

CLASS NOTES



Ruth Snyder Masters and Raymond Masters met on the first day of class.

'30s

One of only two women in the class of 1935, **Ruth Snyder Masters** (MD '35) says she picked her future husband of 64 years, the late **Raymond Masters** (MD '35), out as "one of the nice ones" on their first day of medical school. The two married in 1936, though the infamous flood of that year left the groom tending to flood victims and delayed their wedding by two weeks. Ruth Masters' career in family practice spanned seven decades. She estimates she delivered 3,200 babies, including more than 200 home deliveries. She saw patients at her East McKeesport office and McKeesport Hospital. In 1979, she became the first woman to be elected president of the hospital staff. Since retiring four years ago at the age of 88, Masters has remained an active member of the hospital's ethics committee.

'70s

As a medical student at Pitt, **Michael Wusylko** (MD '77) never imagined that he would stay so close to one of his favorite professors, infectious disease specialist and Pitt professor **George Pazin** (MD '64). Wusylko, an internist, currently shares his practice in Cranberry, Pa., with Pazin's son John Pazin. As a clinical preceptor, Wusylko welcomes Pitt medical students into his practice each year for three-week rotations. Last year, Pitt med students honored him with the Award for Excellence in Clinical Precepting.

'80s

Frightened, desperate, and ill, lupus patients travel from as far away as the Middle East and South America for a diagnosis. Pittsburgh is where many of them finally learn the cause of their debilitating and unpredictable symptoms. Lupus is notoriously difficult to diagnose. On average, a lupus sufferer waits four years before the disease is recognized. **Susan Manzi** (MD '85, Rheumatology Fellow '91), cofounder and codirector of the Lupus Center of Excellence at Magee Womens Hospital and Pitt associate professor of medicine, developed a blood test using complement C4 positive proteins that will help physicians detect lupus. Her research shows that the protein binds to red blood cells during lupus flare-ups. With this test, physicians will be able to better diagnose the disease and start appropriate treatment.

Donald Yealy (Emergency Medicine Resident '88, Airway Management and Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest Fellow '89) is professor and vice chair of emergency medicine at Pitt. In the past 15 years, he has won five teaching awards, including the 2001 National Teaching Award from the American College of Emergency Physicians. Most recently, Yealy received the Hal Jayne Academic Excellence Award from the American Society for Academic Emergency Medicine for work that helps emergency room physicians determine the severity of community-acquired pneumonia and heart failure. He is currently working with Pitt professor of medicine **Michael Fine** (Chief Medical Resident '87) and Pitt professor of critical care medicine **Derek Angus** (Critical Care Medicine Fellow '91) on ways to identify and treat acute pneumonia and sepsis in the emergency department.

Steve Burton (Internal Medicine Resident '89, Hematology/Oncology Fellow '92, Radiation Oncology Resident '95) is at UPMC Shadyside. Burton uses "high-tech toys" like linear accelerators to treat cancer. The machines precisely target tumors and destroy them with radiation, saving patients from invasive surgery. Burton, who is a clinical assistant professor of radiation oncology, is conducting research to demonstrate the effectiveness of image-guided radiation treatment for tumors.

'90s

Dave Thomson (Emergency Medicine Resident '90) came to Pitt hoping to be on the front lines of

GARY WILLIAMS

TOXIC AVENGER

Ask Gary Williams (MD '67) what he considers to be the most dangerous substance that humans ingest, and you'll receive a surprising answer: food.

"Think," he says, "every plant is a little chemical factory with substances to fight off its natural pests." He explains that these toxins also can affect humans. Other natural toxins run rampant as well, including dangerous molds on peanuts and corn, which contribute to the high incidence of liver cancer in humid Asian climates.

Williams, professor of pathology at New York Medical College, discussed other food-borne dangers as a delegate in the World Health Organization's Expert Committee on Food Additives' June meeting in Rome. An expert in toxicological pathology and chemical carcinogenesis, Williams researches everything from off-the-shelf consumer products to pretrial pharmaceuticals. New York Medical College recently recognized him with the 2005 Dean's Distinguished Research Award for his innovative methods and discoveries.

Williams recalls a recent incident in the United Kingdom in which six volunteers nearly died during a drug trial. His work attempts to prevent such things from happening. It includes discoveries such as an antibiotic that caused sunlight to mutate

medicine. In Pittsburgh, he had the chance to work outside of the hospital with Pittsburgh EMS as part of his hospital rotations. "It was an incredible experience," he says. Thomson was recently named director of emergency medicine at St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center in Syracuse, N.Y., where he still enjoys working with the local EMS providers as medical director for ambulance and emergency services. He also collaborates with fellow Pitt trainee **Kevin Hutton** (Emergency Medicine Resident '90), CEO of Golden Hour Data Systems, developing software and communications tools for air transport providers.

Padmavati Garvey (MD '92), a classical Indian dancer, has trained in the ancient *Bharatanatyam* style since her childhood in Pittsburgh and now performs with a dance troupe in New York. She and her daughter are eagerly learning the *Kuchipudi* style. In her professional life, Garvey, whose father worked in Pitt's pathology department, is an ob/gyn at the Westchester Medical Center of New York Medical College. Her research examines how economic factors influence a woman's decision to use or not to use contraception. She also is studying the relationship between breast-feeding and premenopausal breast cancer.

As a child, **Teresa Smith** (MD '97) admired the Pitt degree hanging over the desk of **John Bono** (MD '48), who removed her tonsils. He was one of many Pitt doctors who impressed Smith with their intellect, compassion, and skill. Although she had always been interested in medicine, Smith spent 10 years teaching high school chemistry and physics, until, she says, "I realized it was time." She took the MCATs, thinking that a bad score would show her that she should give up all thoughts of medical school. After doing well on the exam, she then applied only to Pitt, sure that a rejection letter would offer proof that she didn't belong in medicine. She is now one of around 150 neurointensivists in the United States. She became director of neurosurgical intensive care for the University of Michigan Health System last year.

Eileen Everly (MD '99) is the new medical director of the Reach Out and Read program at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. The national nonprofit campaign provides children from birth to age 5 with a new, age-appropriate book at each well-baby visit. Everly, who fell in love with the program during her residency at the University of Maryland, encourages parents to spend time every day reading aloud to their children, even as newborns. For bilingual families, the program provides books in other languages, including Korean, Spanish, French, and Vietnamese. Although she arrived at Pitt intending to become a neurosurgeon, Everly is now a pediatrician. She says, "Kids are just the best people. They're full of joy and hope, and every day at least one of them makes me laugh."

—Alicia Kopar, Jaclyn Madden



Members of the Class of 1996 and family gathered at Doc's Place in Shadyside before this year's Scope and Scalpel. From left: Karen Kreiling, Leila Kahwati, Richard Oh (with daughter, Elena), Anna Peris, Marshal Peris, James Jarvis, Elizabeth Woo, Erica Jarvis, Nickie Kolovos, and Benedict Woo recall the glories of performances past.



Williams

DNA—until Williams determined what was responsible and guided the pharmaceutical company to engineer it out—and an anti-estrogen drug that induced liver tumors in rats, but not humans. "We have to have the greatest assurance of safety before administering drugs to any people," he says sternly.

Williams is especially proud of receiving the Enhancement of Animal Welfare Award from the Society of Toxicology for developing testing systems that don't use animals. The nutrient medium he developed for culturing liver cells in vitro led to a pioneering way to assess chemical DNA damage and was one of the many reasons the American Chemical Society named him a distinguished scientist.

In his consumer product studies, Williams has calmed fears about popular substances like tooth whitener and hair coloring. The bottom line for those products? "No harmful substances are released into the body," he says.

It's nice to hear some things in the grocery store are safe.

— Jennifer Dionisio

THE WAY WE ARE
CLASS OF '96

During med school, the Class of '96 used to get together at Doc's Place in Shadyside for camaraderie and cheesy pizza. What better place to gather before attending the Class of 2006's production of Scope and Scalpel and recall their own? Ten years before, they parodied *A Chorus Line* and themselves. They danced in lab coats and silver top hats, but instead of singing, "One singular sensation, every little step he takes," they sang "Done with confabulation and the new curriculum."

Nickie Kolovos (MD '96) is credited with the chorus line idea. She's currently assistant professor of pediatrics and medical director of the trauma unit in the pediatric ICU of Washington University in St. Louis. One Christmas Eve, a 6-year-old girl with influenza myocarditis, a rare inflammation of the heart due to influenza infection, was rushed to Kolovos' unit. Her team performed CPR for two hours. Kolovos doubted her patient would live. Now every few months, she gets a friendly visit from her healthy young patient and the child's father.

Kolovos says she enjoys working with children because their health issues are uncomplicated by a history of life choices: "Everything about their physiology makes sense."

Marshal Peris (MD '96, Res '01, Fel '02), the class president who admits to stumbling through Scope and Scalpel choreography 10 years ago, now lives in a place named Mount Kisco. But his New York plates read: BLKNGOLD, and he holds Steelers season tickets. For Super Bowl XL, he traveled to Detroit with **Louis Klieger** (MD '96, Res '00), **Walter Delgaudio** (MD '96), **James Jarvis** (MD '96, Res '99), and **Benny Woo** (MD '96, Res '00) to watch the Steelers win the Lombardi Trophy.

At Northern Westchester Hospital Center, Peris is the only full-time orthopaedic spine surgeon. He treats degenerative conditions of the spine as well as traumatic injuries. Peris says he is impressed that many of his classmates went on to pursue specialized training.

One such colleague is **Brian Pettiford** (MD '96, Res '01, Fel '03). His father and grandfather were mechanics well known in Tifton, Ga. Their hands could fix anything. After his maternal grandmother died from a heart attack, Pettiford was moved to devote the skilled hands he inherited to thoracic medicine. He is now a Pitt clinical assistant professor of surgery, working primarily with lung afflictions. He attempts to uphold his soft-spoken grandmother's gentleman ideal through his interactions with patients and colleagues. — *Alicia Kopar*

IN MEMORIAM

'40s

HERMAN BEARZY
MD '43B
MARCH 18, 2006

WILLIAM F. BAIRD
MD '45
APRIL 15, 2006

'50s

JAMES L. HOOBLER
MD '55
DEC. 5, 2005

THOMAS E. CADMAN
MD '56
MARCH 15, 2006

RICHARD DOBIES
MD '57
MARCH 16, 2006

'60s

MELVIN KADEN
MD '63
APRIL 1, 2006

'70s

RANDALL KRAMER
MD '72
MARCH 1, 2006

'80s

D. RICHARD STRAUSBAUGH
MD '80
MAY 13, 2006



Hogarty

GERARD HOGARTY

JULY 14, 1935–APRIL 7, 2006

Gerard Hogarty was a rare gem. With no MD or PhD degree, he was a self-taught psychiatric researcher who had an enormous impact on the way we treat schizophrenia. The professor of psychiatry came to the University of Pittsburgh in 1974 with a master's degree in social work and a decade of experience in schizophrenia research.

When Hogarty entered the field, schizophrenia treatment was limited mostly to medication, because it had been demonstrated that psychoanalysis did not work, says his colleague, Rohan Ganguli, Pitt professor of psychiatry. "Gerry showed that there was a powerful role for psychological treatments in improving the lives and the outcomes for those with schizophrenia." With colleagues at Pitt, Hogarty demonstrated that early intervention that involved and educated the patient's family could reduce the chance of relapse and improve outcome. "That has become absolutely standard treatment around the world," says Ganguli. —*Chuck Staresinic*



Leon

DONALD LEON

AUG. 19, 1932–JUNE 21, 2006

Donald Leon (Fel '64) began and ended his medical career at Georgetown University Hospital, but his years there were bookends to a quarter century of service at the University of Pittsburgh. The noted cardiologist was a master of the American College of Cardiology and former dean of Pitt's School of Medicine.

Leon arrived at Pitt in 1963 as a research fellow in cardiology. Five years later, as an assistant professor, he was selected as one of the first six American Heart Association Teaching Scholars in Cardiology.

"It was quite a feather in his cap," notes James Shaver, a Pitt professor of cardiology. "He excelled in bedside teaching and lecturing."

Leon was dean of the school of medicine from 1979 to 1984. He was instrumental in the recruitment of transplant surgeon Thomas Starzl in 1981, oversaw the restructuring of the school's basic science departments, and was one of the founders of Family House, a nonprofit that assists and houses families traveling to Pittsburgh for lifesaving care.

"It really made an impression, both on the city and on those coming," says Shaver regarding Family House. "It helped to build the image of Pitt that drastically changed in the 1990s as people came from all over the country and all over the world." —*CS*



Wallace

BILL WALLACE

FEB. 26, 1944–MAY 28, 2006

Those who knew him say Bill Wallace changed Pitt's School of Medicine forever and for the better in just two years. Arriving as assistant dean of student affairs in 1979, Wallace became the school's first dean of minority affairs before he left in 1981.

"He rallied the medical students, became actively engaged in the admissions process, met with faculty to emphasize the benefits of diversity, and began surveying all applicants," said Jeannette South-Paul (MD '79), Pitt's Andrew W. Mathieson Professor and chair of the Department of Family Medicine. "His persistence, dedication, and focus created a foundation for reaching out to minorities."

Wallace was a graduate of Howard University, New York Medical College, and Harvard University, where he received a PhD in microbiology. His legacy at Pitt, says South-Paul, includes the talented minority students that Pitt attracts annually. —*CS*



Wiener

EUGENE S. WIENER

FEB. 28, 1940–JUNE 29, 2006

Eugene S. Wiener was known as a tough taskmaster and star surgeon whose greatest passion was the health of children.

The University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine professor of surgery and chief medical officer at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh came to Pitt in 1973 as a pediatric surgical resident, after serving as a commander and deputy chief health officer in Vietnam.

Wiener guided multiple research projects directed at improving pediatric cancer treatment, particularly in the area of surgical oncology. He published more than 85 articles in peer-reviewed journals and contributed 18 book chapters.

He was among the best in the surgical suite, colleagues note. Henri Ford (Fel '93), former chief of pediatric surgery at the University of Pittsburgh and current vice president and surgeon-in-chief at Children's Hospital Los Angeles, called him "the Michael Jordan of surgery."

Wiener helped Children's implement a computerized physician order entry system designed to cut down on errors engendered by illegible handwriting and provide instant access to medical records.

Children's president and CEO Roger Oxendale said Wiener was pondering retirement but intended to remain involved with the hospital in a development role as it moved to its new location in Lawrenceville.

—*Joe Miksch*

HOWARD RABINOWITZ COUNTRY STYLE

BY JENNIFER DIONISIO



COURTESY RABINOWITZ

Rabinowitz signs his book *Caring for the Country* for Senator Jay Rockefeller (left) of West Virginia.

Say a patient broke his leg. As a young doctor at Sacaton Indian Hospital, 30 miles outside Phoenix on the Pima reservation, Howard Rabinowitz (MD '71) would find himself loading the x-ray film, taking the picture, developing the film, casting the limb, running to the pharmacy for pain medicine, counting out those pills, affixing the label, and passing the bottle to the patient. There wasn't anyone to delegate to, and he was one of only four doctors serving a rural population of 10,000.

"We basically did everything," Rabinowitz recalls 30 years later, sitting in his Philadelphia office. The Thomas Jefferson University professor of family medicine spent two years at Sacaton as a doc-of-all-trades before translating his knowledge of the issues surrounding small-town health care into a position as director of Jefferson's Physician Shortage Area Program. The program supports med students planning to work in underserved rural areas.

"Most people think of Pennsylvania as Pittsburgh and Philadelphia," Rabinowitz says, shaking a head covered in silver hair that contrasts with his youthful face. Although half of the state's doctors work in these two cities, almost 75 percent of the population lives in Pennsylvania's other 65 counties, he notes.

Rabinowitz took a year sabbatical to follow 10 of his graduates and document their experiences in his book *Caring for the Country* (Springer-Verlag, 2004). From direct observation in doctors' offices and 150 hours of taped interviews, Rabinowitz reveals a workforce and patient population as diverse as that of any bustling metropolis. These doctors—many are the only practitioners within a 20-mile radius—are certainly generalists, giving checkups, delivering babies, performing surgery, and, yes, sometimes making house calls.

Rabinowitz was raised in Pittsburgh's Squirrel Hill neighborhood and attended New Jersey's Rutgers University. As a med student, Rabinowitz says, "I had never been out of an urban area in my life." At least until his senior year at Pitt. At the urging of a fellow student, Rabinowitz signed up in his fourth year for professor of community medicine and pediatrics Ken Rogers' elective that took students on a nine-week rotation as researchers in the Navajo Nation. "It sounded fascinating culturally, geographically, and also medically," he says.

He was so impressed by the experience, he returned to work at Sacaton after his residency—many of his fellow students also sought positions in Native American communities.

Rabinowitz was driven to write *Caring for the Country* by his concern that medical students don't realize that practicing in such areas is even an option. What a shame, he says now, considering that rural doctors he observed seemed much happier than many he knows in urban areas. Far from considering their extra responsibilities a burden, they take pride in being such integral members of the community and enjoy raising their families in close-knit towns. And despite the assumption that rural doctors work longer and get paid less, all those Rabinowitz interviewed felt a few extra hours in the office equal an urban doctor's commute time—and cost-of-living differences assure financial security.

Small-town living isn't for everyone, Rabinowitz acknowledges. He can tell which students will be successful in the program just by asking if their hobbies lean toward opera or fishing.

But his own early experience in the Navajo Nation was deeply satisfying. He's since found that patients in small towns receive a kind of intimate care often lacking in big cities like Philadelphia.

"I wrote the book for students to get a sense of this," he says. ■

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