



## A New Curriculum

For those entering the first-year class, there will be a new medical school curriculum beginning in the fall of 2001. The following is a brief outline of the new curriculum and how it came to be implemented.

1. The philosophy behind the new curriculum is similar to that of 60 other medical schools in the country. Thanks to the hard work of our faculty, our curriculum is unique in its own way although it incorporates successful aspects of curricula from these schools.
2. The new curriculum is an outgrowth of the traditional way we have been training our medical students. Our second-year students will continue under the traditional curriculum since their background in the basic sciences comes from the courses they took in Year I.
3. The Class of 2005 will be the first group to complete the first two years of their training under the new system. Our goal is to help students remember information by presenting material in an integrated manner.

The most frequently asked questions about the new curriculum are “*Why are we changing the curriculum*” and “*What is the new curriculum*”? The reasons for a change in curriculum stem from the fact that attitudes toward medical education have been changing over the past 25 years. Here at UB, students and faculty alike have recognized that our traditional curriculum is dense with too many lectures. The new curriculum provides the opportunity for independent learning and the integration of the basic sciences resulting in students who will be ideally prepared for the clinical years.

When the plans for change began, the faculty wanted to preserve the strengths of the old curriculum. Students have received a firm foundation in the basic sciences as well as a solid introduction to clinical skills. Many of the lectures given by gifted teachers are outstanding while courses like Scientific Basis of Medicine and Clinical Practice of Medicine encourage problem-solving and analytical skills. Finally, we were confident that as the new curriculum was being developed, we could rely upon a dedicated faculty of excellent teachers with considerable experience.

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### Save the Date!

Family Day will take place on Saturday, October 6. Your parents will receive information in the mail during month of September.

# Goodbye Class of 2001!



Commencement exercises for the School of Medicine and Biomedical Science's Class of 2001 were held at the University at Buffalo's Center for the Arts on the afternoon of May 18. One hundred twenty-five medical students graduated along with biomedical students who received masters and PhD degrees from UB and Roswell. Dr. Ronald Dozoretz, Class of 1962 and Chairman and CEO of FHC Health Systems, was the honored speaker.

Nearly a third of our graduating class will participate in residencies across Western New York while 25% will complete them in other areas of the state. Slightly less than half (45%) will go outside New York. In addition, 57% of our students will be in a

## Transcripts and On-Line Forms

Unofficial **Transcripts** are *free* of charge for current medical students. Simply stop by the OME and see Kim to request one or do it on-line at <http://wings.buffalo.edu/smbs/ome/transcri.htm>.



### OTHER SERVICES AVAILABLE ON-LINE INCLUDE:

- ◆ **Address Change Form**  
[http://wings.buffalo.edu/smbs/ome/Data\\_Change\\_Form.htm](http://wings.buffalo.edu/smbs/ome/Data_Change_Form.htm)
- ◆ **Drop/Add Form**  
<http://wings.buffalo.edu/smbs/ome/changeform.htm>
- ◆ **Out-of-Town Elective Form**  
<http://wings.buffalo.edu/smbs/ome/outoftown.htm>
- ◆ **Required Ambulatory Care Experience Form**  
<http://wings.buffalo.edu/smbs/ome/AmbulatoryRequirementForm.htm>

# Class Notes

## Class of 2002:

Please call Kim at 829-2802 to arrange your Dean's Letter appointment. Appointments will run through early September.

The Electronic Residency Application Service Post Office will open in July at which time you can begin working on your applications. We will keep you posted via e-mail about the official opening date. You can begin submitting completed applications in August. The ERAS site: [www.aamc.org/about/progemph/eras/start.htm](http://www.aamc.org/about/progemph/eras/start.htm)

## Class of 2003:

Orientation to Year III is **MANDATORY** and will begin on Monday, August 20 at 8:00am in Diefendorf 147. Lunch will be provided and an afternoon session covering infection control will follow; plan on spending the entire day at the school. Rotations will begin on August 21.

Be sure to submit your PPD to the OME in early August or you will not be able to start your rotations! In addition, students must have recorded a passing grade on Step 1 of the USMLE to begin year III.

As you know, a new week-long career exploration experience is available to you during one of your scheduled weeks off between clerkships. Please e-mail Dr. Nancy Nielsen ([nielse@buffalo.edu](mailto:nielse@buffalo.edu)) to indicate the field and week you desire.

## Class of 2004:

Orientation will take place on Monday, August 20 promptly at 8am in Butler Auditorium. Pathology class will immediately follow with lunch provided at noon.

## Incoming Class of 2005:

Orientation and classes begin on the morning of Monday, August 13. The traditional White Coat Ceremony will take place at 3pm on that day when you'll be cloaked with your first white coat. The remainder of the week includes educational and social activities to acquaint you with your classmates and the School in addition to instruction for the Population Medicine module. Be on the lookout for an orientation mailing to be sent in late June with an important checklist and response form.

## ACADEMIC CALENDAR FOR CLASSES OF 2004 & '05

First Day of Class/Orientation for '05:	August 13
First Day of Class/Orientation for '04:	August 20
Labor Day:	September 3 *
Rosh Hashanah:	September 18 **
Yom Kippur:	September 27 **
Thanksgiving Recess:	Nov. 21-23
Final Exams for '04	Dec. 10-14
Winter Recess for '04	Dec. 15-Jan. 6
Winter Recess for '05	Dec. 19-Jan. 6
Spring semester begins	January 7, 2002
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	January 21*
Spring Break	March 25-29
Final Exams for '04	May 6-10
Summer Recess begins for '05	May 17

\* No Classes (OME closed)

\*\* No Classes (OME open)

### Web Sites of Interest:

[www.medicalstudent.com](http://www.medicalstudent.com)

A digital library of authoritative medical information for all students of medicine.

[www.virtualmentor.org](http://www.virtualmentor.org)

A site promoting the ethics and professionalism of tomorrow's physicians.

[www.medscape.com](http://www.medscape.com)

The leading medical information Web site for healthcare professionals.

<http://jama.ama-assn.org/>

Homepage of the Journal of the American Medical Association.

[www.healthstreet.com](http://www.healthstreet.com)

America's top healthcare provider search engine.

## Our Students in the National Spotlight



The School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences is proud of the recent accomplishments of its medical students. Congratulations to our students on their successes!

- ◆ The **UB Student National Medical Association** chapter implemented a Youth Science Enrichment Protocol in November 2000 and our students received an award for their initiative at the national conference in Atlanta this past spring.  
  
YSEP aims to motivate young minorities to think seriously about science in the hopes that they may one day consider a career in medicine. Thirteen UB medical student volunteers divided up to visit six classrooms for five sessions throughout the academic year at the Campus North elementary school in Buffalo. An Instructor's Manual was developed and will be a resource for other SNMA chapters around the country to implement the program in their communities.
- ◆ The AAMC and the Pfizer Medical Humanities Initiative awarded a \$3,700 "**Caring for Community**" Grant to UB students to conduct an educational forum and health demonstration targeting Asian and refugee women and helping them to navigate the American health care system. Students will complete the project this coming year and include Betty Lim, Hana Choe, Katie Fung and Jason Chiu.
- ◆ **Branko Bojovic**, Class of 2002, has been selected as a medical student participant on an international medical mission sponsored by Operation Smile. Medical students are chosen via a competitive application process and Branko is the first UB student ever selected for this prestigious opportunity. Each mission team is comprised of over 40 volunteers that include plastic surgeons, pediatricians, anesthesiologists, dentists, speech therapists, and support staff who donate their time, talents, and skills toward the goal of "improving the life of a child, one smile at a time."  
  
Approximately 20 international medical missions are sponsored by Op Smile each year to over 20 countries to offer free facial reconstructive surgery repairs for the medically needy, mostly of whom are children. Each surgery requires about \$750 in fundraising dollars to perform. To learn more, visit: [www.smbs.buffalo.edu/polity/operationsmile](http://www.smbs.buffalo.edu/polity/operationsmile).

# Alpha Omega Alpha

The Buffalo Chapter of AOA initiated six members of the Class of 2002 at its Annual Meeting on March 15. AOA is the only National Medical Honor Society in the world. Its overall purpose is to support academic excellence and perpetuate excellence in the medical profession.

## Class of 2002 Initiates

Shaleen L. Belani	Brian J. Malm
Jennifer L. Defazio	Caryn E. Orr
David M. Krakowski	Andrew P. Swan

Additional members of the Class of 2002 will be nominated to AOA in September. For more information, including criteria for nomination, contact Dr. Schimpfhauser, Councillor for the local chapter, in the OME.

# Photography



# Contest

The AAMC has announced the fourth annual photography competition for medical students and residents. The theme for 2001-2002 is "*The Healing Touch: Making a Difference in the Lives of Patients.*" Entrants are encouraged to submit their original photos that illustrate service to patients and the community as a whole. The grand prize is \$500. For more information contact Jennifer Proctor at 202-862-6107, [jproctor@aamc.org](mailto:jproctor@aamc.org).

# 2000 Awards for Excellence in Teaching

On May 4, the Student Committee on Teaching Awards presented the following Louis A. and Ruth Siegel Teaching Awards:

## Pre-Clinical

Charles Severin, MD, PhD	Anatomical Sciences
Alan Baer, MD	Medicine
Chris Cohan, PhD	Anatomical Sciences
Perry Hogan, PhD	Physiology & Biophysics
Lynn Steinbrenner, MD	Medicine
Peter Kowalski, MD	Family Medicine

## Clinical Award

John Gibbs, MD	Surgery
Chiu bin Hsiao, MD	Medicine
David James, MD	Family Medicine
Alan Lesse, MD	Medicine
James Orner, MD	Radiation Oncology
Kim Griswold, MD	Family Medicine

## Volunteer Award

Howard Sperry, MD	Medicine
Mary Weiler, MD	Medicine

## House Staff & Special

Constance Chester, MD	Gynecology & Obstetrics
Gul Dadlani, MD	Pediatrics
Donald McDonald, MD	Medicine
Pawan Sikka, MD	Medicine
Tushar Vora, MD	Medicine
Timothy Pardee	Biochemistry, Class of '03
Debra Stamm	OME

*Congratulations to this year's winners for a job well done!*

# Polity Updates

- The **Spring Formal** was held at the Adam's Mark Hotel in downtown Buffalo on April 20<sup>th</sup>! It was a huge success with approximately 220 people in attendance! Stay tuned for upcoming announcements about this year's **Winter Semi-Formal** at the **Pearl Street Brewery** that promises to be a great time!
- During the spring semester, another great addition was donated to the Student Lounge. Special thanks to Jim Hereth (Class of 2004) for bringing his old **Nintendo** to the Lounge. It provided many medical students with countless hours of procrastination time as we prepared for finals!
- Congratulation to the **Class of 2004 Powder-Puff Football Team** for defeating the ladies of the Class of 2003 in April! More than 30 first and second year women played in the game and over 80 students showed up to cheer for their favorite players!
- Early this fall, all Polity recognized clubs and organizations will have the opportunity to apply for **Sub Board programming grants** for the 2001-'02 academic year. If you're a member of a group that's interested in applying for a grant, Polity will provide you with instructions and guidelines in late August.
- **Second Look Day** and **Housing Weekend** were very successful this year, as more than 75 incoming first year students took part in the activities. Special thanks to Dean Wright's office for graciously agreeing to help fund Second Look Day!
- Congratulations to **Beyond Butler**, a new student run publication that was recently recognized as a Polity club. Megan Moore and David Block, both from the Class of 2004, are the contact people.

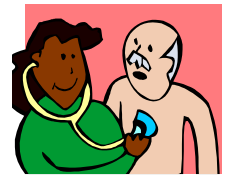
Your new Polity Executive Board is excited to be working on many great events for the upcoming year! Currently, we are addressing many academic and social concerns that have been brought to our attention by fellow students. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any ideas for new events or with concerns about issues that are important to our student body! Enjoy the rest of the summer, and we look forward to seeing you in August!

## Executive Board

Jason Hoffmann, President  
Christine Morelli, Vice President  
Eric Ko, Treasurer  
Missy Raney, Secretary

Polity Email: [smbs-polity@buffalo.edu](mailto:smbs-polity@buffalo.edu)  
Phone: (716) 829-3922

Interested  
in



American Geriatrics Society Student Web Site  
<http://coa.kumc.edu/geristudents/>

American Federation for Aging Research  
[www.afar.org](http://www.afar.org)  
[www.infoaging.org](http://www.infoaging.org)

## Your Good News



Look who the stork brought in...

### Birth Announcement:

**Justin Micheal Pardee** was born May 29 at 12:23pm and weighed 6 lbs. 7oz. "Dr. Tim" Pardee, Class of '03, is the proud dad.

### And on the way...

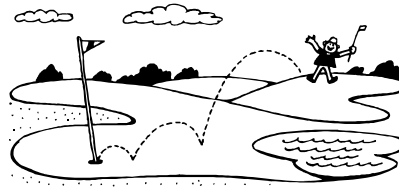
Cassandra Williams, Class of '04 is expecting a baby girl on September 4, 2001.

Wedding Bells  
are ringing for ...



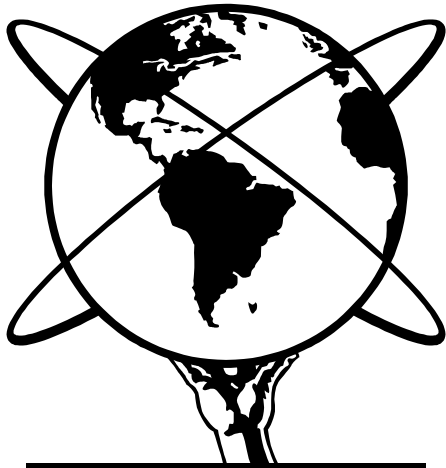
- ♦ Jennifer Payne, Class of '03, will marry Sean Trask on Saturday, July 21, 2001 and will take his name.
- ♦ Brittany Lee, Class of '04, married Adam Morse of Wyoming, NY on June 1.
- ♦ Gavin Grant, Class of '02, was married on March 31 to Linda Ahdieh, now Linda Ahdieh Grant. Linda is a PhD Epidemiologist and works at Johns Hopkins School of Public Health.

## A Hole in ONE!



Jay Mepani, Class of '02, had a hole in one while golfing in Niagara Falls in May.

His proud mom observed the accomplishment.



## International Health

Below you will find web sites with information about international health issues and electives.

### **AMSA:**

[www.amsa.org/global/ih/ihopps.cfm](http://www.amsa.org/global/ih/ihopps.cfm)  
[www.amsa.org/global/ih/intlintro.cfm](http://www.amsa.org/global/ih/intlintro.cfm)  
[www.amsa.org/global/ih/ihres.cfm](http://www.amsa.org/global/ih/ihres.cfm)  
[www.amsa.org/resource/amsarc/creative/creative.cfm](http://www.amsa.org/resource/amsarc/creative/creative.cfm)

The American Medical Student Association international health web sites are a great resource for students and include information on electives, international opportunities and funding sources.

### **IHMEC:**

[www.ihmec.org/](http://www.ihmec.org/)

The International Health Medical Education Consortium is a consortium of faculty and health care educators dedicated to international health education in U.S. and Canadian medical schools and residency programs.

### **WHO:**

[www.who.int](http://www.who.int)

The World Health Organization

*Curriculum continued from page 1*

*What is the new curriculum?* The details can be found on the medical school web site (<http://wings.buffalo.edu/smbs/ctf/>), but in general the new curriculum, which currently only pertains to years I and II, is divided into multiple modules (courses) which are organ-based. The only exceptions are the three initial modules in the first semester of the first year which introduce the student to the essential foundation needed for an organ-based approach.

In each organ-based module, all the basic science elements (Physiology, Pharmacology, etc.) are integrated into a study of one organ which also includes clinical elements with case presentations. The rationale for an organ-based approach is the result of at least two observations. Learning the pathology and physiology of the heart, for example, in an integrated fashion makes the basic science elements seem more relevant and therefore easier to remember. Moreover, residents and practicing physicians in evaluating patients actually approach a problem by integrating clinical medicine and the basic sciences. The goal of the new curriculum is to better equip third and fourth year students to integrate their knowledge in a similar way.

In an effort to encourage students to learn more independently, which is the way practicing clinicians learn new information, the class time in the first two years will be mainly restricted to the morning, leaving afternoons and evenings for self-directed learning. Not only will the curriculum have fewer total hours, there will be fewer lectures while retaining the most effective lecturers who are currently teaching. Our experience in SBM has proven that most people learn and retain information better when they set their own objectives and the pace of learning and when students have an opportunity for discussion in small groups. This is the essence of problem-based learning which will be retained in the new curriculum.

With the explosion of medical knowledge in the past two decades, it is clear that we can no longer expect students to learn everything. The rapid expansion of medical knowledge has had at least two consequences. Although lectures are the most efficient method of presenting factual material to

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students, when there is an overload of facts, they are soon forgotten. In the new curriculum we intend to emphasize concepts rather than requiring students to memorize a myriad of facts, many of which soon become out of date. The ever-increasing body of medical knowledge makes it imperative that we prepare students for life long learning.

We have discovered, in part from our experience in the CPM courses, that students are very responsive to practice issues which they will encounter as graduate physicians. At a time in our country when patients complain that doctors don't listen to them, that they are too technically oriented, and they don't take time to help patients understand their disease and treatment, society is asking that physicians develop a patient-centered, humanistic approach to physician-patient interactions. In the modules, as well as in CPM which will continue in the new curriculum, teaching will be designed to emphasize that in the practice of medicine, professionalism, ethical and moral behavior, compassion and commitment to patients have an essential role.

In summary, the design of the new curriculum in the first two years is to better prepare students for the third and fourth years of medical school which are centered around patient care. We want our students to be not only scientifically well informed, but able to use and integrate their knowledge of basic science in the care of patients. We also want to equip them with analytical, problem-solving and independent learning skills. ☀

Contributed by Dr. Reid Heffner, Assistant Dean for Curriculum

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**\$ Extended Financial Aid Hours \$**

In August, extended hours for medical students will take place on Tuesday the 21<sup>st</sup> from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Please call 829-3724 in advance for an appointment.  
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## AAMC Web Sites of Interest

### Extramural Electives Compendium

[www.aamc.org/students/medstudents/electives/start.htm](http://www.aamc.org/students/medstudents/electives/start.htm)

*Contains essential information for medical students about elective opportunities at accredited medical schools in the United States and Canada.*

### Organization of Student Representatives

<http://www.aamc.org/about/osr/>

*Contains information about the OSR which provides all United States allopathic medical students with voting representation to the AAMC.*

### FindAResident™

<http://pnet400.aamc.org/findaresident/>

*A new web-based service that helps program directors and residency applicants find each other.*

### MedCAREERS

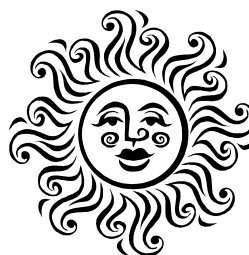
<http://www.aamc.org/medcareers/>

*A four-phase course designed to assist medical students in understanding their options for choosing a specialty and selecting and applying to residency programs.*

### (MD)<sup>2</sup>: Monetary Decisions for Medical Students

<http://www.aamc.org/md2>

*Information on how to get through the maze of financing a medical education. (MD)<sup>2</sup> can serve as a roadmap to guide you through the process, introducing you to the concepts of managing educational and personal debt.*



Enjoy  
your  
summer!

# OME Newsletter Summer 2001

State University of New York at Buffalo  
School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences  
Office of Medical Education  
BEB 40  
Buffalo, NY 14214

**PLEASE DELIVER TO:**