring together research in fundamental neuroscience—how the brain works—with translational medicine, which offers the opportunity to develop new drugs and therapies and address major mental illnesses," said Howard Eichenbaum, PhD, the center's director and a College of Arts & Sciences professor of psychology and a University

Professor. "We have a lot of expertise on both campuses on both sides."

The center will develop new graduate and undergraduate education programs, combining all graduate training in neuroscience on the Charles River and Medical campuses under the umbrella of a new graduate program led by Shelley Russek, PhD '94, a professor of pharmacology at the School of Medicine.

Faculty from the Charles River Campus departments of biology, psychology, mathematics & statistics, and cognitive & neural systems, as well as faculty from Sargent College and the College of Engineering's Department of Biomedical Engineering will be involved. On the Medical Campus, the departments of anatomy & neurobiology, neurology, neurosurgery, pharmacology, physiology & biophysics, and psychiatry faculty will participate and provide their expertise.

"Our goal is to provide students with a truly unique training experience at BU that will enable them to speak a common language that transcends multiple disciplines, yet provides the rigor of a specialized training necessary for excellence and innovation," said Russek. "Students in this special program will also be given the opportunity to interact with physicians and patient populations at the Medical Campus, providing an important clinical context for their thesis research and building the foundation for their future commitment to improve the human condition."



Shelley Russek, PhD '94

The first students in the new graduate program are expected to start their training in September 2009.

The University is providing \$600,000 annually during the center's first five years and \$300,000 annually for the subsequent five years as seed money. Outside funding sources will also be tapped.

The center will have an executive committee of University experts in neuroscience, including School of Medicine faculty Mark Moss, PhD, professor and chairman of the Department of Anatomy & Neurobiology; Domenic Ciraulo, MD, professor and chairman of the Department of Psychiatry; and David Farb, PhD, professor and chairman of the Department of Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics. ✱

## Medical Campus Website Has New Look

To better serve our campus community as well as our alumni and friends, the Boston University Medical Campus has developed a new website. With better graphics and easier navigation, users can access up-to-date information on the Medical Campus, including research, awards, new programs and events, as well as access to the new School of Medicine, School of Public Health, School of Dental Medicine, and Division of Graduate Medical Sciences individual webpages.



# BU Chapter of AOA Honor Medical Society Holds Induction Ceremony

## Members of the Classes of 2008 and 2009,

faculty, residents, and alumni were welcomed into the Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA) Honor Medical Society, the only national medical honor society in the country, at BUSM's annual induction ceremony March 17. Members are chosen based on their professionalism, academic excellence, service, and leadership within the medical profession.

Barry Manuel, MD '58, faculty councillor for the BU Chapter of AOA, welcomed the members, their guests, and faculty. Sonia Tewani '08, chapter president, addressed the group and noted that, "The honor of caring for the sick is timeless and membership in AOA is a reminder of the compassion, excellence, and humanity involved in being a physician."

Dean Karen Antman, MD, presented certificates and keys to each student inductee. "Election to AOA is reserved for a small fraction of medical students who have achieved the highest standard of academic excellence," said Antman during the ceremony. "These students also embody the values of AOA that promote care and empathy for patients."

In addition to the student inductees, three house officers, Philip A. Cohen, MD, Department of Surgery; Jens Thiele, MD, PhD, Department of Dermatology; and Edwin T. Zishiri, MD, Department of Medicine, received their AOA certificates and keys. David Coleman, MD, the Wade Professor and Chairman of the Department of Medicine, could have been describing all of the inductees when he characterized Zishiri as "a gentle person with a rare scholarly intellect and the gift of great teaching and clinical skills."

Although unable to attend, David McAneny, MD, associate professor of surgery at BUSM, was inducted as a faculty member. Two BUSM graduates, Richard Mattson, MD '57, professor emeritus of neurology and senior research scientist at Yale Medical School, and Kenneth Simons, MD '80, senior associate dean of academic affairs at the Medical College of Wisconsin, were inducted as alumni.

**Members of the Class of 2008:** Rama Ayyala, Bridget Canavan, Allison Carelli, Michelle Carey, Michael Cassidy, Brian Clark, Armen Derbogossians, Ryan Goerig, Liza Gonen, Allison Hunt, Rebecca Johnson, Eric Kerns, Luke Macyszyn, Ravikanth Maddipati, Deepa Magge, Melissa Martchek, Daniel Roberts, Daniel Ruane, Noelle Nugent Saillant, Sarah Smith, and Christina Yarrington.

**Members of the Class of 2009:** Jeremiah Alexander, Steven Kussman, Grace Lee, and Jules Manger. ★



David Coleman, MD (left), professor and chairman of the BUSM Department of Medicine, and Dean Antman congratulate Richard Mattson, MD '57, the alumni AOA inductee.



AOA Faculty Councillor Barry Manuel, MD '58, and Dean Karen Antman, MD, are joined by the newest student, faculty, house officer, and alumni members of the BU Chapter of AOA at the BU Castle for the induction ceremony.



AOA members Christina Yarrington '08 and Sonia Tewani '08 with Yarrington's family.



# Boston University Honors Two BUSM Graduates

**Boston University has recognized** Michael L. J. Apuzzo, MD '65, and Richard J. Shemin, MD '74, for their distinguished careers in medicine by conferring upon them the Boston University Alumni Award during a special ceremony and dinner at the Metcalf Trustee Center. The Alumni Award is the most prestigious of all honors conferred by the Boston University Alumni.

"I think the strength of the ties that bind alumni and their school are one of the most important elements in building a reputation for a university," President Robert Brown told the award recipients and guests. "We try to prepare our students for careers and for lives that are personally fulfilling, professionally successful, and marked by service to the community. Your success in these areas also contributes to our reputation."

Michael Apuzzo is the Edwin Todd/Trent H. Wells, Jr. Professor of Neurological Surgery and Radiation Oncology, Biology, and Physics at the Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California. He is director of neurosurgery at the USC Kenneth Norris, Jr. Cancer Hospital and is director of the Center for Stereotactic Neurosurgery and Associated Research there. He also serves as clinical director of surgical neuro-oncology, surgical director of epilepsy programs at the Keck School, and director of the Gamma Unit Facility at USC University Hospital.

Apuzzo established one of the world's first central nervous system tumor immunology laboratories and simultaneously developed programs for the study of refinements of microsurgical techniques of intra- and trans-cerebral surgeries for the management of intracranial neoplasms. He was also an innovator in the emergence of imaging directed stereotactic neurosurgery and performed North America's first human stereotactic cerebral grafting research procedure.

He is the author of nearly 600 scientific publications including 42 edited volumes of the acclaimed surgical texts *Surgery of the Third Ventricle* and *Brain Surgery: Complication and Avoidance Management*. He is executive editor of the *Congress of Neurological Surgeons*



**BUA Award Recipients** Michael Apuzzo, MD '65, and Richard Shemin, MD '74, after receiving their Boston University Alumni awards.

Publishing Group and has served as an editor and is on review boards of numerous journals.

The 1995 recipient of the BUSM Distinguished Alumnus Award, his many honors include the Achievement Award from the World Health Organization and the World Federation of Neurological Societies, and the Career Achievement Award from the American Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery.

Richard Shemin is professor and chief of the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery and executive vice-chair of the Department of Surgery at the UCLA Medical Center, as well as co-director of the UCLA Cardiovascular Center of the UCLA Ronald Reagan Medical Center. Until 2007 he had served as professor and chair of the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery at BUSM for 20 years.

A specialist in minimally invasive cardiac surgery and robotic-assisted cardiac surgery, Shemin's national reputation in performing valvular repair and replacement serves as a platform for his leading studies to evaluate new technology for mechanical prosthesis

and bioprosthesis. He helped lead the team at the Brigham & Women's Hospital in Boston to perform the first heart transplant in New England in 1984.

His publications include more than 300 scholarly articles and abstracts. He is an associate editor of *Circulation* and on the editorial board of *The Video Journal of Cardiothoracic Surgery*, the *American Heart Hospital Journal*, and the *Annals of Surgical Innovation and Research*.

The 2002 recipient of the BUSM Distinguished Alumnus Award, his honors include the Outstanding Leadership Award from the Thoracic Surgery Foundation for Research and Education as well as being named among America's Top Doctors by Castle Connolly Medical, Ltd.

"The level of achievement of Drs. Apuzzo and Shemin attests to their outstanding intellectual and clinical skills," said Dean Antman. "Their pioneering contributions have advanced medical science and bring great credit to Boston University and the School of Medicine." ★

## Research in Brief



### **BUSM researchers study new medications to treat Alzheimer's**

Several new studies at BUSM's Alzheimer's Disease Center are focused on the efficacy of immunotherapy drugs in slowing the progression and reversing the effects of Alzheimer's disease.

Alzheimer's patients have an abnormal buildup of a protein called beta amyloid in their brains. The studies are being

conducted on patients with mild-to-moderate Alzheimer's disease to examine whether these new medications are capable of slowing down the symptoms of Alzheimer's by decreasing the buildup of the protein.

Current Alzheimer's disease treatments may slow the decline and help symptoms but do not halt brain deterioration, according to Anil Nair, MD, assistant professor of neurology at BUSM and a neurologist at BMC. "Better treatments are needed to halt, reverse, and prevent Alzheimer's disease, and the only way to find effective new medications is by carrying out clinical research studies," he said.

The DHA (Docosahexaenoic Acid) Study, an 18-month trial in progress at BUSM, is examining the effectiveness of treating Alzheimer's disease with DHA, a compound of omega-3 fatty acids found in certain fish oil and algae, in the hope of slowing the rate of progression and for developing new medications.

The Gammaglobulin Liquid in Alzheimer's Disease (GLAD) Study will use the antibody product obtained from healthy donors that helps protect the body against infection and other illnesses to treat Alzheimer's disease. Whereas this human antibody product has been used for many years to treat a variety of immune disorders, this is first time it is being used to treat Alzheimer's disease.

Nair is lead researcher for the GLAD and DHA studies, both funded by the National Institute on Aging.

A third immunotherapy trial being launched uses a monoclonal antibody that has been shown to clear amyloid buildup in animals. Robert Stern, PhD, associate professor of neurology at BUSM and co-director of the Alzheimer's Disease Clinical and Research Program, is the primary investigator for this industry-funded trial.



### **BUSM researchers study influences on central nervous system**

BUSM researchers have found that the release of dopamine—a neurotransmitter formed in the brain that is essential to the healthy functioning of the central nervous system—can be influenced by numerous factors. These include input from other neurotransmitters, as well as the reducing/oxidizing state of the cell; the level of oxidation and reduction of molecules reflects conditions within the nervous tissue.

Led by David Farb, PhD, professor and chairman of the Department of Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics at BUSM, the researchers studied the relationship between antioxidants, which can protect the central nervous system from oxidative damage, and dopamine. Increased levels of oxidative damage are believed to be involved in neurodegenerative diseases such as Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, and stroke.

In the brain, neurons communicate with each other via synaptic connections in which signals are transmitted by the release of chemical neurotransmitters from presynaptic nerve axon terminals. Farb and his team examined the release from such terminals of a specific neurotransmitter (dopamine). Inclusion of either of the water soluble sulfhydryl-containing therapeutic agents, N-acetyl cysteine or glutathione, lowered spontaneous dopamine release by 85 percent; however, the antioxidant vitamin E had no effect on dopamine release.

"Our results suggest that therapeutic doses of certain reducing agents rapidly and reversibly stabilize the release of dopamine and raises the potential for the treatment of oxidative damage in neurodegenerative diseases," said Farb.

*The Society for Neuroscience selected Farb's abstract for presentation at its 37th Annual Meeting, where members discussed new advances in the understanding of the nervous system and its disorders.*





### Managing blood pressure and weight early may protect the heart in old age

Preventing heart failure at age 70 or 80 may depend upon maintaining normal blood pressure and a healthy weight at age 50, according to BUSM researchers.

Researchers studied 3,362 participants in the Framingham Heart Study who had routine examinations between 1969 and 1994.

During an observation period extending up to 20 years, an increase of just one standard deviation (about 20 mm Hg) in systolic blood pressure at age 50 was associated with a 36 percent higher risk of heart failure, noted Ramachandran Vasan, MD, professor of medicine at BUSM and senior investigator of the Framingham Heart Study, while a standard-deviation increase (about 15 mm Hg) in pulse pressure increased the risk by 31 percent.

"This study highlights the importance of maintaining ideal body-mass index and blood pressure throughout life," stated Vasan.

"Although hypertension and high body-mass index are often detected later in life and associated with risk of heart failure, the effects of these conditions likely begin far earlier in life," said Vasan. "Failure to identify or treat such modifiable risk factors early or in mid-adulthood may result in the loss of opportunities to reduce the incidence of heart failure."

The study was published in the September 24, 2007, online issue of *Hypertension: Journal of the American Heart Association*.



### "Weight Training" muscles are shown to reduce fat and improve metabolism in obese mice

Researchers led by Kenneth Walsh, PhD, a professor of medicine and head of the Whitaker Cardiovascular Institute at BUSM, have demonstrated that in mice, the use of barbells may be as important to losing weight and improving health as the use of running shoes. The discovery builds upon the fact that skeletal muscle consists of two types of fibers. Endurance training such as running increases the amount of type I muscle fibers, while resistance training such as weight lifting increases type II muscle fibers. Using a mouse genetic model, BUSM researchers demonstrated that an increase in type II muscle mass can reduce body fat, which in turn reduces overall body mass and improves metabolic parameters such as insulin resistance. These studies indicate that weight-bearing exercise, in addition to endurance training, may benefit overweight people.

The findings may also be relevant for understanding aspects of the aging process. "Beyond the age of 30, humans lose approximately six pounds of muscle mass per decade. Surprisingly, aging individuals predominantly lose type II muscle. Thus, a 50-year-old may be relatively good at playing tennis or jogging because type I muscle is preserved, but a measurement of grip strength or core body strength could show appreciable declines," explained Walsh. Therefore, this new study suggests that the loss of type II muscle contributes to the development of obesity and diabetes as we age.

The study was published in the February 6, 2008, issue of *Cell Metabolism*.

For more information, please visit [www.bumc.bu.edu](http://www.bumc.bu.edu), click on Research, and then follow the link to the Whitaker Cardiovascular Institute.

# Division of Graduate Medical Sciences Offers Innovative Nutrition Programs



**Programs in medical nutrition sciences** are among the newest offerings in the Division of Graduate Medical Sciences at BUSM and are an interdisciplinary collaboration of BUSM, GSDM, and SPH.

"Obesity has reached epidemic proportions in the United States and seven of the leading causes of death and costly disabilities are nutrition-related," said Barbara Millen, DPH, RD, FADA, professor and chair of medical nutrition sciences in the division.

The primary goal of the program is to provide multidisciplinary training in medical nutrition sciences that will prepare students for a variety of career opportunities. The MA program provides a research-oriented framework for students interested in pursuing wide-ranging nutrition careers, and the PhD

program offers advanced training and mentored research opportunities in basic, clinical, or applied nutritional investigations with faculty throughout Boston University Medical Campus.

MA or PhD students may choose to concentrate in one of the following areas: Basic, epidemiological and clinical nutrition research; nutrition and public health promotion; nutrition policy and program planning; or nutrition and health communications. The MD-PhD program is designed for students looking for a career in both medicine and research. This program provides students with the opportunity to obtain advanced education and research training in nutrition alongside their training in clinical medicine.

"Evidence is emerging that public health nutrition interventions and health communications campaigns are effective in promoting and improving the nation's health and that of vulnerable population subgroups. Well-trained professionals are needed who can interpret and translate nutritional research into public policy, population-based nutrition guidelines, clinical nutrition standards, and consumer information," added Millen.

Depending on the degree concentration, possible career tracks include working for the federal, state, or local government, academic institutions, teaching hospitals, food and pharmaceutical industries, and health maintenance organizations.

"One of the greatest strengths of the program is the collaboration among the BUSM, SPH, and GSDM faculty, which offers students a wide variety of experiences and perspectives within the field," said second-year PhD student Cheryl Hewitt, MPH, RD, LDN, who works as a bionutrition manager at BUSM's General Clinical Research Center. "In addition, the opportunity to be exposed to and participate in cutting-edge research with the Framingham Heart Study has been invaluable," added Hewitt, who hopes to teach nutrition at the university level and possibly conduct her own research.

"These innovative programs are intended to create future leaders in the field and are highly responsive to the need for experts in this field, including physicians with training in nutrition and preventive medicine," added Millen.

BUSM is the first medical school in the nation to grant the MA, PhD, and MD-PhD degrees in medical nutrition sciences. ★





# Graduate Medical Sciences Student Organization (GMSSO) Sponsors Career Day

**The GMSSO hosted its second annual Career Day** in March for all graduate students enrolled in the life sciences at BU. This student-sponsored event included workshops on job hunting and interviewing techniques, and information on the medical school application process.

During the afternoon, alumni of the GMS program discussed their current positions or what paths they have followed since graduation, and recruiters from area firms were available for students to make industry contacts. In preparation for the Career Day, the GMSSO had also organized a résumé-writing workshop the previous month so that students would have their résumés ready for distribution to the recruiters.

Deborah Robinson-Thompson of the Boston University Career Services Department and Brian Murphy of Kelly Scientific Resources offered workshops.

Representatives from Charles River Laboratories, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Research Foundation, Kelly Scientific Resources, Merck, Merrimack Pharmaceuticals, Nature Publishing Group, and Toxikon Corporation discussed career opportunities with students.

"It's so important for us to have as much information and preparation as possible," said Adrian Oblak '10, president of the GMSSO, "and if we can help each other ease the process of finding a job or applying for further training, then we want to do all that we can." ✱



Zidong Zhang, a post-doctoral student in biochemistry, talks with Mark Ripa from the Broad Institute.

Representatives from the Broad Institute ready their career information for the graduate students in life sciences attending the GMSSO career fair.



Seeking information on career prospects and job hunting techniques are (from left) Julie Williams, MMS '07; Shetal Patel, MA-MMS '08, Casandra Aldsworth, MPH '08, and Sherry Chang, MMS '08.

# Learning to Connect with Patients: Human Behavior in Medicine Course

**Each fall first-year medical students fill** the auditorium for the Human Behavior in Medicine class, a course designed to provide the knowledge of human behavior that is imperative to the treatment of patients and their families. Students learn to identify normal behavior and development, as well as the biological, psychological, and social factors that modify these traits.

"My goal is to teach the students to use both the logical and empathetic areas of the brain," said Douglas Hughes, MD, director of medical school education for the Division of Psychiatry, and an associate professor of psychiatry at BUSM. "I want the students to be able to connect with patients, but also to think clearly, know the criteria, and be able to correctly make the diagnosis."

The course begins with a lecture on medical student mental health, describing the statistics

and relationship of physician suicide, alcohol abuse, and drug use. One physician shared his experience with pain medication addiction and a depression diagnosis, describing how his relationships had become strained, but with support he was able to overcome these setbacks.

Many other topics are discussed throughout the semester, including death and dying. To help students realize the importance of this class, Hughes regularly brings in guest speakers to share their stories, such as Caroline Bridges.

Bridges, a 21-year-old photography major at Boston University, was diagnosed in 2006 with acute lymphoblastic leukemia, a cancer that attacks the blood cells. Bridges described how she dealt with the diagnosis and how she feels now.

"I wonder, 'will I be here next year,'" she says. When describing her relationship with the

physicians and medical students in Chicago, she explained, "Every morning during rounds, medical students crowded into my room, but rarely spoke to me. To have them treat me as an object of study is demeaning." Bridges urged the students not to look at patients as a mass of blood cells to cure or as an object of pity because of a head nearly bald from treatment, but instead to show and give the patient the respect they have earned by trying to survive.

"Human behavior is much more of a science than it's given credit for; there are many conditions that cannot be explained, and a lot of diagnoses go missed. It's not the medical science a lot of students think it is; it's human behavior. If we can become more aware of our own behavior, these young physicians will be better equipped to treat their own patients," said Hughes. ✱

Justin Dunn, MD '07, talks with a Boston Medical Center patient.





# Faculty Awards

**Daniel Alford, MD**, associate professor of medicine and medical director for the Massachusetts Screening, Brief Intervention, Referral & Treatment program at Boston Medical Center, received the Nyswander-Dole Award from the American Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence. Alford is an expert in policy development and best practices for opioid treatment.

**Karen Antman, MD**, provost of the medical campus and dean of the medical school, received the American Society of Clinical Oncology's (ASCO) Distinguished Service Award for Scientific Leadership. An internationally renowned expert in the field of breast cancer and recognized for her development of a standard treatment regimen for sarcoma, Antman is a past president of the ASCO. Antman received the award at the annual meeting of the society, the largest gathering of oncology professionals in the world.

**Aram Chobanian, MD**, president *emeritus* of Boston University and dean *emeritus* of BUSM, received the Massachusetts Medical Society 2008 Lifetime Achievement Award for his lasting contributions to the practice of medicine over a lifetime and his significant contributions to the goals of the Society. Internationally recognized for his research on hypertension, he founded the Whitaker Cardiovascular Institute at BUSM in 1973 and oversaw its development as a center for pioneering research into the biological and clinical aspects of cardiovascular diseases. Under his leadership BioSquare research park was developed on campus and Boston University Medical Center received a \$128 million federal grant to build a national biocontainment laboratory. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and recently chaired the Seventh Joint National Committee on Prevention, Detection, Evaluation and Treatment of High Blood Pressure of the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute.

**David Farb, PhD**, professor and chairman of the Department of Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics, director of the Biomolecular Pharmacology Training Program, and head of the Laboratory of Molecular Neurobiology, had his abstract on how anti-oxidants influence dopamine release from

striatal synaptosomes accepted for presentation to the annual meeting of the Society for Neuroscience.

**Robert Green, MD, MPH**, professor of neurology, genetics, and epidemiology; and **Robert Stern, PhD**, associate professor of neurology, were awarded a citation from the Boston City Council for their contributions fighting Alzheimer's disease. Green and Stern are co-directors of BUSM's Alzheimer's Disease Clinical & Research program (ADCRP), which conducts clinical research into the risk factors, genetics, prevention, and diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease, as well as issues pertaining to dementia caregivers.

Green and Stern also were featured in a documentary titled: *Improving the Lives of Patients and Families with Alzheimer's Disease*. The documentary was produced by Information Television Network, and aired on PBS stations nationwide in November which is National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month.

**Michael Holick, PhD, MD**, professor of medicine, physiology, and biophysics at BUSM, director of the General Clinical Research Center, and director of the Bone Healthcare Clinic at Boston Medical Center, received the 2007 Eli Lilly Lecturer Award from the Canadian Society of Endocrinology and Metabolism. Holick, an expert in vitamin D and skin research, received the award for his decades of pioneering work on the important role vitamin D plays in a wide variety of chronic health conditions.

**William Lehman, PhD**, professor of physiology and biophysics, has received the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute's (NHLBI) MERIT Award for his research studies on troponin-tropomyosin regulated filaments to elucidate the molecular regulatory mechanisms governing cardiac contraction essential to understanding cardiovascular disease processes as well as his studies on smooth muscle filaments to understand the fine-tuning of smooth muscle contraction, key controls for vascular and pulmonary airway resistance. The award was granted on the basis of Lehman's outstanding contributions to biomedical science and to the NHLBI.

**Jean E. Ramsey, MD '90**, associate professor of ophthalmology and pediatrics, and director of the Pediatric Ophthalmology Service at Boston Medical Center, was elected by state

ophthalmology leaders throughout the country to the position of vice-chair of the Council of the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO). The Council is a leadership and advisory body for the AAO, which has a membership of nearly 30,000 physicians. As part of her responsibilities as vice-chair, Ramsey will also serve as a member of the American Academy of Ophthalmology Board of Trustees for the next two years, with an anticipated two years to follow as chair of the Council.

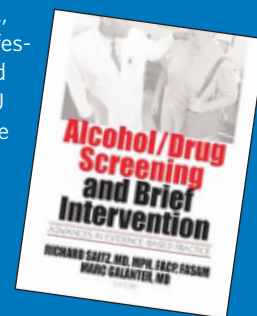
**David Salant, MD**, professor of medicine and chief of the section of nephrology at Boston Medical Center, is the 2008 recipient of the National Kidney Foundation's Gift of Life Outstanding Physician in Nephrology Award. The award recognizes Salant's significant contributions to the kidney and organ/tissue donation and transplantation communities and to the National Kidney Foundation.

**Helen Tager-Flusberg, MD**, professor of anatomy and neurobiology, and pediatrics, has been named a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). She received this distinction for her pioneering work on the nature of autism. Tager-Flusberg's research involves language and communication impairments in autism and the underlying brain and cognitive difficulties that contribute to these problems. She is currently investigating the relationship between communication problems and social-cognitive deficits in those with autism.

## Faculty in Print

**Richard Saitz, MD, MPH, FACP, FASAM**, editor with Marc Galanter, MD

*Alcohol/Drug Screening and Brief Intervention. Advances in Evidence-based Practice* (NY: Haworth Press, Inc., 2007). Saitz is professor of medicine and epidemiology at BU schools of Medicine and Public Health and a primary care physician at Boston Medical Center.



# Faculty Appointments



From left to right: David Atkinson, PhD; David Center, MD '72; Benedict D. T. Daly, MD '65; Martin Kroll, MD; Robert Poston, MD; Kenneth Walsh, PhD

**David Atkinson, PhD**, has been named as chair of the Department of Physiology & Biophysics at BUSM. Atkinson joined the Boston University School of Medicine faculty in 1975. He was appointed professor of biophysics in 1989 and the title changed to professor of physiology and biophysics upon merger of the departments in 2001. He has served as acting chair, then *ad interim* chair since 2005.

**David Center, MD '72**, Gordon and Ruth Snider Professor of Pulmonary Medicine, professor of medicine and research professor of biochemistry at BUSM, and chief of the Division of Pulmonary, Allergy & Critical Care Medicine at Boston Medical Center, has been named associate provost for Translational Research at BU Medical Campus. Center is principal investigator of the institution's Clinical and Translational Science Award application.

**Benedict D. T. Daly, MD '65**, has been named chair of the Department of Cardio-

thoracic Surgery and chief of the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery at Boston Medical Center (BMC). He has been serving as professor of cardiothoracic surgery at BUSM since 2003 and clinical director of General Thoracic Surgery and director of the Center for Thoracic Oncology at BMC since 2002 and 2003, respectively.

**Martin Kroll, MD**, has been appointed professor of pathology and laboratory medicine at BUSM and chief of the Section of Laboratory Medicine at Boston Medical Center. Previously, Kroll served as director of the Core Laboratory of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Service at North Texas Veterans Affairs Medical Center and professor of pathology at the University of Texas Southwestern School of Medicine at Dallas.

**Robert Poston, MD**, has been named associate professor of cardiothoracic surgery at BUSM and chief of cardiac surgery at Boston Medical Center. Poston served as associate professor of cardiac surgery at the University

of Maryland School of Medicine since 2002. He pioneered the use of robotics in minimally invasive surgery to treat the most complex forms of coronary artery disease. Boston Medical Center is now the only hospital in Boston, and one of only a handful in the nation, to offer this innovative procedure which uses the da Vinci® Robotic surgical equipment.

**Kenneth Walsh, PhD**, has been appointed the director of the Whitaker Cardiovascular Institute (WCVI) and the first Aram V. Chobanian Distinguished Professorship in Cardiovascular Medicine. Walsh has been serving as head of the Molecular Cardiology Unit in the WCVI and professor of medicine in the Cardiovascular Section in the Department of Medicine. A world-renowned molecular biologist, he has studied the basic mechanisms of cardiovascular disease and collaborated with faculty throughout Boston University Medical Campus. He is the associate editor of *Circulation*.

## Faculty In Memoriam

**Belton A. Burrows, MD**, of Brookline, MA, on November 18, 2007, at the age of 89. A research professor of medicine and a member of the admissions committee at BUSM from 1965 to 1994, he served as chief of Radioisotope Services and Nuclear Medicine at BU Medical Campus from 1953 to 1978 and at the Boston VA from 1953 to 1990. He was a medical officer and captain in the 1173rd Engineering Combat Group in Europe during World War II. He served as editor of the *Journal of Nuclear Medicine* and was acting director of the Nuclear Medicine Services of the Veterans Administration Central Office in Washington, DC. He also served as a consultant to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.



# Matchmaking for the Class of 2008

**On March 20, members of the Class of 2008** joined their counterparts across the nation for Match Day—the yearly ritual when medical students learn where they will spend their years of residency training.

Precisely at noon, the students dashed to their mailboxes, tearing open the envelopes containing their match results. Within minutes joyful screams, smiles, and hugs filled the room as students shared the news with classmates, friends, faculty, and family.

After interviewing for spots at hospitals and medical centers across the United States, graduating students rank their top program choices for residency. This year 28,737 applicants vied for one of 22,240 first-year positions—the most applicants in history. Of the applicants, a record high of 15,242 were seniors at medical schools in the United States of which 85 percent matched to one of their top three program choices. Nearly 400 additional residency positions were created this year as well.

“It was a successful match,” said Ellen DiFiore, BUSM registrar, summarizing the results of the School’s 153 participating students. Thirty-eight percent of them will train in family medicine, internal medicine, and pediatrics; 10 percent in general surgery; eight percent in obstetrics/gynecology; and five percent respectively in anesthesiology, emergency medicine, otolaryngology, psychiatry, and diagnostic radiology.

“All of our faculty and staff are extremely proud to witness the growth and accomplishments of these outstanding students,” said Phyllis Carr, MD, associate dean of student affairs at BUSM. “We share in their success and wish them the very best in their careers.”



## Match Day Thoughts

As I look forward from Match Day, all the things I have to learn and do well seem to stretch on into the distance; I have to chase the horizon if I’m to ever learn it all... and I have no idea how I’m going to do it all and still remain human.

The secret, of course, is that each one of us didn’t get ourselves here; WE got ourselves here. Undoubtedly, there will come days when each of us feels like we’re frantically trying to put out a never-ending list of fires by carrying water in a sieve; our knowledge just isn’t enough. That’s when the rest of us pitch in to help out one of our own, wherever each of us ends up in whatever program.

I am proud to have studied, trained, and grown with all of you, the Class of 2008. No one can tell us we’re not ready for this, not even ourselves.

—Valmeek Kudesia ’08



# Commencement 2008

**With palpable excitement, members of the Class of 2008** donned their red robes, gathered their hoods, either green for MD or dark blue for PhD, and joined faculty, administration, family, and friends to recognize the moment of transition that Commencement symbolizes.

Addressing the 152 medical and 18 PhD graduates, Dean Antman quoted Winston Churchill: "Now is perhaps the end of the beginning." She added in her own words, "You have grown in ways that can not easily be described, and you have been shaped by the curriculum, your faculty, residents, staff, and classmates. You are well prepared."

Speaking on behalf of the Division of Graduate Medical Sciences for the last time as he is stepping down after more than 45 years at BUSM, Associate Dean Carl Franzblau urged the class to be engaged in the political and social aspects of health care and the medical sciences by writing to legislators to reverse budget cuts and to emphasize that "Every person has a right to health care."

Dean Kamen, president of DEKA Research and Development, founder of FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology), and the inventor of the Segway, spoke to the class and offered some observations. "Big bureaucracies do not recognize opportunities. You have to fight against them for the needs of society," he said. "Doctors are now spending 20 percent of their time doing paperwork for insurance companies. Something is very wrong." He went on to advise the class to focus on preventive medicine and to never give up. "If it's important, do it."



Awaiting the start of Commencement 2008 are (from left) Dean Antman, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Sharon Levine, Associate Dean for Graduate Medical Sciences Carl Franzblau, Rabbi Paul Levenson, and Boston Medical Center Chaplain The Reverend Jennie Gould.



Members of the Class of 2008 in line to receive their medical degrees.



It's graduation for Megan Adamson, but her son, Khalil, is happy to sleep through the excitement of the occasion.



Division of Graduate Medical Sciences student speaker Courtney Sill proudly shows off her PhD.



Dean Antman presents Douglas Hughes, associate professor of psychiatry, with the Stanely L. Robbins Award for Excellence in Teaching.





Jenny Lai, Vijay Ramalingam, and Alison Reminick beam with joy on Commencement Day 2008.



PhD degree recipients Sarah Follow, Melissa Boule Uccellini, Maureen Estevez, and Jennifer Burke Elliot gather before Commencement exercises.



Associate Dean for Student Affairs Phyllis Carr hoods Tiffany Ainsworth.



Molly Meenan is joined by her father, Robert Meenan '72, dean of the BU School of Public Health, who hooded her during the ceremony.



*Summa cum laude* graduates John Dinkler and Sarah Bowe.



Graduation day brings nothing but smiles for Meshia Todd, Sara Peterson, April Hurlston, Jameela Harper, Nicole Hanley-Williams, Bernadatte Gray, and Latoya Etheridge.



### Career Fair Aids Students in Choosing Specialty

BU Medical Campus experts in 17 specialties shared their insights with third-year medical students at the BUSM Career Fair. Sponsored by the Student Affairs office, the program included presentations on "Choosing a Specialty" and the Association of American Medical Colleges' Careers in Medicine Advising Program, which is designed to help medical students think systematically about specialty choice.

"We had this program so our students could learn more about medical and surgical specialties," said Associate Dean for Student Affairs Phyllis Carr, MD. "We want them to make informed decisions about career choices and field-specific advisors."

# Research Opportunities Offered to Students Early in Their Education

**Thirty-three second-year BUSM students** presented their research at this year's Medical Student Summer Research Symposium.

The poster presentations were the culmination of research the students began eight months ago as participants in BUSM's Medical Student Summer Research program. This program introduces students to the principles of research before their second year and provides a mentorship experience with a seasoned faculty member. Students selected for the program receive scholarship assistance for their work.

Andrey Ostrovsky conducted a study on household transmission of *B. pertussis* in Southeastern Massachusetts. "Pertussis is very contagious and can cause a debilitating cough lasting for months. For infants and the elderly, the disease can be deadly," noted Ostrovsky. "A vaccine for early adolescents, a large population with pertussis, was introduced in 2005. Our study aimed to address the economic and health burden of the disease in the post-vaccine era." Ostrovsky's group has worked on developing a salt-covered lollipop as a diagnostic tool that avoids the discomfort often experienced through blood tests and nasal swabs.

Using CT (computerized-tomographic) imaging, Ostrovsky's classmate Rob Cole

investigated the prevalence of symptoms of spinal stenosis among Framingham Heart Study participants. "Roughly 80 percent of all people will experience back pain in their lifetimes," stated Cole. "Often, upon imaging, no diagnostic evidence can be found to account for their symptoms. Other times, patients will have incidental findings of pathologic processes, yet present with no symptoms.

"No matter which specialty you go into, you will most likely have patients present with back pain," he continued. "And with an ever-increasing elderly population, it is important to enhance our knowledge of one of the most common ailments in their age group.

"This BUSM program has provided me a terrific opportunity to practice reading diagnostic images and a deeper understanding of a very common medical condition," said Cole.

"Research, both basic and clinical, is one of the most important things that we do here on campus," said Dean Karen Antman, MD, to the students displaying their posters. "This program gives you a taste of research and can be a milestone in your career decisions about medicine and research science."

During the symposium, several student investigators are recognized for their superior research with the Serchuck Awards. (See article on page 25.) ★

Dean Karen Antman, MD, learns about the pharmacology/psychiatry research shared by second-year medical students Meghan Campo (left), Alexandra Stillman, and Victoria Kerestes.





# Katie Spina '10 Elected National Delegate to the Association of American Medical Colleges' (AAMC) Student Organization

**There is an energy to Katie Spina, an MD-PhD student,** that underscores her passion for caring for others, scientific research, and teaching. Spina is one of five medical students chosen from across the country to serve on the board of the AAMC Organization of Student Representatives (OSR). The AAMC is the only national organization that represents all U.S. accredited medical schools, many teaching hospitals and health systems, faculty, students, and residents.

The OSR is charged with representing the national medical student body to the academic medicine community. Committed to improving medical education and helping to express concerns of her fellow medical students, Spina, a national delegate, is chairing the Medical Education Committee. She is aptly suited, based on her experience at BUSM with the medical education group working to overhaul the pre-clinical curriculum here. "I like being part of the process of changing things and creating new ones," said Spina, "and I love teaching and want to be a part of academic medicine."

Spina cares deeply about not only what she learns, but about how it is taught. She cares about the whole medical school experience, which keeps her involved in a variety of organizations and projects on campus. "I like to keep a balance between my studies and participation in issues and activities of importance to me," she notes. "I love doing many things and I can do that here." She serves as vice-chair of SCOMSA, the BUSM student government organization, and is the MD-PhD representative for the Class of 2010. She tutors medical and graduate students in physiology, mentors aspiring laboratory technicians in a campus biotechnology program, and continues her work on the Pre-clinical Curriculum Subcommittee helping craft changes to the School's curriculum.



In addition to the MD-PhD she is working on at BUSM, Spina has two other degrees from BU—a bachelor of arts with distinction in chemistry and a master of medical science with honors from the Graduate Medical Sciences program. Already a published researcher with a keen interest in scientific application, she works in the laboratory of Dr. Michael Holick (director of the General Clinical Research Center and professor of medicine, physiology and biophysics at BUSM) in the Department of Endocrinology, studying the effect of selected vitamin D analogues on colon cancer, as well as training other graduate students and assisting with their thesis work.

"I have always wanted to be a doctor," said Spina. "Where writers see the world in stories, bankers see money and numbers, I experience the world as the interaction between a network of scientific processes and human behavior." While a junior at BU,

she volunteered on a pediatric ward at the National Hospital of Niger, Africa, assisting the hospital physicians with evaluations and the dispensing of medications. She also traveled to India the summer after completing her undergraduate degree with the Himalayan Health Exchange. She trekked the Kashmiri Himalayan mountain range with a healthcare team that provides medical services to villages that are normally inaccessible. "These experiences taught me to approach medicine with all of my senses," said Spina. "Like research, good medical practice requires the systematic approach of asking well-designed questions, testing, observing, and interpreting data to gain insight."

Her goal while on the OSR is to initiate a site where students can easily access curricular profiles of each medical school containing the kind of data that gives a complete picture of the individual school. ★

## BUSM Student Receives Soros Fellowship for New Americans



**Twenty-four-year-old Eric Ding '11** was born in Shanghai and immigrated to the United States at the age of five. Overcoming many obstacles, including an impoverished childhood as an immigrant and a life-threatening experience with cancer, he has already distinguished himself academically, as a research scientist, and as a health-care activist.

His considerable accomplishments have earned him a 2008 Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowship for New Americans. Established

to recognize the contributions new Americans make to American life and in gratitude for the opportunities the United States has afforded the donors and their family, the fellowships are for graduate study in the professions and academic disciplines at any institution of higher education in the United States. "We founded the fellowship program to encourage young people with demonstrated leadership qualities, much like the Rhodes scholarships," said Mr. Soros.

Impassioned by personal life events, Ding's accomplishments include leading a two-year investigation into the drug safety of Vioxx and its

sister drugs that drew national attention. He is also the founder and director of the Campaign for Cancer Research, an international initiative with three million members that aims to develop more efficient avenues for cancer research and to encourage cancer prevention innovations. He currently serves as an appointed expert committee member on the World Health Organization's Global Burden of Disease Project.

A Phi Beta Kappa graduate in public health from Johns Hopkins University, Ding holds dual-degree doctorates from Harvard University in epidemiology and nutrition, where he was the youngest-ever graduate of his doctoral program.

With more than two dozen publications to his credit, he is leading a study of body size trends, obesity, and mortality among professional baseball players from 1875 to 2007 and is planning to develop an international cancer study via the cancer campaign.

"The Soros Fellowships recognize outstanding creativity, achievement, and commitment," notes Dean Antman. "Eric Ding is a highly accomplished young man who will continue to make important contributions to medicine as both a physician and a research scientist. He is most deserving of this honor." ★

## Student Research Presented at National Conferences



**Opportunities for students to do basic science and clinical research at BUSM are numerous.** In some cases the research is of such a high caliber that these nascent investigators are selected to present their findings at conferences held by professional organizations.

**Daniel Roberts '08** was chosen to present his clinical study, "Analysis of Recurrent ACE Inhibitor-Induced Angioedema (AIIA)," at the annual meeting of the Eastern

Section of the American Laryngological, Rhinological and Otological Society, also known as The Triologic Society.

Under the supervision of Elizabeth Mahoney, MD, assistant professor in the Department of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery, his aim was to characterize a patient's risk for recurrent AIIA, determine the cause for repeat episodes of AIIA, and recommend steps to be taken to minimize the recurrence of AIIA.

Angioedema is a known risk for patients taking ACE-Inhibitors (ACE-Is) that can involve the face, lips, oral cavity, and larynx. This upper airway obstruction may be severe enough to require an emergency department visit or even necessitate prompt airway intervention, yet patients with a history of one episode of AIIA are at risk for a subsequent episode even though the standard of care is to discontinue ACE-I therapy.

Roberts did a retrospective chart review of all patient encounters at Boston Medical Center between January 1, 1991, and December 30, 2005, with a diagnosis of angioedema. Risk factors for recurrence were categorized as patient factors, physician factors, or systems factors. His results found that physician error with failure to document in the medical record the suspicion of AIIA and the failure to consider risk in prescribing ACE-I after an episode of angioedema had occurred were the most common causes of recurrent AIIA. The study recommends modification to physician practices and systems safeguards.

In addition, BUSM student researchers recently presented at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Dermatology and the National Association of Emergency Medicine Service Physicians. ★



# '08 Grad Produces Film on Loss of Health-Care Providers in Lesotho, Africa

**Lesotho, a landlocked country hard hit by** the HIV/AIDS epidemic, also has a human resource crisis affecting the number of health-care providers. Kara-Lee Pool, MD '08, on her way to a residency in internal medicine at NYU School of Medicine, went to the Kingdom of Lesotho while a BUSM student to produce a film that documents the massive departure of its health-care professionals to the Republic of South Africa, which completely surrounds it.

The doctor/patient ratio in Lesotho is 1/15,000–25,000, according to Pool, who was born in the United States and raised in both Texas and South Africa. "MD candidates from Lesotho go to South Africa for their residency programs and never return to practice medicine in their native country," she said. "Once they cross the border to South Africa, they can earn up to three times more in salary."

After completing her rotation in international health at the Maluti Adventist Hospital in Mapoteng, Lesotho, Pool produced the film to educate her fellow students about the health-care challenges faced in resource-constrained settings, to raise general awareness about the situation in Lesotho, and to present a message that will help draw physicians and nurses back to Lesotho.

Known as the Lesotho Documentary Project, Pool's film chronicles efforts of the Lesotho-Boston Health Alliance (a BU/BUMC

collaboration) to retain medical staff and other steps to strengthen health care in Lesotho. Measures include the establishment of a family medicine residency program to give MD candidates incentive to return to Lesotho and treat the growing population of HIV/AIDS patients. Pool and her production team taped interviews with physicians and students—some of whom had left and others who had returned to Lesotho—as well as nurses, patients, and government officials—to record their stories and perspectives.

The film, called *Mountains of Hope*, premiered at the Coolidge Corner Theatre in Brookline, MA last winter as a benefit for Global Primary Care Inc. Financial assistance for the project included a \$10,000 award by the American Medical Association (AMA) Foundation and \$5,000 from Pfizer Corporation, as well as gifts from BUSM, Global Primary Care Inc., and Sara's Wish Foundation.

Ultimately, the patients Pool cared for while in Lesotho provided her greatest satisfaction and the film's reason for being. "They're beautiful, inside and out; kind and thankful for anything you do for them," she said. "They made me remember why I did the film and why I want to be a doctor." ★

Kara-Lee Pool, BUSM Class of 2008, with some of her favorite patients this July in Lesotho. The youngsters are dressed for the winter weather experienced in the Southern-Hemisphere country.



Pool joins her film director Patrick Christell and cinematographer Bryan Koss interviewing staff and patients at Maluti Adventist Hospital in Lesotho.

## "When Your Turn Comes, Help Others"

LILY MOO YOUNG, MD '65



**When Lily Moo Young entered her specialty** of pediatric hematology-oncology in the late 1960s, the outlook for her patients was dismal. She remembers the difficulty in treating these children and their families, knowing the medical arsenal for fighting blood-born cancers was very limited.

As the first in her specialty at Kaiser Permanente in California, she was practicing tertiary care in a primary care setting and didn't have the tools she needed. "But the nature of the work fascinated me," recalls Young. "And I soon learned what a privilege it is to get to know patients, to do whatever is humanly possible, and when necessary, try to help ease the coming loss."

Today, she is helping the young in another way. Her \$100,000 contribution to BUSM to establish the George and Rosa Young Endowed Scholarship will provide financial assistance to third- and fourth-year medical students who excel at one-on-one doctor-patient communications, demonstrate proficiency in nurturing and maintaining relationships with patients, and who have the ability to relate the most cogent explanation of medical information and treatment in a personal and human way.

Young chose BUSM to receive the first distribution from her IRA to fund a scholarship

that honors the memory of her mother and father. "Basically, my gift is a tribute to my parents. It captures what they envisioned about what education can do," said Young. "And they always told me, 'when your turn comes, help others.'"

Now retired as a professor *emerita* of clinical pediatrics at Stanford, she is a volunteer attending at Kaiser Permanente, teaching medical students and residents the value of taking the time to talk to patients and not to rely only on tests and technology to make a diagnosis and determine treatment.

"Dr. Young's belief in and practice of humanistic medicine is what we teach at BUSM," says Dean Antman. "Her gift helps make it possible for our students to become the kind of physicians we want and expect of our healthcare providers."

Lily Moo Young has fulfilled her parents' vision of educational opportunity and is passing on this vision to future generations. ★

## Career Development Professorships Fund Young Researchers

**Finding funding for your research is time-consuming and often an up-hill battle** for young investigators. For John Connor, PhD, assistant professor of microbiology, this process was made a little easier due to the generosity of Peter Paul (GSM'71). Paul, the president of the mortgage banking company Paul Financial, LLC, established the Peter Paul Career Development Professorships at Boston University with a pledge of \$1.5 million. Each professorship is funded with a \$50,000 annual award for three years to support research that the top young recipients might not otherwise be able to pursue.

Connor, an expert in the translation of viral and cellular RNAs in cells that are infected with negative-strand RNA viruses, is researching the vesicular stomatitis virus (VSV) as an antitumor agent. VSV is also a promising vector for the development of vaccines against certain emerging viruses because of its similarity to Marburg hemorrhagic fever, Ebola, and rabies.

"This kind of support helps jump-start a research career; it can bring immediate results as well as pave the way for greater future achievements," said Thomas Moore, MD, associate provost for clinical research at BUMC. "Mr. Paul's generosity is deeply appreciated." ★



Peter Paul is flanked by Paul Professorship recipient John Connor, PhD (left), and Thomas Moore, MD, associate provost for clinical research.



# Serchuck Awards for Student Research

**This year's Joan and Jerry Serchuck Awards** for outstanding research conducted during the Medical Student Summer Research Program were presented by Leslie Serchuck, MD '90. The awards are named in honor of Jerry Serchuck, chairman *emeritus* of BUSM's Board of Visitors, and his wife, Joan, longtime generous donors to the summer research program and parents of Dr. Serchuck.

Ryan Hunt '10 received the Serchuck Award for Best Clinical Science Poster titled "Declining Proportion of Shockable Rhythms in Out-of-Hospital Cardiac Arrests in an Urban EMS System," and Julia Kolmakova '10 received the award for Best Basic Science Poster for her study "The Role of Cdc45 in Regulation of DNA Replication of S-phase Checkpoint Signaling."

This is very exciting for me," said Serchuck. "I graduated from BUSM and did my pediatric residency and infectious disease fellowship here and then went to the National Cancer Institute to do research. For first- and second-year students to be doing this kind of work is an enriching experience at such an early stage of their education."

"We are doubly grateful to the Serchucks," says Dean Antman. "We have the honor of having their daughter as one of our graduates, and the benefit of their generosity to our students and future research scientists."

Dr. Serchuck's enthusiasm for the research has prompted her parents to double their annual gift. ✱



Flanking Leslie Serchuck, MD '90, are the 2008 BUSM Student Summer Research Symposium Serchuk Award winners, Julia Kolmakova '10 and Ryan Hunt '10.



## Ongoing appreciation

Robert Lafyatis, MD (left), associate professor of medicine and director of basic research, Arthritis Center, BUSM, displays a \$100,000 check presented by the American Society for Scleroderma Research (ACSR) to BUMC's Scleroderma Program. The ACSR was founded in 2004 by Joseph LoSchiavo after his daughter became ill with scleroderma, a chronic disease that involves the circulatory system, connective tissue and the immune system, and which affects more than 500,000 people in the United States. The BUMC program is New England's largest center for scleroderma research and clinical care. Above, Lafyatis is joined by ACSR officers (from left) Robert Decesare, LoSchiavo, Lou Turiano, Joy LoSchiavo, and Carmen Cartiglia.

Dear Alumni,

The Medical Campus is an exciting place to be. Cutting-edge research is being performed every day, our faculty are regularly honored for their contributions to medicine, and our students demonstrate the promise of future leaders in our profession. Dean Antman and the School's administration are planning and developing new programs and projects to meet the needs of training 21st-century physicians.

The new student housing plan will meet one of our most pressing needs. Dean Antman has recruited donors to help launch this initiative, and we look forward to many alumni contributing to the project. Providing scholarship support continues to be a top priority. The student stories in this issue illustrate the quality and dedication of our students. Their willingness to accept the financial burden to realize their goals is inspirational. I know we all sacrificed to become physicians, but this burden is becoming more and more challenging.

I am particularly pleased that Gerald Healy, MD '67, is featured in this issue. His outstanding work with the American College of Surgeons is of great value to all physicians.

Please take time to enjoy the photos from Alumni Weekend 2008. They illustrate the enjoyment and connection that the reunions and the alumni banquet create.

After more than 30 years as executive director of the Alumni Association, I have decided to step down as of July 1, 2008. Working with and coming to know the outstanding alumni of this institution have truly been an honor and a privilege for me. I thank all of the graduates of BUSM for your wonderful support of our Association that I know will continue for the benefit of the School and our students.

Barry M. Manuel, '58



Executive Director  
BUSM Alumni Association



## Alumni Host Students on Residency Interviews

The Alumni Association, in coordination with the BUSM Office of Student Affairs, established a program that offers students the opportunity to stay with alumni who live in areas where they are interviewing for residency slots. These alumni have generously opened up their homes, offered their time and expertise, and provided the always-appreciated meal, easing the financial strain as well as the anxiety of the residency selection process.



*"Now that interviews are over for the year, I just wanted to let you know what a great help the Alumni Association has been with the Host-a-Student program. I stayed with three alumni (in Chicago, Houston, and Cincinnati), and they were all very nice, helpful, and excellent hosts. I am sure that*

*once I am a few years out with substantial living space, I too will offer my services to this program. Thanks again."*

—SONIA TEWANI '08



*"I stayed with two people, one night each. The stay with each alum was wonderful, as they were very helpful and accommodating. One alum and his wife took me out to dinner, too!"*

—JENNIFER UYEDA '08



# Gerald Healy '67—Leading America's Surgeons, Advocating High Standards and Performance

**Installed as the 88th president** of the American College of Surgeons (ACS), Gerald Healy '67 is on a mission with an ambitious program of advocacy for his fellow surgeons. Otolaryngologist-in-chief at Children's Hospital Boston and professor of otology and laryngology and the Gerald B. Healy Chair in Pediatric Otolaryngology at Harvard Medical School, Healy is developing and promoting change in the culture of how surgeons interact with 21st-century medicine.

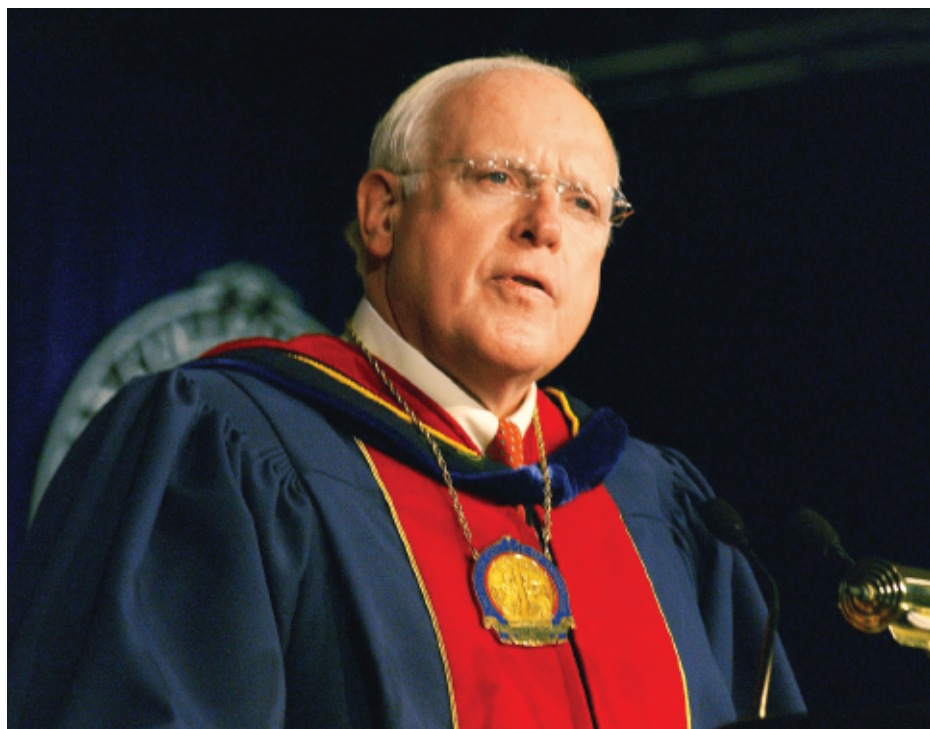
"That means we have to be attentive to the three things that I've made the centerpiece of my presidential year: competence, safety, and quality," said Healy.

"The public expects to be cared for by a competent surgeon who achieves quality outcomes in a safe environment," states Healy. "All of us must continuously evaluate our skills and outcomes through a process of lifelong, practice-based learning that enables us to learn and improve from every patient encounter."

The first otolaryngologist to serve as president of the ACS, he has been a fellow of the College since 1977, and has been actively involved in its governance, including serving as a member of the Board of Regents since 1997 and as chair for 2005–2006. He also served as president of the Massachusetts Chapter of the ACS.

His message is broad based and targeted to his fellow surgeons, the medical establishment, and the general public. He has appeared on nightly news programs and published op-ed pieces in major newspapers.

His initiative is driven by educational opportunities that include both Web-based options and courses held at the 27 ACS education centers around the country. He notes that seven more of these centers are planned. The courses focus on best practices, professionalism, communication, and team training. Metrics have been built into the training programs to measure their effectiveness as well as outcomes research.



"It is my firm belief that the major obstacle to the successful practice of safe, quality, and effective surgery is the failure to be proficient in three areas—interpersonal skills and communication, professionalism, and the ability to work effectively within systems," states Healy.

He notes that surgeons have the reputation for being unresponsive to patients and all too often fit the stereotype. "It is sometimes far too easy for us to become lost in the technical aspects of surgery and leave behind the human qualities, such as meaningful communication, that differentiate us from the surgical robot."

Healy is also exhorting his colleagues to become leaders of the teams that now characterize systems-based care. He refers to studies that have exposed the errors that occur every day in healthcare as support for the interdisciplinary, team-training programs he is promoting. "There is no question that this is the challenge of the 21st-century surgeon," states Healy. "We can no longer

be only surgeons. We must become leaders of high-performance teams."

An active scholar and lecturer, Healy publishes extensively in professional journals, books, and editorials. He has been the principal investigator of NIH-funded research addressing diseases affecting infants and children and has been cited for his pioneering work with laser surgery in children.

He is a member of numerous professional organizations and has served as president of the American Society of Pediatric Otolaryngology, the American Broncho-Esophagological Association, and the Triological Society (the leading academic society in the specialty of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery). He has served as secretary and president of the American Laryngological Association and is a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland.

"I tell my colleagues that the FACS (Fellow of the American College of Surgeons) that follows our name should also mean Forever A Caring Surgeon." ★

# BUSM Graduate and Global Health Activist Named to the University Board of Trustees

**John P. Howe III, '69**, the president and CEO of Project HOPE, a global health organization that provides medical training and emergency relief services throughout Africa, Asia, the Americas, and Europe, has been elected to the Boston University Board of Trustees.

"We are very pleased to have Dr. Howe join our board," said Alan Leventhal, chair of the Board of Trustees. "A man of his intelligence, integrity, global experience, and dedication to his alma mater is a welcome addition to the University's leadership, and I look forward to working with him."

Howe, who earned a bachelor's degree at Amherst College, served for two years in the Army Medical Corps after graduating from BUSM and later completed the Health Systems Management Program at Harvard Business School. Before joining Project HOPE in 2001, he served as the CEO of the University of Texas Health Center at San Antonio, where during his tenure the center raised \$250 million in contributions, quadrupled its research funding, and substantially increased its endowment.

Under Howe's leadership, Project HOPE has expanded its efforts to promote health awareness and education in developing countries around the world. Rates of breastfeeding in Malawi have quadrupled since Project HOPE started a program to reduce infant mortality there in 1999, and the percentage of children vaccinated in Guatemala doubled between 2001 and 2005 thanks to the organization's efforts. The group has trained more than two million people and has distributed \$1 billion in medicine and supplies since its founding as a peacetime hospital ship in 1958.

Howe holds board certification in cardiology and internal medicine and also chairs the Harvard College Board of Overseers Committee at Harvard's medical and dental schools. He is a member of the Board of Visitors at Boston University School of Public Health. The founding president of the Texas Society for Biomedical Research, he is a member and past chair of the American Medical Association's Council on Scientific Affairs and a past member of the U.S. Air Force Scientific Advisory Board. He received the School of Medicine's Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1994 and the University's Distinguished Alumnus Award in 2006.

Howe's other honors and awards include the U.S. Army Commander's Award for Public Service; the People of Vision Award from the Texas Society to Prevent Blindness; the Award of Excellence from the International Association of Business Communicators; the National Humanitarian Award from the National Jewish Center for Immunology and Respiratory Medicine; and the Surgeon General's Exemplary Service Award. ★



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## Alumni in Print

### Valerie Treloar, '85

Co-author, *The Clear Skin Diet*.

The book focuses on a healthy lifestyle to promote clear skin, including enough sleep, exercise, relaxation, stress management, and a healthy diet. A dermatologist and certified nutrition specialist, Treloar and her co-author, Alan Logan, have developed a holistic approach to preventing and treating acne. The book stresses a link between diet and acne and recommends a reduced-dairy diet.

(Cumberland House Publishing, 2007)

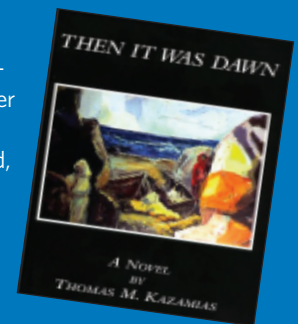


### Thomas Kazamias, '63

*Then It Was Dawn*

A novel of a woman's introspective journey through her life, her memories, and her emotions. A reviewer noted, "Not just a good book, but good literature that transcends the vicissitudes of literary fashion."

(Vantage Press, 2008)





# Alumni Association Spring Phonathon

**On March 11, fifty-three alumni and students gathered** in the Hiebert Lounge to call alumni to ask them to make their annual fund gift to the School of Medicine. A special initiative of this phonathon had some volunteers handwriting notes asking alumni to make donations to the Stethoscopes for Students Program and the Outreach Van Project.

The dedicated volunteers who make the phonathons possible raised \$159,000 in pledges for the 2007-2008 year. "We are truly fortunate at BUSM to have the kind of enthusiasm and involvement that these alumni and students demonstrate," said Donald Grande '73, phonathon director. "We are also deeply grateful to the many alumni who answer our calls and make a pledge."

## Phonathon volunteers:

|                       |                       |                      |                       |                        |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| George Aghia '09      | Tiffany Filippell '11 | William Lane '11     | Peter Pochi '55       | Jonathan Scabich, GMS  |
| Rama Ayyala '08       | Michael Friedberg '10 | Kristen Lindgren '11 | Vijay Ramalingam '08  | Ariel Shuckett '11     |
| Gerassimos Bastas '10 | Donald Grande '73     | Tracy Madsen '08     | Dallas Reed '09       | Yamin Shwe '11         |
| Charity Battle '10    | Jessica Gray '11      | Barry Manuel '58     | Brandi Ring '11       | Katherine Simon '08    |
| Nahomy Calixte '11    | Jameela Harper '08    | Patrick Marasco '83  | Roberto Rivas '11     | Christopher Simons '10 |
| Nicholas Denunzio '09 | John Hermos '65       | Walter McLean '60    | Charlena Robinson '10 | Sonia Tewani '08       |
| Jennifer de Sousa '11 | Jennifer Hsia '11     | Andrew Mohr '11      | Shanna Rone '11       | Powen Tu '10           |
| Patricia Donahue '78  | April Hurlston '08    | Kit Mui '08          | James Rosenberg '68   | Jennifer Uyeda '08     |
| Elizabeth Dooling '65 | Michelle Igbani '11   | Jennifer Nguyen '08  | Krystyn Ross '10      | Kevin Wang '08         |
| Jennifer Ducie '08    | Heather Imsande '10   | Brian O'Gara '10     | Babak Sadighi '10     | Huai Jen Yang '11      |
|                       | Christine Kannler '00 | Nimesh Patel '11     | Carmi Santos '08      | James Yeh '10          |



Clockwise from top left:

Phonathon volunteers Powen Tu '10 and John Hermos '65 congratulate each other on their fundraising success.

Patricia Donahue '78 (center) calls her classmates to encourage them to come to their 30th reunion as well as contribute to the School's annual fund. She is joined by fellow callers Tiffany Filippell '11 and James Yeh '10.

Displaying a phonathon calling card are phonathon volunteers Roberto Rivas '11 and Andrew Mohr '11.



# Alumni Weekend 2008

**Alumni, faculty, staff, and students of BUSM** enjoyed the variety of interesting, informative, and entertaining events of Alumni Weekend 2008. Members of Reunion classes in five-year intervals from 1948 to 2008 came from across the country to join in the campus- and city-wide activities.

The weekend started with a walk around the historic North End of Boston to sample the wonderful Italian cuisine of the area. The Leah Lowenstein Lecture followed, delivered by David Battinelli, MD, chief academic officer and senior vice president of academic affairs for the North Shore LIJ Health System, titled "The Challenges and Opportunities of Starting a New Medical School." On Friday evening, Alumni Association President Andrew Goldenberg '83 welcomed Reunion classes gathered at The Westin Copley Place for their class dinners.

After Duck Tours of Boston on Saturday morning, reunioners shared a barbecue lunch with Dean Karen Antman in the Hiebert Lounge. The wonderful BUSM student volunteers toured alumni and their guests around the campus, pointing out the many new facilities while the alumni shared their memories of the campus with their student guides.

The 133rd Annual Meeting and Banquet of the Alumni Association, held at The Westin Copley Place, featured the election of new association officers, award presentations, and welcoming the Class of 2008 as the newest members of the Alumni Association. President Goldenberg made a special presentation to Barry Manuel '58, honoring his service as the Association's executive director for more than 30 years and acknowledging his stepping down effective July 1, 2008. Ana-Cristina Vasilescu '84 assumed the presidency for the 2008-2009 year and on behalf of the alumni expressed appreciation for Dr. Goldenberg's efforts.



Anna DePold Hohler '98, her husband, David, with classmate Catherine Marin DeUgarte '98, her husband, Daniel, and Aaron Savar '03.



Louis Sullivan '58 driving the Duck as it enters the Charles River as part of the tour of Boston.



Members of the Class of 1988: (front row) Kate Phaneuf, Pei-Li Huang, Mary Wagner; (back row) Gilbert Mottla, Burton Lesnick, Daniel Lefton, Suniti Nimbkar, and Helen Kim at their 20th reunion.



Enjoying the barbecue luncheon are N. Paul Schepis '58 and his wife, Carole.





Alumni Association President Andrew Goldenberg '83 transfers the gavel to Ana-Cristina Vasilescu '84 after her election at the annual meeting as the new president of the Association for 2008-2009.



The Leah Lowenstein lecturer, David Battinelli, MD (second from left), is joined by Andrew Goldenberg '83, Louis Sullivan '58, and Barry Manuel '58.



Representing the Class of 2008, Kevin Wang and Jennifer Ducie offer their congratulations and thanks to their classmates, the School of Medicine, the Alumni Association, and their families.



Enjoying their 50th Reunion are Class of 1958 members David Jackson; Yi-Chun Ching and his wife, Helen; Paul Healy and his wife, Nancy; Robert Abrams and his wife, Frances; and Tad Powell.



Dean Antman joins Michael Barondes '83 and Arnold Pallay '83 at their Reunion.



The Class of 1983 was well represented at their 25th Reunion by Gary Warstadt, Michael Barondes, Alan Rothman, Arnold Pallay, Paul Kalb, Jeffrey Liebmann, and Andrew Goldenberg.



Flanked by Barry Manuel '58 and Andrew Goldenberg '83 are Emmet Eastman receiving the posthumous Humanitarian Award for his great uncle, Charles Eastman, 1890, and Distinguished Alumnus Award recipient Thomas Higgins '78.

## BUSM Confers Alumni Awards at 2008 Annual Meeting

### DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD

**Thomas L. Higgins '78** is professor of medicine and surgery, and associate professor of anesthesiology at Tufts University School of Medicine and the director of the Adult Critical Care Division at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, Massachusetts.

Higgins oversees the award-winning medical and surgical intensive care units at Baystate, and developed and serves as director of their Anesthesia/Critical Care Fellowship program. He is a member of the Baystate Medical Educational Foundation Board of Directors, and serves on numerous committees including the hospital's telemedicine initiative. Higgins received his MBA from the Isenberg School of Management at the University of Massachusetts and is a certified physician executive.

He is the editor of the *Journal of Cardiothoracic and Vascular Anesthesia* and is on the editorial board of *Seminars in Cardiothoracic and Vascular Anesthesia* and editorial board of *Critical Care Medicine*. Higgins is actively involved in NIH- and pharmaceutical-funded critical care research and has co-authored two textbooks on critical care, and more than sixty peer-reviewed publications.

### HUMANITARIAN AWARD (posthumously)

**Charles A. Eastman 1890** was one of the first Native Americans to earn a medical degree. An eyewitness to the events leading up to and following the Wounded Knee massacre in 1890, he was the only doctor available to the victims of the massacre where hundreds of Sioux were killed and many more wounded.

Born in 1859 a Lakota Sioux known as Ohiyesa, he was brought up as a traditional Sioux until he was 15, when his father took him to live among white society. He graduated from Dartmouth College and after receiving his medical degree, he worked on tribal reservations for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, but his complaints of corruption and the cover up of the brutal massacre cost him his job. He also had worked to convince tribal members to get vaccinated to help eliminate some of the diseases devastating the Sioux.

An accomplished physician and highly acclaimed writer, he published 10 books including two autobiographical accounts of his youth, *Indian Boyhood* and *From the Deep Woods to Civilization*, which were widely credited with raising white awareness of Indian issues. He served as an advocate in Washington, DC, for the Sioux people, and he was also renowned as a preserver of Sioux legends, myths, and history. He died in 1939.



# Class Notes

## 1952

**Nicholas Giosa** of Wethersfield, CT, writes, "As we age and time taps us on the shoulder, may I share my poem with my classmates who are still with us."

### Final Queries

How then will it unfold  
When time has played its hand  
And the only promise  
Of tomorrow is its own demise:  
When the instruments of song  
Are without breath or bow;  
Melodies interred in wandering memory;  
The senses, as January weeds?

In the winter of our stay  
When the sun is thin and widely spread  
Across a dwindling western sky;  
Where ambition, once a compelling stream,  
Now in iced arrest;  
The heart, once the font of exaltation—  
A reservoir of resolve—  
Now languid in long diastole,  
Finding in its accustomed place;

What then will prove relevant,  
Put passion into play?  
From what unfathomed depths,  
From what black hole of drawn despair  
Will we escape to summon  
Breath for one last song,  
The reach, for one last poem,  
The strength, not to turn away  
From night, which soon, must surely come?  
December, 2000

## 1958

**Ralph D. Powell Jr.** of Minnetonka, MN, writes, "I'm continuing to work: teaching, service, and research in anatomic pathology."

## 1966

**David H. Zornow** of Delmar, NY, writes, "Iva and I are still in Albany, NY, where my practice has grown to 13 urologists (Ramsey Kuo, BUSM Class of '95, joined us this year). I plan to decrease that to 12 when I retire at the end of March. We hope to spend more time at our home in Fripp Island, SC, and visiting our youngest daughter and her husband in Modesto, CA. Home base will still be Albany where our other two children reside as well as our two grandchildren. Classmates are welcome in Albany or South Carolina."

## 1967

**Susan E. Bradford** of Hillsborough, NC, writes, "First grandchild, Sydney Elizabeth Lund, born 11/24/06. When not babysitting, I do pathology locums."

## 1972

**Bruce K. Shapiro** of Owings Mills, MD, writes, "I have been promoted to professor of pediatrics at Johns Hopkins. Liz continues her clinical work as a nurse practitioner and is focusing on patient safety/communication. Our children are pursuing their careers: Rachel in rheumatology, Melissa in public relations, and David in business."

## 1974

**Martha B. Scott** of Cape Elizabeth, ME, writes, "Practicing emergency medicine in Portland, ME. All three sons living in NYC; oldest in surgical residency at New York—Presbyterian Hospital. At least one willing to proudly hold on high the torch of medicine!"

**Nelson H. Shub** of Oxford, CT, wishes his classmates to know that his daughter, Jennifer, is engaged to be married to Scott, the son of fellow classmate, **Paul M. Leiman '74**.

## 1976

**John F. Schneider** of Cincinnati, OH, writes, "Ronna and I are still happily living in Cincinnati. I am president and CEO of The Ohio Heart and Vascular Center, a group of 38 cardiologists and cardiac surgeons. I am still actively practicing as an interventional cardiologist. Ronna is a professor of law at the University of Cincinnati. Our oldest son, Sam, is a commercial real estate investment broker in Manhattan; middle son, Ben, is an options trader in Chicago with Susquehanna International Group; and our youngest, Julia, is a junior at the University of Michigan (pre-med!). If any of you are in Cincinnati, look us up."

## 1977

**Phillip S. Barie** of New York, NY, writes, "I am in my 24th year on the Cornell faculty, now as professor of surgery (with tenure) and professor of public health. I am the medical director of our Level I trauma center, which is now the busiest in New York City. In 2003, I received a Master of Business Administration degree from Auburn University, and my new skills and interest in the management of nonprofit organizations have afforded me the honor of becoming president of several professional organizations, including the New York State Society of Surgeons, the Surgical Infection Society, the Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma, and The Halsted Society. In February 2008, I became president of the Society of Critical Care Medicine, a 14,000-member multi-professional organization of intensive care professionals. I send my best to my classmates and everyone in the BUSM community."

## 1979

**Charles M. Blitzer** of Durham, NH, writes, "Sandy and I continue to enjoy living in New Hampshire. I now represent the state in the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgery and am currently vice president of the New Hampshire Medical Society."

**Edward R. White** of Damariscotta, ME, writes, "I have entered the next stage of my career; full-time locums orthopaedics. My first assignment is two months on an Indian Reservation, one hour north of Missoula, MT, in a town called Ronan. My wife, Daria, and I plan to get balance and control of life, spending as much time in France and Italy as possible but also maintaining our home on the mid-Maine coast. I'm in constant contact with **Frank Pomposelli '79**, see **Charlie Blitzer '79** once a year at the Academy meeting, and speak with **John Polio '79** once a year on his birthday. Peace."

## 1981

**Wayne K. Goodman** of Gainesville, FL, writes, "I am currently taking a break from being department chair at the University of Florida to serve as director of Adult Translational Research at NIMH in Bethesda."



**M. Elizabeth Oates** of Lexington, KY, has been named chair of the Department of Diagnostic Radiology at the University of Kentucky College of Medicine. Oates was formerly professor and vice

chair for the Department of Radiology at UMass Medical School and has been a professor of radiology at BUSM and Tufts University School of Medicine. She will lead a department of more than 40 physicians and residents and 160 staff. With more than 80 publications to her credit, Oates' research includes anatomic/physiologic correlative imaging and fusion imaging, hepatobiliary scintigraphy and pharmacologic interventions, nuclear endocrinology, and scintigraphic diagnosis of infection and inflammatory processes.

## 1985

**Michael I. Leitman** of Roslyn Heights, NY, writes, "I have been appointed chief of general surgery at Beth Israel Medical Center in New York City. I am very pleased to see excellent BUSM students apply for our surgical residency."

## 1989

**Eric J. Sax** of Lincoln, MA, has joined the radiology service at Emerson Hospital. He joins a team that uses the most advanced technology available to generate three-dimensional images that enable quicker, more accurate diagnoses. Sax is an assistant professor of radiology at Tufts Medical School. He is active in teaching, presenting grand rounds

and other conferences to physicians, nurses, and technological staff. Active in both the Massachusetts Radiological Society and the American College of Radiology, he has also lobbied at the state and federal levels on behalf of the American College of Radiology, guided the profession's policies and procedures as a councilor for the American College of Radiology, and led the state's American College of Radiology chapter as a past president and a member of the executive committee of the Massachusetts Radiological Society.

## 1990

**Jean E. Ramsey** of Hamilton, MA, was elected to the position of vice-chair of the Council of the American Academy of Ophthalmology. She is an associate professor of ophthalmology and pediatrics at BUSM and director of the Pediatric Ophthalmology Service at Boston Medical Center. As part of her responsibilities as vice-chair, Ramsey will also serve as a member of the American Academy of Ophthalmology Board of Trustees for the next two years, with an anticipated two years to follow as chair of the Council.

**Fiona M. Wilmot** of San Francisco, CA, writes, "I work for a not-for-profit health plan, Blue Shield of California. In my roles as chair of the Medical Policy and Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committees, I review new technologies and medications and work with academicians and practicing physicians to develop an evidence-based use of these technologies. I also manage our transplant network. My work is challenging and exciting. I get to keep up with new advances and devices, and each day I get to use all of my previous training and experience as an internist/hospitalist as well as what I learned about healthcare financing during my MPH. I have not done a great job of keeping up with classmates, but do hear of folks from time to time. Shoot me an e-mail and let me know how you are doing!"

## 1995

**Praveen V. Mummaneni** of San Francisco, CA, writes, "Valli and I have moved to the Bay Area, and I have joined the neurosurgery faculty at UCSF. We have two children, Nikhita is six years old and Nikhil is four years old."

## 2003

**Sergey M. Urman** of Brighton, MA, was appointed assistant professor of ophthalmology at BUSM and attending physician in the Department of Comprehensive Ophthalmology Services at Boston Medical Center. He is a member of the American Academy of Ophthalmology, the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery, and the Massachusetts Medical Society.

# In Memoriam

## 1935

**Charles Saltzman** of Framingham, MA, on February 8, 2008, at the age of 95. He was the last surviving member of the class of 1935. He is survived by his beloved wife, children, three grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

## 1941

**Wilmer P. Heath** of Needham, MA, on October 22, 2007, at the age of 90. A general practitioner and internist for more than 40 years, he had a solo office practice from his home in Newtonville, MA, until 1969. He was later instrumental in founding Newton-Wellesley Internists. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He is survived by three sons, three step-children, 12 grandchildren, and 10 great grandchildren.

## 1945

**Edward F. Caruso** of Longmeadow, MA, on February 21, 2008, at the age of 90. A pediatrician, he served on the staff of Mercy Hospital (now Mercy Medical Center) and the staffs of Springfield Wesson Memorial and Wesson Women's Hospitals, the latter now merged with Baystate Medical Center, where he was the last community-based chief of pediatrics. He also established a private practice in pediatrics in his hometown of Springfield, MA. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II and on post-war occupation duty in Yokohama, Japan. He is survived by his five children, seventeen grandchildren, one great granddaughter, nieces, and a nephew.

**J. Scott Pennepacker** of Missoula, MT, on December 20, 2007, at the age of 86. A pathologist, he served as associate pathologist at St. Luke's Regional Medical Center and medical director of its School of Medical Technology. During his years in Sioux City, IA, he was medical director of Siouxland Physicians' Laboratory and president of United Way of Siouxland. During World War II, he served as a U.S. Army physician at American Lake Veterans Hospital, Washington. He served as president of the Eastern Montana Medical Society and the Montana Chapter of the American Academy of General Practice. In 1984 he was honored by the College of American Pathologists as the recipient of the Frank W. Hartman Memorial Award for meritorious service. He is survived by two sisters and many nieces and nephews.

## 1952

**Vincent J. Frascatore** of Newton, MA, on October 31, 2007, at the age of 85. An internist, he worked for more than 35 years at Newton-Wellesley Hospital. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II. He is survived by four children and three grandchildren.

**William J. Shapiro** of Boca Raton, FL, on December 25, 2007, at the age of 82. An obstetrician, he practiced in New York City at Mt. Sinai Medical Center for more than 30 years. He was a POW during World War II. He is survived by his beloved wife, two sons, five grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

## 1956

**James D. Kenney** of New Haven, CT, on November 29, 2007, at the age of 78. A rheumatologist, he served as associate dean for postgraduate and continuing medical education at Yale University School of Medicine. He also taught medical students and medical residents at Yale and was an editor for *The Medical Letter*. He was a fellow of the American College of Physicians and a founding fellow of the American College of Rheumatology. In 2002, Yale established the James D. Kenney Lectureship in his honor. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1958 to 1960. He is survived by his wife, a daughter, a son, and four grandchildren.

## 1957

**Roger I. Hassid** of Yorktown Heights, NY, on August 15, 2007, at the age of 76. An obstetrician-gynecologist, he is survived by his beloved wife, two children, and three grandchildren.

## 1958

**Mortimer J. Buckley** of Osterville, MA, on November 24, 2007, at the age of 75. Professor of surgery at Harvard Medical School and chief of cardiac surgery at Massachusetts General Hospital for 28 years, he helped refine the clinical use of the intra-aortic balloon pump and helped develop ways to correct congenital heart defects in children. He served as president of the American Association for Thoracic Surgery and had received the American Heart Association's Paul Dudley White Award. He also received the BUSM Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1982. He is survived by his wife, three daughters, a son, and 10 grandchildren.

## 1966

**George Panteledes** of Marblehead, MA, on January 5, 2008, at the age of 67. A psychiatrist, he was on staff at the Salem and Beverly Hospitals. He was also a certified forensic psychiatrist. He is survived by a daughter, a son, a brother, two sisters, and two grandchildren.





Howard Bauchner '79 and Jean Ramsey '90, assistant deans for alumni affairs, with Barry Manuel '58, executive director of the Alumni Association.

## Barry Manuel '58 honored by area foundations and hospitals

Barry Manuel, founder and chairman of the Professional Liability Foundation (PLF) since its beginning, stepped down this year from his leadership position. The PLF thrived under Manuel's direction and came to represent 90 percent of the malpractice programs in the region.

An acclamation was adopted by Massachusetts health-care institutions to recognize his "dedication, experience, and valued service as the chairman of the Professional Liability Foundation, Ltd.; for his long-term devotion and commitment to improving the quality and affordability of patient health care through medical liability insurance system reform, as well as addressing the needs of health-care providers ..." Some of the institutions signing the acclamation included Children's Hospital Medical Center; Dana-Faber Cancer Institute, Inc.; Partners Healthcare System; Joslin Diabetes Center, Inc.; Judge Baker Children's Center, Inc.; Harvard Vanguard Medical Associates; Massachusetts Institute of Technology; and the President and Fellows of Harvard College.

The PLF Board of Directors voted unanimously to appoint him chairman *emeritus*.

## BUSM Alumni Association

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Jean E. Ramsey '90

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# New COPD Performance Improvement Website

**In response to the increased demands by** government agencies and third-party payers for demonstrated improvements in quality of care, Boston University School of Medicine Continuing Medical Education (BUSM CME) has launched **MENTORQI.com**, a performance improvement activity on Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD).

The Center of Medicare and Medicaid Services and managed care organizations are taking a close look at specific measures of performance, putting health-care providers under pressure to improve the quality of care that they offer to patients. In 2004, the

American Medical Association released criteria for offering continuing medical education (CME) credits for performance improvement activities. As a result, health-care providers can now look to CME as a support system to guide them in their efforts to make meaningful improvements in their practices.

BUSM CME has been at the forefront of developing innovative performance improvement activities. This latest project is a full-scale national initiative aimed at primary care clinicians in the United States. COPD diagnosis and treatment has been recognized as one of the major priorities of national agencies

dedicated to advancing quality of care. Through a Web-based interface, participants can focus on assessing their treatment of COPD by completing each stage of a performance improvement activity: initial assessment of practice through a chart review, development of an action plan, and follow-up assessment and reflection. Clinicians have access to faculty mentors who can answer questions and offer practical advice to help overcome the common barriers to effective COPD treatment. Participants can utilize the resource library and list of suggested evidence-based quality improvement interventions, all hosted on MENTORQI.com. ★

## Audio-Digest Foundation Endows CME Programs

The Audio-Digest Foundation has pledged ongoing support for the training programs of the Department of Continuing Medical Education (CME) at BUSM. The foundation has already contributed \$100,000 over five years for an endowment fund.

The foundation provides continuing professional education to physicians and provides support for the training through contributions, grants, and scholarships. "It's our way of giving back to those institutions that work

with us to provide high-quality continuing education," said Lon Osmond, Audio-Digest Foundation vice president. "We hope others will contribute to the fund so that it will grow and provide long-term support for their excellent programs."

"This is a wonderful recognition of our academic achievement," said Barry Manuel, MD '58, associate dean for continuing medical education at BUSM. "We are most grateful for the foundation's generous support."

For information contact:

**Continuing Medical Education**  
**Boston University School of Medicine**  
 715 Albany Street, A305, Boston, MA 02118  
 Telephone: 617-638-4605  
 E-mail: [cme@bu.edu](mailto:cme@bu.edu)

## Self-Directed CME Opportunities

**COPD Performance Improvement Initiative**  
[www.mentorqi.com](http://www.mentorqi.com)

This self-directed performance improvement activity will require the following:

**Stage A:** Review 10 charts using MENTORQI.com to gather a "snapshot" of your current practice.

**Stage B:** Develop an action plan to guide you while you make improvements to your practice using the list of suggested interventions on MENTORQI.com.

**Stage C:** Review 10 additional charts using MENTORQI.com to gather a second "snapshot" of your practice three months after you have implemented your action plan.

### Theory into Practice Systems (TIPS)

[www.bu.edu/cmetips](http://www.bu.edu/cmetips)  
 Online modules designed to work with you as you implement new patient management techniques in your practice learned through a series of educational activities.

**TIPS: Diabetes Module**

**TIPS: Colorectal Cancer Screening Module**



# BUSM Calendar of Events 2008-2009

## **White Coat Ceremony and Welcoming Reception for Incoming Students**

Talbot Green  
Monday, August 11, 2008, 1:30 p.m.

## **Dean's Club Dinner**

Trustees Ballroom, Boston University  
Saturday, September 20, 2008, 6 p.m.

## **BUSM Alumni Association Fall Phonathons**

Hiebert Lounge, BUSM  
Thursday, October 23, 2008, 5:30 p.m.  
Tuesday, October 28, 2008, 5:30 p.m.

## **BUSM Alumni Association Spring Phonathon**

Hiebert Lounge, BUSM  
Tuesday, March 10, 2009, 5:30 p.m.

## **AOA Induction Ceremony**

Boston University Castle  
Monday, March 16, 2009, 7 p.m.

## **Match Day, BUSM**

Thursday, March 19, 2009, noon

## **Chester S. Keefer, MD, Society Dinner**

April 2009

## **Board of Visitors Meeting**

May 2009

## **Alumni Weekend**

The Westin Copley, Boston  
Friday and Saturday, May 8 and 9, 2009

## **Commencement Weekend**

Friday-Sunday, May 15-17, 2009

## Continuing Medical Education Conferences 2008-2009

### **October 27-29, 2008**

The 9th International Symposium on  
Virtual Colonoscopy  
BOSTON, MA

### **November 7, 2008**

23rd Annual Smithwick Symposium:  
Recent Advances in Management of  
Peripheral Arterial Disease  
BOSTON UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, BOSTON, MA

### **January 2-6, 2009**

The 25th Annual Conference on  
Obstetrics, Gynecology, Perinatal  
Medicine, Neonatology, and the Law  
INTERCONTINENTAL PLAYA BONITA  
RESORT & SPA, PANAMA

### **January 5-8, 2009**

The 9th Annual Conference on Medical  
Negligence and Risk Management in  
Medicine, Surgery, Emergency Medicine,  
Radiology, Psychiatry, and Family Medicine  
INTERCONTINENTAL PLAYA BONITA  
RESORT & SPA, PANAMA

### **April 20-24, 2009**

Current Clinical Pediatrics  
HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SC

For information contact:

## **Continuing Medical Education Boston University School of Medicine**

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