Medical Alumni Weekend 2007

HUNDREDS OF ALUMNI RETURNED TO UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI MILLER SCHOOL OF MEDICINE TO SHARE THE EXPERIENCE OF THEIR LIVES AT MEDICAL ALUMNI WEEKEND ON MARCH 2-4.

Kicking off the festivities, alumni welcomed incoming freshmen to the Miller School family at the Seventh Annual John G. Clarkson Freshman Pinning Ceremony in the Schonberger Research Quadrangle on Friday evening. The ceremony emphasizes professional expectations and responsibilities, reinforcing the primacy of the doctor-patient relationship and, most importantly, promoting humanity.

J. Donald Temple, M.D. ’78, associate professor of medicine and director of the Office of Professional Development and Career Guidance, was also presented with the Association of American Medical Colleges Humanism in Medicine Award. The goal of the award is to emphasize and reinforce among medical school students and faculty the importance of humanistic qualities and the enhancement of the interactions between medical school students and faculty. The presence of a caring, compassionate, and collaborative learning environment serves as positive reinforcement to prospective physicians of the desirability of such qualities in the doctor-patient relationship.

Following the ceremony, senior vice president for medical affairs and dean of the Miller School of Medicine Pascal J. Goldschmidt, M.D., invited alumni, students, and friends to partake in a healthy meal under the stars. During the weekend, alumni relaxed in the sun and enjoyed catching up with old friends, toured the campus, or continued their medical education. Classes were taught by Miller School graduates and by new faculty recruits, such as world-renowned cardiac surgeon Joshua M. Hare, M.D., professor of medicine and biomedical engineering, and director of the new Interdisciplinary Stem Cell Institute, who explained his latest research with mesenchymal stem cells and new paradigms of cell-based therapy in cardiac regeneration. Joely Kaufman, M.D. ’97, who left private practice to join the UM Cosmetic Center as assistant professor of clinical dermatology, discussed what works and what doesn’t work in the treatment of aging of the skin, and Michael Ozner, M.D. ’73, cardiologist and associate professor of medicine and cardiology, explained why a Mediterranean diet has been proven to increase life expectancy.

On Saturday scholarship students joined alumni for the Scholarship Donor Recognition Lunch where they had an opportunity to thank them for their generosity and support of the John K. Robinson Fund. Reunion dinners for the classes of ’57, ’67, ’77, ’82, ’87, and ’97 followed an evening cocktail reception at The Biltmore Hotel. Jon R. Cohen, M.D. ’79, and Daniel Barry, M.D. ’82, Ph.D., were also inducted at the Hall of Fame Banquet. Cohen gave an inspiring speech on the state of medicine, and Barry encouraged the group to “reach for the stars.”

On Sunday medical students hosted the Senior Class Golf Tournament at the Country Club of Miami, and the Coral Gables Historic Society offered tours of The Biltmore Hotel that included a discussion of the history of the medical school, which was originally housed at the hotel. After the traditional Farewell Breakfast, alumni headed home with great memories, fresh ideas, and renewed friendships.

Many thanks to our class reunion chairs: Linda Bach, M.D. ’97, Steve Falcone, M.D. ’87, Mark Multach, M.D. ’82, Richard McCauley, M.D. ’77, Scott Jaben, M.D. ’77, James Pickens, M.D. ’67, Terry Reisman, M.D. ’67, Ken Rothenberg, M.D. ’67, Joan Osheroff Harris, M.D. ’57, and Mickey Demos, M.D. ’57, and to the countless others who helped make alumni weekend such a terrific success.
The University of Miami Miller School of Medicine received a $5 million grant from the North Dade Medical Foundation in February to establish a permanent endowment fund to be known as the North Dade Medical Foundation M.D. Scholarship Fund.

“We are very happy to present this check to this wonderful institution,” said George F. Davies, M.D., chairman of the North Dade Medical Foundation. “We feel that by giving these funds to the Miller School of Medicine we are ensuring a level of commitment and care to the community that will continue through its students.”

The North Dade Medical Foundation grant will allow the Miller School to supplement, not replace, the current numbers and amounts of scholarships for M.D.-degree students and will make a tremendous impact not only on the students but on the medical school as well. “Since the Miller School is still relatively young, it doesn’t have significant endowment funds for scholarship money that can be used to help relieve the debt load for students,” says University of Miami President Donna E. Shalala. “Only about one-quarter of our students receive financial aid that does not have to be repaid. Not only does this place a huge burden on the medical graduate, but it may also influence their decision about which medical specialty to pursue.”

The realistic cost for one year of medical school is estimated at $51,000, making the full four years more than $200,000. The heavy financial burden medical students face upon graduation often influences their choice of a higher-paying specialty, rather than more socially needed but potentially less lucrative specialties.

“Creating resources for medical education is the most challenging, but also the most important part of our mission,” says Miller School of Medicine Dean Pascal J. Goldschmidt, M.D. “If we don’t pass on our knowledge to the next generation, all our work will have been for naught. I guarantee that we will make you proud of what comes out of your generous gift.”

Medical student Karen Jones shared her experience, saying, “As scholarship recipients, we are not only released of some of our debt burden, but we are also freed up to truly pursue our areas of interest, rather than choosing the field that will give us the most financial return. But it also helps us beyond medical school; by not having such a huge burden of debt we can also choose to pursue research or return to our hometowns and open a private practice to provide more access to health care for community members.”

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**Wendy Quirino, Class of 2007**

Not only did it help me with the finances to pursue my M.D., but it also increased my confidence to undertake it.

**Undergraduate Degree:** Bachelor of Science in Biology  
**School:** University of Miami  
**Hometown:** Sao Paulo, Brazil  
**Interests/Hobbies:** Romance languages— fluent in Portuguese, Spanish, and French; travelling, foreign policy/international relations

**Medical Interest:** Currently applying for training (residency) in obstetrics and gynecology, public health

**Hyosun Han, Class of 2007**

My scholarship has provided me an opportunity to put my energy not only into my studies but also into all of my extracurricular interests. I look back on my medical school experience, and I cannot believe that I was able to be involved in so many projects in international health, medical education, and community service.

**School:** Columbia University  
**Hometown:** Richmond, Virginia  
**Interests/Hobbies:** Eating, dancing, cooking, travelling, listening to NPR  
**Medical Interest:** Internal medicine, gastroenterology, hematology/ oncology

**Medical assistance:** Miller School Dean Pascal J. Goldschmidt, M.D., shakes hands with George F. Davies, M.D., chairman of the North Dade Medical Foundation, at the gift announcement event.

**Student Presents Research at National Nephrology Conference**

Medical student Jessica Loring was very grateful to have been afforded the opportunity to travel to San Diego to attend the American Society of Nephrology’s 39th Annual Meeting and Scientific Exposition—Renal Week 2006—last November and present her study, “The Effects of Length of Residence on the Prevalence of Elevated Blood Pressures and Cardiovascular Risk Factors in the Haitian American Community.” Her trip was funded by a John K. Robinson Grant for Student Initiatives.

“I was able to attend symposia and workshops led by world-renowned clinicians and scientists, such as the director of the National Institutes of Health, and network with physicians and researchers with similar interests,” says Loring, a student in the Miller School’s M.D./Ph.D. program. “I also learned about cutting-edge approaches to the management and treatment of renal disease via the poster session and exhibitor showcase.”

She plans to share with her classmates the positive feedback and commentary from those presenting related research, its implications for primary care, and directions for future research.

“The activities in which I participated at the ASN’s annual meeting have reinvigorated my commitment to medical research, and I look forward to taking part in similar conferences as my training and career progress,” says Loring.

Renal Week 2006, which had the theme “Translating Scientific and Technological Advances: Progress and Promise for Treating Renal Disease,” was attended by more than 13,000 nephrologists from around the world. The event focused on major advances in biomedical and clinical sciences, as well as new insights into practical aspects of clinical nephrology.
W hat better job could there be than bringing life into the world?” asks Jacques Moritz, M.D. ’88, director of the Division of Gynecology at St. Luke’s-Roosevelt Hospital Center in New York City. Moritz has had an interesting journey since he graduated from the Miller School of Medicine in 1988.

Moritz has been a member of the obstetrics and gynecology faculty since 1995 and director of the gynecology division since 2000. “I was surprised when they asked me to do it. I was only 35 years old, and I told them I was too young—but they thought I could do it, and I’ve been doing it for 12 years. So I guess they were right.”

In an unplanned series of coincidences he has become the doctor who delivers celebrities’ babies. “It started with Susan Sontag, and I didn’t even know who she was,” says Moritz, “and then came Christy Turlington, Conan O’Brien, Annie Leibowitz, and Kelly Ripa, and then a friend would tell another friend and it just kind of happened. I can’t explain it.”

As a student at the Miller School of Medicine, he became deeply interested in obstetrics and gynecology and spent his last year in school doing ITP research with Yeon S. Ahn, M.D., professor of medicine. “I never went looking for it,” he says, “it just kind of found me. I had done some undergrad work at UH in video journalism, and then this sort of happened.”

Moritz’s philosophy of medicine is very simple: “I was taught to treat every woman as if she is your daughter, wife, or mother,” he says. “If you do this, you will never have a problem.”

Collaboration Is Key at New Clinical Research Building and in Statewide Alliances

R esearchers and staff are moving into the Miller School’s new Clinical Research Building, which includes more than 300,000 square feet of research space devoted to areas such as patient safety, pediatrics, and clinical pharmacology. Designed to help translate and speed research from the laboratory to the bedside, the key principle guiding the progressive work in the building is collaboration—between basic scientists, physicians, and patients. This building also houses the new 60,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art Medical Wellness Center.

In addition to internal collaboration, the Miller School is an integral force driving the growth of bioscience in the state of Florida by reaching out and forging collaborations with other top-tier research organizations. UM is actively collaborating with Scripps Florida in Palm Beach County, the University of South Florida in Tampa, the University of Florida in Gainesville, and Florida A&M University in Tallahassee, and is looking forward to developing meaningful collaborations with the Burnham Institute in St. Lucie County, Torrey Pines in Orlando, M.D. Anderson in Orlando, Florida State University in Tallahassee, Florida International University in Miami, and Nova Southeastern University in Broward County.

In addition, the University is actively participating on the boards of the Florida Research Consortium, FLCURED, BioFlorida, the South Florida Bioscience Consortium, and iCoast, and works closely with major economic development organizations like The Beacon Council, West Palm Beach Development Board, Enterprise Florida, and Enterprise Development Corporation.

**STUDENT VOICE**

**A** s the final chapter of our medical school careers comes to a close, I cannot help but reflect on the amount of change that has occurred over this past year. Career decisions were made, many airline tickets were purchased, soul-searching conversations were had, dark suits resurrected from the corners of closets, etc. In times of great change such as this, one would expect nerves to be frayed, for anxiety to be running at a high. But finally being able to see the finish line ahead of you has the ability to do that, to provide you with just enough calm and infuse you with just enough energy to kick out those last few steps.

As we wait to begin our intern year, our collective job now has become to enjoy our last few months of “freedom” — to finally get around to doing those things that clinical duties and med school in general have done such a great job in preventing these last three-and-a-half years, like spending some quality time with family and friends.

For those of us who have stayed in Miami, though, our senior class has put together quite the to-do list. We kicked off our local Farewell tour of sorts in early March with our fifth annual senior golf tournament to raise funds for commencement. A week later, our classmates shuttered on some SPF 30 and headed to the Calle Ocho festival to staff our class refreshment booth, raising money to fund more senior activities. Match Day occurred later that week, which magnified our festive spirits as we now had the chance to celebrate with friends and family who came to share our experience.

Collaborator: The Miller School’s new Clinical Research Building is re-engineering the way medical research is conducted.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

- Construction is under way for the new 182,000-square-foot Biomedical Research Institute on the Miller School campus. This $70 million wet lab and research building is expected to bring $150 million in research funding to the Miller School.
- Each year the Miller School of Medicine’s 800 faculty physicians handle more than 1 million patient visits in primary care and more than 30 specialties. In addition to the medical school’s relationship with its primary teaching hospital, Jackson Memorial Hospital, clinical facilities are located at the Miami Veterans Affairs Medical Center, five primary care centers in Miami-Dade County, and a half-dozen area hospitals. Select services are now available at the Ponce de Leon Medical Center, which serves patients in nearby Ponce Inlet.
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1970s
Dan Appelrouth, M.D. ’70, also known as the “singing doctor,” just produced his first CD, My Memories. All profits will go to help feed the hungry in Atlanta. He can be reached at 678-296-9706 or danappel@bellsouth.net. Jorge J. Guerra Jr., M.D. ’72, has been named associate vice president for clinical affairs at the Miller School of Medicine and chief medical officer of the University of Miami Medical Group. Guerra is a professor of radiology and has been chairman of the governing board of the medical group.
Kathryn Ramirez Zodi, M.D. ’79, is practicing dermatology, limited to the treatment of skin cancer. She is also authoring medical information books and trying to travel a bit (including the 2008 reunion). With grown children and no grandchildren yet, she and husband Fred Ramize, J.D., are empty nesters.

1980s
Pedro Carraglio, M.D. ’82, has been in private practice in orthopedic surgery in Miami since 1987. He and his wife, Arlene, are very proud parents of sons Danny, a junior, pre-med student at the University of Miami, and Christopher, a junior at Gulliver Prep School. Karl Goodkin, M.D. ’82, Ph.D. ’84, Miller School professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences, neurology, and psychology, wrote an article, “The Dawn of a New Morning,” for Science and Spirit. The article was published to coincide with the fifth anniversary of the September 11 attacks. Michael E. Shapiro, M.D. ’87, is the president and CEO of Physician Technologies, Inc. (www.ptiinc.net), a company devoted to assisting doctors to bring their ideas to market. To date, PTI has successfully launched one product, the infusion catheter epidural, has five products FDA certified, successfully completed three clinical trials, and anticipates bringing an additional four products to market this year.

1990s
Faith R. Pretzman, M.D. ’90, has been in a solo general practice for six years while raising her daughters, Jennifer, 14, and Jacqueline, 12. She and Randy Barbaglia were wed in March 2006. They live in California.
Brian Carter, M.D. ’97, is in private practice with an orthopedic group in Huntsville, Alabama. They specialize in sports medicine and non-surgical spine care. He and his wife, Louise, have just had their third child, John Bouldin Carter, who joins his siblings, Virginia, 4, and Brian Jr., 2.
William O. Collins, M.D. ’97, and Shelley Wolfe Collins, M.D. ’99, relocated to Gainesville, Florida in July 2006. William took a position as chief of pediatric ophthalmology with the University of Florida’s College of Medicine. Shelley has joined the UF Department of Pediatrics as a hospitalist in the Division of Critical Care Medicine. They have two sons: Robbie, 5, and Cooper, 19 months.

2000s
Ian Stote, M.D. ’00, is finishing his fellowship in GI at the University of Florida after completing a residency and chief residency in internal medicine. He will join Melbourne Internal Medicine Associates in July 2007.

In Memoriam
Richard H. White, M.D. ’58, of Bradenton, Florida passed away in November 2006. He served in the U.S. Army as a surgeon for seven years in Korea and Vietnam and was awarded the Bronze Star medal for his service. His family requests that donations in his memory be made to TideWell Hospice.

Leonard E. “Bruno” Masters, M.D. ’61, of Jacksonville, Florida passed away in December 2006. Born in 1931 in Tampa, Masters was a veteran of the Navy and served as a hospital corpsman in Korea. After retiring from his private practice in 1982, he became a missionary with Algo Mas, living in Golfito, Costa Rica. Donations in his memory may be made to the Communion Presbyterian Church or the Heart Association.

John J. Knapp, M.D. ’64, of Lakeland, Florida passed away in December 2006 from cancer. After high school, he joined the Navy and served in the Pacific during World War II. He graduated from Ball State University. Donations in his memory may be made to the building fund of the Church of the Resurrection, 3855 South Florida Ave., Lakeland, Florida 33813.