A Tenure of Excellence, Growth

The University of Miami Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine closed 2004 with a historic announcement: a $100 million gift that gave the medical school a new name. Early in 2005 there was another major announcement: John G. Clarkson, MD ‘68, senior vice president for medical affairs and dean of the Miller School of Medicine since 1995, is stepping down to accept the position of executive director of the American Board of Ophthalmology.

“Dean Clarkson has brought the School of Medicine to previously unimaginable heights of excellence in biomedical research, education, and patient care,” says University of Miami President Donna E. Shalala. “We are proud to become one of the world’s top medical schools, and all of South Florida is richer for his accomplishments.”

“T his community and our University will forever be indebted to John Clarkson for what he has done to advance health care in this community,” said Dean Colson, chairman of the University of Miami Board of Trustees. “He has been everything you could ask for in a dean: he is an outstanding human being, and he will be truly missed.”

Clarkson led the planning, development and implementation of the medical school’s largest capital campaign ever, highlighted by last December’s historic $100 million gift from the family of the late Miami developer Leonard M. Miller. The gift will be used to establish four Miller professorships initially, to recruit the next generation of biomedical scientists, to enhance the medical school’s academic mission, and to meet other pressing needs of the school.

Clarkson has presided over a transformation of the medical center. “The Lois Pope LIFE Building, the_tel_004_d Bathelor Building, and the Schoninger Research in Quadrangle were all completed on his watch and are a physical testimonial to the Miller School of Medicine’s progress,” says Clarkson’s predecessor, Bernard J. Fogel, MD ‘61, senior advisor to the president and dean emeritus. “A look at the Clinical Research Institute jumping out of the ground, plans for the new basic science building, and the ultimate expansion of the clinical resources that the school’s success mandates will be Dean Clarkson’s legacy.”

Clarkson, previously director of Bascom Palmer Eye Institute and chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology, became dean during the toughest time ever experienced by medical schools, Fogel said. Yet despite the difficult environment, Clarkson pushed the school forward, and growth and development of several internationally renowned centers of excellence and implementing the school’s largest capital campaign ever. The faculty medical practice, University of Miami Medical Group, became a consolidated, competitive clinical operation under the dean’s leadership, with new focus on improved access and customer service.

In addition to Bascom Palmer, internationally known centers of excellence that have grown significantly under Clarkson’s leadership include the Diabetes Research Institute, the UM/Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, and The Miami Project to Care Paralysis. In recent years he directed the creation of the Dr. John T. Macdonald Foundation Center for Medical Genetics and the University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Hospital Center for Patient Safety.

“One of the hallmarks of the dean’s decade has not only been his role in shaping the School of Medicine, but also his part in forging a strong relationship between the school and Jackson Memorial Hospital,” says Gerard A. Kaiser, MD, executive vice president and chief medical officer for Jackson Health System as well as senior associate dean for clinical affairs at the Miller School of Medicine.

The dean has worked in many other ways to strengthen the school’s partnership with the community, as a leader of the Mayor’s Health Care Task Force and several community boards.

Clarkson also presided over the redesign of the medical curriculum, a growing emphasis on the recruitment of out-of-state medical students to raise the school’s national stature, and the new partnership with Florida Atlantic University. Through that partnership, a group of UM medical students is taking the first two years of classes at FAU’s Boca Raton campus.

Clarkson will remain as dean until a successor is named and will then assume a new part-time leadership role at the University. “One of the real privileges of this job has been working with the wonderful students, faculty, and staff who make the medical center a jewel of this community,” Clarkson says. “I see only great things in the future for the medical center.”

A graduate of Princeton University, Clarkson earned his medical degree from the University of Miami in 1968. He completed his internship training at University Hospital in Boston and returned to the University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Medical Center for residency training in ophthalmology. He also completed fellowship training at Johns Hopkins University in both ophthalmic pathology and retinal and vitreous surgery.
The financial burden that most medical students currently face, the Medical Alumni Association decided to begin a program to help fund these ambitious students. The John K. Robinson Grant for Student Initiatives was created to allow students to pursue their research, leadership and educational goals with less financial barriers.

This summer first-year medical students Frank Gencorelli and Ibrahim Alava will be participating in a student exchange program with Kagoshima University in Japan.

“We hope to broaden our understanding of how cultural differences affect medical education and the practice of medicine, and observe how another healthcare system is structured in comparison to the United States,” says Gencorelli. “The knowledge and insights we gain will be passed along to the University of Miami community and create a greater interest and understanding in medicine and its practice in other cultures,” added Alava. “We’ll also work with our school’s medical education administration to introduce cultural competency topics, related to our experience, into the medical curriculum.”

Some of the activities the two students will participate in include studying the effects of cardiovascular drugs on human arteries, learning about monitoring patients in IC units, learning about anesthesia in an operating room setting, and discussing the medical economics of Japan through talks with hospital and university financial officers, healthcare policy makers and practicing physicians.

During the past year Gencorelli has worked as a research assistant with David Labursky, MD, MBA, Emanuel M. Papper Professor and Chair of the anesthesiology department at the Miller School of Medicine. Gencorelli will be presenting the clinical research he worked on during this time to Kagoshima physicians and students.

“Helping to give our students the opportunity to participate in an exchange program is a great first step towards a future when the Miller School of Medicine not only has a strong national presence,” says Labursky, “but takes advantage of being located in the most international city in the world, and to establish itself as a medical institution of international reach and great cultural appreciation.”

Since last July Alexis Furze has been conducting basic science research in the field of otolaryngology, specifically conducting an experiment investigating the use of corticosteroids on fibroblast suppression around traumatized spiral ganglion cells. The implications of this work can be applied to postoperative outcomes in patients undergoing cochlear implantation.

The fourth-year med student first presented the results of this work at the primary scientific meeting of the Association for Research in Otolaryngology in New Orleans this past February. This international association consists of scientists and physicians dedicated to scientific exploration among all the disciplines in the field of otolaryngology. The fourth-year med student first presented the results of this work at the primary scientific meeting of the Association for Research in Otolaryngology in New Orleans this past February. This international association consists of scientists and physicians dedicated to scientific exploration among all the disciplines in the field of otolaryngology.

“In addition to presenting to researchers in the field, I expanded my personal knowledge of otolaryngological conditions and treatments by attending the conference,” says Furze. “I was also introduced to the latest research and developments within the field.”

Furze presented the same project to students attending the Eastern Atlantic Student Research Forum at the University of Miami. The forum is a four-day international symposium held at the Miller School of Medicine and sponsored in large part by the American Medical Association Foundation. Each year medical, graduate, and PhD students as well as resident physicians from the US and throughout the world present original basic science and clinical research in multiple biomedical fields. The goals of the forum are the exchange of scientific ideas among students and faculty preceptors, encouragement of student-initiated research, and the professional development of future leaders in biomedical research.

The American Medical Student Association annually hosts the Paul Ambrose Political Leadership Institute in Reston, Virginia. The three-day institute focuses on teaching political and activism techniques within the context of public health and health policy issues. Each medical school may nominate a student representative to the institute but only 15 are chosen to take part.

“I was thrilled to be chosen as a participant to represent the University of Miami,” says second-year medical student Parisa Rouhani. “Each participant was assigned a public health topic on the first day of the workshop and worked with other participants to produce sound bites, policy briefings, a speech, and a legislative strategy for that issue. Since I was the only participant representing a Florida medical school, it was appropriate that I was designated a member of the medical malpractice reform team,” explains Rouhani.

Professionals and community activists add a personal perspective to the students’ briefs and provide guidance in workshops. “The institute provided me with the skills and knowledge to emerge as a community leader, not only in medicine, but also in the politics of health policy. I’m fortunate to have had this opportunity to learn about health policy and look forward to incorporating this important aspect of medicine and public health into my career,” says Rouhani.

On the last day of the institute, the group traveled to Washington, DC and lobbied on Capitol Hill about the Fair Access to Clinical Trials Act, legislation that would require pharmaceutical companies to post clinical trial information publicly in order to prevent companies from withholding potentially dangerous information about their drugs. The bill was presented in Congress last October.

The John K. Robinson Grant for Student Initiatives is funded entirely through donations from alumni.
Alumni Weekend 2005 a Resounding Success

In the fall of 2002 and continuing through the spring of 2003, the University of Miami Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine celebrated 50 years of discovery, knowledge and healing. The occasion was commemorated with a series of academic and social events that provided the chance to reflect on how this institution came into being. A then unprecedented number of medical school alumni returned to their alma mater.

Shortly thereafter the idea of an annual reunion for all alumni was conceived.

Two years later, on the first weekend of March, over 200 alumni of the medical school came together for Alumni Weekend 2005. The weekend included continuing medical education sessions, alumni and donor recognition events, tours of the medical campus, a golf tournament and the Freshman Pinning Ceremony, as well as the traditional class reunion events.

As the Miller School enters a bold new era following a historic $100 million gift, alumni weekends will be an opportunity for alumni to play an important role in the greater heights that lie ahead in the medical school’s future.

Gilstrap Inducted into Miller School of Medicine Hall of Fame

Larry Gilstrap, MD ’70, whose work has significantly impacted the practice of maternal fetal medicine, and Julie Korenberg, PhD, MD ’79, an internationally recognized leader in the field of human genetics, were inducted into the medical school’s alumni Hall of Fame.

About 200 alumni, students and friends of the Miller School attended the ceremony at the Biltmore Hotel on March 5.

The award was first presented in 1996. It recognizes alumni who graduated more than ten years ago and who are responsible for significant advancements in medicine as a result of their medical education.

Gilstrap joins former classmates Jamie Barkin and Barry Katzen as the third member of the Class of 1970 to receive the award. Joining prominent HIV/AIDS researcher Margaret Fischl, Korenberg is the second woman to be inducted into the Hall of Fame. She is also the second alumnus from the medical school’s former Ph.D./MD program that graduated 537 students from 1973 to 1988.

Gilstrap is the Emma Sue Hightower Professor and Chair of the obstetrics, gynecology and reproductive sciences department at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. He serves as director of the women’s health initiative at the University of Texas Medical School and has been on the faculty almost 20 years.

He has published extensively and has helped to modernize the management of labor, operative vaginal deliveries, obstetrical infections, and fetal/newborn acid-base assessment. He has over 190 peer-reviewed publications and 99 invited articles or chapters, as well as being an author, co-author or editor of seven textbooks or study guides. His publications in the area of fetal/newborn acid-base assessment have helped define the criteria utilized to evaluate and manage newborn acidosis. These contributions are an important component of the current American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) and the American Academy of Pediatrics definition of hypoxic ischemic encephalopathy. He was a member of the ACOG Task Force on neonatal encephalopathy and cerebral palsy.

Gilstrap was also an important leader in the NIH’s two Consensus Conferences on Steroids for fetal lung maturity, which contributed to the widespread use of steroids to stimulate fetal lung maturity in the US as well as internationally.

He has been a member of many prestigious societies and committees including serving as a director and treasurer of the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Gilstrap is a past president of the Society for Maternal Fetal Medicine.

“Being accepted to the medical school’s Hall of Fame is an honor I will truly cherish all my life,” said Gilstrap during the ceremony.

“What does the School of Medicine mean to me? I can best explain it by sharing with you one of my most prized possessions, which is a telegram that I keep locked in my safe deposit box. The telegram is dated December 1965 and reads: YOU HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI SCHOOL OF MEDICINE CALL HOME P.O.P.”

For the past three decades, Korenberg has been at the forefront of modern genetics, pioneering the field of human molecular cytogenetics, and answering basic questions of genome structure and evolution.

Korenberg created the first Integrated Human BAC Resource, linked the human genome sequence to cancer and helped to improve the chance for earlier cancer diagnosis worldwide. Her advances in the Human Genome Project were recognized in the critical papers mapping and sequencing the human genome.

She also pioneered the genetic understanding of congenital heart disease and brain development identifying genes for syndromes with associated chromosomal abnormalities. In the past ten years, she has focused on human behavior and cognition, and is responsible for major advancements in the understanding of genes responsible for brain structure and function in Down syndrome and Williams syndrome.

This past year she identified new genetic origins of Williams syndrome, provided clues to the genetic basis of hypertension and identified cerebral pathways underlying human emotion and social behavior.

Korenberg has 142 peer-reviewed papers and is a sought after international speaker. She is also the recipient of numerous awards and advisories to foundations.

Korenberg is professor of human genetics and pediatrics at the Geffen School of Medicine, UCLA and holds the Geri and Richard Brawerman Endowed Chair in molecular genetics at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center where she is the vice-chair for pediatrics research and director of the Division of Neurogenetics. She is also adjunct professor at the Salk Institute.

Korenberg’s research has been supported by the NIH, the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, the US Department of Energy, and the McDonnell Foundation.

For the many medical students in attendance, the award ceremony was an inspiration. Said Chad Aarons, president of the Class of 2005, “It was great to get the opportunity to meet and talk with alumni at the Hall of Fame dinner. It gives us as students a perspective of what may lie ahead in our careers and encourages us to become active alumni.”

School’s First Class President Honored

Norman Kenyon, MD ’56 was presented the Anastasia Award at the Hall of Fame ceremony. The award honors alumni who through the practice of medicine exemplify professionalism, humanity and citizenship, bringing distinction to themselves, alumni and the medical school.

This was the first time the award was formally presented. The award was first given to Jack Sanders, MD ’57, shortly before he died last year.

“I am honored with the Anastasia Award,” said Kenyon. “What a great alumni weekend!”

He lauded Sanders, who despite Sanders’ craniofacial deformity, provided exceptional medical care to the rural community of Graceville, Florida. Kenyon also acknowledged former classmates in attendance and recognized his wife, Sue, and daughters, Norma Sue, Cynthia and Pamela, for their support and encouragement.

Kenyon serves as chair of the board at Doctor Hospital in Coral Gables, Florida. He is a member of the Iron Arrow and Alpha Omega Alpha honor societies.

He has authored numerous publications. His current research focuses on islet cell transplantation. Honors Kenyon has received include the Raymond H. Alexander Award from the American College of Surgeons and the Florida Surgical Society’s James H. Corwin Distinguished Service Award.

Kenyon acknowledges her family members for all of their support.

The award ceremony, as well as the traditional class reunion events.
Continuing a tradition that began at the medical school in 2001, alumni and fourth-year students presented pins to the 166 members of the Class of 2008. The ceremony, one of the most important events for first-year medical students, is their official welcome to the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine and to the profession of medicine. Kevin Soden, MD was this year’s distinguished speaker. Soden is the national medical correspondent for NBC-TV and regularly contributes to the NBC Today Show. In 2001 he received the National Award for Excellence in Medical Reporting from the National Association of Medical Communicators and was a finalist for the prestigious International Freddie Award in 2001. Soden is the author of ‘The Art of Medicine: What Every Doctor and Patient Should Know,’ a critically acclaimed text on doctor-patient communications.

Combining wit with a humanitarian approach to the art of medicine, Soden told the first-year medical students that, whether the patient comes to you suffering from cancer, diabetes, obesity or heart disease, there is a story within their medical condition that affects their life and livelihood. “The key to being a good doctor is the ability to ask the probing questions that get to the heart of a patient.”

Scott Jahm, MD ’77 and his wife, Hilary, recently established an endowment at the medical school with the proceeds funding a distinguished speaker for the ceremony.

“Hilary and I were most interested in enriching the lives of the medical students at UM,” said Jahm. “We remember our time in Miami so fondly, and we both agreed that a speaker series for the medical school would be a terrific way to make a lasting contribution to the medical school.”

The idea for an annual pinning ceremony originated with Cristina Pravia, MD and Lukashia Reddy, MD, both of the Class of 2000. With the help of Jonathan Asey Albert, MD ’99, they began a tradition at the medical school.

Alumni, Donors Recognized for their Commitment

In recognition of their dedication and commitment to the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, John G. Clarkson, MD, dean of the medical school, hosted a luncheon honoring alumni and donors who generously support medical scholarships.

At the Freshman Pinning Ceremony, clockwise from top left, Steven Charouselle, MD ’75 (left) and first-year medical student Rick Hasty; Brian Burrough and Natalie Butler proudly display their new pins; the recitation of the Declaration of Geneva; Soden, Clarkson and second-year medical student Rachael Backer; Kenneth Rothenberg, MD ’67 pins first-year medical student Arjun Desai; alumni and students show their pins. The luncheon provided a chance for several alumni and friends to personally meet and thank their supporters. In recognizing a number of donors who attended the luncheon, Clarkson thanked “all the alumni and friends who have given through the John K. Robinson Fund, which has always been the largest source of aid to support medical scholarships with more than $75,000 annually.”

“The first priority of the School of Medicine is to increase the scholarship fund so that aid is available to all of our medical students,” continued Clarkson.

In addition to scholarships, the John K. Robinson Fund provides grants to help medical students pursue their research, leadership and educational goals with less financial barriers. “So far $7,000 has been awarded to deserving students,” said Ryan Madanick, MD ’98, selection committee chair for the John K. Robinson Grant for Student Initiatives and assistant professor of clinical medicine at UM. “Since the program was first publicized to the student body at the beginning of this academic year, it has already had an overwhelming response from the students.”

Alexis Furze; Panta Roushani and Mark Sylverster, recently awarded grants, present their projects to the audience, who were quite impressed to realize just what these medical students could accomplish.

Great Depression and World War II followed shortly thereafter. Thoughts of a medical school were sidetracked for two decades.

During World War II, the Biltmore Hotel in Coral Gables was commandeered as a hospital by the Miami Veterans Administration Hospital (VA). The VA’s proximity to the University made the idea of a collaborative project attractive, and the University of Miami/VA Hospital Medical Research Unit was born. The University hired professors in the basic sciences and the VA provided facilities, equipment and technical staff. This joint venture would become the foundation for the medical school.

Alumni Weekend 2005: In Your Words

“We thoroughly enjoyed the 40th reunion, much more than medical school,” quipped Elaine and Nicholas Cassisi, members of the Class of 1965. “It was great seeing classmates, catching up on what happened since graduation and trading Dr. Paff stories.”

Added former classmate Rudy Scheerer, MD ’65, “It was great seeing the school. Very inspiring to see the young students and the changes in lectures, patient interviews and physical diagnosis. Anatomy lab is still the same except Dr. Paff is there in spirit and not in person. He was a great teacher and an inspiration to all of us.”

The massiveness of the new campus is overwhelming. There is a real spirit of campus life at the medical school and a palpable sense of tradition at the University as an established institution,” said Abilio Coello, MD ’75.

“The event was much fun for me,” remarked Fred Telischi, MD ’85. “We had a lively exchange, catching up on each other’s activities. We also remembered classmates who weren’t able to attend, as well as those who passed away.”

“We had a wonderful time reliving memories and catching up on all that’s happened over the past ten years. It was great to hear about everyone’s careers, lives, families,” said Sherly Frechot Meister, MD ’95. “We missed many who could not join us and vowed to expand our network in time for our 20th reunion.”

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Irwin Berman, Professor of Anatomy at the University of Miami for 45 Years, Dies

Irwin Berman was born in New York City and served as an army medic during combat operations in Europe during World War II. After the war, he obtained his BS in biological chemistry in 1949 from Seton Hall University and his MS and PhD degrees from New York University in physiology and experimental vertebrate morphology. Following postdoctoral training at Brookhaven Laboratories and Stanford University Medical School, he joined the anatomy department at the University of Miami School of Medicine as an assistant professor in 1959.

“Dr. Berman was an excellent teacher who involved himself with students both academically and personally,” recalls Kenneth Kreasch, MD ’62, one of Berman’s first students. “He was always available both during and after class to aid any student who required help.”

Berman was promoted to associate professor of cell biology and anatomy in 1962 and to professor in 1994. Berman passed away on January 13. For a number of years Berman conducted funded research on bone and hematopoietic cells in his own laboratory and in collaborative studies with other laboratories that resulted in many publications. In more recent years, his efforts focused on teaching histology in the medical school curriculum and serving as coordinator for the medical student histology course and the histology component of the Minority Students Health Career Motivation Program. During this time he authored the Color Atlas of Histology which went to a third edition in 2003. This unique atlas provides students with a simple, concise, and convenient source of morphologic information for use in the identification of tissues and organs in histology laboratories. He also co-authored the Color Atlas of Basic Histopathology in 1997 with Clara Milikowski, MD ’83, assistant professor of clinical pathology and cell biology and anatomy at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. Berman was nominated several times between 1982 and 1998 by UM medical students for the George Paff Award for Excellence in Teaching and received the Teaching Award from his UM peers in 1999. He served on the Faculty Senate of the University and on a number of committees at the medical school, including the admissions committee and the executive promotions committee.

“Dr. Berman was especially proud of the length of his service on the faculty at the University of Miami and received a special 45 year service award the year before his passing,” says Robert H. Warren, PhD, interim chair of the Department of Cell Biology and Anatomy at the Miller School of Medicine. “He was always a friend of medical students and will be remembered and missed by all who were privileged to be in his classes.”

Alumnus and His Three Children Killed in Traffic Accident

D ale Marza, MD, a member of the Class of 1985, and his family went on great vacations. They once spent a whole trip on a houseboat in Lake Powell in Arizona. Another year they went to New York City. One trip took them to Vermont, which they enjoyed so much they returned this past December. That was where the family was when their sport utility vehicle collided with a tractor-trailer.

Marza and all three of his children died at the scene. His wife, Juana Julien, was critically injured but survived the crash. Matza was 45.

The police said the entire family appeared to be wearing seat belts as Matza headed west on the winding and hilly section of Vermont Route 15 when he apparently lost control of his Chevy Trailblazer and struck the truck.

Matza grew up in Miami Shores and went to the University of Florida before medical school. He met his wife, who attended Columbia University, when she came to Miami for a rotation at Jackson Memorial Hospital. The couple married soon after medical school.

They opened their practices, Matza in internal medicine and Julien in dermatology, in adjacent suites at the same office building on North Kendall Drive in Miami.

In a letter to fellow classmates informing them of this tragedy, Barry Greene, MD and Fred Telschi, MD wrote, “Dale was uniformly liked by all classes and beyond as an easy-going and caring individual. He became a well-respected internist in the South Miami community. Our deepest sympathies are with Juana as our hearts cry over this loss of such special people.”

DID YOU KNOW?

- The Miller School ranks in the top three among U.S. medical schools in terms of research funding awarded.
- The Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center treated 2,900 newly diagnosed cancer patients in 2003, performed chemotherapy on more than 9,800 patients and radiation therapy on more than 4,400 patients.
- The Diabetes Research Institute joined the NIH and the Naval Medical Research Center as the only academic partner in the national initiative to cure diabetes through transplantation.
- The University of Miami Ear Institute is the nation’s second most active cochlear implant program.

STUDENT VOICE

A s future physicians, we hear a lot about the “art of medicine.” For the past three years, Miller School of Medicine students have put this idea into practice. The Musical Ensemble for the Enrichment of Medicine was started in 2002 by then sophomore students Carlos Beltran and Evan Gedzelman.

Recognizing the artistic talents of their colleagues, these students created a forum that provides musical interaction. From its humble beginnings, the group has grown to include almost 40 singers and musicians who play a wide range of musical instruments. From classical music to jazz to rock, the students perform at graduation, award ceremonies, the Pediatric Olympics, and the VA nursing home. The students also play charity concerts to raise money for medical mission trips to Nicaragua.

It is rumored that at this past Freshman Pinning Ceremony, Dean Clarkson thought that the students were hired musicians!

Faculty Receives Momentum Update

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Early 100 senior medical school physicians were briefed about the final phase of the campaign and why its success is critical to the School of Medicine’s future. The school has raised more than $525 million, 75 percent of the campaign’s goal. In addition to the $100 million gift from the family of the late Leonard M. Miller, other significant gifts include, $13 million from the Wallace H. Coulter Foundation for translational research; $5 million from the Dr. John T. Macdonald Foundation to create GeneCure Diagnostics Lab; $3 million from the Toppel Family for an endowed chair in pediatric hematology/oncology; $1.6 million from David and Sheila Fuente to establish a graduate program in cancer biology; and $3.5 million raised by the Orthopedic Research Foundation for Bascom Palmer Eye Institute’s Palm Beach facility.

John G. Clarkson, MD, senior vice president for medical affairs and dean, reminded the group “philanthropy is critical to facility expansion for the medical campus, including the Multidisciplinary Clinical Building and Hospital Expansion project as well as the Science Research Building.”

Norman Braman, campaign co-chair, said, “The School of Medicine is poised to transform itself from a respected academic medical center to a world class center for medical research, training and clinical excellence. Moving from good to great will not be achieved by itself. It requires the community to get behind our effort. The campaign is about what we are creating for our children and future generations.”

On entering school last fall, first-year medical student Luisa Abakarima quickly arranged a flute quartet, saying, “It’s time to play by yourself, it’s fun to play with other people, but it’s the best to perform in front of an audience.”

Singer Guzelka David-West, also in her first-year, adds, “Medical students are dedicated people and we approach our music with the same passion that we apply to science.”

The ensemble provides a special way for students from different classes to meet. Beltran recalls instant bonds that have been created between students through their musical collaboration. He and the members of the ensemble hope that faculty and staff will soon join in these musical performances.

Faculty Receives Momentum Update

STUDENT VOICE

BY KARA JEHLE

Kara Jehle is a student writer for the University of Miami Alumni Association.

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ALUMNI PROFILE
Kenneth Rothenberg, MD ’67

Professor: Staff Anesthesiologist, Englewood Hospital, Englewood, New Jersey

Hobbies: Going to Broadway shows with family; astronomy.

Accomplishments: My wonderful family: my wife Gillian; my children Fiona, Heather, Adam, Andie, Nicole, Hannah, Ryan and Jack. Being a board-certified anesthesiologist with certification in pain management. I also served in Vietnam as a staff anesthesiologist at the 312th Evacuation Hospital and the 91st Evacuation Hospital.

Medical School Experience: I remember living next to the Biltmore Hotel campus in Coral Gables and the close relationships with my fellow students. I remember studying with Marshall Abel and Myron Persoff. I left medical school after one week in a panic and then returned after a few days. I distinctly recall our sophomore year and the Friday lectures, particularly the pathology lecture immediately after lunch. It was hard to stay awake! Philosophy: Don’t be afraid to show up and try. Hard work is the easy way out.

Why I Do What I Do: I find the practice of anesthesia to always be exciting, interesting and challenging. With each day comes a new group of patients with their own particular medical conditions.

Foundation.

Tracy ThompsonGuillier, MD ’01 graduated from the family practice residency at Franklin Square Hospital Center in Baltimore and works for Kaiser Permanente in Columbia, Maryland.

Louise Santos, MD ’01 completed her family practice residency at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center St. Margaret. She is in private practice in Palm Harbor, Florida with Morton Plant Mease Primary Care.

SHARE YOUR NEWS
Alumni submissions should be sent by e-mail to alumni@med.miami.edu or by facsimile to 305-243-3904. Content may be edited for clarity and space.

Maria Lauffer, MD ’95 is a fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

H. Stuart Osmussen, MD ’95 is an anesthesiologist in private practice in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Michelle Cohen Rissman, MD ’95 is an internist in private practice in Delray Beach, Florida.

Michael L. Grainger, MD ’00 is a radiology resident at the University of Florida Health Science Center in Jacksonville. He was a recipient of the 2003 Radiological Society of North America Roentgen Resident/Fellow Research Award and will begin a fellowship-in-abdominal imaging at Duke University Medical Center in July.

Thomas Price, MD ’00 is an instructor in the geriatric medicine and gerontology division at Emory University School of Medicine. He is also coordinator of the residency program in geriatric medicine and was appointed to faculty clinical track at the school. He was recently a recipient of a career development grant from the John A. Hartford Foundation.

Brian Pearlman, MD ’92 is an associate professor of medicine at Medical College of Georgia and assistant professor of medicine at Emory University. His last article on hepatitis C was published in The American Journal of Medicine.


Robert Puto, MD ’93 is chief of the urology division at Baptist Hospital in Miami, Florida.

Keith R. Brill, MD ’95, FACOG, FACS served in the United States Air Force as chief of women’s health at Nellis Air Force Base. He is in private practice in Las Vegas.

John H. Post, III, MD ’80 is chief of orthopedics at Martha Jefferson Hospital in Charlottesville, Virginia with a specialty practice based in arthroscopy of the knee and shoulder. He completed his fifth Ironman Triathlon in based in arthroscopy of the knee and shoulder.

Ronald Edward Leach, MD ’75 has been in private practice in Brandon, Florida since 1978.

Peter Andrew Jacobson, MD ’75 has been in private practice in Brandon, Florida since 1978.

Keith R. Brill, MD ’93 is chief of the urology division at Baptist Hospital in Miami, Florida.

Robert Puto, MD ’93 is chief of the urology division at Baptist Hospital in Miami, Florida.

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Joseph Z. Forstot, MD ’75, FACP, FACR has practiced rheumatology in Boca Raton, Florida since 1978.

Robert Puto, MD ’93 is chief of the urology division at Baptist Hospital in Miami, Florida.

Mark A. Gold, MD ’65 is a volun-