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GROUNDING IN

The Founders' Vision

The vision for Wright State University School of Medicine originated with local physicians and community leaders who recognized that using existing hospitals and other clinical resources in the community would be a cost-effective model for medical education. In return, the school's community involvement would strengthen the health care system throughout the region. They envisioned a new kind of medical school in which students would learn to care for both their patients and their community.

In 1970, just three years after the Ohio General Assembly officially chartered Wright State as an independent state university, university leaders returned to Columbus to ask the Ohio Board of Regents to support establishing a community-based medical school. They presented a feasibility study based on what they called the "concept of community" and outlined the broad base of support they had identified for developing such a school.

After the General Assembly gave the go-ahead and provided

initial funds for the school in 1973, the community once again rallied support. Early major donors included Mrs. Virginia Kettering, who contributed \$1 million in unrestricted funds, and the Fordham Foundation, which provided \$500,000 for a medical library. Once Wright State received a formal "Letter of Reasonable Assurance of Accreditation" from the Liaison Committee on Medical Education, the Veterans Administration awarded the school a \$19.5 million, seven-year grant for faculty support and facilities.

1977

1978

1979

1980

1981

1982

1985-86



Medical sociologist Harvey Siegal, Ph.D., establishes the Weekend Intervention Program, providing early intervention for substance abusers.



Horizons in Medicine is established to provide under-represented minority high school students exposure to science and careers in medicine.



Functional Electrical Stimulation exercises for individuals with spinal cord injury are developed.

Phi Rho Sigma Chapter organizes volunteer efforts for the Special Olympics.



The Institute for Rehabilitation Research and Medicine is established to improve health, fitness, and quality of life for individuals with disabilities.



Data from the Fels Study is first published in the nation's pediatric growth charts.



Pathologist Al Batata, M.D., founds the Lymphoma Leukemia Research and Service Lab, introducing flow cytometry to Dayton.



The Anatomical Gift Program holds its first interment ceremony.

The Science Apprentice Program is established.



Emergency Medicine integrates with Dayton-area emergency medical services, including training and planning activities.



Emergency Medicine presents a series of PSA's on drunk driving.



Otolaryngologist Robert Goldenberg, M.D., develops the first adult cochlear implant in Dayton.

The Child Abuse Review and Evaluation Team is formed at Children's Medical Center to serve a 20-county area.

COMMUNITY

A key to selecting the first dean was finding a leader who could bring to life the community service vision of the school's founders. Many felt that mission was accomplished with the hiring of John R. Beljan, M.D., in 1974. Some 26 months later, Dr. Beljan presided over the school's first convocation, which was attended by more than 600 community supporters, including leading members of the health care community, representatives from Ohio's universities and colleges, local and state government officials, and

Veterans Administration representatives from Washington, D.C.

"Your school today is one of a new generation of institutions that some have called schools without walls, for this school does not see itself as an ivory tower insulated from people in the community about it but, rather, sees itself as a new community resource and asset and as a very real and functioning part of the community," said keynote speaker C. John Tupper, M.D., founding dean of the University of California-Davis

School of Medicine, where Dr. Beljan served as associate dean.

"This is a school that will make use of, gain support from, and contribute to the entire health education and delivery system of the community, and it is laying the groundwork for what I believe will be the future of medical education in terms of the intimate relationships and interrelationships with the community," he predicted. Dr. Tupper went on to serve as president of the American Medical Association (AMA) from 1990 to 1991. When he died in September,

1987

Members of the Student National Medical Association plan programming for the Boys and Girls Club of Dayton.



Medical students organize and run an annual prom at a local center for developmentally handicapped teens.



The Student-to-Student Program begins providing health education to area schools.

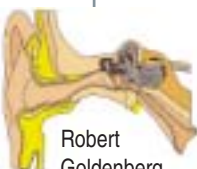
1988



Emergency Medicine participates in disaster planning for Montgomery County.



Dermatology organizes the first annual community-wide skin cancer screening.



Robert Goldenberg, M.D., develops the first pediatric cochlear implant in Dayton.

1989



Pediatrician Ralph Hicks, M.D., begins managing the Child Abuse Review and Evaluation Team and Clinic at Children's Medical Center.



Emergency Medicine provides medical support for Dayton Air and Trade Show.

1990

Psychiatry develops community-based program to strengthen services to underserved.

Robert Goldenberg, M.D., develops a middle ear implant system for hearing reconstruction.

A community-academic partnership, later named the Center for Healthy Communities, forms to promote health, deliver health care, and educate health professionals.



A community-wide effort leads to renovation and expansion of East Dayton Health Center.

1991



Office of Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology co-sponsors annual meeting of Miami Valley Gerontology Council.

Students volunteer for "Extra Hands" at the local homeless shelters.

1992



Community-based Clinical Training and Service Programs was established to better integrate professional training with community service.



The Center for Healthy Communities begins health promotion outreach into neighborhoods.

“THIS SCHOOL DOES NOT SEE ITSELF AS AN IVORY TOWER INSULATED FROM PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY ABOUT IT BUT, RATHER, SEES ITSELF AS A NEW COMMUNITY RESOURCE AND ASSET AND AS A VERY REAL AND FUNCTIONING PART OF THE COMMUNITY.”

the AMA honored him as “an activist physician who campaigned relentlessly for expanded health care access.”

One clear indication that the school has indeed realized the vision of its founders was the receipt of the Association of American Medical Colleges’ (AAMC) Award for Outstanding Community Service in 1997. The prestigious award singles out academic medical institutions that “serve as examples of social responsiveness,” according to the AAMC. It recognizes “a broad-based,

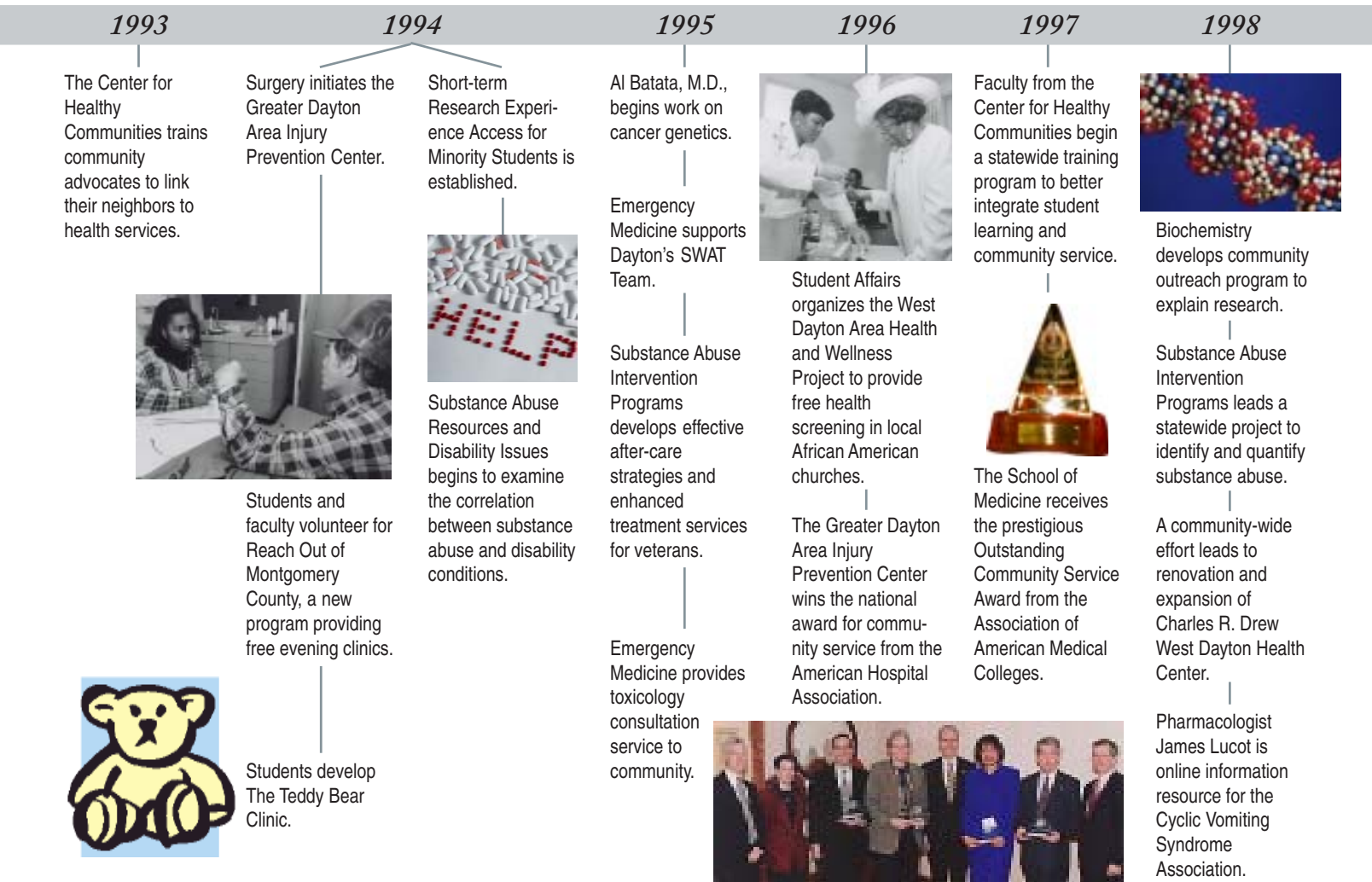
continuing commitment to community service as reflected in a variety of programs and initiatives which are responsive to community and social needs and which show evidence of a true partnership with the community.”

The founders’ vision of a community-based medical school where “students learn to care for both their patients and their community” has come to fruition over the past 25 years. From day one, students are immersed in a “teaching community” that expands upon the traditional “teaching

hospital” approach by including community health centers, homes, schools, churches, and the people of the community themselves in the learning process.

As each class of graduates moves out into the world, the power of the “concept of community” the school’s founders espoused proves itself once again — with highly qualified physicians who are “responsive to and an integral part of the community” they serve.

—Robin Suits



ONE COMMUNITY'S STORY

Call and Response: Celebrating Health and Heritage in the West Dayton Community

Dressed in a worsted walking suit and flamboyant ostrich feather hat, LaVerne Sci looked as if she had stepped elegantly from the turn of one century into the turn of the next. The feathers flounced with every gesture of her face and hands as she recited a poem she heard first on her mother's porch when she was a little girl.

*"Seen my lady home las' night,
Jump back, honey, jump back.
Hel' hub han' an sque'z it tight,
Jump back, honey, jump back.
Hyead hub sigh a little sigh,
Seen a light gleam fom hub eye,
An' a smile go flittin' by —"*

LaVerne's audience of 40 people knew their cue. "Jump back, honey, jump back."

Call and response. The poem was Paul Laurence Dunbar's "A Negro Love Song." The place was the Dunbar House, now a historic monument and museum. The occasion was West Dayton Diabetes Day, but the mood felt more festive than clinical.

With its free health screenings and diabetes soul food luncheon, West Dayton Diabetes Day has become a "health celebration" for West Dayton's predominantly African American neighborhood. It was moved to the Dunbar House State Memorial Museum last November while the Charles R. Drew West Dayton Health Center was being renovated. The event is sponsored annually by Good Samaritan Hospital, the Center for Healthy Communities, and the Diabetes Association of the

Dayton Area, with support from the Office of Public Relations at Wright State University School of Medicine.

The move to Dunbar House celebrated both the health and the heritage of a neighborhood. Diabetes Day participants had an opportunity to tour the historic landmark, and while they waited for health screenings, they heard LaVerne Sci tell about the life and work of Dayton's most famous author.

A Poet's Concern

Paul Laurence Dunbar was deeply affected by health concerns throughout his short life. He experienced firsthand what lack of medical care meant to his family and his people. His sister, Elizabeth Florence, died from a respiratory disorder when Paul was only four. The year was 1876. Like most African Americans in Dayton then, the Dunbar family had no doctor. They relied on home remedies.

"Elizabeth Florence's death had a lasting impact on Paul," LaVerne Sci says. "He went inside himself then. He became an observer. That was the beginning of his life as a writer."

Dunbar gained national and international fame as a poet at the



(Above) The poet Paul Laurence Dunbar and his historic home in West Dayton.

turn of the century, but his career was cut short by tuberculosis. In 1902 he purchased the house at 219 N. Summit Street—now Paul Laurence Dunbar Street—where he lived with his mother Matilda, a former slave.

Dunbar died there in 1906. Mother Dunbar lived on in the house, hosting luminary visitors like Mary Cloud Bethune and Eleanor Roosevelt, until her death in 1934. Shortly thereafter, the Ohio legislature dedicated the house as a memorial to Dunbar. It became the first public monument in America dedicated to an African American man. The Dunbar House is maintained today by the Ohio Historical Society, and LaVerne Sci is its historic site manager.

"Paul Laurence Dunbar was a proclaimer of dignity. He symbolizes hope," LaVerne says. "I think Paul would be proud to know that his home is now being used for

Robert Brandt, M.D. ('80)



Dr. Brandt provides patient care for the community's AIDS patients, and many of his community service activities are devoted toward patient advocacy for persons with HIV and AIDS. He spends a lot of time in Columbus with the Ohio Department of Health AIDS Advisory Board and serves on the AIDS Drug Assistance Program Advisory Board, which is responsible for getting medication to indigent individuals or those individuals not covered by insurance. Also, he chairs the local Ryan White Consortia, the organization responsible for managing the federal funds for the Ryan White program in this area. He is currently on the board of CityFolk, the local cultural arts organization that sponsors music and dance events, and previously was on the boards of the Glen Helen Association and WYSO.

“Community service involvement has been something that I developed when I was in medical school and continue today. When dealing with the complexities of HIV disease, I need a lot of different outlets to compensate for the emotional and psychosocial trauma I must deal with every day. My outside activities help keep me sane. Plus it helps to actually like what I’m doing!”

community events like West Dayton Diabetes Day.”

A Leader’s Vision

Another proclaimer of dignity in West Dayton would be proud, too. The late C. J. McLin, Jr., represented the 36th (later the 38th) House District in the Ohio General Assembly from 1966–88. A tireless champion of civil rights and equal opportunities for African Americans, McLin became an influential legislator famed for putting together statewide coalitions. But he never forgot the concerns of his West Dayton constituents.

Preserving the Dunbar House was one of McLin’s cherished causes. In *Dad, I Served*, a memoir by and about McLin published in 1998 by Wright State University, the legislator explained that the people of West Dayton would never allow the historic structure to be moved outside the neighborhood. He secured an \$875,000 appropriation from the General Assembly to preserve Dunbar House on its original site as a West Dayton landmark.

Another of C. J. McLin’s cherished causes was Wright State University School of Medicine. In 1973 he led a bipartisan coalition that enacted legislation establishing the School of Medicine. They envisioned a new model for medical education in the Miami Valley. Instead of building its own university hospital, Wright State would work in partnership with teaching hospitals in the Dayton community.

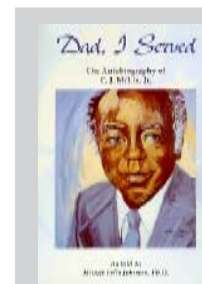
“My strongest motivation to push for the Wright State School of Medicine was due to the simple statistics of Black doctors in our

communities,” the West Dayton lawmaker wrote. “There were not enough!”

Wright State heard the call and responded with pioneering programs to recruit and prepare disadvantaged students for careers in medicine. Wright State’s Horizons in Medicine program has introduced 368 minority and disadvantaged high school students to career paths in health care; 33 of them have earned M.D. degrees, and another 17 are currently enrolled in medical school.

Wright State has ranked consistently in the top 10 percent of American medical schools in its percentage of minority graduates. Since the charter class of 1980, Wright State has graduated 153 African American physicians.

C. J. McLin acknowledged Wright State’s commitment in his memoir. “That



Dad, I Served, published by Wright State University in 1998, is a compilation of C. J. McLin’s memoirs as told to Minnie

Fells Johnson, Ph.D. Additional contributors include his late mother, daughter, friends, and political allies, with editorial assistance from several Wright State faculty and staff.





Back Row (L-R): Luis Amaro, Melanie Mosallaei-Benjamin, Demond Scott, Kiva Turk
 Middle Row (L-R): Tania Sci (seated), Tami Prince, Kim Adair, Mary Beth Gibbons
 Front Row (L-R): LaVerne Sci, Geri Primm, Joy Burgess

is the kind of reciprocity I appreciate when I go to bat for a cause.”

A Community's Heritage

LaDonna Barnes-Lark, M.D. ('90), is one doctor who answered the call. She is now medical director at Drew Health Center and assistant clinical professor of medicine at Wright State. “I grew up in West Dayton,” she says. “Going to Wright State and returning to Drew to practice were obvious choices for me. I think it's important to give back to your community. I love my job.”

Dr. Barnes-Lark still lives in West Dayton. Knowing her patients outside the clinic, running into them at church or the grocery store, is one of the satisfactions of her work.

Outreach events such as Diabetes Day make a big difference for her uninsured patients because they can get the medical tests they need for free. “The diabetic soul food is a big draw, too,” Dr. Barnes-Lark says. “You can prepare low-fat, healthy soul food that still tastes good. Diabetes Day reinforces what I've already told my patients. They have to

learn how to help themselves with diet and exercise.”

“Taking care of your health is a conscious, daily effort. It's not just something you do for an hour at the clinic,” adds Wright State medical student Tania Sci (Year II). “The Center for Healthy Communities does a great job of bringing that message to people in both West and East Dayton.”

Tania is LaVerne Sci's daughter. She learned to love Dunbar's poetry on the same porch where her mother first heard it. Last spring Tania and her classmates in the Wright State chapter of the Student National Medical Association (SNMA) and Joy Burgess with the Center for Healthy Communities organized their own free health fair at the Dunbar House. They called it Elizabeth Florence Dunbar Health Day in tribute to the poet's sister. They hope to make it an annual event.

Dunbar House is an ideal setting to do community events. “It's important in this day and age that people have some idea of those who came before them. There are role models like Paul Laurence Dunbar. There is a legacy you can look to for inspiration,” Tania says.

“There is still a great need for medical attention in this neighborhood. At Elizabeth Florence Dunbar Health Day, we emphasized to participants that we were not yet physicians, but we could be a bridge into the medical community.”

Kenneth Goodman, M.D. ('88)



Dr. Goodman is president of the Cleveland Academy of Family Physicians. In that role, he organizes physicians, residents, and medical students to speak to fifth grade classes about the dangers of smoking. Dr. Goodman received national attention when he saved the life of a newborn baby in a Disney World bathroom. Alerted by a woman's screams outside of the ladies' room, he ran in to find a little blue baby, with mucus in her airway and placenta still attached. Apparently, the mother had given birth and dumped the baby into a toilet. He resuscitated the infant, cleared away the mucus with a pen, tied her umbilical cord with a shoelace, and warmed her with a blanket until the authorities arrived and took her to a hospital.

“I volunteer to feel like I am a part of the community and am giving back to my community. Cleveland is a large city, but it is also a close-knit community. It's nice to walk into a restaurant and see families that I have helped.”

Elvira Jaballas, M.D.



An associate professor of pediatrics and assistant professor of family medicine, Dr. Jaballas joined Wright State's faculty 25 years ago when the School of Medicine was founded. She developed the ambulatory education program in pediatrics. Today she is medical director of the Pediatric Partnership at Wright-Patterson Medical Center. She teaches medical students and residents and, through a collaboration with the Center for Healthy Communities, takes third-year students into the Dayton Public Schools to provide health checks for young children with limited access to doctors.

"Medical students learn skills and attitudes in the public school setting. They're exposed to different social and cultural issues as well as common health problems that may affect a child's school performance. It really helps to build an ethic of service. Many fourth-year students call to volunteer again. Students often say they learn course content best when this kind of connection is made to real-life situations."

THE BIGGE

Community-based Medical School: Jargon with a Heart

Community-based medical school . . . the words sound perfunctory, perhaps with a hint of jargon speak. Yet they succinctly describe a vibrant and vital relationship among our community, students, and faculty, a relationship that has molded more than 1,500 caring physicians over the past 25 years while better serving the health care needs of our community.

Faculty in this framework mentor, teach, and provide patient care alongside their community colleagues within the area's health care system. The school's clinical faculty, grouped in the University Medical Services Association, had close to 500,000 patient visits last year. More than one-half of these patients have inadequate insurance, and faculty provide the bulk of the community's indigent care. The school's faculty are also essential in providing the region's trauma care, child abuse treatment and prevention, burn care, AIDS treatment for adults and children, neonatal care, and more.

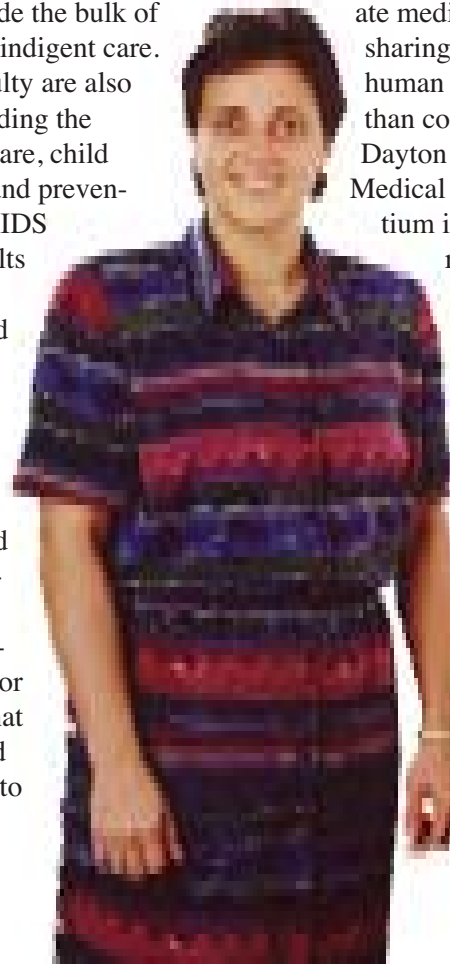
Linda Barney, M.D., F.A.C.S. ('85), assistant professor of surgery and director of undergraduate curriculum in the department of surgery for BII, describes what community-based education means to

her. "When I finished my residency here, I went into private practice on the East Coast. This was a professional and personal awakening for me. Seeing students and residents that are trained in a different environment and how they practice and what they valued really caused me to take a step back and realize that I had received excellent training here both in medical school and residency. Wright State reflects not only the community that it serves, but the community model of medicine which more people are moving toward."

Within this innovative model, institutions throughout the community work collaboratively for medical education. Dayton was one of the first areas of the country to

form a consortium for graduate medical education, sharing both physical and human resources rather than competing. The Dayton Area Graduate Medical Education Consortium is nationally

recognized for integrating cost-effective training programs that produce highly skilled physicians. Both medical students and residents rotate freely through



—Linda Barney, M.D., F.A.C.S. ('85), assistant professor of surgery

and Soul PICTURE

Wright-Patterson AFB Medical Center, the Dayton VA, and several community teaching hospitals— Children’s Medical Center, Franciscan Medical Center, Good Samaritan Hospital and Health Center, Kettering Medical Center, and Miami Valley Hospital. Clinical sites throughout the region take health care into neighborhoods and outlying regions.

The “teaching community” is a rich milieu of interaction that daily enriches the lives of both patients and students.

For example, Sherri Morgan, Year III, began her clerkship year at the Dayton VA in Internal Medicine and learned how to work with this specific population. “The patients, a culturally diverse group, have had to endure many challenging situations during their lives,” she relates. “Many are chronically ill and also have emotional and psychological needs. Working with them greatly enhanced my skills in history taking and listening. Often a patient would tell me he was in good health, but when I looked into his eyes, I could see the fear. I learned how to comfort a patient, who in the middle of the night, began to truly understand the diagnosis of inoperable cancer he was given early in the

day or how to explain simple procedures to a patient with mild dementia and no family to comfort him.”

Sherri continued her clerkship at Kettering Medical Center, where “some patients really appreciated my efforts to provide them with quality care while learning about medicine. They would talk to me about their histories and even provide learning points regarding their illnesses. They enjoyed ‘probing me’ regarding procedures in order to get me ready for rounds in the morning. I really enjoyed this.”

Kettering was also the beginning of Sherri’s education about grieving over the loss of a patient.

“A 93-year-old female came in with an upper respiratory tract infection. I spent a lot of time with my patient and attempted to make her comfortable. The last night I saw her, she was not in good spirits. I held her hand until she fell asleep, telling her things would be better in the morning. The next morning, I was told she had died 5 minutes before I arrived. I was shocked. The first-year resident and I had to certify her death. I was able to do this



—Sherri Morgan, Year III

Syed M. Ahmed, M.D.,
M.P.H., Dr.P.H.



Dr. Ahmed, associate professor of family medicine, founded and directs Reach Out of Montgomery County, which organizes volunteer physicians to provide free medical care to Dayton’s working poor. He is associate director of the East Dayton Health Center and recently became director of the Alliance for Researchers of Community Health (ARCH), a collaboration among Wright State’s Department of Family Medicine, the Center for Healthy Communities, and other local organizations. ARCH is developing “community-responsive” projects that involve community members as active partners in the research.

“My public health background helps me to combine treating individual patients with working on the community’s health. We have to look beyond the individual patient to populations of patients and the communities in which they live. Taking account of economic, social, and cultural factors in the patient’s community can make a big impact on how to treat the patient. If we do a better job of taking care of the forest, the forest will help take care of the trees.”

Christina Waite, Yr. IV



Christina Waite, Year IV, served as an original incorporator of The Shoulder to Shoulder Foundation, a tax-exempt charitable organization providing medical relief and health care in a remote village of Honduras since 1991. While serving as a registered nurse on one of the project's biannual brigades in 1995, Christina met a Honduran girl who was suffering from a serious heart defect. Christina and her husband Wayne brought the girl and her mother here for the successful surgery and opened their home to them for three months.

"The experience was both more rewarding and labor intensive than we ever anticipated. I remember leaving for class and worrying about them accidentally setting the house on fire. Neither of them knew the first thing about electricity. The foundation is currently focusing its efforts on hurricane relief resources. With 85 percent of the country's agricultural resources destroyed, poverty, malnutrition, and disease are looming threats."

and remain professional although I was very upset inside. I will never forget these experiences nor the patients and medical personnel I worked with."

Similarly, Melissa Clark, Year IV, remembers a patient visit that may have changed both their lives. "As a second-year student, I did a two-week surgery selective. In the office one day, I asked a patient if she regularly examined her breasts for any lumps or changes. She replied that she did not because she did not know what she was feeling for. When I began explaining how important monthly self breast exams are and how to do a complete exam, I realized that this woman was hanging on my every word, that she wanted to do what was best for her health. She just needed information and examples that applied to her life. This encounter changed how I view my role as a future physician. It emphasized to me the aspect of education in patient care and encouraged my interest in community health and family practice."

Both faculty and students go beyond their responsibilities of meeting their patients' health care needs. Faculty volunteer their services at inner-city

health care centers and homeless shelters; head up patient support groups, community-wide screenings, and immunization programs; train local emergency medical technicians; and lend their expertise to numerous health organizations. They serve on boards of local community organizations as diverse as Eastway Corporation, the Community Blood Center, the American Heart Association, Covenant House, Montgomery County Board of Pleas Drug Court, the Dayton Area Health Plan, and the American Cancer Association. They present enrichment programs in science and medicine for underserved area youth and consult with local nursing homes about appropriate elder care. State organizations seek their expertise on specific diseases and in a wide range of health care issues, such as geriatrics, substance abuse, perinatal care, and infectious disease. Prestigious national organizations, including the Centers for Disease Control, the World Health Organization, National Institutes of Health, invite them to help solve national problems.

Like their faculty role models, students engage in service activities because

—Melissa Clark, Year IV



they care about the community. They, too, can be found at area health screenings and health care centers, homeless shelters, and smoking cessation programs. They sponsor the annual prom for the youth at St. Joseph Children's Treatment Center and run a health education program for K-12 youth that sees nearly 12,000 annually. Students have a Big Brothers, Big Sisters chapter, assist with the Special Olympics, the Dayton Boys and Girls Club, Habitat for Humanity, and others.

Another Year IV student, Marcus Washington, has completed selectives and clerkships in all of the affiliated hospitals and is preparing for residency training. He can easily see how the community-based model has impacted him. "As I am now starting to interview at institutions outside of WSU, I am really beginning to see the value of our community-based training. Being able to participate in clinical experiences that are hospital-, office-, military-, civilian-, government-, private-, public, and religious-based, has given me an opportunity to practice medicine in a

number of environments and learn about the differences in them.

I think it is very important to experience as many cultural, spiritual, ethnic, economic, and racial differences as possible during your medical training because it not only makes you a better doctor, it makes you a better person."

While a student, Marcus participated in "several community service projects, from donating coats for children, giving away toys at Christmas, donating food, and sharing time with various organizations." For Marcus, community service is a logical extension. "I was raised in a family that believed in sharing your blessing with others, and throughout my life, I've attempted to give back. I think that as medical students, we are very blessed to be living out our dreams and should share that blessing with others."

Community-based medical school . . . jargon, perhaps, but imbued with a heart and a soul.

—Judi Engle

—Marcus Washington,
Year IV



As part of his community service, Jeff Kovacic, Year IV, volunteers for a social services agency, called the Building Bridges Organization, for youth at risk.

"I have gotten to know a number of young people served by Building Bridges. One rewarding case I recall had to do with a 15-year old with a speech impediment. Upon examining his ears, I noted a fungating mass and perforation involving his left eardrum. He recently had surgery to remove this tumor and infected tissue and to repair the defect. He should regain about 25 percent of his hearing from that ear, which will help his speech issues. The picture was taken when I took this boy, his friend, and a Building Bridges officer up in an airplane for their first flight."

THE WORLD VIEW:

I SLEPT AND DREAMT THAT LIFE WAS ALL JOY.

I AWOKE AND SAW THAT LIFE WAS BUT SERVICE.

I SERVED AND UNDERSTOOD THAT SERVICE WAS JOY.

—R. TAGORE

Among the Wright State University School of Medicine faculty, some have worked in small villages alongside the gentleness of servants like Mother Teresa. Others have flown to war-torn countries protected by armed guards as their mission teams deliver much needed aid.

Historically, service is an integral part of education and research at Wright State University School of Medicine. Twenty-five years ago and today, the faculty purposefully place first-year students in hospitals, clinics, and doctors' offices starting the first week of classes. This introduction to the rewards of service builds throughout the remaining four years, as our faculty train students to become physicians who care profoundly about their patients and their community.

To better serve the needs of the community, the School of Medicine faculty partner with local community service programs. By becoming models for others, these community-based programs have moved from local to regional to national levels. Our commitment to community service has expanded to underserved communities all around the globe.

Faculty and students of the School of Medicine have contrib-

uted to the welfare of others in countries throughout the world. Their service provides essential clinical care; shares knowledge and expertise in a catalog of subject areas; researches and offers solutions to difficult problems; and develops faculty and student exchange programs. Collaborations are designed to improve a country's ability to provide better education, research, and service for its people.

One voluntary faculty member who travels to India to treat patients with leprosy, understands that service is joy. He tells our students, "It will make you a better doctor to know the joy of serving people who need your help."

—Mary Lou Graham



A SAMPLING

Rita Hanna, Yr. II
Prakash Pandalai, Yr. II



Student-to-Student, a community health education program, is operated completely by medical students. The program targets students from age three to 18 and offers a variety of topics: Alcohol Abuse; Drug Abuse; Teen Pregnancy/ Puberty; AIDS; Kids-n-Docs; Human Body; How 2 B an M.D.; First Aid/ Human Body; Nutrition; Dangers of Smoking; and Emotions. The hands-on talks involve learning tools such as medical instruments, human bones, and organs, which are shared with approximately 12,000 area youth annually. Rita Hanna and Prakash Pandalai are currently co-directors for the program.

“Through my work with Student-to-Student, I feel as if I have transformed my knowledge of medicine into the art of medicine. In essence, the basic sciences that I am learning are helping me to become a proponent of health, and I am communicating to other students the importance of health at a very critical time in their lives. In the very beginning of my career of becoming a physician, I am very grateful to be given this opportunity.”

—Rita Hanna



◆ Faculty Exchange Program

◆ Clinical Missions

◆ Child growth and development project

◆ Educational exchange programs via satellite communications

◆ Clinical Missions

◆ Research for human blood disease collaboration

◆ Emergency medicine training and clinical site development
Poison control development
Curriculum development for primary care teaching
HIV risk assessment project

◆ Faculty Exchange Program

- ◆ Student Exchange Program
- Clinical Missions
- ♣ Faculty Exchange Program



ALUMNI PROFILE

Roger Pacholka, M.D.



Roger Pacholka, M.D. ('85), sees patients in open-air clinics in Africa.

In 1976, about the same time Roger Pacholka was nominated by *Billboard* magazine as DJ of the Year, the African nation of Mozambique was plunged into what would turn out to be a bloody civil war lasting for close to two decades. This coming February, Dr. Pacholka ('85) will lead a team of construction and physician volunteers on his ninth mission to Mozambique and neighboring Swaziland.

"I worked in Mozambique during the last years of the war," he recalls. "The country was completely devastated. One third of the children were orphaned and the poverty was almost incomprehensible. The best assessment I heard was from someone who said, 'If there's a hell on earth, it must be Mozambique.'"

How did a top DJ end up leading medical missions to Africa? Despite a successful broadcasting career, a heartfelt call

"WRIGHT STATE IS A SCHOOL THAT REACHES OUT TO STUDENTS WHO DON'T HAVE TRADITIONAL BACKGROUNDS. I KNEW THIS WAS THE SCHOOL FOR ME."

to service led him to return to college. He had been dismissed from Wright State's undergraduate program for academic reasons in 1971. "I was a pretty wild character," he

explains. "I wasn't really motivated. Many schools wouldn't have been willing to give someone like me a second chance, but Wright State did."

After earning a bachelor's in psychology at Wright State, his heart was set on attending Wright State University School of Medicine. He did not apply anywhere else. "Wright State is a school that reaches out to students who don't have traditional backgrounds. I knew this was the school for me."

A two-month rotation to Swaziland in his fourth year as a medical student changed his life forever. He and his wife Katy, a nurse, moved to the country for two years following his graduation from Wright State's emergency medicine residency program in 1988. They've been back with their 11-year-old daughter Lori several times since.

Dr. Pacholka's teams built two clinics in rural areas of Swaziland

and he's currently operating a Neonatal AIDS Prevention Program there. "About one third of the people in Swaziland, and about a quarter of those in Mozambique, have AIDS," he explains. "We know that if you treat HIV-positive women in the last trimester of pregnancy, you have a good chance of preventing AIDS in their babies. It takes about \$250 to save one baby, and millions of people in Africa are infected. To say you are trying to save a relative handful doesn't sound like much, but, if that child is yours, it's a priceless gift."

An emergency physician at Miami Valley Hospital, Dr. Pacholka will lead trips to Central America and Southeast Asia as well as Africa in 1999. "The people at Miami Valley have been very generous in giving me extra time off. They've also donated medicine and equipment. I've been very fortunate to work with those people."

Eventually, he and his family plan to move permanently to Swaziland. "It's like the Eagles' song 'Hotel California,'" says the former DJ. "You can check out anytime you like, but you can never leave."

—Robin Suits

STAFF PROFILE

Phyllis Cole, M.S.

Hard work doesn't faze the manager of the Weekend Intervention Program (WIP). "We all work incredibly hard. You don't get 39,000 people through this program over 20 years without a lot of hard work." WIP is an excellent example of a service program that is working for people in the community.

Program manager and instructor of WIP since 1989, Phyllis Cole, M.S., sees 70–75 people a weekend and operates two or three weekend sessions a month. She remains highly motivated because, "what I like the very most about working with WIP is that sense that we're really making a difference." Persons who participate in the intervention program are less likely to experience subsequent problems because of their alcohol or drug consumption than persons who spend time incarcerated. By law, a first conviction of driving while intoxicated requires a mandatory 72 hours in jail, but the judge can offer the option of serving that time in WIP, a program that offers education, support, and referral for treatment.

In 1986, Phyllis began working as the education specialist for Harvey Siegal, Ph.D., current director of the Division of Substance Abuse Intervention Programs. Her responsibilities centered on making sure the students got through the program as part of their education. The program is an excellent teaching tool. All medical students are required to spend a weekend observing WIP before the end of their second year. Under-

graduate students can also sign up for a three-credit-hour course by attending a weekend and writing a research paper. It is a course very much in demand with nursing and psychology majors. "I turn away students every quarter. The students who take it just love it and then pass the word on to others. I think the students that observe for a weekend realize it is an invaluable opportunity to experience skills first-hand, skills that they can use later in their profession."

The day-to-day operation of the program takes a tremendous amount of time, but now and then she travels to other states to help other WIP programs get established. When asked, she speaks to high school students and company employees about drinking and driving.

Phyllis grew up in Middletown, Ohio, and lived in Indiana, Virginia, Massachusetts, and Germany before calling the Dayton area her home. She went to college while raising two children and received her bachelor's degree in sociology from Miami University. She was able to complete her master's degree in Applied Behavioral Science at Wright State while working at WIP.

When she is not working with WIP, she is helping the community in other ways. She's an active member of Beta Sigma Phi, an international women's sorority that works on social service projects, such as helping the homeless, preparing food baskets,



Phyllis Cole, M.S., manager of the Weekend Intervention Program.

"WHAT I LIKE THE VERY MOST ABOUT WORKING WITH THE WEEKEND INTERVENTION PROGRAM (WIP) IS THAT SENSE THAT WE'RE REALLY MAKING A DIFFERENCE."

and assisting the Society for the Improvement of Conditions for Stray Animals. Despite her busy schedule, her one-year-old granddaughter has found a place in her heart. The Dayton community is lucky to have Phyllis Cole.

—Carol Kayden

ADVANCEMENT

Advancement



(L-R) Jesse Ziegler, Ph.D.; Paul Carlson, Ph.D., associate dean for students and admissions; Dominique Barkley, first recipient of the Jesse Ziegler, Ph.D., Scholarship.

Annual Ceremony Recognizes Donors, Volunteers, and Outstanding Students

The beautiful Gothic Cloister of the Dayton Art Institute provided the setting for the 1998 Thelma Pruett Recognition Ceremony. On Sunday, September 27, School of Medicine donors, volunteers, and scholarship recipients gathered for recognition of their special talents and generosity.

Acting Dean Howard Part described the event as “a wonderful arena in which we can bring together two groups that have provided so much to the school: our donors and volunteers. The School of Medicine is constantly looking for ways in which we can express appreciation to them.” He added that “it’s also an excellent setting for our donors to meet their scholarship recipients.”

A highlight of the event occurred when Jesse Ziegler, Ph.D., retired professor in the department of community health, presented the Jesse Ziegler, Ph.D., Scholarship to its very first recipient, Year II student Dominique Barkley. When asked how she felt about the scholarship, Dominique replied, “I’m honored and thankful to receive this scholarship, and I’m especially thankful that Dr. Ziegler was here to share it with me.” In addition to the Jesse Ziegler, Ph.D., Scholarship, Wright State also has the newly created Medical Alumni Association Scholarship. This scholarship was created to reward those medical students who best exemplify the ideals of the School of Medicine.

—Alicia Weaver



1998 scholarship recipients recently honored at the Thelma Pruett Recognition Ceremony.

Keep an Eye out for Us

In addition to holiday cards and family newsletters, alumni received a bonus in their mailboxes – annual appeal brochures and a copy of the School of Medicine’s new video.

The 1999 School of Medicine Annual Appeal campaign began in November. With this year’s theme of the campaign being “Our Strength Is Our People,” we hope to have participation from all our alumni. The annual campaign is the single largest contributor of funds to School of Medicine academic and need-based scholarships.

—Alicia Weaver

Of Primary Interest PRIMARY INTEREST



Former School of Medicine Dean William D. Sawyer, M.D. (R), reviews international posters.

Community Recognition

The Greene County NAACP recently honored the School of Medicine for “outstanding community service and leadership in recruiting and training skilled and compassionate physicians from nontraditional and minority groups” during its annual meeting. Wright State President Kim Goldenberg presented the keynote remarks.



Acting Dean Howard Part, M.D. (far L), and Dayton VAMC's director Steven Cohen, M.D., share the spotlight with award winners at the School of Medicine/VA Mixer.

Research Forum Features

Former Dean

William Sawyer, M.D., former dean of the medical school, returned to campus as guest speaker at the Fall 1998 Central Research Forum. This forum focused on international activities of the school, with key presentations by Dr. Sawyer on “Lessons Learned from Supporting Science in China and Southeast Asia,” and Glenn Hamilton, M.D., chair of emergency medicine, on “Integrating Western Style Graduate Medical Education into Chinese Medical Education.”

NEW FACES

Susan Havens Allen, M.D., Ph.D., F.A.C.P., F.A.C.E.

Assistant Professor, Internal Medicine

M.D., Ph.D.: University of Kansas

Residency: Shands Teaching Hospital, Gainesville

Fellowship: University of Missouri School of Medicine (endocrinology)



Lawrence S. Amesse, M.D., Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Obstetrics and Gynecology

Ph.D.: University of Michigan

M.D.: East Tennessee State University College of Medicine

Residency: State University of New York (obstetrics and gynecology)

Fellowship: Yale University School of Medicine (medical genetics)



NEW FACES

Catherine D. Bacheller, M.D.

Assistant Professor, Internal Medicine
M.D.: Loma Linda University School of Medicine
Residency: Wright State University School of Medicine (pathology, internal medicine)
Fellowship: Indiana University School of Medicine (infectious diseases)



Deborah Narkun Burgess, M.D.

Assistant Professor, Internal Medicine
M.D.: Uni-

formed Services University of Health Sciences
Residency: David Grant Medical Center (internal medicine)
Fellowship: Stanford University School of Medicine (nephrology)



Carmen L. Gonzalez-Lawless, M.D.

Assistant Professor, Internal Medicine
M.D.: Eastern

Virginia Medical School
Residency: Eastern Virginia Graduate School of Medicine (internal medicine)
Fellowship: University of Virginia (pulmonary medicine)

Aerospace Medicine Graduates Support John Glenn

When Senator John Glenn returned to space in October, he and his crewmates had round-the-clock medical coverage by NASA flight surgeons who were trained in the Wright State University School of Medicine Aerospace Medicine Program, the world's longest-running civilian training program for doctors specializing in medicine related to air and space travel.



Denise Baisden, M.D.

Denise Baisden, M.D., was NASA's designated crew surgeon for STS-95, which carried the 77-year-old Ohio senator and six other astronauts into space on October 29. The mission's deputy crew surgeon was Phil Stepaniak, M.D., also a graduate of Wright State's emergency medicine residency. NASA flight surgeons serve as primary care physicians for the astronauts and their families

on the ground. They evaluate and certify astronauts for flight readiness and are integral members of the Mission Control team during a space mission.

Since 1978 Wright State has provided NASA with a steady supply of flight surgeons and also has trained the medical leadership for start-up space programs in a dozen other nations. Two Japanese doctors who trained at Wright State supported astronaut Chiaki Mukai during the STS-95 mission.



Phil Stepaniak, M.D.

"Thorough planning and preparation make the mission. Most of the work takes place before the space craft ever leaves the ground," explains Stanley Mohler, M.D., director of the Wright State Aerospace Medicine program. "Throughout the mission, the flight surgeon is an advocate for the astronauts, for their safety and health."



Rockafield Cemetary

In Gratitude for the Gift of Life

Memorial services were held October 11 for 201 individuals who donated their bodies to Wright State University School of Medicine for educational and research purposes. More than 800 people attended the services, an annual event since 1982. Over 10,000 people throughout Ohio have registered with Wright State's Anatomical Gift Program.

"Life is sweeter when we give of ourselves to help other people, and there is no better demonstration of selfless giving than the gift provided by your family members," said medical student Jill Waibel to the families and friends of body donors to Wright State's Anatomical Gift Program. "Each one of you is a reminder of our duty as aspiring doctors. Our duty is to give our patients the gift of life just as it was given to us."

\$5.5 Million NIH Grant Extends Longevity of the Fels Study

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has awarded a grant totaling more than \$5.5 million over the next five years to the Division of Human Biology in Wright State's Department of Community Health. The grant continues the division's leading role in research on body composition, obesity, and cardiovascular disease.

The research is part of the Fels Longitudinal Study, the world's largest and longest-running study of human growth, body composition, and risk factors for cardiovascular disease. Conducted continuously since 1929, the Fels study and its first research participants turn 70 this year. The NIH grant will extend the study's longevity to age 75.

New Pediatrics Chair



Arthur S. Pickoff, M.D., has been appointed professor and chair of the Department of Pediatrics, effective January 1999. He succeeds Maurice Kogut, M.D., who retired in August. Dr. Pickoff comes to the position from Tulane University School of Medicine in New Orleans, where he was professor of pediatrics and director of the Section of Pediatric Cardiology.

A native of New York City, Dr. Pickoff holds

an M.D. degree from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine and completed an internship and pediatrics residency at Mt. Sinai Hospital, also in New York City. He completed a pediatric cardiology fellowship and was a National Institutes of Health (NIH) postdoctoral trainee in cardiac electrophysiology at the University of Miami School of Medicine.

Dr. Pickoff has published nine book chapters and more than 60 articles in scientific and medical journals. His research interests include the pharmacology of anti-arrhythmic medications in children and the electrophysiology of the immature heart.

State of Ohio Recognizes the SARDI Program

The Substance Abuse Resources and Disability Issues (SARDI) program, under the direction of Dennis Moore, Ed.D., recently received the Exemplary Prevention Program for Education Award. The award was granted by the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services and presented at the 10th Annual Ohio Prevention Education Conference.

The award-winning program targets alcohol and drug use in youth with cognitive and physical disabilities, according to Project Manager Jacques Demers. Studies indicate this group has the same or higher rate of use as nondisabled youth, but prevention and training programs for professionals in contact with these youth were nonexistent.

SARDI developed the program and has trained more than 850 school and community personnel, caregivers, and parents to increase their knowledge and awareness and to improve prevention messages for youth with diverse learning styles.

NEW FACES

Gordon W. James, M.D.
Captain, USAF
Assistant Professor,
Internal Medicine
M.D.: St. Louis University
School of Medicine
Residency: Wilford Hall
Medical Center (internal
medicine)
Fellowship: Wilford Hall
Medical Center (nephrol-
ogy)

Judith M. Masset-Brown, M.D.
Instructor, Pediatrics
M.D.: University of Louis-
ville, School of Medicine
Residency: Wright State
University School of
Medicine (pediatrics)

David S. McKenna, M.D.
Assistant
Professor,
Obstetrics and
Gynecology



M.D.: Case
Western Reserve Univer-
sity School of Medicine
Residency: Wright State
University School of
Medicine (obstetrics and
gynecology)
Fellowship: Ohio State
University School of
Medicine (obstetrics and
gynecology)

Of Primary Interest

NEW FACES



Lisa A. Patterson, M.D.
Assistant Professor, Surgery
M.D.: Indiana University

School of Medicine
Residency: Case Western Reserve University; SUNY Health Sciences Center at Brooklyn (surgery)
Fellowship: University of Miami (surgical critical care)

Bingzhi Shi, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Internal Medicine
Ph.D.: Iowa State University (organic chemistry)



Javier E. Stern, M.D., Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Pharmacology and Toxicology
M.D., Ph.D.:

University of Buenos Aires School of Medicine
Fellowship: University of Tennessee (anatomy and neurobiology)

Faculty Notes

Geetika Kumar, M.D., assistant clinical professor of internal medicine based at the Dayton VA, has been named one of 30 national faculty leaders on a nationwide project to improve the care of seriously ill patients. The project is funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and will involve curricula development for state-of-the-art care for patients through the end of life.



Alonzo Patterson, M.D., has been appointed assistant dean for minority affairs at the School of Medicine, succeeding Jacqueline McMillan, who became executive assistant to Wright State President Kim Goldenberg. Since 1995 he has worked as a mentor for Wright State medical students while maintaining his private pediatrics practice with the Ohio Valley Medical Group in Huber Heights. His

career path began in 1979 in Wright State's pioneering Horizons in Medicine program. He holds a B.S. degree in biomedical engineering from Wright State and an M.D. degree from the University of Cincinnati.



Marshall B. Kapp, J.D., M.P.H., was part of a video series called "Living Well: A Guide to Healthy Aging." Dr. Kapp's expertise was highlighted in *Coping with Legal and Financial Issues*, Volume 2 of the series. PBS developed and aired a 26-episode television series based upon the videos, including the segment of Dr. Kapp's.

Student Recognition Ceremony

Students and faculty were honored at the first annual Student Recognition Ceremony held in the Student Union. In past years, awards were given during other ceremonies.



(From top) Cynthia Villacis (Year IV) and her newborn accept an award from Gordon Walbroehl, M.D.; Nathan Piovesan (Year III) and his wife proudly display his award; J. J. Schulte, M.D., accepts Teaching Excellence Award from the Class of 1999 officers, Marcus and Rhonda Washington (Year IVs).