The students and alumni of the School of Medicine have much to celebrate at this time of year. New graduates (seen above) are celebrating, having their just conferred diplomas; first year students are getting ready to move on to the next unit in the school’s curriculum; and alumni from classes stretching over the past 100 years are preparing to return to meet old friends at Medical Reunion 2006.

Your interest in the School of Medicine helps sustain today’s students and the School’s legacy. The School of Medicine is a vibrant, exciting place in large measure because of the continued enthusiastic support of its alumni and friends.

If you haven’t already done so, please access the Alumni Association web site at www.utahmedalumni.org.
Illuminations

The Magazine for The University of Utah School of Medicine Alumni and Friends

Volume 2 Number 1

The Celebration Continues

reflect on the past

look forward
to the future

Spring/Summer 2006
As spring arrives, it is customary to reflect on the past year and look forward to the future. Our first-year medical students are just getting comfortable with the demands of their education. At the same time, our fourth-year students are celebrating their graduation and residency. As we reflect on the past year in the School of Medicine, we can fondly recall our 100th birthday celebration. Faculty and friends from the past and present met to share memories and look to the future. The organizing committee, chaired by Dr. James Parkin, developed an outstanding historical DVD that celebrates the people and events that have made our school an internationally known center of excellence. Copies of the DVD can be obtained from the Alumni Office.

In 2005, we opened the Spencer F. and Cleone P. Eccles Health Sciences Education Building. I am proud to say that this is the best medical education building in the country. It has set the standard for other institutions to follow. One of the great things about the new building is that it brings together students from all of the Health Sciences colleges. Medicine, Pharmacy, Nursing, and Allied Health students study and socialize together. This beautiful building has state-of-the-art classrooms, teaching laboratories, and clinical skills areas. I am very grateful that the School of Medicine Alumni Association provided funding for the Alumni Hall, a modular multipurpose classroom just off of the main foyer of the building. In addition to education, we often use this space for social events. Those who have contributed to the room will find their names listed nearby. I encourage any of you who have not toured this building to find time to do so. Feel free to contact the Alumni Office to make an appointment for a tour.

We were also proud to open the Emma Eccles Jones Medical Research Building that will be the new home for Biochemistry and Pathology research programs. Located on the site of the old barracks that once housed the gross anatomy lab, this building provides the very best research facilities for our faculty.

Looking forward to 2006, we can anticipate the completion of the new Moran Eye Center. This building will provide new clinical and research space for the Department of Ophthalmology. The current John A. Moran Eye Center will be renovated for use as a Neurosciences Center. By the end of the year, construction will also begin on an expansion of the University Hospital, adding two new floors to the current George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Critical Care Pavilion and building a companion wing to the west and north of the current hospital entrance.

Our progress is measured by more than new buildings. Our faculty continue to excel as well. Last year two of our faculty, Dr. Mark Leppert and Dr. Gary Schoenwolf, were named distinguished researchers by the University during commencement. This year Dr. Lynn Jorde and Dr. Suzanne Stensaas have been named as distinguished educators. The science and technology of medicine continue to progress. The values of the School of Medicine are constant. It is our dedication to learning, to teaching, and to research that makes the School of Medicine environment so stimulating. It is the dedication to our current and future patients that sets our goals and provides our rewards.

The students, housestaff, and faculty that have been part of the School of Medicine for over 100 years have made it unique and successful. We are grateful for all of the contributions that you have made during your time here and that you will make in the subsequent years. You, our graduates, are our legacy. We could not succeed without you.
I was in the doctor’s lounge the other day and tried to recruit some support from a fellow colleague. His response was “Well, I’m not an alumnus of the University of Utah, I went to school at …” “Sure you are,” I responded. “Didn’t you do your residency at the U of U?”

This dialogue occurs rather frequently. It seems that many feel that their alumni status only rests with the institution where medical school occurred. However, in addition to former students, we also include former residents, as well as past and current faculty. So, for you former residents or past or current faculty who have attended another medical school, we invite you to participate as a full-fledged alumnus of the University of Utah School of Medicine, and hope you feel a sense of partnership with us.

The new Spencer F. and Cleone P. Eccles Health Sciences Education Building is now in full use and the students love it! It is very user friendly with brightly lit foyers for students to congregate as well as quiet nooks where personal study can occur uninterrupted. The enclosed walkway to the Spencer S. Eccles Health Sciences Library is very convenient. Every student and faculty member with whom I visit is excited with the facility. It is interdisciplinary with students from Nursing, Pharmacy, Dentistry, as well as Medicine, all enjoying the building together. The lecture halls are first rate and include spacious 150-seat auditoriums to small, intimate discussion rooms. The clinical skills area is state-of-the-art and effectively trains medical students with patient encounters when preparing for Step 2B of the boards. The interactive internet section is also state-of-the-art and is fast becoming well used. The cafeteria is bright and inviting and, from what I hear, the food is excellent. Each student gets his or her own personal locker and as one student put it, “We now feel like we are important and they want us here.”

Not only is this building state-of-the-art but it is fast becoming a model of medical education for the nation. I spoke with Wayne Peay who is the director of the Spencer S. Eccles Health Sciences Library and the HSEB. He stated that we have already been visited by representatives from the University of Washington and Stanford University and will be visited soon by representatives from the University of Kentucky. Many others around the country have made inquiries regarding this center. They are all hoping to pattern their own new education centers after our magnificent building. If you haven’t walked through the building, please do so or visit via the internet at www.utahmedalumni.org.

One of the special areas of the HSEB is Alumni Hall. Due to the generous contributions from our alumni, raising over $152,936 towards construction of the building, the large hall adjacent to the main foyer has been named Alumni Hall.

We are very excited about the Alumni Association and hope you will join in the activities scheduled for June 1-3, 2006.

Fred F. Langeland, M.D., 1976
President, Alumni Board
University of Utah School of Medicine Alumni Association
JUNE 1-3, 2006

Thursday, June 1

Annual Awards Banquet
50th Celebration for the Class of 1956
Distinguished Alumni, Distinguished Service,
and the Distinguished Posthumous Award
Little America Hotel
6:15 p.m. Reception, 7:00 p.m. Dinner
$40 per person

Friday, June 2

Alumni Open
Eaglewood Golf Course
1110 East Eaglewood Drive, North Salt Lake
12:00 Noon Lunch, 1:00 p.m. Shot Gun
$70 per person

Bend-in-the-River Family Service Project
A volunteer project with the University of Utah Bennion Center
1030 West Fremont Avenue (1100 South)
1:00-3:00 p.m.
No Cost

Saturday, June 3

8th Annual Continuing Medical Education Conference
Pears and Progress of Medicine in Utah
Huntsman Cancer Institute
2000 Circle of Hope
7:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m.
5 credit hours in AMA
Category 1
Salt Lake City

7:30 a.m. Registration and Continental Breakfast
8:00 a.m. Welcome and Introduction of Speakers
8:15-12:15 p.m. Speakers

Burn Care in the Intermountain West
Jeffery R. Saffle, M.D.
Preventing Alzheimer’s Disease
Daniel D. Christensen, M.D., 1972
An Adrenal Odyssey: 1950 to 2005
Don H. Nelson, M.D., 1947
Progress in Pathology
Elizabeth M. Hammond, M.D., 1967
Evolution of Total Hip Arthroplasty:
Two Steps Forward…One Step Back
Harold K. Dunn, M.D.
Peer into the Future
Randall J. Olson, M.D.
Cochlear Implants for Profound Deafness
James L. Parkin, M.D., 1966

12:30 p.m. Question and Answer Session

12:45 p.m. Luncheon Speaker
Devon C. Hale, M.D., 1969
U in Ghana

For further information, and to register for the events, please call 801-581-8591 by Friday, May 26.
With this knowledge and experience, Dr. Hale has worked to create programs that would make a meaningful difference in the lives of medical students and those they work with in other countries. As Dr. Hale has witnessed, “these kinds of experiences make better doctors.” Indeed, this experience can have a ripple effect as students become doctors and enter their own careers because, says Dr. Hale, “these students are more likely to do volunteer work in their own communities.”

According to Dr. Hale, the international programs grew out of a desire to create a way that medical students and the University could contribute on a long-term basis to the communities that they visited. Like many aid and development programs, simply sending medical students to third-world areas was not always the combination for a successful experience for the people being served or the students. Sometimes students ended up doing all of the work with little support from the local people. Sometimes, they were too depended upon, only to leave a hole when they left a few months later without anyone to replace them. Sometimes the local people only expected gifts and supplies, and were less accepting of the skills that the students brought with them.

To ensure that the local people and medical students had a mutually beneficial relationship, the School of Medicine decided to create an institutional program to nurture these long-term relationships. Dr. Hale says, “This way we had a better chance of controlling where students went and putting students in better circumstances.” To create the kind of program that would do this, Dr. Hale and his colleagues sought out other medical schools’ international programs, finding a good model at Indiana University. Soon they had created a partnership with Indiana that allowed them to participate in an internal medicine program in Kenya. “That’s been a good experience,” says Dr. Hale. “We are teaching the future doctors of Kenya.” In the fifth year of participation, the program results in an exchange of two university students from Kenya to the University of Utah.

The experience with Indiana University in Kenya led to the desire for the University of Utah to branch out with its own program, especially to expand the program to include research and other opportunities not available through the Indiana program. After searching out several sites, the University of Utah School of Medicine settled on Kumasi, a village in Ghana. Now in its fifth year of operation, Dr. Hale says, “We’ve been very careful to not create dependence through gifts and money. Instead we bring knowledge, teaching, and we begin to mesh in a way that we can do research, also.”

In fact, the Ghana program has evolved to study such things as malaria and respiratory infections but has also delved into laboratory use in the hospital and public health issues in the village. Groups of students, consisting mostly of medical students along with...
some public health students, work in the clinic for a month. But they also get involved in local village-driven projects. This means that the village leadership and the village’s own doctors decide what kinds of problems they are interested in solving and knowing about. “The really good thing is that it is not our project; it’s the project of the African doctors in the village,” observes Dr. Hale. Last summer, for example, nearly a dozen students, in addition to their clinic work, studied laboratory use in the hospital, ran a malaria research project, and studied public health in the village. This summer, the village project will focus on two issues facing village children under five—malaria, parasites and worms.

The demand for the students’ involvement in these kinds of everyday problems, says Dr. Hale, “shows that we’ve grown from an observational mode to where we are actually involved and contributing in a significant way. It is these kinds of activities, coupled with village direction and participation, that can really make a difference.”

As medical students show more interest in these programs, Dr. Hale hopes that they will continue to expand. In addition to Ghana and Kenya, medical students are also currently participating in programs in Peru, Ecuador, and China. These programs also serve to prepare students in a more complete way for their careers as doctors here in the United States. Because of the increasing Latino population in America, for example, the development of a program like the Ghana model in Spanish-speaking countries fulfills many interests. As Dr. Hale observes, “We have a particular interest in Peru and Ecuador because of the opportunity for students to gain exposure to specific health problems as well as develop language in a Spanish-speaking culture.”

Dr. Hale hopes that the success of the program in Ghana creates opportunities for expanding funding as well. Medical students who participate in this program are required to make a commitment of time in addition a financial commitment to pay their own room and board to go to these countries. Dr. Hale says this is an appropriate commitment to ask, however, travel expenses to places like Africa can be thousands of dollars. Dr. Hale would like to increase funding in order to help cover the travel costs for more students who want to participate as well as increase funding for specific research projects.

Because of his passion and insight, Dr. Hale has influenced medical education and skills in areas of the world most in need as well as having assisted in the training of a new generation of doctors. In his years working with the international program, Dr. Hale says, “People come back committed to their work, with increased compassion and understanding for patients.” Ultimately, Dr. Hale is satisfied that this investment is well worth it as the School of Medicine is able to turn out better doctors and make a real and lasting contribution to people’s lives internationally.

To learn about making a contribution to this program, please contact Stephen Warner, Associate Vice President for Health Sciences for Development and Alumni Affairs, 801-585-7010.
Early Utah Graduates
Practicing through the Years

By Jocelyn Kearl

“It’s a matter of being curious. If you’re curious, you can learn a lot,” says Dr. Denise Quinn, and you get the feeling it’s good advice coming from a woman who has practiced medicine for fifty years.

Dr. Quinn and another classmate, Dr. Shirley Labrum, former head of the University of Utah’s Student Health Services, were two of the first women enrolled at the University of Utah School of Medicine before it became a 4-year medical school in 1944. They make up a small but interesting group of women in Utah who sought degrees to practice medicine in the 1940s. With a deep commitment to their profession and a deep love of their families and communities, Dr. Denise Quinn and Dr. Shirley Labrum, made great impact upon the people they treated and taught.

Through midwifery and nursing, women have often had a presence in medical history. However, female physicians were rare throughout the beginning of the codification of medical schools and formal degrees. Some schools would not admit female students. Harvard University, for example, did not admit women to medical school until the 1940s. Through the first half of the 1900s, about 5-6% of all physicians were women nationwide. With increasing enrollment through the last half of the twentieth century, women now make up a growing percentage of physicians estimated at more than 20%.

In the early years of the University of Utah, women were oddities, but a few entered and graduated from medical school, and they faced particular challenges as women in medicine. Women were required to get their medical licenses in the name of their husbands. Some professors feared that women in medicine were wasting a spot because they would not practice medicine after marriage. During wartime, particularly World War II, male doctors were in high demand so the U.S. government paid for their medical school expenses, while women had few financial resources, at least until they were more advanced in their fields.

Both Dr. Quinn and Dr. Labrum entered medical school at the University of Utah in the early 1940s, while the United States was embroiled in World War II. At the time, the University of Utah only offered a 2-year program, after which all students would have to complete the rest of their medical training elsewhere. Dr. Quinn was one of these students who left Utah for Washington Medical School in St. Louis where there were seven women enrolled with her. Although she had the qualifications to get into Harvard, she was not allowed to enroll at Harvard because of its no-woman policy still in force.

Although Dr. Labrum was accepted to Temple University, her family could not afford to send her there, so she remained in Utah working as a social worker for the welfare department for a year. Fortunately, her former classmate, Denise Quinn’s father, Dr. Cyril Callister, was instrumental in moving the University of Utah to a full 4-year School of Medicine, recruiting teaching doctors from all over the U.S. and pooling resources together. Dr. Labrum entered and completed the final two years of medical school, graduating with two other women in the first 4-year class in 1944.

Early in their lives, both women knew that they were interested in medicine. Although Dr. Denise Quinn, known to her friends as “Denny,” had medicine in her blood (she has more than 10 close relatives who are doctors, including her father, husband, and two sons), she discovered her attraction to medicine at a young age. “When I was young, [my father] was an insurance physician so I would drive with him to people’s homes, wait in the car, and I remembered he always smelled of ether.” With a father as a doctor, she had exposure to other unique experiences as well. “When I was 10 years old, I watched my first appendectomy, and I just loved that.” Curiosity about the human body and about people fueled her interest. “My mother always used to say that I had a natural love and interest in people. I always wondered what made people tick.”

As one of the few women at the University of Utah School of Medicine, Dr. Quinn faced some bias. “Many doctors were wonderful.” But some people thought “I was taking a man’s place.” Practicing for 50 years from 1942-1992, however, proved that the investment in her had been well worth it.

After the war, Dr. Quinn practiced pediatrics part time while she gave birth to 4 sons. During this time, she kept very busy but found ways to set her own hours. “You can combine medicine, husband, and a family.” She worked with the well-baby clinic, which had locations at the west side police station and the Neighborhood House in
Salt Lake City, where she gave out a lot of shots, and vaccines, and she performed many exams. Dr. Quinn learned to care for her patients by putting them at ease. “We didn’t wear white coats; we never put obstacles between us and a patient.”

She also lectured to freshman women at the University in a class known then as “Women’s Hygiene.” “I was horrified to find that women didn’t know anything about the human body,” and she remembers teaching a lot of physiology in the class so that young women would be able to understand how to take care of themselves and how their bodies worked in relation to sex and childbearing. “Being a woman, I think sometimes it’s easier for women to relate to patients. People would talk to me very easily and seemed very comfortable. At the same time, of course, many men are wonderful doctors.”

In 1961, Dr. Quinn went back to school for a psychiatric residency. Motivated by the troubled children she had seen in more than fifteen years of practicing medicine, she wanted to be able to help them. Specializing in adolescent and child psychiatry, Dr. Quinn worked at St. Mark’s in the 1970s, talking to and helping many troubled youth. Because of her expertise, she has had many calls at home over the years from former patients, neighbors, and friends seeking advice and counsel.

Dr. Shirley Labrum, also native to Salt Lake City, had an early experience with doctors that made her curious about medicine. As a young girl, her mother was very ill, and she remembers hovering around the doctor to watch what he was doing. When her mother recovered from the illness, Dr. Labrum realized that she wanted to become a doctor to help treat other people battling disease and illness. “You have to have a desire and interest in taking care of people. Of course there is the scientific part. But if you don’t like people, it’s too much work to do otherwise.”

After graduating in 1944, Dr. Labrum completed an internship in internal medicine at the old St. Mark’s hospital. Because the war was going on, “we had to work hard because many doctors were gone,” says Dr. Labrum.

When the war ended, her fiancé, Willard Labrum, returned from his naval duty as an engineer in the South Pacific. After they married, Dr. Labrum spent the next 26 years moving around the country with her husband’s naval assignments and giving birth to their five children. While in Philadelphia and as the children were getting older, Dr. Labrum decided to go back to work. In 1964, she entered graduate school in internal medicine at the University of Pennsylvania to refresh her skills and get up to date.

As a physician, she opted for a job with the Public Health Department in Philadelphia. As part of the Public Health Department for a large urban city, Dr. Labrum worked with a very diverse group of people with varying needs. Additionally, this position afforded her good pay, regular hours, and weekends off so she could still spend a lot of time with her children. Because of her family’s needs, she says, “I chose to work the way I did and not have a practice.”

As her interest increased in public health, Dr. Labrum decided to earn a master’s degree in Public Health at Yale University. As part of her dissertation, she studied long-term care, which at the time was generally limited to hospitals, an expensive option for this kind of care, but assisted-living facilities had not yet been created. Dr. Labrum’s research resulted in suggestions for improving care, many of which she was happy to find were implemented by Pennsylvania General Hospital.

When the Labrums decided to return to Utah to be close to their children who were enrolled at Brigham Young University, Dr. Labrum applied and interviewed to be the head of Student Health Services, replacing Dr. Niemer who was retiring. For 20 years, Dr. Labrum remained in that position. “I loved the students and the academic atmosphere.” She says with a smile, “Because I had been to school a lot, I could relate.”

Both Dr. Quinn and Dr. Labrum have had the opportunity to watch amazing changes take place since the 1940s when they entered the University of Utah School of Medicine. Remembering days of polio and less sophisticated drug treatments, the women marvel at the advances in medicine, ranging from the increasing opportunities for physicians to the increasing knowledge about the body and treating disease. “When we were younger,” Dr. Labrum recalls, “they didn’t even have penicillin.” Dr. Quinn adds, “With the marvelous advances in research at the cellular level, such as stem cell research, we’re still learning fascinating things about the body and about the brain.”
Spring is upon us so we are now on the journey toward the bicentennial celebration of the School of Medicine. As we look forward I want to take a moment and once say again how much I value the Centennial Celebration for the School of Medicine.

The internationally recognized U of U School of Medicine had humble beginnings in 1905, when a two-year medical course was offered through the biology department for the first time. Some 14 students enrolled in the basic medical science courses, which were taught in three top-floor classrooms of today’s LeRoy Cowles Building on Presidents Circle.

One hundred years later, medical school alumni, faculty, and guests celebrated “A Century of Brilliance” on Oct. 14, at the School of Medicine’s 100th Anniversary gala in Salt Lake City.

Former U President Chase N. Peterson, M.D., professor of Family and Preventive Medicine, spoke of the school’s missions of education, research, and patient care. Other participants included Lynn B. Jorde, Ph.D., professor of Human Genetics, Eccles Institute of Human Genetics, Susan E. Mango, Ph.D., associate professor of Oncological Sciences, Huntsman Cancer Institute, and Jeffrey R. Saffle, M.D., professor of Surgery and director of University Health Care’s Burn Unit.

To get a feel for the celebration’s effect, please visit the Association’s web site, www.utahmedalumni.org. The web site includes a historical photo gallery and submitted memories and photos from those associated with the School of Medicine.

In your lives, each of you has made phenomenal contributions to the School of Medicine and to the pursuit of medical knowledge and education.

Again, please accept my sincere thanks for your contributions to a celebration of excellence and appreciation for a great School of Medicine.

James L. Parkin, M.D., Class of 1966 and chair emeritus of the surgery department, was chair of the centennial committee.
The Celebration Continues

Joneen Matsen, Virginia and Dr. Larry Stevens, John Matsen, M.D., and Dr. Chase and Grethe Peterson

Dean, David Bjorkman, M.D., M.S.P.H., 1980

Dr. Wayne and Marianne Samuelson, Drs. Antonio and Maria Catillo

Dr. Lorris Betz, Dr. Chase Peterson, Jon M. Huntsman, Sr., and Anne Betz

Bill and Pat Child, Steve Warner

Julian and Bette Maack, Dr. DuWayne and Alice Schmidt
Barbara C. Cahill, M.D., associate professor of Internal Medicine in the pulmonary division, has been named associate dean of Student Affairs and Medical Education for the School of Medicine.

“Dr. Cahill comes highly recommended and we’re looking forward to her making her mark in our office,” said David J. Bjorkman, M.D., M.S.P.H., dean of the School of Medicine. “This position is very demanding, but we’re confident in Dr. Cahill’s abilities. She’s an outstanding role model who is committed to help students be successful.”

Cahill will lead the medical school’s Office of Student Affairs responsible for student and career counseling, orientation, academic support, scheduling, student health, and matriculation. She will divide her time between the dean’s office and her clinical responsibilities.

She replaces Elizabeth M. Allen, M.D., associate professor of pediatrics, who served more than seven years in the position. Allen will continue her clinical duties.

Cahill earned her bachelor’s and medical degrees from the University of Illinois and completed resident and fellowship training at University of Minnesota Hospitals. She joined the U in 1996.

Landmark Children’s Study Gives $16 Million to

The National Children’s Study—planned to be the largest study ever undertaken to assess the effects of the environment on child and adult health—announced last week that Salt Lake County will be one of six Vanguard Centers to pilot and complete the first phases of the study.

The U School of Medicine Department of Pediatrics, with support from Primary Children’s Medical Center, and other government and health care groups, has been awarded a $16 million contract to fund the study. Principal investigator for the Salt Lake County study is Edward B. Clark, M.D., professor and chair of pediatrics and medical director of Primary Children’s Medical Center.

“This is an extraordinary opportunity to invest in our children,” Clark said. “I can’t think of anywhere else in the country where the population is more focused on the future of children.”

Clark expects that 1,250 individuals in Salt Lake County will be enrolled in the study by 2009, with selection beginning in July of 2007. The nationwide study would follow more than 100,000 children, from before birth and, in some cases, even before pregnancy-through adulthood, measuring environmental exposures while tracking their health and development to seek information to prevent and treat health problems such as autism, birth defects, diabetes, heart disease, and obesity.

“The University’s Department of Pediatrics has a national reputation as a leader in clinical research and the department is uniquely positioned in the community to coordinate the region’s participation in this important study,” said A. Lorris Betz, M.D., Ph.D., Senior Vice President for Health Sciences, Executive Dean of the School of Medicine, and CEO of University Health Care. “The University of Utah is honored to be among the handful of research institutions selected as a partner in the National Children’s Study,” Betz said.

Utah Governor Jon M. Huntsman, Jr., said, “This is a unique opportunity and a great recognition of the exceptional pediatric science and care we have in Utah. The University of Utah Department of Pediatrics and Primary Children’s Medical Center are the best possible venues for this study to begin.”
Four more outstanding researchers have been named to hold prestigious H.A. and Edna Benning Presidential Endowed Chairs in the University of Utah School of Medicine. The new chair holders are Jerry Kaplan, Ph.D., Assistant Vice President for Basic Science, Associate Dean for Research, and Professor of Pathology; Wesley I. Sundquist, Ph.D. Professor of Biochemistry; J. Michael Dean, M.D., MBA, Professor of Pediatrics; and Gerald G. Krueger, M.D., Professor of Dermatology.

These appointments “recognize extraordinary effort and achievement on the part of the chair holder,” said University President Michael K. Young, who named the four recipients. Seven of 12 eventual Benning chair holders have now been named.

The Benning chairs were established in August 2005 by a $22.5 million bequest from the late Arthur E. Benning, former President and Chairman of the Board of Amalgamated Sugar, and are named after his parents. Benning had been greatly impressed by the work of University of Utah doctors in saving the life of a co-worker’s daughter. That co-worker, Allan M. Lipman, went on to become president and chief executive officer of Amalgamated. Annual proceeds from the money will fund the work of 12 chair holders who are U medical school faculty. The only stipulation is that the money be used for research in the School of Medicine.

The University of Utah is the only place in the country to have had two faculty receive the Morris F. Collen Award, Homer Warner, M.D., Ph.D., professor emeritus and founding chair of the medical informatics department, previously received this capstone prize, according to Mitchell.

The American Medical Informatics Association, formed in 1989, is an organization of leaders shaping the future of health information technology in the United States and abroad. AMIA is dedicated to the development and application of medical informatics in support of patient care, teaching, research, and health care administration.

Reed M. Gardner, Ph.D., Professor of Medical Informatics at the University of Utah’s School of Medicine, has been recognized nationally for his personal achievements and research that has been instrumental in defining the field of medical informatics.

Gardner received the Morris F. Collen Award of Excellence for 2005 from the American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA) College of Informatics at its 2005 Annual Symposium in Washington, D.C. In honor of medical informatics pioneer Morris Collen, the award recognizes an individual who has made a lasting impression on the field.

“It is a tribute to Reed Gardner’s long and productive career that he has received the Morris Collen Award, and a well deserved honor,” said Joyce Mitchell, Ph.D., Professor and Chair of the Department of Medical Informatics. “This is the highest and most prestigious award given in this specialty.”

Gardner is one of the principal developers and evaluators of the medical expert system HELP (Health Evaluation through Logical Processing) at LDS Hospital in Salt Lake City. His primary academic and research interests include hospital information systems, computerized medical decision-making, computerization of critical care, automation of nursing processes, medical informatics education, and public health informatics. Gardner is also the author or co-author of more than 350 articles in the fields of medical informatics and bioengineering, and is currently serving as an editorial board member for Methods of Information in Medicine. In addition, he is a Fellow of the American College of Medical Informatics and past President of the AMIA.

The four new appointees join three current Benning chair holders: Stephen M. Prescott, M.D., Professor of Internal Medicine; D. Ware Branch, M.D., Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology; and Edwin A. Stevens, M.D., Professor and Chair of Radiology.

The seven chair holders will also become the founding members of the Benning Society. One of the group’s first duties will be to recommend researchers to hold the five Benning chairs not yet filled.

A. Lorris Betz, M.D., Ph.D., Senior Vice President for Health Sciences, expects the remaining five chairs to be filled in 2006.
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</table>
The University of Utah School of Medicine Alumni Board is pleased to announce the selected recipients for the 2006 Distinguished Awards.

Presented on Thursday, June 1, 2006 Medical Awards Banquet

Please join us in acknowledging their service, and to celebrate the Fiftieth Reunion for the class of 1956

The Distinguished Alumni Awards
James W. Freston, M.D., 1961
August L. Jung, M.D., 1961

The Distinguished Service Award
DeVon C. Hale, M.D., 1969

The Distinguished Posthumous Alumni Award
Roger R. Williams, M.D., 1971

A special thanks to the Office of Student Affairs for providing the list of the 2006 graduates. Please contact the office for corrections, 801-581-3657.
Paralysis—Not Defeat
Snowboard Crash Alters Medical Student’s Future

By Erin Stewart
Deseret Morning News

When 31-year-old Gael Yonnet’s head hit the snow after a 20-foot jump in February, he knew his snowboard helmet would not be enough to break his fall. With four years of medical school under his belt, Yonnet knew the pain in his stomach and the numbness below his belly button meant one thing—he was paralyzed.

“It’s a feeling you can’t explain. I felt like I was touching somebody else when I touched my leg. I knew it was over,” said Yonnet, a University of Utah medical student whose crash landing in the USA snowboarding tournament left him paralyzed from the waist down.

The French native’s accident thrust him into a role reversal, landing him in a bed in the neurology unit at the University of Utah where only days before he had been doing rounds while studying to become a neurologist.

Yonnet’s dream of becoming a doctor brought him to Salt Lake City from his hometown of Bordeaux, France, 10 years ago. Yonnet now lives with the parents of a missionary who taught him about The Church of Jesus-Christ of Latter-day Saints.

After joining the church, Yonnet came to Utah to study and hone his snowboarding skills in the little spare time he has between passing his board exams and applying for residency. Yonnet doesn’t plan on giving up either of those dreams anytime soon.

As for becoming a doctor, Yonnet said he’s still on track, although it might take him a little longer to get there. He now hopes to use his medical experience to find ways to stimulate leg muscles with electronic shocks or even invent a contraption to actually lift his legs with strings.

Dr. David Renner, a mentor to Yonnet and the director of the adult neurology residency program, said school officials are working to “ensure he graduates.”

“I wouldn’t be surprised if he becomes interested in a field like rehabilitation medicine. It will take on a new personal meaning for him,” Renner said. “He’ll surprise himself and do amazing things with this strange hurdle he’s been asked to overcome.”

“An outpouring of support from fellow medical students and doctors gave him a reason to push aside his feelings of despair,” Yonnet said. Other fourth-year medical students immediately set up a donation fund for Yonnet at Zions Bank, as well as a grooming committee to shave and bathe their peer.

Fred Langeland, M.D., the father of the missionary who met Yonnet in France, said those bills have racked up quickly already surpassing Yonnet’s insurance maximum by $20,000. On top of that, Yonnet has upwards of $200,000 in student loans.

“He’s a very capable young man with a lot of potential; this has not diminished that,” said Langeland, who has been a host to Yonnet for the past eight years.

To make a donation for Yonnet, contact any Zions bank branch and ask for the Gael Yonnet fund.
The Mentor and HOST Program 2005-2006

The mentor program has been a great success this year!

As you can see from a few of the many testimonials we’ve received, our first and second year medical students love the mentor program. Thanks to our great volunteer physicians, 120 medical students were matched in the fall of 2005. During the year they students and physicians spend five to fifteen hours together on the phone, during clinic or surgery visits, over meals, and during other medical related activities. The student is able to see the practice of medicine first hand. This provides a perspective of his or her future in a particular specialty. Thanks to both our students and physicians for making the mentor program a success.

A second program that physicians and students love is our HOST Program. HOST stands for Help Our Students Travel. Physicians who sign up for this program live close to a residency hospital. The list of HOST physicians is sent to the 4th-year medical students in October when they begin their search for a residency.

Would you like to become a HOST or mentor?
Please phone 801-581-8591 to learn more about the program, or access information on the web site at www.utahmedalumni.org/mentor.htm.

“I have been able to observe multiple surgeries, as well as scrub in. He is a great mentor and I have been very satisfied. He has also been helpful in setting me up with some research opportunities, and is extremely accommodating. Thanks!” —Kurtis

“I spent the day in the clinic with my mentor. We talked about what I would like to get out of the mentor program. I also watched her examine patients and she even took time to teach me a few parts of the exam and allowed me to participate. She is a great mentor!” —Amy

“Everything has been great. I like the fact that we talk about both medicine and life issues. In all reality this mentoring program has been a great support.” —Autumn

“I met with my mentor at his office. I then was invited to attend the Salt Lake Surgical Society dinner, which was a really fun experience. I have spent a day in surgery with him, and have also spent a day shadowing him in his office.” —Janalee

Match Day 2006

More than 90 graduating medical school seniors and their families gathered on March 16, 2005, to celebrate and open their “Match Day” announcement letters.

At the event, Viet Nguyen, M.D., 1997, of the School of Medicine Alumni Association, welcomed the students to their Association. Dr. Nguyen presented the seniors with a pin and a magnet as a gift from the School of Medicine Alumni Association.

The most popular residency programs, in order, were Surgery, Emergency Care Medicine, Pediatrics, and Family Practice.

Congratulations, graduates!
We Want to Hear from You

Please send us information about your honors received, appointments, career advancements, publications, volunteer work, and other activities of interest. Please include names, dates, and locations. Photographs are encouraged.

Name  Year

Home Address

City

State  Zip

E-mail Address

Recent Activities

Contact Information

There are a number of ways to submit information:

• E-mail: maryjo.harrell@hsc.utah.edu
• U.S. Mail: send the completed form to University of Utah School of Medicine Alumni Relations, 540 S. Arapeen Drive, Suite 125, Salt Lake City, Utah 84108
• Telephone: 801-585-1121
• Website: www.utahmedalumni.org

Check out the new web site!

A great place to connect with fellow alumni. www.utahmedalumni.org
### Alumni Notebook

#### In Memoriam

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Graduation Year</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Virginia S. Armstrong, M.D.</td>
<td>MD 1948</td>
<td>2 Jan 05</td>
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<td>Bert Atwater, Jr., M.D.</td>
<td>MD 1948</td>
<td>12 Dec 05</td>
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<td>Lola Scott Brennan, M.D.</td>
<td>MD 1951</td>
<td>29 Oct 05</td>
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<td>Max W. Carver, Ph.D.</td>
<td>MD 1937</td>
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<td>Woodrow W. Copeland, M.D.</td>
<td>MD 1954</td>
<td>22 Nov 05</td>
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<td>Lindsay R. Curtis, M.D.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dee M. Dickson, M.D.</td>
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<td>Neil C. Dobson, M.D.</td>
<td>MD 1981</td>
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<td>Martin H. Feldman, M.D.</td>
<td>MD 1959</td>
<td>4 Dec 05</td>
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<td>Mark H. Greene, M.D.</td>
<td>MD 1948</td>
<td>26 Dec 05</td>
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<td>Elaine P. Hancock, M.D.</td>
<td>MD 1938</td>
<td>20 Nov 05</td>
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<td>Paul C. Harding, Ph.D.</td>
<td>MD 1952</td>
<td>14 Jun 05</td>
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<td>Terry Hess, M.D.</td>
<td>MD 1976</td>
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<td>Mark B. Jenson, M.D.</td>
<td>MD 1949</td>
<td>9 Sep 05</td>
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<td>Karla Kornmayer, M.D.</td>
<td>MD 1982</td>
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<td>Ikuya T. Kurita, Ph.D.</td>
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<td>Robert L. Love, M.D.</td>
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<td>Amelia S. McConkie, M.D.</td>
<td>MD 1937</td>
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<tr>
<td>John W. Pace, M.D.</td>
<td>MD 1939</td>
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</tbody>
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### Housestaff

The U of U has long been a center of excellence in the field of graduate medical education. Annually, approximately 630 residents and fellows acquire and develop knowledge through a variety of medical and surgical programs. The University of Utah’s unique geographical location and its service to a six-state area allow for diverse case mixes and high patient volume, giving residents and fellows the kind of extensive hands-on training they need to become superb clinicians.

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#### Office of Graduate Medical Education

1C412 University Medical Center
30 North 1900 East
Salt Lake City, UT 84132-2115

Phone: 801-581-2401
Fax: 801-585-2507

Hours: 8:00 am–5:00 pm
Monday–Friday

E-mail: grad.meded@hsc.utah.edu

The Graduate Medical Education Office serves as point of contact for resident issues including: payroll, insurance benefits, rotation schedules, loan deferments, veterans’ benefits, employment verification and tuition reduction.

The office also serves as a central contact point for policy making and handling of problems related to housestaff and the various training programs at any of the affiliated hospitals.

The Graduate Medical Education Office works with the Graduate Medical Education Committee of the University of Utah School of Medicine, as well as with other committees and training program directors as needed, to determine policies and solve problems.