A Message from Dean Richardson

At a recent meeting with our student leadership, our discussion touched on a responsibility I have as Dean – ensuring that no matter when you earned your degree from the OHSU School of Medicine, you feel pride in the School’s work today and continue to associate your hood and diploma with excellence.

We fulfill this responsibility by doing all we can to attract the brightest and best students to consider attending OHSU. We ensure that our faculty, our programs and our curricula support and prepare our students to be outstanding scientists and clinicians.

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Alumni Profile

A Story of Canine Evolution and an Alumni Collaboration Bridging Decades, Distance and Institutions

“Some people may look at this,” said Dr. Cheryl Maslen, “and say, ‘Who cares why short dogs have short legs?’ But the reason this finding is of such great importance is because it can help us understand the basic biological mechanisms that limit human growth and that are relevant to human disease.”

Cheryl Maslen and Elaine Ostrander were close friends as graduate studies

(continued on page 6)

Update from Marquam Hill

Associate Dean Tana Grady-Weliky Reflects on the First Year in Oregon

Tana A. Grady-Weliky, M.D., celebrated her first anniversary as Associate Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education on January 20. Looking back at a year shaped in part by the global financial crisis, she confessed it was unexpectedly challenging and also immediately clear

(continued on page 3)

We Have a New Look!

We want to stay in better touch! Our annual Bridges magazine will now come to you twice a year, complementing news and other information found on the School of Medicine Web site: www.ohsu.edu/som. From there, you can click on the Alumni button for class notes, news, reunion dates and other information to help you stay in touch with the goings-on at the OHSU School of Medicine.

Like it? Loathe it? Let us know at sm-alum@ohsu.edu!

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A Message from School of Medicine Alumni Association President
Walter E. Meihoff, M.D. ’59

The School of Medicine Alumni Association is a big group. Graduates of the School of Medicine, M.D.s, residents, and fellows are alums. Basic science grads and Ph.D.s are alums. Graduates of physician assistant and allied health programs are alums. We are 16,500 strong. You and your classmates are academicians, researchers and private practitioners and are scattered across this country and around the world. How do you stay connected with old friends and mentors? The SMAA is an organization that can help you connect and stay connected and reintroduce you to OHSU. Here’s how:

Visit the campus. There is a lot that is new. The library, the Kohler Pavilion, the Portland Aerial Tram and the Center for Health & Healing at the foot of the tram are all spectacular structures. Doernbecher and the Portland Veterans Affairs Medical Center, although no longer new, are worth a visit. The bridge to the VA and the tram offer the best views of Mt. Hood and Portland.

Attend a lecture. The alumni Web site lists Grand Rounds topics, visiting lecturers, and many other educational opportunities. Recently a Mini-Medical School program has been initiated in which alums attend lectures with students in the morning and then discuss the experience over lunch. And this is just the beginning.

Plan a reunion. There is no substitute for a face-to-face after a number of years. The alumni office will help you arrange menus and venues and do most of the ground work. Take advantage of these talented and helpful people.

Share your e-mail address. This is the most efficient way to stay connected. Faster and with more current information, e-mail communications let you know what’s going on “on the hill.” The Web site is updated at least weekly with lecture topics, events and news about your classmates and mentors.

And here are some connection keys:
Email: sm-alum@ohsu.edu
Phone: 503 494-0748 or 877 888-6478
Link to the School of Medicine Alumni Community Web site at: www.ohsu.edu/som

Stay in touch.

Walter E. Meihoff, M.D. ’59
that it wasn’t a year for “splashy changes.” However, she is proud of one early splash of at least symbolic significance: she rattled a few chains to get the fountain in front of Mackenzie Hall – one of the casualties of the financial crisis – turned back on last summer. “I just thought it represented hope and life, and it’s beautiful; it needed to be on.”

Dr. Grady-Weliky joked that she took up her duties at the School of Medicine on the same day President Obama was sworn into office. He famously gave himself a B-plus on his first year performance. What grade would she give herself? “I’ve always been an ‘A’ kind of person,” she quipped, “but maybe an ‘A-minus’ if I had to grade myself.”

“I truly believe that so much of being a physician is about being compassionate and caring.”

– Tana A. Grady-Weliky, M.D.

This past year, she developed strong working relationships with OHSU’s leadership, including course and clerkship directors. And she’s worked hard to get to know as many of the students as possible. She has focused on laying the groundwork for the future.

For the coming year, Dean Richardson has charged her to work with the curriculum committee and other faculty members to chart “where we need to go and what needs to be in place so that we can move toward a model of learning interprofessionally – learning with physician assistants, nurse practitioners, dentists and other health care professionals,” she said.

Dr. Grady-Weliky is also focused on the more intangible aspects of physician education. In a prominent place on a credenza next to her conference table is a framed copy of two ancient Chinese proverbs. The first proverb – “kind heart, kind skills” – represents the ethical code of traditional Chinese medicine; the second – “knowledgeable hands return spring” – refers to the skilled hand of a physician restoring health to a patient. “I love what these stand for and I truly believe that so much of being a physician is about being compassionate and caring,” she said.

Dr. Grady-Weliky is impressed with the level of commitment School of Medicine students have to the underserved. She wants to ensure that these values remain a long-term touchstone for the 500 students she is charged with guiding through four years of medical school at OHSU, as they have been for generations of med students before them. “Given the enormous pressures current students face, how do we help them stay connected to the values that brought them to medicine in the first place,” she said.

In the future, she is committed to supporting more diversity in the M.D. program, not only in ethnicity but also in the economic strata students are drawn from.

On a more personal note, the Teaneck, New Jersey, native is getting acquainted with Oregon, although she’s not sure she’ll ever get the East Coast out of her system. She’s outnumbered though. Her two and a half year old daughter, Maya, is already a thoroughly assimilated Oregonian and her husband, a neuroscientist born in California, has the West Coast in his blood.

Dr. Grady-Weliky has managed to sneak in a bit of time enjoying the beach, the high desert and a drive up to Mt. Hood, but she doesn’t have any ambitions to climb it. She’s an avid reader and has just finished Julie Holland’s *Weekends at Bellevue* which struck a chord because as a psychiatrist, like the author, she worked in a psychiatric emergency room. She’s also reading Georgina Howell’s *Gertrude Bell: Queen of the Desert, Shaper of Nations.*
Alumni Profile: Improving Kidney Dialysis Worldwide Began as Child’s Play

One warm summer afternoon in 1963, Richard Drake’s five-year-old daughter asked to go for a swim at a friend’s house. That request would transform the lives of millions of dialysis patients around the world, and signal a gradual but fundamental shift in the way physicians viewed the abilities of their own patients.

The swimming pool belonged to Portland engineer Charles Willock, and as they watched their daughters playing in the water he and Dr. Drake, an M.D. graduate of the OHSU School of Medicine Class of ’59, started talking. “And then he showed me this incredible candle-wrapping machine he had in his basement,” said Dr. Drake. “I soon realized he was a mechanical genius and that he might hold the key to helping us improve kidney dialysis.”

An internist by training, Dr. Drake had already made a name for himself as a clinician and problem-solver in the emerging field of nephrology by improving the system for peritoneal dialysis, the standard of care for acute dialysis patients around the time of his graduation from OHSU. “The separate fittings used in peritoneal dialysis were all easily contaminated. I figured out a way to wrap them to reduce contamination and the patient’s risk for peritonitis,” he said.

The first patient Dr. Drake treated in this way transitioned from a coma to ambulatory in three days, and Dr. Drake was subsequently invited to study for a year at the University of Washington with renowned nephrologist, Belding Scribner, M.D. Dr. Scribner was just starting to attack the problem of patients with irreversible kidney failure.

“At that time we were focused on the problem of keeping patients alive when their kidneys had been so damaged that they no longer functioned,” said George Porter, M.D. ’57, Professor Emeritus, OHSU Department of Medicine, Division of Nephrology and Hypertension, and a colleague of Dr. Drake’s at the time. “Prior to dialysis, we’d admit patients with uremia, hydrate them and have to watch them die.”

Back in Portland after his year in Seattle, Dr. Drake continued to provide clinic dialysis services while searching for ways to improve dialysis for the patient. He wanted to get rid of the Kiil system’s huge tank, install safety monitors to watch for system failures, and most importantly allow for mechanical mixing of the electrolyte powders with sterilized water. That chance poolside meeting in 1963 with Charles Willock gave him the breakthrough he needed.

“Prior to dialysis, we’d admit patients with uremia, hydrate them and have to watch them die.”

– George Porter, M.D. ’57, Professor Emeritus
“Charlie came up with a system that mixed accurately every time,” said Dr. Drake. “He created a water reservoir that was directly proportionate in size to the powder reservoir. Each time the sterilized water from the mains passed through, a piston triggered the correct addition of powdered electrolyte. Bingo! No need for a tank.” It was, so to speak, a fortunate moment in which engineering, medicine and research came together to solve one of the most pressing clinical challenges of the day.

Equipped with safety monitors, the new portable Drake-Willock Dialysis Machine was launched immediately and revolutionized dialysis care. Patients could now monitor and implement their own treatment schedule at home and – in more than one case – move their machine with them if they wanted to travel. Acute renal-failure patients worldwide rushed to embrace this new freedom, and they made the initial Drake-Willock Dialysis Machine and its successor – the Drake-Willock 415 – the number one selling home dialysis machine in the world. Drake’s Portland-based company, DWS, Inc., employed 250 employees before it was sold in the 1970s.

It was this worldwide success that ushered in Dr. Drake’s second revolution.

“Part of the new care regimen required a patient to perform a full procedure on themselves or have a family member do it, without a health care professional present. There was initially little faith in the medical community that this would succeed. Physicians then just didn’t expect patients to be that involved in their own care.”

Dr. Drake’s previous experience with teaching and training diabetic adults and children to monitor their diet and their blood sugar levels convinced him that patients and family members could do as well as, if not better than, professionals when it came to training for and performing the dialysis procedure at home.

“They were motivated to make it work,” he said. “They became really good at it.” This experience highlighted what is now an accepted tenet of medical care – that a partnership between patient and physician is essential to the success of any treatment plan. “You have to know your patient,” said Dr. Drake. “No single recipe will fit everyone.”

“This work made a life-or-death difference to kidney patients worldwide,” said Dr. Porter. “Up until then we had been basing everything we did on acute dialysis treatment principles. Dick and Charlie’s contribution of a single set-up, repetitive system combined with a revolutionary new shunt was absolutely essential to extending the lives of patients with chronic renal failure.”

“I’m just lucky to have been able to do what I have,” said Dr. Drake, now retired and living in Portland with his wife, Maggie. “It was a combination of fortunate timing, motivation and support. That said, I am proud of the number of people around the world whose lives have been extended and saved by this work. The only cure for renal failure is still a transplant, but we’ve enabled many, many more people to reach that stage.”
From the Archives:
On the Eve of World War II

David W.E. Baird, M.D. ’26 (left), and Howard P. Lewis, M.D. ’30 (right), both towering figures in the history of the medical school during the first and middle parts of the 20th century, chat quietly in the Old Library.

At first glance, this image seems to capture a normal tête-à-tête between the Dean and his Chief of Medicine. But on the back, written in pencil, is the small notation that radically alters the way we look at and interpret this photo: July 10, 1942 / Taken night of activation of 46th General Hospital.

The 46th General Hospital was the all-volunteer unit based out of the University of Oregon Medical School (the precursor to OHSU) which operated overseas, in Africa and Europe, during World War II. In command was 57-year-old urologist Col. J. Guy Strohm, who had served as Division Surgeon with the 91st in World War I.

The 40 year-old Lewis would soon leave for Army duty, first as Assistant Chief of the Medical Service at Halloran General Hospital in Staten Island, and then as Chief at Rhoads Hospital in Utica, New York.

The 44 year-old Baird would continue to lead the school through the war years, overseeing a faculty depleted by military call-ups and a curriculum accelerated to produce new physicians as quickly as possible.

Alumni Profile: A Story of Canine Evolution (continued)

students working toward their Ph.D. degrees at OHSU a couple of decades ago. They still speak on the phone or exchange e-mails almost weekly to compare notes, discuss projects and enlist a second set of eyes for one another’s scientific papers. But they hadn’t found an opportunity to formally collaborate on a project until recently when they linked up as co-authors of a path-breaking new study published this past summer in *Science* – the journal of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, considered one of the most prestigious journals in which peer-reviewed research is published.

Dr. Ostrander, Chief of the Cancer Genetics Branch at the National Human Genome Research Institute, a part of the National Institutes of Health, led a team of researchers who reported in the *Science* article that a single evolutionary event appears to explain the short, curved legs that characterize dachshunds, corgis, basset hounds and at least 16 other breeds of dogs. Dr. Maslen played a key role in confirming the identity of the biological mechanism that appears to explain this disproportional dwarfism, or chondrodysplasia.

Dr. Maslen, Professor, OHSU Department of Medicine, was invited to collaborate on the study because of the extensive research she has done into the genetics of skeletal development as part of her ongoing studies of Marfan syndrome. People with Marfan have exactly the opposite condition from the one in the Ostrander study: they have very long limbs.

“I had the expertise, the resources and the tools to do a piece of the project, and that, after all, is what collaboration is about,” said Dr. Maslen.

Dr. Ostrander’s study uncovered a genetic signature exclusive to short-legged dog breeds in a survey of more than 40,000 markers of DNA variation in samples from 835 dogs, including 95 with short legs. Through follow-up DNA sequencing and computational analyses, the researchers traced the dwarfism of the short-legged breeds to one mutational event in the canine genome – a DNA insertion – that occurred early in the evolution of domestic dogs.
Dr. Maslen’s analysis confirmed that an extra copy of a gene that codes for a growth-promoting protein called fibroblast growth factor 4 (FGF4) is, in fact, a region of genetic activity during fetal development. The extra gene – or retrogene – lacks certain parts of the DNA code, called introns, found in normal genes and it was inserted into the dog genome, the study concluded, some time after the ancestor of modern dog breeds diverged from wolves. The inserted retrogene results in the overproduction of FGF4, which researchers hypothesized may turn on key growth receptors at the wrong times during fetal development. This finding, the researchers suggested, may offer clues to the causes of hypochondroplasia, or dwarfism, in humans.

Dr. Ostrander has been chasing down clues like that since the mid-1990s as she has gone about mapping the dog genome. “What we find is that by and large the same genes and families of genes are responsible for diseases in dogs and humans. And it’s becoming much easier to map using canines than humans. The reason is a statistical one. It’s hard to map diseases in humans because families usually are small and after people have one or two children affected by a given disease they often don’t have more. You can only sample a couple of generations and maybe the older generation is deceased and the younger generation hasn’t lived long enough to get the disease. And any one family doesn’t have a lot of statistical power.”

“Had it not been for my training at OHSU I would not have had the experience or confidence to tackle the complex genetics of Marfan syndrome.”

– Cheryl Maslen, Ph.D. ’87

“Then there are dogs. They’re divided into 150 breeds and each one is an isolated pure breeding population that have gone for generation after generation with strong selection for the same exact traits. There may be 100 genes out there, for example, that cause epilepsy in humans and probably just as many in dogs. But in dogs we can say, I’m just going to look at the Doberman breed, or the German shepherd breed, and within any one breed, it’s not going to be 100 genes, it’s only going to be maybe one or two genes. So we have a way of simplifying the problem statistically that is hard to come by in humans because there are very few isolated human populations. Each dog breed is a mini Finland or Iceland.”

Dr. Maslen draws a clear link between her work as a graduate student and the work she is doing now. “I received a fabulous education in human genetics from OHSU, not only thanks to Mike Litt, Ph.D., my Ph.D. mentor, but also people such as Ellen Magenis, M.D., Grover Bagby, M.D., and a whole long list of faculty in the (then) Department of Medical Genetics,” she said. “I also received wonderful training and background from Richard Jones, M.D., Ph.D., and others in the (then) Department of Biochemistry. This allowed me to go into my post-doctoral work with all of the tools that I needed to tackle the complex genetics of Marfan syndrome. Had it not been for my training at OHSU, I would not have had the experience or confidence to do that.”

The commencement address was delivered by Bill Leinweber, Executive Vice President and CEO of the American Academy of Physician Assistants. Mr. Leinweber spoke to the students about being an advocate for both their profession and their patients and the role that Physician Assistants can play in health care reform. The day culminated with a reception for family and friends.

OHSU Physician Assistant Program

The OHSU Physician Assistant Program graduated its 13th class in August – 36 students, of whom two-thirds plan to stay in Oregon to practice. “These new physician assistants are a very important element of Oregon’s health care future, and will provide significant new access to primary care,” said Dean Mark Richardson.
Ravi Iyer seeks intellectual inspiration both in the lab and in the wilderness.

An outdoorsman, mycologist and first year student in the Program in Molecular and Cellular Biosciences (PMCB), Ravi Iyer, 34, believes that intellectual roaming and physical roaming are closely intertwined. “I get a lot of my scientific ideas out in the back country. You certainly have a goal in mind when you are back-packing or when you are conducting research, but you are also free to range over the landscape and explore interesting diversions as you encounter them,” he said.

Iyer’s journey to the PMCB program has at times roamed far from the linear path. He obtained his baccalaureate degree in Political Science from Western Washington University, and has held jobs as diverse as snake handler, beer brewer, accountant and meter reader. He became interested in infectious disease as a result of several years of travel, notably in Central America where he was involved in human rights observation projects. “I saw large numbers of impoverished people suffering from water-borne diseases and illnesses such as tuberculosis, and decided that I had the temperament and personality to tackle these issues through microbacterial research.”

He returned to school at the University of Washington, obtaining a second baccalaureate in microbiology followed by employment there as a lab assistant for six years. “Now, I’m happy to be back in school,” he said. “I want to learn something new every day.”
Student Spotlight:
Graduate Studies Program

Having lost both parents to famine, Christy Murphy plans to use her clinical nutrition degree to bring sorely-needed expertise to developing countries.

Orphaned by the Ethiopian famine of the 1980s, Christy Murphy, 23, is aware of the irony in the seemingly miraculous turn of events that led her to start the program this year to earn a Master of Science degree with a major in Clinical Nutrition.

“I lost both my birth parents because they did not have enough food,” she said. “Now I am acquiring the knowledge and skills to teach others that nutrition is a global issue, and that the nutritional habits of one culture have a significant impact on the nutritional habits of others.”

Murphy’s thesis will include studying the effect of American culture on the nutritional habits of immigrant communities, initially around breast-feeding frequency and duration. “The breast-feeding habits of newly-arrived Americans change holistically with first-hand exposure to American culture,” she said. “This acculturation process also impacts dietary habits after weaning.”

Placed in an orphanage shortly after birth, Murphy was adopted at 18 months by U.S. parents who would eventually adopt a total of five children to join their three birth children. “My parents are examples of grace and generosity,” said Murphy. “They have taught me to help where you can and give what you can. They taught me to live outside of myself.”

Murphy’s goal is to make a difference in Ethiopia. “My passion for nutrition is scientific as well as personal, but I do know I was saved for a reason. Nutrition is a critical piece of sound public health, and developing countries are in desperate need of dieticians. This is a way I can give back.”

Ginger Slavens, Public Education Coordinator with the District. “Yet she still applied herself to graduate top of the class. First responders get to see everything from mild illness to suspected strokes, and provide continued care and assessment until transport can get there. In some areas of our District, that can take a while.”

“I’d like to share my perspective of what growing up in a rural community meant for me, and help people understand the needs of those communities.” — Jenna Emerson

Her commitment to health deepened in Guatemala where she found herself stitching machete wounds and supporting appendectomies and Cesareans in the National Hospital. “This was a small, poorly-equipped, understaffed and resource-stretched hospital. Without the kinds of even basic skills that I was able to offer, people would have been waiting for ages to receive care,” she said. Jenna also worked for Faith in Practice, an American non-governmental organization that sends health care teams to remote Guatemalan villages.

As a member of the Class of ’13, Jenna looks forward to sharing her experiences growing up in a small town and her year in Guatemala. “OHSU has a great emphasis on training physicians to provide primary care in rural areas. I’d like to share my perspective of what growing up in a rural community meant for me, and help people understand the needs of those communities.”
The 2009 Orientation Week concluded with the presentation of white coats to the 120 members of the M.D. Program Class of '13 in a ceremony that mixed joyful exuberance and celebration with a solemn recognition of the trust vested by the public in those who wear the white coat. Included in the class were 88 Oregonians, the largest number of Oregon students in nearly two decades.

"Your enthusiasm, your energy and your ideas remind me why I chose a career in medicine," said OHSU President Joe Robertson, M.D., M.B.A., R ’82. Referring to an inscription on the 13th floor of the Kohler Pavilion – *Hope sees the invisible, feels the intangible, and achieves the impossible* – he added, “Standing here today, that is exactly how I feel when I look at you. You are our hope for the future.”

Drew Ross, M.D. ’09, Resident in Internal Medicine in the OHSU Graduate Medical Education

“Your enthusiasm, your energy and your ideas remind me why I chose a career in medicine.”

– OHSU President Joe Robertson, M.D., M.B.A., R ’82
Your patients won’t remember what you said or what you did, but how you made them feel.”

– James Chesnutt, M.D. ’89, quoting a classmate from the Class of ’89

James Chesnutt, M.D. ’89, Assistant Professor, Department of Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation and also a Gold Headed Cane recipient, delivered the J.S. “Dutch” Reinschmidt, M.D. Memorial Lecture. He included comments from his own class contemporaries, whom he had contacted specifically for advice to the incoming class. “Don’t lose sight of the joy of medicine,” said one alumnus. “Your patients won’t remember what you said or what you did, but how you made them feel.” Concluding his remarks, Dr. Chesnutt said, “Medical school prepares you inside for a life of service outside. Wear the white coat from the inside out.”

The incoming students were introduced by Tana A. Grady-Weliky, M.D., Associate Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education, and cloaked by Molly Osborne, M.D., Ph.D., Associate Dean for Student Affairs. Don Girard, M.D. R’73, Associate Dean for Graduate Medical Education and Continuing Medical Education and J.S. “Dutch” Reinschmidt Professor of Medical Education, introduced Dr. Chesnutt.

“You are not on the sidelines when you wear the white coat. You now get to share the hardships as well as the joy.”

– Drew Ross, M.D. ’09
Dr. Brian Druker Honored with Lasker-DeBakey Award

Brian J. Druker, M.D., whose groundbreaking research led to the development of Gleevec, the first targeted pill to kill cancer cells while leaving healthy tissue unharmed, was recognized in October with one of the most distinguished awards in biomedical research – the Lasker-DeBakey Award for Clinical Medical Research.

“I am extremely honored to receive this recognition. We are making significant progress in the fight against cancer and are providing hope to millions of patients and their families,” said Dr. Druker, Director of the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute, a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator and JELD-WEN Chair of Leukemia Research. “We are well on our way to making effective and non-toxic therapies a reality for all cancer patients.”

This award is one of three given annually by the Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation. The awards, which often foreshadow future recognition by the Nobel committee and are often referred to as “America’s Nobels,” honor scientists and clinicians who have made major advances in the understanding, diagnosis, treatment, cure and prevention of human disease.

Dr. Druker shares the 2009 award with Nicholas B. Lydon, Ph.D., formerly of Novartis, and Charles Sawyers, M.D., of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator. This award recognizes Dr. Druker’s decades-long quest to identify and develop a clinical therapy that targets a molecular abnormality in cancer. Drs. Druker and Lydon developed the critical reagents that helped identify imatinib, or Gleevec, as a drug that inhibits cancer cell growth, and were responsible for moving the drug into clinical trials. Dr. Sawyers later determined how to overcome resistance to the drug.

U.S. News & World Report Ranks OHSU Education Programs in Top 10 Nationwide

The OHSU School of Medicine was ranked third in the nation for excellence in primary care education by U.S. News & World Report in its annual survey of America’s Best Medical Schools 2010. In a companion survey of specialty programs, the School of Medicine ranked fourth nationwide for rural medicine education. The Family Medicine program also featured in the 2010 listings of best programs, ranking at number eight in its category. The Physician Assistant program was ranked ninth in the latest survey of Graduate Schools.

For more than a decade, U.S. News & World Report has ranked the School of Medicine’s education programs among the best in the nation. Rankings are based on peer assessment surveys.
Alumni Council Serves Up Welcome at New Student Barbeque

Dean Mark Richardson joined Alison Fryer, Ph.D., Associate Dean for Graduate Studies, and about 175 students at a barbeque to welcome new and returning students this fall. The event was hosted by the OHSU Graduate Student Organization and co-sponsored by the School of Medicine Alumni Association (SMAA), the Office of Academic Affairs and the All Hill Student Council.

SMAA Council members James D. Fearl, M.D. ’65, Robert J. Laird, M.D. ’68, Tod Tolan, M.D. ’75 and Graduate Studies representative Raymond Hickey joined Council President Walter E. Meihoff, M.D. ’59, to flip burgers and grill sausages for the crowd. Graduate student Dustin Johnsen provided two hours of great music mixes and the SMAA sponsored door prizes.

For more photos of the annual welcome barbecue, check out the School of Medicine facebook page at www.facebook.com/ohsusom.

Alums Gather to Celebrate the Holidays

The chill of December did not deter 200 people from attending the OHSU School of Medicine Alumni Association holiday gathering.

Alumni and guests talked with President Joe Robertson and Dean Mark Richardson, shared news with classmates and caught up with advances in their fields from colleagues and faculty members. Current students also joined the alumni guests.

In a letter to the alumni, Dean Richardson wrote, “Our experiences at medical school fundamentally transform us as individuals, and we carry our alma mater wherever our subsequent careers take us. The School of Medicine Alumni Association takes a leadership role in making sure these transformational experiences are not forgotten, and are passed from generation to generation.”

“We were pleased to offer this celebration to our alumni this year and very glad to see the great turnout,” said Walter E. Meihoff, M.D. ’59, President of the School of Medicine Alumni Association.
A Look Back – and Mark Your Calendar: Upcoming Reunions

It’s time to celebrate!

The OHSU School of Medicine looks forward to welcoming alumni and their families to reunions later this summer. Here’s what’s planned for the Classes of ’60, ’70, ’75, ’80, ’90 and ’00. For more information, e-mail sm-alum@ohsu.edu.

Class of ’60
May 21 – 22
Portland
Reunion Chair: Frederick Fraunfelder, M.D.

Class of ’70
July 23 – 24
Portland
Reunion Co-chairs: Scott Miller, M.D. and Larry Rich, M.D.

Class of ’75
May 6 – 8
Portland
Reunion Chair: Tod Tolan, M.D.

Class of ’80
Dates to be arranged
Reunion Chair: Lauretta Young, M.D.

Class of ’90
Dates to be arranged
Reunion Chair: Linyee Chang, M.D.

Class of ’00
Dates to be arranged

Reunions

Class of ’59
At the reunion dinner, Dean Richardson inducted class members into the Golden Circle – a recognition reserved for alumni who graduated from the School of Medicine 50 or more years ago. Dean Richardson also provided a brief update on developments at the School of Medicine and thanked John Roehr, M.D., Bob Mendelson, M.D., John Thompson, M.D., and Harley Kelley, M.D., for their leadership and commitment in organizing such a large and successful alumni gathering.

Class of ’79
Oba Restaurant in NW Portland was the venue for the 30th reunion of the Class of ’79, organized by Bonnie Rathjen, M.D. Class members and their guests enjoyed a reception and dinner, followed by a round-table discussion about changes in the School of Medicine and an update on classmates.

Class of ’89
Probably the first of the School of Medicine’s M.D. classes to convene its reunion via Facebook, members of the Class of ’89 travelled from as far away as Paris to attend their 20th reunion at Lola’s Room in downtown Portland. Class members and their guests also enjoyed a picnic as part of the weekend celebrations. More photos are available on the group’s Facebook page: search for “OHSU Medical School Class of 1989.”
Other Events

Match Day
March 18 – Old Library Building, Marquam Hill
M.D. students in their final year gather together to open the envelopes that reveal the location of the Graduate Medical Education (residency) program where they will spend the next several years. Friends and family join them for this emotional milestone, and alumni are welcome. The envelopes are opened at 9 a.m. Please e-mail us at sm-alum@ohsu.edu if you would like to attend.

Medical Specialty Speed Dating
March 31
Building on the great success of last year’s inaugural event, this fast-paced, energetic evening features alumni and community physicians sharing their knowledge and love of their medical specialty with small groups of medical students. These informal discussions take place in 10-minute, round-table “huddles” over two hours. Please contact Donald Houghton, M.D. ’72, (houghton@ohsu.edu) if you are interested in participating either this year or at a future event.

School of Medicine Alumni Association Awards Banquet
May 6
Each year the SMAA celebrates its outstanding alumni and friends for their service to and achievement in education, patient care and research. This year’s banquet will take place in Portland, and will honor recipients of the Charles A. Preuss, M.D., Esther Pohl Lovejoy, M.D., and Richard T. Jones, M.D., Ph.D. Awards. For more information please e-mail sm-alum@ohsu.edu.

Student Research Forum – Judges Needed!
May 13 – 14
A celebration of student research in all schools and disciplines, the 27th annual OHSU Student Research Forum will feature Louis J. Guillette Jr., Ph.D., Distinguished Professor of Zoology at the University of Florida, as keynote speaker. Alumni who are interested in serving as judges for oral and poster presentations should contact Autumn Fletcher at fletchea@ohsu.edu.

OHSU School of Medicine Hooding and Commencement Ceremony
June 1
Hooding and Commencement for the Class of ’10 will take place at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall in Portland at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, June 1. Alumni of the School of Medicine are welcome to watch candidates for the Baccalaureate, Masters, M.D. and Ph.D. degrees as they are hooded in the School’s annual celebration of its educational programs. Tickets are not required.

Friend us! OHSU School of Medicine is on facebook!
Do you facebook? Did you know that the OHSU School of Medicine has a large following on facebook? View news and events, photo albums and video footage of day-to-day happenings at the School. Recently posted: the medical students’ response to the Haiti earthquake, photos of a community health clinic conducted by our first and second year students at a downtown theater, and video clips about research breakthroughs. To see all this and more, “friend” us at www.facebook.com/ohsusom

Help Save a Tree and Win a Portland Aerial Tram Pen!
Communicating via e-mail helps us reduce paper usage and provides you with information about the School of Medicine and the Alumni Association in a more timely manner. E-mail us at sm-alum@ohsu.edu for more details. There’s a free Portland Aerial Tram pen for the first 25 new e-mail addresses we receive!
School of Medicine Alumni Scholarship

The Alumni Scholarship was first established by generous and insightful alumni and friends of the School.

- The fund has grown over the years with generous gifts of all sizes from a variety of donors, benefiting deserving students eager to enter the field of medicine.

- A healthy scholarship fund is pivotal to the School’s long standing reputation for excellence and its ability to attract the most highly-qualified students.

To find out how you can start a named scholarship, or contribute to an existing fund like the Alumni Fund for Excellence, drop us a note at the address on page two, or call 503 494-0723 or 877 888-OHSU (6479). You can also give online by visiting our Web site: Medicine.ohsufoundation.org

Thank you.