



September 2007

Volume 29, Issue 4

# ED UPDATE

## Inside this issue:

<b>Ballester's Bullets</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Know-Nothing Sim-Man</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Research Results</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Gebhart's Run</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Military Maneuvers Springer's Stuff</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Brown Knows</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>The Chair's Perspective</b>	<b>10</b>

## Special points of interest:

- Prolonged QT
- Class of 2007
- Website Updates
- The Biggest Losers

### Editor

Jonathan Singer, M.D.

### Design

Cassie Browning

## LEAD PLACEMENT

The July and August inaugural orientation served the residents and the department well. With minor modifications that will build on our unity the calendar of cornucopia can be revisited next year. The orientation process permitted didactic alterations to our traditional life threat presentations. And the topics in emergency medicine cycle were reset. The first theme in the three year cycle started in electrifying fashion. Unfortunately, the interpretation of the electrocardiogram has been and will remain an enigma for me. Hence, my contributions to the topic will come from this newsletter, not the podium.



## IRREGULARLY IRREGULAR

The last quarter of the world's climate and the stock market were roller coasters. In our field of employment, the bounces are anticipated, indeed often sought, but for non-work events, equanimity is more often appreciated. When my retirement bundle cycled the dumper and nearly returned before a seven day cycle had advanced, I was stressed. When the water works sent me a bill for trying to only regionally retain a few square feet of bedded vegetation in my yard, and I needed to withdraw funds from my grandson's college account to make the payment, I was stressed. When wheat prices soared in September as a result of drought stricken pastures, I had to forgo cereals and whole wheat toast for breakfast. This had been a relatively cheap means to retain my metabolism and reduce weight (see below). But all of these woes are selfish.

We all suffered both near and afar. Locally, Findlay, OH got six of its "down" thirteen inches of rain over two days and flooded. Afar, many southern portions of Greece emulated the seasonally golden hills of California and burnt to a crisp. Thankfully the predictions regarding tropical storms did not come true and our southern neighbors were moderately and polymorphously pummeled.

## TORSADES DE POINTES

How twisted has the orientation to collegiate football month been? The University of Cincinnati, with straight victories achieved a national ranking of 24<sup>th</sup>. Michigan's negative deflection and Notre Dame's flat line has caused outward propagation of panic. In our athletic realm there was a consistency of joy.

## SECOND-DEGREE (MOSS CREEK) BLOCK

The Sam Finn Outing of Friday, June 29<sup>th</sup> returned us to Moss Creek. Faculty, staff and residents bifurcated from the working environment to the conduction pathways of greenery. The course wardens were congenial. There was a sustained run of sunshine and gentle breeze. We could all enjoy the alternating increments by which the T box to green lengthened or decreased with succession of holes. Several individuals and teams exhibited more effective profiles. **Brian Syska** and **Annie Carlisle** struck the longest drives. **Lynn Bailey** and **Steve Dickson** were closest to the pin winners. **Steve Dickson**, **Lynn Bailey**, **Matt Dickson** and **Larry Couchot** possessed the most beneficial oxygen balance and came in at 7 under par. The worst foursome at 12 over par had taken several accessory bypass tracks but still enjoyed the day. Thanks go to **Dr. Greenwood** who organized the event.

## PROLONGED QT

The annual orientation picnic sponsored by the **Janz'** prolonged quality time beyond expectation. Our informal meet and greet was followed by a bolus of food and cold drinks. The later, some of which with vasodilating properties were then carried to the baseball diamond. The day was notable for several outcomes: only **Nate Schlicher** sustained a CT-defying closed head injury and the interns closing conduction velocity brought them to only an eight run defeat by the end of five innings. **Andrew Reidy** and **Chris Calvert** collectively struck out three times. **Jim Olson** made a spectacular one hand catch at the hot corner. **Derrick Darnsteadt** missed a pop-up as he wouldn't drop a Sprite in order to secure the ball. Our own **Charley Hussle**, **Carrie Arnold** took a **David Badford**-like dive into second base. Half pints of the **Gebhart** and **Vandhoeff** families played spectacular baseball.



## CHAMBER ENLARGEMENT

**Jeffrey N. Love**, professor of EM at Georgetown was my gracious host for visiting professor talks. Jeff and I caught up on the whereabouts and actions of his class and the shoulder groups. We shared aged libations from Scottish barrels. We dined at Kinkades on Pennsylvania Avenue with three PEM folks he recruited for the occasion. With too short a time between the Irish coffee and his morning impromptu escort service, Jeff led me to a hybrid grand round audience of Peds and EM people. The talk went well. I was pleased they giggled at planned humorous moments. A smaller group of pure EM faculty and residents took in my second hour. My chambers enlarged as only one audience member slept. The ground transportation service arranged by resident coordinator, Nancy Kenny was awesome. For those in D.C. needing a cab, call colorful entrepreneur Jeffery 202-531-3819 and tell him I sent you. The guy is a trip! In regards to outatown speakers, if you're in need (for example Stanford, Milwaukee), give me a call.

## RE-ENTRANT DYSRHYTHMIAS

**Jim Augustine** visited the office on a Friday afternoon.

**Shay Richardson** interviewed for a sports medicine fellowship. **Candie** and children hung out.

**Jon Krohmer**, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Office of Health Affairs, Department of Homeland Security came for a Visiting Professor presentation on the topic of "Healthcare Preparedness for



Catastrophic Events." Jon is on the frontline in Washington and we're proud of his accomplishments and important role.

## U WAVES

**Spencer Greene** has been hitting a Phoenix gym daily. He's been dispensing anti-venoms for rattlesnake and scorpion envenomations.

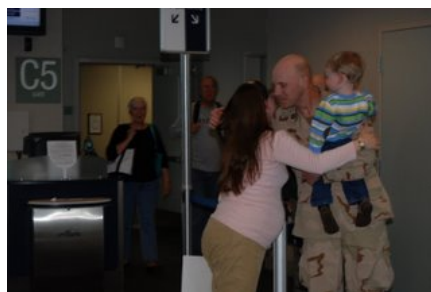
**Dan Smith** and family are doing well in Santiago. Dan is on exchange with the Chilean Air Force. He'll exit the military in a short time frame and will join **Brian Loveridge** in the Layton/Ogden area in Utah.

**Nicho Rubi**, seeking a letter for licensing says hello to everyone.

**John Sterba** sends his greetings and included copies of several of his recent works which included a handbook of home sheltering preparation/encouragement and a handbook for parents with disabled children.

**Brett Wynn** says hi from their new residence in Georgia. All are well. They have started a children's inflatable business (see [jumpinjoeysga.com](http://jumpinjoeysga.com)).

**Matt Wolf** (below) returned home safely from his deployment. Welcome home!



## TACHYDYSRHYTHMIAS

Lynn Grunkemeyer (Mike's daughter), a 19-year-old sophomore at UK won the Dayton District Women's Golf Association stroke and match play championship.

The Ohio Chapter ACEP recognized **Joan Kolodzik** as the 2007 recipient of the Bill Hall award for service to the chapter.

Congratulations to **Joey** and Stacey **Mauro** on the birth of their son, Rocco Nicholas Mauro on August 10, 2007.



Congratulations to **Robert** and Betsey **Sarlay** on the birth of their daughter, Carina AnnMarie Sarlay on September 24, 2007.



Congratulations to **Soriya** and Brent on the birth of their daughter, Malee Corinne **Todd** on September 14, 2007.



**Ethan Wagner** sent in this new picture of his boys, Jack and Sam.



And now a word from  
the rest of the gang...

## BALLESTER'S BULLETS

- Michael Ballester, M.D.



### THE YOUNG ARE TRIPPING

Things are quite busy now in the third month of student rotations. We have had an exuberant response to the field of emergency medicine, as well as the new didactic curriculum involving much more human patient simulation. Simulation is allowing the students for the first time in their early careers making clinical decisions in a completely safe and simulated environment. It is really impressive to see the students' confidence and skills grow by the week.

### THE OLD AND MY TRIPS

I also am very involved in helping the Department of Geriatrics establish a presence in education across the medical student curriculum. I am traveling to Duke University next week to complete a mini-fellowship in medical student curriculum design, as well as assist in emergency medicine didactics for a day long medical student education seminar. I will wrap the month up with two lectures to the resident Friday conferences, as well as participate as a guest lecturer at the annual Dayton Gastroenterology symposium.

### TRIPPING OUT

With the very timely help from JB I was able to get an abstract presented at the SAEM Midwest conference on substance abuse in the elderly trauma patient, which was well received. I anticipate being able to write the paper in the next few months.

### TRIBE

My kids are enjoying the start of the school year—Mitchell joined Cub Scouts, which therefore means lots of fun goofing off for both of us this fall. I'm not sure who is going to enjoy it more, him or me. And of course, all is right in the world with college and pro football in full swing—anticipating a 11-5 season for my beloved Steelers!!

## Know-Nothing

- John Wightman, M.D.

# 方向

The two characters above, *fāng* and *xiàng*, can each mean “direction” when used in different contexts. Brought together, they can be interpreted as a “path to follow.” Through a tremendous effort by all of the faculty and some of the residents, we put our new R1s on their training path by starting them off with a new orientation program. This followed the usual two weeks in June with an entire month of didactic and hands-on activities in July. Particular recognition goes to **Ray Ten Eyck** and **Mike Ballester** for simulation, and **Rick Dagrosa** for ultrasound, the two biggest chunks of new curricula that had to be created in a relatively short period of time.

You can now view the content by clicking on “curriculum” from the residency’s website at [www.med.wright.edu/em/res/](http://www.med.wright.edu/em/res/) We are still refining the information on the pages, but components of the orientation program can be found by clicking “Core Curriculum,” “Year-Directed Curricula,” and “Experiential Curricula.” Every one of the R1s also started seeing ED patients in the latter half of July, rather than some of them having to start their residency training doing off-service rotations.

The initial feedback from the R1s was very positive. They believed they were better prepared to care for the patients they encountered in their first three months.

A tree—so big that it takes both arms to surround—starts out as the tiniest shoot.

A high place—one hundred or one thousand feet high—begins from under your feet.

Lao-tzu

The latter verse has also been interpreted as “a thousand-mile journey begins with a single step.”

Whether getting their arms around the breadth of their new specialty, climbing the mountain of information they will be accumulating, or trekking toward the destination of knowing; our new R1s seem to realize the importance of the task ahead, and be willing to put in the effort required. I can’t help but note the pictographic similarities between *gōng* (effort) and *fāng* (direction).

# 功 方

Effort, and likely some adjustments along the way, are necessary to maintain one’s direction.

There are other components of the curriculum that have been structured, vetted, and implemented. These can be found on the website too. The desired result of all these changes in the curriculum is to plot the best bearing for the residents we can as a faculty. Not everybody will follow the exact same path on their journey of learning, but over the next couple of years we’ll find out if the direction we pointed them was a good one.

## Sim-Man

### SIM CURRICULUM FLOWS - Ray Ten Eyck, M.D.

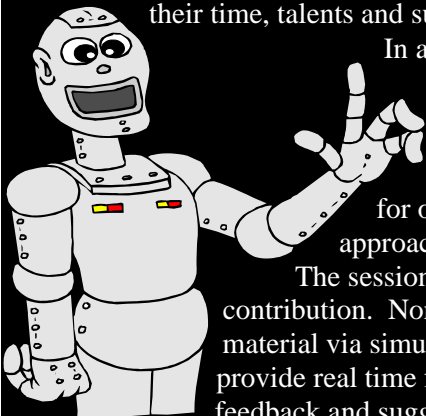
August marked the start of the MS-4 clerkship for this academic year and the kick-off of our new simulation based curriculum. The curriculum for WSU students involves 6 simulation sessions per month with the use of the SimMan model for case based teaching and Trauma Man for tube thoracostomy task training. The initiation of the new curriculum and with it a large RCT addressing the impact of simulation as an educational tool was achieved with the assistance of a number of people. Lynn DeWine pulled together the infrastructure to make the change go off as planned. The teaching team for the month composed of **Drs. Mike Ballester, Melissa Williams** and **Adam Bromberg** provided their time, talents and suggestions to make the final adjustments that have set the pace for the rest of the year.

In addition, **Dr. Ryan Mihata** volunteered his time to assist in several sessions.

### FEEDBACK NEEDED

The monthly simulation schedule is rounded out by an additional lab each month for Air Force students and a simulation based year directed conference once a month for one of the three resident classes on a rotating basis. In August, we attempted a new approach to teaching ventilator management to the R-2s using a simulation based format.

The sessions were a success thanks more to **Dr. Tim Janz’s** efforts than to SimMan’s contribution. Nonetheless, we will continue to evaluate new ways to better present key curricular material via simulation. In this month’s R-3 simulation based YDC, **Drs. Hamilton** and **Brown** will provide real time feedback to help our senior residents enhance their clinical teaching skills. Your feedback and suggestions are encouraged.





## Research Results

- James Olson, Ph.D.

### PRAGUE SUMMER

Following conversations at the most recent Society for Neuroscience meeting, **Dr. Olson** developed research collaborations with several investigators in the Institute of Experimental Medicine at the Academy of Sciences in the Czech Republic. The research group in Prague is exploring brain edema development during ischemia and following reperfusion. This subject is closely aligned with projects currently underway in our laboratory funded by the American Heart Association. This summer, the investigators in Prague sent tissue samples for analysis in our lab and in exchange, we sent them digital images obtained with our collaborator in New York City. These images were analyzed quantitatively using their sophisticated computer image analysis software. Dr. Olson met these researchers again in Salzburg, Austria at an international meeting and discussed (over schnapps) the continuation and expansion of these scientific interactions.

### A NEW YORK MINUTE



Another collaborative research project was continued in July with a trip to New York City at the College of Staten Island. Dr. Olson worked with Drs. El Idrissi and L'amoreau in the biology department to make three dimensional images of individual neurons. This powerful technique will provide useful pilot data for grant applications planned for NIH early next year and a manuscript currently in preparation. The success of this work was furthered by another scientific interaction with scientists in Prague, Czech Republic (see above) who assisted us with quantitative analysis and reconstruction of the individual cellular images. This ongoing collaboration in New York is funded by Wright State University Basic Science Seed Grant and Travel Award to Dr. Olson.

## STUDENT NEWS

We welcome Brian Tucker as a new Master's student in the laboratory. Mr. Tucker is in the second year of the anatomy program and selected our lab for his practical research experience leading to his thesis dissertation. Brian's first task was the analysis of microscope image data obtained in New York City (see below) using the software and techniques developed by our colleagues in Prague, Czech Republic (see left). Dr. Olson presented the results of these analyses to an International Conference on Cell Volume regulation in Salzburg, Austria. Brian will participate in ongoing research projects currently funded by the American Heart Association investigating brain edema development.

Our own Allison Perkeybile also spent time in the lab this summer honing her skills as an experimentalist. Allison is validating a method for measuring extremely small quantities of ATP such as those we expect to find released from brain tissue during injury. This methodology will aid our exploration of neuronal-glia signaling in the hippocampus mediated by purinergic receptors.

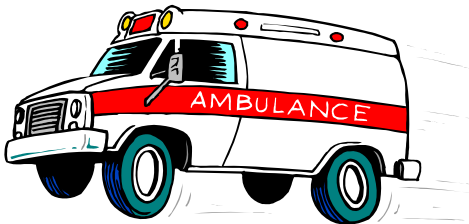
After five weeks of ichthyology at OSU's Stone Laboratory on Lake Erie, Adric Olson came to our department lab to examine mechanisms of ATP release from cultured glioma cells. These studies in basic science test the possible interactions between oxidative and purinergic signaling pathways in the brain and are fundamental to our understanding of the brain's adaptation to injury.

### VOLUME REGULATION IN OKTOBER

Every two years for the last decade, scientists from around the world have met to discuss the state of research in cell volume regulation. This time the venue was Salzburg, Austria. Over 200 scientists and students from 17 countries on 4 continents spent an intensive 5 days in the lecture halls and library of the newly opened Paracelsus Medical University (named after a medieval physician of the area, a.k.a. Philippus Theophrastus Aureolus Bombastus von Hohenheim). The days were filled with scientific discussions and the nights overflowing with music (Salzburg is the birth home of Mozart) and local cuisine (wiener schnitzel is not what I expected). Since the conference opened during the first weeks of Oktoberfest, the participants were practicing as well as studying various aspects of cell volume regulation in their renal and neural systems. Dr. Olson represented the department with a warm-up presentation for the keynote speaker on the first evening. New ideas were brought home for research currently underway in the lab and international collaborations were strengthened and fostered.

## Gebhart's Runs

- Mark Gebhart, M.D.



The H.E.L.P. Center has been through a whirlwind of events in the past few months. Contracts came to a close, new staff hired, distinguished guests visited, we moved to our new location located at 3139 Research Boulevard, Suite 205.

### ACC/NEHC

The Northwestern and Southeastern Ohio Acute Care Center (ACC) projects are complete. Pete Savard, Jack Smith, Bill Harchick as well as the rest of the H.E.L.P. Center staff have truly transformed this "paper" concept to a bona fide operational entity. We are awaiting news from ODH on the H.E.L.P. Center's future with the Modular Emergency Medical Systems (MEMS) program.

The Neighborhood Emergency Help Center (NEHC) was successfully deployed at the 2007 Air Show. Medical equipment for one "treatment lane" was set-up. A total of 171 patients were treated for illness and injuries. The H.E.L.P. Center staff, residents, medical students, as well as other nurses and medical technicians from Dayton area hospitals staffed the Air Show first aid tents. A trail run of NEHC patient care charts proved successful. Charts were used in conjunction with standard Air Show medical forms. EDaptive Computing, Inc. was contracted by the H.E.L.P. Center to study time flow and the staffing model at the Air Show. Research data gathered will be assessed and results will be used to identify needed modifications and ensure effectiveness and efficiency.

### CALAMITYVILLE

Staff recently traveled to the USAF School of Aerospace Medicine in San Antonio, TX and to the USAF Research Laboratory's Human Effectiveness Directorate in Mesa, AZ. A continued collaboration with these two groups and discussion with the USAFRL's Sensors Directorate the Calamityville project is rapidly moving the Calamityville along. A Cooperative Learning Center agreement with Texas A&M University's Texas Engineering Extension Service is being aggressively pursued. As the Calamityville process continues our ability to access the experiences of their "Disaster City" project and technology transfer efforts will be of great value to us. The TEEX delegation has been invited to Dayton to continue this dialogue.

### H.E.L.P. OPERATIONS

The National Disaster Life Support (NDLS) project came to a close on June 30, 2007 with a successful training of nearly 900 volunteers for the Ohio Medical Reserve Corp and Ohio Citizen Corp. News on a possible grant opportunity to continue these courses are in the works.

We were fortunate to sponsor various governmental, state, university, and local partners in the current and future operations of the H.E.L.P. center including a MEMS update and tour of the medical logistics facility with the hospital CEO's and Health Commissioners in Dayton area. We also welcomed Major General Melissa Rank of the Air Force Surgeon General, Nursing Services, Office of the Surgeon General, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Bolling Air Force Base, and D.C.

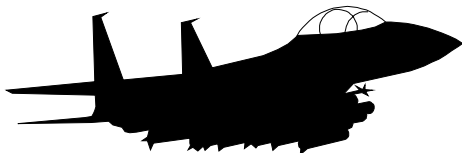
Mr. Dan Kirkpatrick has joined the H.E.L.P. Center team as Manager of Workforce Development. He will oversee workforce development as it relates to all of our programs including MEMS, education and training, NDLS, and the AHA program. His position is shared part-time with the H.E.L.P. Center and the WSU College of Nursing.

Dan has recently retired from the Air Force after 34 years of service. He has an extensive background in medical readiness in the Air Force, serving in Kuwait at the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom as commander of an Air Force field hospital 39 miles from the Iraqi Border.



## MILITARY MANEUVERS

- Josh Wright, M.D.



### MILITARY INTERVIEWS

Military interview season is in full swing this year. We have a lot of candidates who will fill our 6 military slots. This year has the added twist that no current interns are allowed to apply. This is due to the fact that last year, the Surgeon General had said that all who do not match in a specialty will be required to perform a 2 year rotation as either a Flight Surgeon or a General Medical Officer. That means that those who did not match last year are going to be heading out to do their tour. That significantly decreases the applicant pool this year. The current medical school applicants have a much better choice of matching as a result of these rulings.

### ROAD TOUR

We also are going to be having a big change to the department in the next month or so. Our flight commander LtCol **Ed Fieg** will be spending an extra long vacation in beautiful Afghanistan. He will be working with with Afghani medical services to help establish a cohesive medical network throughout the country. So he will be gone from us for over a year. He will surely be missed.

### HOMEFRONT

On the homefront, Dr. Matt McKay should be heading home here shortly from his most recent tour and should start working clinically by mid month October. **Dr. Ramirez** will be taking over the medical student rotation at the Base from **Dr. Dagrosa** as he is concentrating on his ultrasound elective.

## Springer's Stuff

- Brian Springer, M.D.

### GREETINGS ALL!

I hope this edition of the *Update* finds everyone enjoying the Fall season. Personally, I am hoping that cooler weather will help resuscitate my moribund front lawn, which fared poorly during the hot, dry summer.



### KUDOS

Of note first and foremost, budgetary and time constraints necessitated my stepping down as Medical Director for MEMS and the CCWG at the HELP Center. It was a challenging but mostly fruitful year working for the Center, and my thanks to all who worked so hard with me to help turn the surge hospital concept into a working reality. Also my thanks to the faculty who helped **Dr. Gebhart** and myself sort through endless lists of equipment and pharmaceuticals to help decide what works in a disaster setting.

### DETAILS

On the Sports Medicine front, baseball ends (with a rain-delayed playoff loss for the Dragons) and football begins (with a great series of high school games played at Nippert Field, University of Cincinnati.) Our fellow, Dr. Ahrenholz, is doing a commendable job covering games, doing preparticipation physicals, and keeping things moving at clinic. I am also in the planning stages for a 2008 seminar on managing the spine-injured athlete, aimed at EMS and emergency physicians.

### MEETING

The first official meeting of TRIG (Tactical EMS Resident Interest Group) was a success. The morning began with a 90-minute "Introduction to TEMS" lecture by **Dr. Pickett**, with additional commentary by me and TEMS guru **Dr. Wightman**. This was followed by the administration of SWAT operational fitness test, performed under a blazing sun by hard-charging **Drs. Pickett, Brady, Koncal, Lim, and Wiegand**. That which does not kill us makes us stronger.

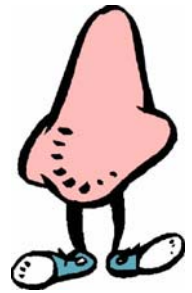
### BETTER HALF

Lastly, Kim and I completed a three-day bicycle tour, heading out from our garage in Miamisburg with what we could load on our bikes and onto the bicycle path. Our journey took us north to Dayton, across to Xenia and Yellow Springs, and south to Morrow. It provides a neat perspective on things when what would be a 15-minute car ride becomes a 50-mile bike ride. Motel showers never looked so inviting. We had a great time, saw beautiful sights, and had a heck of a workout. And yes, we still have saddle sores.



# BROWN KNOWS

- James Brown, M.D.



## GRADUATION REPORT

We gathered at the Dayton Racquet Club on the evening of June 22<sup>nd</sup> to celebrate our 28<sup>th</sup> graduation ceremony. We had a full house (now, with 14 graduates, we may have to find larger space). After the reading and exegesis of **Jon Singer's** poem (some things do change, I'm beginning to not need the explanations as much) we enjoyed a fabulous meal. After **Dr. Hamilton's** state of the department address, we began with the awards presentations.



And the winners were:

- ◇ Ed. Call Award, Harvey Hahn, M.D.
- ◇ Agna Clinical Excellence Award, Keith Bricking, M.D.
- ◇ Montgomery County EMS Award, Kirk Hinkley, M.D.
- ◇ Clinical Excellence Award, Terence Lonergan, M.D.
- ◇ Jalenko Academic Excellence Award, Travis Taylor, D.O.
- ◇ PGY-I Attendance Award, Stephen Galvin, M.D.
- ◇ PGY-II Attendance Award, Robert Sarlay, M.D.
- ◇ PGY-III Attendance Award, Terry Lonergan, M.D.
- ◇ Accumulative-Attendance Award, Vance Rothmeyer, M.D.
- ◇ SAEM Med Student Excellence Award, James Brewer, M.D.
- ◇ Jalenko (MSIV), Scott Koncal, M.D.
- ◇ Best Lecture of the Spring, Terry Lonergan, M.D.
- ◇ Best Journal Club, Brian Syska, M.D.
- ◇ Best Lecture for Fall, Travis Taylor, D.O.
- ◇ Best Lecture of the Year, Terry Lonergan, M.D.
- ◇ Best Lecture for Winter, Greg Kennebeck, M.D.



The awards having been presented, the moment the seniors and their families had all been waiting for finally arrived. It is my pleasure to introduce to you the Class of 2007. **Heidi Kabler** and **Brain Syska** went together (seems redundant to say that, for those who know them) to MountainView Hospital in Las Vegas. There they join alumni including **John Henner**. **Francisco 'Paco' Ramirez** and **Travis Taylor** stayed here at Wright Pat. **Karin Kemp** and **Kirk Hinkley** went to Keesler AFB in Biloxi, Mississippi. Not to be outdone in visiting garden spots in the USAF, **Cindy Harris** was assigned to Osan AFB in South Korea. **Vance Rothmeyer** relocated to WSU North, aka Elmendorf AFB, in Anchorage, Alaska. **Terry Lonergan**, not content with being trained in Family Medicine and EM, signed up for critical care training at Cooper Hospital in scenic Camden, NJ. **Shawn Campbell** stayed locally and is working at Upper Valley MC in Piqua. **Luke Dandeleit** returned to his roots in Minnesota where he works at Unity Hospital in Fridley. **Brian Hartman** finally decreased his commute and is working with some of our alumni at St. Francis Hospitals in Indianapolis. Last, but not least, **Lori Starke** also returned home – to the Pacific Northwest and Jefferson General Hospital in Port Townsend, Washington.

## The Chair's Perspective

- Glenn Hamilton, M.D.



## CLASS OF 2007

I want to add my sincere congratulations and appreciation to the class of 2007. Coming from a variety of backgrounds, they gelled nicely, maintained a positive and constructive approach to their training, and truly contributed to the current superb status of the residency and department. As I have said many times before, it is always difficult being the fixed point (and obviously I have been more than fixed for some time.) And this was one of those classes that you simply wanted to stick around a little longer.

We wish them well in all their endeavors and hope that they will stay in contact. Of course now that they are high dollar earning alumni, we will remain in contact with them.

## ORIENTATION MONTH

For the first time in the history of the training program, we committed the first month of the academic year to R1 orientation. This was **Dr. Brown's** innovation, and with the help of **Drs. Wightman, Ten Eyck, Ballester**, and others it came together very well. A combination of small group sessions, simulations, and one-on-one dialogue allowed us to get much better acquainted with the R1s in a shorter time frame (yes we now know who doesn't listen and those who do). As far as we have heard, the approach helped the class become more cohesive especially since we are intermingling both military and civilian residents, and gave them a better opportunity to imprint on us and in emergency medicine. We look forward to continuing to improve this month as we redesign each iteration. There should be the opportunity for better skills profiling including multitasking, stress management, and learning preferences; as we work with and analyze the residents' performances. The entire project is yet another positive step for the training program and one that looks to be a permanent addition to our curriculum.

## WEBSITE UPGRADES

We say to the readership, look to the website! (<http://www.med.wright.edu/em/>) Each spring we ask the faculty to update all of their materials, add new photos (especially the glamour shots), and try to make our website reflect the enthusiasm and energy that we have for our training program. Currently more than 99% of the information obtained by residency candidates comes through the website and therefore it has great importance for us.



I'm inviting each of the readership to take a look at the website and send us some suggestions about what works or doesn't work, ways to make the interface more attractive, or mis-information/ out of date information they have found. We'd greatly appreciate your perspective as we continue to revise and update this important aspect of the residency. While you are at it, you can scroll down to the bottom of my section and try to identify the auto in the photograph. To date with several dozen guesses, only one person has got it right. That individual was a "car guy" and made some extra effort, but there is a right answer and the reward is the satisfaction unique trivia knowledge. When enough people get it right it gives me an excuse to consider purchasing something else to put in its' place.

## ALUMNI DINNER IN SEATTLE HALTED

It just didn't come together. I wasn't going to be in attendance and neither was Dr. Brown. We really didn't have a substantial response to our query about holding this dinner in the July newsletter and therefore we walked away. Chicago 2008 is the next ACEP meeting and we'll be back in force after a two year hiatus. We're going to miss an opportunity to visit with our west coast graduates but we know that you'll have an enthusiastic and enjoyable time in Seattle.

## A WHOLE LOT OF SHAKING GOING ON...

Over the course of this year and the next, you'll find the themes to be relatively consistent but the activity is both intense and effective. Our simulation center and the use of the simulator have simply exploded in terms of frequency of use and architectural planning. Hopefully a year from now you simply won't recognize the back of the building and the Cox parking lot will be crowded with interested participants. Our ultrasound work continues to expand and the curriculum is becoming more and more effective. As you read about the H.E.L.P. Center and Calamityville you can sense a new mission of the department continuing to take shape and crystalize. A positive presence of an excellent pediatric based sports medicine fellow has brought joy to **Dr. Springer's** face, as has the football season. Of course the enhanced organization and guidance brought by **Dr. Wightman** to our educational program is tangibly present in the quality of the presentations and the clarity of the planning behind them. The clinical environment is continues to churn with more and sicker patients coming to the emergency departments each day.

It is truly a big and busy time with a high level of opportunity available for each resident.

## PERSONAL NOTE

The summer has always gone by too fast but as I look out the window (which is actually without shades due to wasp nest removal) at particularly lovely time of early to mid fall is rapidly approaching in Ohio. There is still something invigorating about a four seasons environment and that sense of external and internal change that comes with it. I'm celebrating the first anniversary of my hip replacement and although I am not eager to repeat the process, I can certainly pronounce it a success. Lynda, Elizabeth and I had the chance to spend nearly three weeks in Scandinavia including a ten day cruise of the Baltics (thirty visits to the buffet is my excuse in the weight loss contest). A magnificent area of the world and one that I am happy to show a couple hundred photos of at the drop of an inquiry. Yet it is always easy to come back to an area where so much opportunity continues to be available. It's harvest time in west central Ohio and things are good.

## THE BIGGEST LOSERS



I believe that 's the name of yet another one of those nauseating late night reality shows. They are much like road kill. You know you shouldn't but you just have to look. At the fall department retreat in May, a wellness challenge went out regarding weight loss and six faculty members stepped up to the plate. Considering our performance over the last few months, a few of us did not step back from the plate, and the total weight loss after three months amongst the six was a mere 32 pounds. The majority of those pounds (20) were lost by **Dr. Olson**. As I told him he was dropping weight so fast we stopped the contest simply to save his life. But he does win a tailored suit. We need to bulk him up just a little for the visit. At the same time **Dr. Singer** and **Dr. Gebhart** lost the other 12 pounds. Three individuals called the Big Three including myself, **Dr. Ballester** and **Dr. Brown** broke even amongst us. Not exactly the role model we were hoping to project. Therefore, in an era of eternal second chances, we have recalibrated and restarted phase two of our wellness efforts focused on the Big 3 and ending at the Christmas party September 14<sup>th</sup> – December 14<sup>th</sup>. Be there and see who lightly skips away as the biggest loser.



Boonshoft School of Medicine  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
3525 Southern Blvd.  
Dayton, OH 45429-1221