The discipline of learning. The art of caring.

Western University of Health Sciences

A TRIBUTE TO CARING
University honors humanitarians, celebrates alumni.

HEALING THE WORLD
Volunteer spirit moves students to serve abroad.

COMP DEAN SELECTED
Admiral to lead medical school.
Western University of Health Sciences presents the university’s 15th Annual Asian American Scholarship Dinner. The event will be held on Saturday, March 5, 2005 at Embassy Suites in Arcadia, Calif. Each year the university has celebrated its relationships with the Asian communities here in Southern California.

Students in each of our five colleges benefit from the scholarship funds raised through this event. In addition, funds are also used to build endowments for future scholarships.

For more information on the 15th Annual Asian American Scholarship Dinner, contact Rocki Moreno in the events office at 909-469-5439. For sponsorship information, contact Maria Espinosa in the events office at 909-469-5365. There are a variety of sponsorship opportunities available for your consideration.
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REFLECTING ON A YEAR FULL OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

It was with great enthusiasm that we recently embarked on the search for a university archivist here at the WesternU. Nearly three decades of Western University of Health Sciences memories and memorabilia have been stashed in boxes and will soon be put into a collection for the entire university community to enjoy.

It seems fitting then, as we embark on our 28th year, that we reflect on some of our achievements of late.

The College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific successfully implemented its Northwest Track — an addition of 30 students to the fall’s entering class, all from the northwestern United States — to meet the growing demand for osteopathic physicians in that region. In January, the college will welcome its new dean, Dr. Clint Adams. Dr. Adams is a retired admiral with the U.S. Navy and I am confident he will lead COMP in the right direction as we develop faculty and research positions within the college. You can read more about Dr. Adams in this issue. I know you will be as impressed with his experience as I am.

G. Stanton Selby, founder, conductor, and musical director of the Pomona Concert Band for more than 50 years and a great friend of WesternU, died Nov. 23 at the age of 84. Stan was a former mayor of Pomona. He conducted his band at each of our commencements since 1982 and composed the recessional march especially for WesternU. For 19 years, as part of the annual summer concert series at Ganesha Park, I had the privilege of conducting a march in Stan’s band for our annual Picnic in the Park. Stan was a special guy to all of us here and will be greatly missed.

Philip Pumerantz, PhD

G. Stanton Selby presents Dr. Pumerantz with the baton he uses to guest conduct the Pomona Concert Band.
Completion of the Center for Drug Development, under the auspices of the College of Pharmacy, will facilitate vital research and development endeavors in the ever-growing field of pharmacology. Earlier this year, the college received a $500,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health to support a three-year study on cocaine addiction and treatment.

The College of Graduate Nursing initiated its MSN Entry-level program, under which applicants who hold bachelors degrees in both health- and nonhealth-related backgrounds, can attain a masters degree in the nursing profession. The college, in the midst of developing a medical Spanish course, continues its work to improve the cultural competency of nurses employed by the San Bernardino Public Health Department.

The College of Allied Health Professions saw its Health Sciences program achieve the highest enrollment of students in its eight-year history; a $450,000 grant secured by the Physician Assistant Studies department will underwrite the development of a genetics curriculum and help increase minority enrollment; and the Transitional Physical Therapy program reflects increased enrollment as it completes the opportunity to move entirely to the DPT degree status.

In addition to welcoming its second class of students in the fall, the College of Veterinary Medicine saw the evolution of its partnership with Banfield, the Pet Hospital take a step forward with the opening of a temporary on-campus teaching hospital, a precursor to a fully operational facility set to open its doors in fall 2006.

The list does not end with these accomplishments and we are excited as we endeavor to add even more. We are eager to venture further into what will undoubtedly be a brilliant future. With your support, it will continue to represent excellence in health professions education.

Philip Pumerantz, PhD

“We are eager to venture further into what will undoubtedly be a brilliant future.”
Dr. Scott Campbell, chairman and CEO of Banfield, the Pet Hospital, accepts the Corporate Award for Excellence in Health Care.

David Olmos, Health section editor of the Los Angeles Times, accepts the Elie Wiesel Humanism in Healing Award.

University board member Mike Quick and Dr. Gene Steiner, host of “Healthy Advice with Dr. Gene.”

Dr. Clint Adams, COMP’s new dean, with talk-show host and honoree Montel Williams.

Montel Williams accepts the Media Award for Advancement in Health and Humanism from emcee Stephanie Edwards.

Dr. Shirley Johnston, dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, and Brent A. Standridge, senior vice president of North American Sales and Marketing, Fort Dodge Animal Health.

University board member Wen Chang has a good time on the dance floor with wife, Mei Lien.

Dr. Sam Shimomura, associate dean of Professional and Student Affairs for the College of Pharmacy, and his wife Patricia.
Montel Williams, the Los Angeles Times and Banfield, the Pet Hospital were the stars of the evening at WesternU’s annual “A Tribute to Caring” gala held in November at the Beverly Hills Hotel.

The event raised $200,000 before expenses with proceeds benefiting student scholarships and supporting the university’s mission to educate compassionate and skilled health-care professionals.

The university’s highest honor, the Elie Wiesel Humanism in Healing Award, was awarded to the Los Angeles Times. Since 1942 The Times has won 35 Pulitzer Prizes, four of which are gold medals for public service. In 2001 the Times won a Pulitzer for investigative reporting for stories on unsafe prescription drugs that had been approved by the U. S. government.

Renowned talk show host, author, actor and philanthropist Montel Williams was the recipient of this year’s Media Award for Advancement in Health and Humanism. A daytime Emmy award-winner, Williams created the Montel Williams MS Foundation. He is committed to promoting awareness, raising funds for research and providing inspiration to those who, like himself, have MS.

The Corporate Award for Excellence in Health Care was awarded to Banfield, The Pet Hospital®. Banfield was founded in 1955 in Portland, Oregon, with a commitment to making human-quality medical care accessible to pet owners. Today, Banfield is the nation’s largest private veterinary practice and a tremendous partner to Western University of Health Sciences’ College of Veterinary Medicine.

*Photo courtesy of Robert P. Walker.
“Being around these children makes you feel the humanistic aspect of being a physician.”
— Mare Tom, DO’07

STUDENTS MAKE AN INTERNATIONAL IMPACT  By Sumati Bansal, DO ’06, and Anu Mittal, DO ’06

Have you ever seen the PBS or National Geographic documentaries depicting the atrocious living conditions of developing nations? What about the advertisements proposing to save the children of the world with a small donation? The initial response to most of these advertisements is one of skepticism. It is just so hard to believe that any monetary contribution can actually reach a small child born with a congenital, but curable, disease.

Even the thought of doing volunteer work is often greeted with skepticism. How could creating a garden in inner-city Philadelphia bring light to a community? Is it possible that vaccinating a small village in rural Mexico against rubella helps stop the spread of congenital rubella syndrome? Do the benefits outweigh the costs? In the cynical and overly practical climate of today's political scene, the answer is often a blunt, “Isn’t it obvious? The costs outweigh the benefits.”

In stark contrast, there’s a small part of the community that has conquered this skepticism with idealism. These individuals believe that they can make a difference with small steps; by touching one life, perhaps the lives of following generations can also be enhanced. Groups such as Doctors Without Borders (MSF), Flying Doctors of Mercy/LIGA International, Peace Corps, and National Health Corps are a few examples of resources for international service work. MSF was founded by a small group of French doctors in 1971. This non-profit group sends physician volunteers to assist with the dire health needs of underserved international populations.

Can one volunteer or organization change the world and eliminate disease? Certainly not. No single solution to poverty and disease exists, but volunteers can bring hope into the lives of those who are less fortunate. Such individuals walk amongst us as part of the WesternU community. We had the opportunity to talk with a handful of them.

Getting involved

The motivation to do service work in a country outside the United States is very personal. For some, the impetus stems from something spiritual. Undoubtedly, religious organizations contribute the largest number of volunteers and donations to communities...
in need, both domestically and abroad. Two faiths in particular, the Quakers and the Baha’i, focus on doing service work in underserved nations. Additionally, the Mormon Church asks its young men to complete a two-year mission in a needy community.

It is this faith that drove Matt Hoyt, DO ’06, to serve as a Latter-day Saints missionary in the Philippines from 1996 to 1998. He did service work in medical centers and dental offices and assisted with various tasks in the community (such as moving a house!). Matt claimed, “Proselytizing is the main focus of these trips, but service is also a huge part of Christianity.” Matt’s experience was so revitalizing that it became a reason for him to attend medical school. “Part of healing the body is spiritual. My religion is a huge part of how I would like to help people,” he said.

Josie Pardenilla, DO ’07, participated in a two-week mission trip to Peru during the summer of 2003. There, she helped build a second story for a classroom. Josie also participated in spiritual revival week in two cities, including the city of Puno.

For other students, the motivation to serve outside the United States is not necessarily spiritual; however, it is still very personal. Whether this is done through a non-profit/NGO, university program, a single contact person, or simple persistence, these students find a way to go abroad.

Chad Lowe, DO ’06, initially got involved with international service in Haiti through his church. Haiti is one of the poorest countries in the Western Hemisphere; more than 80 percent of its population suffers from unemployment and illiteracy. Virtually no monetary or medical assistance is available for the Haitians. Intrigued with the culture and serving this medically underserved nation, Chad sought to take action with the organization Healing Hands for Haiti. Through this organization, he helped arrange rehabilitation groups and provide physical exams, screenings, medications and other supplies for those in need.

Marc Tom, DO ’07, joined USC physicians, medical students and other volunteers with the goal of building an orphanage for children in Ghana. The home is particularly targeted toward children born with AIDS. It will provide housing, food, shelter, education and vocational training for up to 200 children ranging from ages 5-15. Efforts are geared toward making children self-sufficient by vocational training in areas such as wood carving, pottery making and agriculture. When asked about the motivation behind her service, Mare stated, “These children have nothing, yet their faces are lit with bright smiles and their charming nature and optimism makes every struggle worth enduring. Being around these wonderful children makes you feel the humanistic aspect of being a physician.” As members of the Akuse Hope Orphanage Coalition, Mare and the leaders of this project have completed a needs assessment, acquired land, finalized architectural plans and gathered start-up funds. The official groundbreaking for the orphanage is scheduled for summer of 2005.

Beth Thompson, DO ’06, found herself across the border in Tijuana, Mexico. For three Saturdays during the summer of 2000, she spent her days planting trees on the grounds of a new school, Colonia Esperanza. The school is located in one of the many shanty towns that surround Tijuana and is designed by
artist/architect/writer James Hubbell. He designed the school not as any ordinary facility, but rather as a "work of art." It is precisely the school’s individuality which drew Beth to its grounds.

Dan Sullivan, DO ’06, spent two years as a Peace Corps volunteer in Ivory Coast, West Africa. Dan was at a point in his life where he needed a change, and this seemed to be the answer. He was out to discover “the secret of how to live with each other, and how to be happy.” Dan feels that much of the reason for his service was to learn more about himself. He left the United States expecting that he would learn more from the communities than he would help them. His experience exceeded his expectations.

Sumit Khandhar, DO ’06, decided to volunteer within the education sector in Kathmandu, Nepal. Working through the organization Cultural Destinations Nepal, Sumit taught English, math and science to public school students. These students come from low-income, uneducated families; for the most part, they are servants to their community. While working with these children, Sumit was forced to acknowledge the limits of their ambitions and visions of life. He explained, “These children held no occupational dreams, held no real desire to learn, as if they had given up and their lives revolved around their duties as servants in Kathmandu.” Sumit also realized that this apathy was not the fault of the children; it was a result of circumstances and the community they belonged to. Thus, he focused his energy upon exposing his students to the world outside of the limited one in which they were forced to live. “I sought to do more than provide them with factual knowledge; I’d entertain them with portraits of life outside of Kathmandu in hopes of expanding their vision and instilling ambition into their lives,” he said. Working with these children for four months was a mutual learning experience for Sumit and his students.

Tim Halpin, DO ’07, worked off the coast of Spain for five years as a paramedic. After returning to the United States and beginning medical school, he decided that it was again time to serve outside the country. But this time he wanted to explore a not-so-affluent Spanish-speaking country. Through an organization named Cape Cares, Tim landed in a remote Honduran clinic that serves...
an isolated community of 300 people. Here, Tim explained, “the people are poor and there is virtually no access to health care. The only assistance they get is this clinic, which is available three times a year.”

Ilse Levin, DO ’07, completed her graduate thesis in Myanmar (Burma) during September 1997. There, she performed a needs-assessment on knowledge and treatment of lymphatic filariasis compared to other infectious diseases in rural villages.

Finding comfort in a new land

Though everyone has his or her own reasons for doing service work abroad, there’s a common thread that unifies all of these individuals. That is curiosity and the willingness to leave comfort zones behind, at least for a little while. Upon arriving in a new country, assimilation is critical, Ilse said. Of course this is easier said than done. Part of Ilse’s solution was to learn the language. This was also part of Dan’s plan. Tim already spoke fluent Spanish. Matt said, “If you showed a picture of your family, and spoke their language, they were immediately open to you.” Finally, Sumit spent the first month of his time in Nepal learning Nepalese. This was not an easy task; he took the initiative to live with the school principal’s family and use as little English as possible. Everyone realized that communication in the native language is essential in gaining the trust of a community. Beth found that non-verbal communication can also get you by. She does not speak Spanish, and she said she, “settled for ‘Como está?’ ‘Bien.’ And a smile.”

Observations on health care

Experiencing the health care system in another country is fascinating in and of itself. A great majority of developed nations utilize a system of universal health care very different from that in the United States. Globally, the term “HMO” may well be as foreign as apple pie. When working in another country’s health care system, it is helpful to be cognizant of these differences.

For example, Tim noted that Spain does not have a separate paramedic service. Therefore, although he was a paramedic, he actually worked under the auspices of
an overseeing physician. This physician attended all out-of-hospital trauma calls.

On the other hand, in the small Honduran village there was virtually no primary health care. Some patients walked for over three hours to be seen at the clinic (which was only available three times a year). Common ailments included acute skin lesions, infections and GI abnormalities. Tim described his trek up a mountain to visit a couple in their 70s. The husband and wife were severely dehydrated, to the point where it was an effort for them to talk. The woman’s legs were covered with infectious ulcers. Tim and the physician did their best to re-hydrate the couple as well as treat the ulcers.

Chad’s experience in Haiti was similar; the lack of access to health care is devastating and the primary culprit for many avoidable problems. The children in Haiti are succumbing to diarrhea, malaria and polio. These are all diseases that are easily preventable with the appropriate medical management. In fact, Chad asserted that “many times, all it takes is $20 to save a child’s life.”

Interestingly enough, many of the illnesses in developing countries are acute and preventable. Contrast that to the United States or other developed countries in Europe, where the leading causes of death are heart failure, lung cancer, or other chronic illnesses. Could this difference between “Western” and “non-Western” diseases be a product of our way of life? Tim stated, “I was surprised. For the most part, people [in Honduras] are very healthy and happy. There must be something right about their lifestyle.”

The doctor-patient relationship is also quite different outside of the Unites States. Both Dan and Tim noticed a family-centric pattern of health care. The physician communicated with the entire family, rather than just the individual. In Dan and Tim’s opinion, this inclusiveness was a definite strength of the health-care systems in Spain, Honduras and Ivory Coast.

Overall, the experiences of these students were overwhelmingly positive. When asked if they would like to continue doing international work in the future, everyone emphatically said yes. Some things will be accomplished, and some things will be beyond reach. As Chad stated, “You could give your whole life away in Haiti and in the whole scheme of things not make a difference. Instead, you have to pick a corner and plant your flowers, make your corner beautiful, and hope that your corner will slowly expand. Working in Haiti can be frustrating and overwhelming, but at the same time very rewarding.”
HOW I SPENT MY SUMMER VACATION

The perennial back-to-school assignment takes on new meaning as students from WesternU’s College of Veterinary Medicine recount in their own words the unique experiences they had abroad this past summer.

Morocco

This summer we enjoyed exposure to the culture, geography, political atmosphere and people of Morocco. Professor Malika Kachani organized our visit as part of her hydatid cyst eradication interdisciplinary program in villages in Morocco. Along the way, we identified professional, academic and cultural aspects that would be beneficial for other WesternU students to experience and would provide future travelers with a diverse and mutually beneficial array of experiences. The time in Morocco was highly educational and spawned many ideas for the commencement of efforts between the veterinary school there and WesternU. It is anticipated that the schools can develop a sister school relationship that promotes educational enhancement and cultural exchange. An overview of the plans for collaboration opportunities will be presented in an upcoming presentation sponsored by the International Veterinary Students Association.

- Brian Van Horn and Michelle Fuller

Italy

When Dr. Joe Bertone spoke of the Palio in Siena, Italy throughout last year, none of us really understood the magnitude of the event. This summer, Jennifer Nudleman Odet Kaspari, and I not only had the chance to see the Palio and its race horses first-hand, but also the opportunity to work with Raffaelo, one of the most respected and talented equine veterinarians in Italy. Whether we were traveling around Tuscany with “Raffy” and his distinguished staff visiting race horses and workhorses alike, or whether we were in the operating room watching innovative surgeries, the experience was unforgettable and we are truly grateful for the opportunity.

- Hillary Hickam

India

This summer I ventured to Chennai, (Madras) India as a Fulbright Fellow for the Indo-American Environmental Leadership Program. Over an eight-week period, I implemented a health study that evaluated environmental heavy metal concentrations in air, soil and water and human and animal heavy metal blood concentrations in a high and low traffic zone. As part of this study, I worked with the Sri Ramachandra Medical College & Research Institute Environmental Health Engineering Department and Anna University Environmental Testing Center Laboratory. Dr. John Tegzes served as the faculty advisor on this field work and will be involved in data interpretation. The end result will be a snapshot of human and animal health in regard to heavy metals such as lead, cadmium and arsenic and with an understanding of the heavy metal point sources in the environment.

- Vinutha Gowda
Clinton E. Adams, DO, has been selected as the new dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific. Dr. Adams will begin his post January 3, 2005. Adams is concluding a distinguished 30-year career with the U.S. Navy, where he attained the rank of rear admiral and served as command surgeon, U.S. Fleet Forces Command in Norfolk, Virginia.

Prior assignments include service as Surgeon General to Allied Command for Transformation (NATO), Joint Forces Command and Fleet Forces Command. He worked with two four-star admirals and the office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, leading the strategic and transformational changes in medical preparedness, future programming for major equipment purchases and manning for all medical deployments of all military services.

Adams served as the director of TRICARE Mid-Atlantic Region, a $3.2-billion managed care support contract for services from Humana Military Healthcare Services in support of nine regional medical facilities. He served as chief executive officer of the Naval Medical Center in Portsmouth, Virginia. This center was recognized for award-winning care of 425,000 clients via a 320-bed complex tertiary care teaching facility with 10 branch clinics, 3,500 obstetrical cases and 1.5 million outpatient visits per year.

Adams also served as the chief executive of the Naval Hospitals in Naples, Italy and Beaufort, South Carolina, and as the chief operating officer and surgical director of the Naval Hospital in Okinawa, Japan.

"Admiral Adams was the unanimous choice of the search committee at COMP after a national search to fill the position," said President Philip Pumerantz. "I am confident that Admiral Adams will bring the kind of leadership and wisdom that will continue the founding traditions of COMP."

Dr. Adams earned his DO degree from the Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine. He is fully trained and board certified in anesthesiology, family practice and health care management. He has been a member of the American Osteopathic Association since 1976, serving on a variety of committees. Dr. Adams and his wife, Paula, a registered nurse, have two sons and one daughter.

Dr. Adams said he is looking forward to the transition from the military to education. "After 30 years of applying the basic skills the osteopathic profession granted to me in support of the health of America's military family, I have a need to return to the heart of our profession," he said. "The osteopathic medical schools continue to bear a huge social, ethical and moral responsibility to produce the best possible graduate this nation deserves. We have a duty to the communities we live in to produce caring, compassionate, lifelong learners."
The university is embarking on a multiple-year image campaign to raise the awareness and visibility of WesternU in Southern California and throughout the state.

A part of this campaign is an effort to put the university's message in specific media targeted at identified influential audiences that include business leaders and opinion leaders throughout this media market.

"Competition for higher education news coverage, particularly for print and air time, in this media market is great," said Mark Wallace, director of University Communications. "This market is the second largest in the country and it takes a consistent, well-designed campaign to create a brand for this university. The university has an important story to tell and we will use various ways to share it with Southern California."

An underwriting audio message has been airing on KPCC 89.3 FM. KPCC is one of the nation’s top ten public radio stations, a National Public Radio affiliate broadcasting from Pasadena with a signal that reaches the entire region.

The KPCC radio ad began running on Sept. 8 and ends Dec. 17. Generally, the ad airs Wednesday through Friday, 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., throughout the day but especially during drive times. It is scheduled to air a total of 162 times during this period and there may be some additional free public service times added by KPCC.

This radio ad is the first part of a larger campaign that is unfolding this year and continuing for the next two years. Dan Pittman of Pittman & Associates Public Relations is working with the university on message development and media buys.
NEW VICE PRESIDENT OF ADVANCEMENT ‘COMES HOME’ TO WESTERNU

Destiny sometimes has a way of bringing people to WesternU.

Among the latest is Diane James, newly appointed vice president for University Advancement.

“It feels like I’ve come home given a unique set of circumstances and interests during my lifetime. I am passionate about higher education bettering lives — and that enables me to practice what I call ‘serious play’ because I adore my work,” she said. “Here at WesternU, I’ve found a fascinating marriage of my personal and professional interests.”

James heads up the university division responsible for developing independent resources in support of scholarships, building programs and the university endowment. She began her post in September.

A part of her lifetime of experience was working in a neighborhood pharmacy as a pharmacy apprentice during high school. James started off dusting bottles and shelves and eventually worked up to being a pharmacy technician. “I was exposed to the world of drug company representatives and healing at an early age,” she said. “It was a fascinating education for a young adult.”

Later, she was employed in public schools in California and Oregon as a speech pathologist, working with special education students with a wide variety of physical, cognitive, sight and hearing challenges. Through this job, she worked closely with physical therapists, nurses and physicians in the world of alternative access.

In addition to her hobbies of golf, travel and gardening, James has always made it a priority to volunteer for nonprofit organizations concerned with companion animals.

While living in Alaska, she launched an organization called Companions, Inc. – Paws for a Cause that began with $100, two dogs and two volunteers. It blossomed into a large organization with hundreds of volunteers who take their pets into locations where people don’t have access to pets — long-term geriatric health-care facilities, prisons, shelters for battered women/children, hospices and pediatric wards in hospitals.

“My early fundraising experiences had their roots in bettering the lives of people through unifying them with loving companion animals,” she said.

James has a 25-year career in fundraising, with over 8 years in higher education. She comes to WesternU from Chapman University in Orange, where she served as the associate vice president for University Advancement.

Prior to her Chapman position, James served as the director of advancement for the Claremont University Consortium in Claremont. She launched a new centralized advancement office for The Claremont Colleges and was instrumental in generating funds for a new student health center.

James earned her bachelor’s degree in communications/speech pathology from CSU Long Beach and her master’s degree in organizational management from Azusa Pacific University. She has earned certificates and credentials in educational administration, planned giving, nonprofit management, public relations and fundraising (CFRE).

James lives in Glendora with her husband and two canine companions, a golden retriever, Korbi, and a black lab, Maya.
Dr. Alan Cundari, chair of the Department of Family Medicine for COMP and medical director for Western University Medical Center, has been named the 2004 Alumnus of the Year by the Alumni Association Board.

Dr. Cundari, DO ’85, MSHPE ’92, was selected for his service to the university, his profession and the community at large. He was honored at the annual “A Tribute to Caring” gala held in November.

“I am very proud of him and I can’t think of anyone who deserves it more,” said President Philip Pumerantz. “He’s an outstanding role model for what a WesternU alumnus should be.”

Dr. Cundari, in 2003, was selected as a “favorite health care provider” by readers of Inland Empire magazine. One of his patients wrote, “I have seen Dr. Cundari for 11 years. I still go to him today and my asthma is controlled. He is always there for me. He even has watched me play hockey.”

Dee O’Sullivan, a former co-worker of Dr. Cundari’s, said he is very deserving of the award. “It was my personal honor to work for and with him for 10 years. In those special years I saw him as physician, professor, mentor, humanitarian, ‘the boss’ and friend,” O’Sullivan said. “Dr. Cundari embodies all we hold dear in osteopathic medicine. The osteopathic oath asks physicians to affirm their compassion, good judgment, skill, scrupulous honor, fidelity, cooperation with colleagues, loyalty to their college, and that they strive always for the interests of the students who will come after them. This is Dr. Cundari – all of it.”

In addition to his positions at WesternU, Dr. Cundari also serves as the team physician for Montclair High School and has been twice honored by the Chaffey Joint Union High School District with its Community Service Award. He received the Most Valuable Physician Award in 2000 from the Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons of California.

He currently serves as treasurer of the Los Angeles County Osteopathic Medical Association, chair of the Medical Records Committee for Doctor’s Hospital Montclair Medical Center and chair of the Department of Family Medicine for Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center. Dr. Cundari also serves as a special consultant/state license examiner for the Osteopathic Medical Board of California.

Alumni Association President Tina Meyer, PA-C ’92, said, “I am so pleased that the board voted to honor such a wonderful man. Dr. Cundari does great work in the clinic and in the classroom. His patients and his students are very blessed to have him, and so are we!”

If you would like to nominate someone for the Alumni of the Year Award for 2005, please contact the alumni office at (909) 469-5274, or alumni@westernu.edu.
ALUMNI NOTES

1984
It was good to hear from Robert Schainfield, DO ’84, who recently wrote upon hearing about the university’s 27th anniversary: "What an achievement for ALL at COMP/WUHS, et al to be proud of and an integral member of the elite alumni. What a phenomenon the school and its attendant class and faculty have become. I am so proud of my opportunity and the good fortune I have been privileged to in my professional life. I would hope to be able to attend the 20-year (can you believe it?) reunion in November, in San Francisco. I will do my best in hopes of going."

In a recent conversation with Sherry Bendall, DO ’84, she expressed how proud she is of her daughter Lisa, a tenured professor of archeology at Oxford University.

1986
The alumni board welcomes Joyce Pinckard, DO ’86, currently serving as the DO Section Vice President.

1991
Michael Landrum, DO ’91, contacted us to give an update on his activities, which are exciting and varied! Dr. Landrum was recently granted certification in Neuromusculoskeletal Medicine and Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine (NMM/OMM), becoming one of 442 DO’s nationwide who currently hold this status. He was also named by Seattle Magazine for the second year in a row as one of Seattle’s top doctors. He was named to the Scientific Advisory Council with Health Network in Hampton, Virginia, and is in the process of talks with North Texas University of Health Sciences research department about a new osteopathic technique on which he has written a theory paper. He has been invited to present the theory and technique, which he has utilized in his private practice for three years. Dr. Landrum is also working with the Medical Council of New Zealand to pioneer, with the help of the AOA, the acceptance of American osteopathic credentials for full practice rights in medicine in that country. Well done!

1992
Congratulations to Tina Meyer, PA-C ’92, who has become the new Alumni Board President for the term of 2004-2006. This is a first, because Tina is the first non-DO board president ever elected to the association.

The alumni board welcomes Jean LaCombe, PA-C ’92, who is currently serving as the new PA Section President.

1993
The alumni board welcomes back Paul Willis, DO ’93, for another term as Board Secretary Treasurer.

1995
The WesternU alumni board welcomes Judy Turner, DO ’95, who is currently serving as the Board Vice President, President-Elect. Dr. Turner, a noted photographer, had some of her work on display in the downtown Pomona Arts Colony in October.

1995
Our thoughts and prayers are with Alea Morningstar, DO ’96, who was set to redeploy to Iraq as a major in the Army, September 8, 2004. She is the medical officer at Abu Ghraib prison this time around, something which, in her words, she views as “a true challenge, a true mission, and one that I volunteered for. I cannot imagine a place
needing a different viewpoint and new energy more than Abu Ghraib." For this new role, she learned Arabic and received education about customs and protocol, as she is examining male Iraqi prisoners as well as soldiers.

Karen Swanson, DO ’96, writes: “Since I graduated from COMP, I have finished my internal medicine residency and pulmonary critical care fellowship, both performed at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. I am now in my third year on staff in the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, and I am enjoying my job immensely. Without the opportunity provided for me by COMP, this would not have been possible. I want to thank you for providing me that opportunity. I hope all else is well. I am glad to see that Western University is indeed thriving.”

1997

Michelle Perello, DO ’97, is currently serving in the U.S. Navy as a lieutenant commander in Jacksonville, Florida. She practices pulmonary critical care.

Neda Bayat, DO ’97, is currently doing a family practice residency at USC.

Taiil Song, DO ’97, finished an internal medicine residency at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas and completed a fellowship in allergy and immunology at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, DC. Dr. Song is presently assistant chief of the allergy and immunology department and actively doing research on anaphylaxis and septic shock.

Albert Kim, DO ’97, did his internship at Naval Medical Center San Diego, and was stationed at Twenty nine Palms and Okinawa with the Marines as a Medical Officer. He completed a family practice residency at Arrowhead Regional Medical Center as associate chief resident and is now in private practice in Ontario, California.

1998

Kenneth Whitlow, DO ’98, did his internship in OB/GYN at KMC/UCLA and his residency in emergency medicine at TBHC/Cornell University. He is a medical toxicology fellow at Emory University Centers for Disease Control, Georgia Poison Center.

John Eiland, DO ’99, did a rotating internship and an OB/GYN residency at Garden City Hospital.

The WesternU alumni board welcomes Mitchell Wade, MSN/FNP ’99, as the Nursing Section President.

The alumni board also welcomes Shiva Lalezarzadeh, DO ’99, who is currently serving as the DO Section President.

Richard Serkowski, DO ’99, did his internship in medicine at Wilford Hall USAF Medical Center, Texas. He has been a flight surgeon for both the 9th Fighter Squadron (New Mexico), and the 67th Fighter Squadron (Japan), serving in multiple deployments to a host of countries throughout the world. He comments that of his memories on campus, ”my most enduring is simply being around, and sharing experiences with many of my new friends in a great place...Southern California. I hope to return someday and teach!”

Justin Sherfey, DO ’99, completed his residency at Botsford Hospital in Detroit, Michigan and went on to become an Orthopedic Surgeon. He is breaking ground in Canada, as he is the first DO recognized by the Royal College of Physician and Surgeons of Canada and is currently completing his fellowship at the University of Western Ontario in London, Ontario. This accomplishment was discussed in the August 2004 edition of "The DO" publication. The RCPSC is currently trying to decide whether to recognize U.S. DO degrees as equivalent to U.S. MD degrees. Justin’s appointment the fellowship program is causing pressure for DOs to be recognized in Canada and internationally. Well done!
ALUMNI NOTES

2000

The WesternU alumni board welcomes Megan Nguyen, PharmD ’00, currently serving as the PharmD Section President.

2001

David Edmondson, DO ’01, completed an internal medicine residency in June 2004 at the Medical College of Wisconsin and began a fellowship in allergy and immunology there in July. Dr. Edmondson is married to Carrie, and they have three children: Emelia (4), Sam (21months), and Ben (21months).

Congratulations to J. Carlos Miranda, MPT ’01, who graduated from WesternU with his DPT degree in 2004 and recently received board certification as an orthopedic specialist in physical therapy. Since receiving his MPT in 2001, he has also completed a year-long course in orthopedic manual therapy.

Megha Rani Agarwal, PharmD ’01, was featured in an advertisement for Saddleback Memorial Medical Center in Laguna Hills that ran August 20 and 22, 2004 in the Orange County Register. Megha is an alumna who is also a preceptor for WesternU pharmacy students and a pharmacist at Saddleback Memorial Medical Center.

Sonia Sebastiano, PA ’01, has relocated to Florida with her husband Matteo and their 10 month-old.

2002

The WesternU alumni board welcomes Marc Rappaport, DO ’02, currently serving as the DO Section Secretary/Treasurer all the way from New York.

The alumni board also welcomes Nancy Nielson-Brown, MSHPE ’02, currently serving as MSHPE Section Secretary/Treasurer. Her hobbies include being fluent in Klingon, and she has published four times in the language.

Congratulations to Nancy Nguyen, PharmD ’02, and Ryan DeGuzman, PharmD ’01, who married in a ceremony on Sept. 25, 2004 in Santa Clara, California. Nancy is a regional coordinator for the UOP Thomas J. Long School of Pharmacy and Ryan works as a veterinary compounding pharmacist for Golden Gate Pharmacy in San Rafael, California.

Jeremy Winderweedle, MSPA ’02, is currently doing CT surgery.

Sheryl Kramer, DO ’02, completed her internship year at South Pointe Hospital in Cleveland, Ohio, and spent one year as a clinical scholar at the Cleveland Clinic, in the Adult Reconstruction Section of the department of orthopedic surgery. She recently began an orthopedic surgery residency at Midwestern University First James Hospital in Olympia Fields, Illinois.

Congratulations to Samuel Cloud, DO ’02, who announced he is going to start an EMS fellowship in 2005.

2003

The WesternU alumni board welcomes Charles Johnson, MSHPE ’03, currently serving as MSHPE Section President.

The alumni board also welcomes Erin Borini, MSPA ’03, and Jody Roff, MSPA ’03, currently serving as PA Section Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer, respectively.

Congratulations to Sue Ann Estrada Tumakay, MSPA ’03, who was married on September 18, 2004. She is working in pediatrics in Stanislaus County.
Donald Hsu, PharmD '03, completed a hospital practice residency at University of South California. He's currently completing a second-year infectious diseases residency at Huntington Memorial Hospital in Pasadena, California.

Joyce Li, PharmD '03, completed a pharmacy practice residency at Kaiser Permanente in the Inland Empire areas of Fontana and Riverside. She’s currently working as an ambulatory care pharmacist at Kaiser Permanente in Santa Clara, California.

Kimmy Ngo, PharmD '03, completed a pharmacy practice residency at Kaiser Permanente in Orange County, California. She’s currently working as an oncology pharmacist at Kaiser Permanente in Riverside, California.

Cynthia Chan, PharmD '03, completed a one-year drug information residency at Stanford Hospital in Palo Alto, California. She’s currently working in clinical informatics as a drug information content specialist for TheraDoc in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Estelle DeBelen, PharmD '03, completed her residency at VA San Diego Health Care System. She’s currently working as a pharmacist at Tri-City Medical Center, Oceanside.

Carolyn Patel, PharmD '03 completed her residency at Kaiser Permanente, Anaheim. She’s currently working at Kaiser Permanente, Orange County.

Kristen Ward, PharmD '03, completed her residency at Kaiser Permanente, Inland Empire areas of Fontana and Riverside. She is currently doing a second-year administrative residency at Long Beach Memorial.

2004

The WesternU alumni board welcomes Dennis Briley, MSHPE '04, currently serving as the MSHPE Section Vice President.

Ann Chung, PharmD '04, completed her officer training program Sept. 17, 2004 at Ft. Sam Houston. She reported to Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu, Hawaii on Oct. 1, 2004 to begin her residency program.

Sandra Chan, PharmD '04, has accepted a position at Kaiser Permanente, Oakland as a pediatric specialist pharmacist in the NICU satellite pharmacy.
ALUMNI TURN OUT FOR CONVENTION

WesternU had an outstanding presence at this year’s American Osteopathic Association Convention held in November in San Francisco with more than 180 WesternU alumni, faculty members and students attending.

As part of the convention activities, WesternU’s Alumni Association hosted a luncheon and an evening reception. The luncheon was attended by 210 guests and provided a relaxed opportunity for mingling with classmates and making new connections. James Dearing, DO ’84, who serves as second vice president for the AOA Board, welcomed guests and President Philip Pumerantz presented a video highlighting the university’s recent accomplishments. Dr. Michael Finley, assistant dean for Clinical Affairs, provided an update of COMP achievements. The luncheon also was a chance for guests to meet and hear from COMP’s new dean, Dr. Clint Adams.

The convention also served as the site of the 20-year class reunion for the COMP class of 1984. The class was represented by a small group who enjoyed reuniting with each other and reminiscing. Those attending shared their thanks and appreciation to WesternU for all that they have accomplished.
A DAY IN THE LIFE

Physician Assistant students have fun during PA Day.

A haunting time on campus during Halloween.
DONATION HONORS FATHER’S COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION

The atrium in the Health Professions Center now holds a special meaning for a Northern California doctor and his family, thanks to their $150,000 donation to the College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific.

The Tsang Family Foundation agreed to make the generous donation to support the college’s educational needs. In return, the area in the HPC will be named the Tsan-Yung Star Atrium, and the building’s spiral staircase will be dubbed the “Steps to Healing.”

The atrium is named in honor of Tsan-Yung, a man who dedicated his life to ensuring that each of his eight children—including Dr. Pui-Lam Tsang—received a quality education.

"This is a very special gift because it reminds us of what we owe our parents. They are the ones who create ‘steps to healing’ for a new generation of osteopathic physicians."

UNIVERSITY FACULTY RECEIVES GRANTS

Ben Kitchen, DVM, College of Veterinary Medicine
$94,200 – Bosack & Kruger Foundation
Material and labor support for evidence-based learning tool development

Brenda Premo, MBA, CDIHP
$50,000 – The California Endowment
Identifying barriers that limit access to durable medical equipment for people with disabilities in California

$49,980 – Department of Rehabilitation
Establishing a Statewide Infrastructure for Brain Injury Survivors in collaboration with The Brain Injury Institute of California

$28,565 – California Foundation for Independent Living Centers
ICL Office of Patient Advocate Project

$20,000 – California HealthCare Foundation
Managed Care for Beneficiaries with Disabilities Issue Brief Project

$48,660 – Sonoma State University for the California Health Incentives Improvement Project (CHIIP).

$50,000 – Department of Health and Human Services/The Medstar Research Institute
year 2 Center for Disease Control and Prevention

Lara Rasmussen, DVM, College of Veterinary Medicine
$59,810 – California Community Foundation
Veterinary Community Service Program serving Los Angeles County

$20,000 – PETsMART year 3
Charities Veterinary Ambulatory Community Service Program at Western University of Health Sciences

Jim Scott, PharmD, College of Pharmacy
$136,550 – GlaxoSmithKline - Simplex Agreement Information for Protocol COL 100985/ COL 100839

$178,000 – GlaxoSmithKline – Intel Agreement Information for Protocol COL 100985/ COL 100839

$63,624 – GlaxoSmithKline - Aloha Agreement Information for Protocol COL 100985/ COL 100839

Beth Towner, PhD, FNP, College of Graduate Nursing
$41,359 – Health Resources and Services Administration
Advanced Education Nursing Traineeships (AENT) FY2004 -2005

$68,073 – Health Resources and Services Administration year 3
San Bernardino HET
“He raised many children and emphasized education although he never finished grade school,” said Dr. Tsang. “My aim is to support higher education professional schools. That is the objective of my family and our foundation.”

“This is a very special gift because it reminds us of what we owe our parents. They are the ones who create ‘steps to healing’ for a new generation of osteopathic physicians,” said Garth Clayton, Foundations and Government Relations director.

As a result of Dr. Tsang’s gift, Catherine Ho traveled to Hong Kong Baptist University’s School of Chinese Medicine this past summer to complete a research project involving acupuncture. There are plans to send another student for a similar research project next year.

The Tsang foundation has also made gifts to colleges in Illinois and Arizona.

Dr. Tsang, an alumnus of the Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine, has visited WesternU several times with his wife, Audrey Kon-Lo Tsang, who is also a trustee of the foundation. Dr. Tsang lectured on Eastern theories of medicine, on acupuncture, and on chi-kung, a martial art that integrates physical postures, breathing techniques and focused intentions.

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a] The atrium in the HPC building will be named after Tsan-Yung.

b] Dr. Pui-Lam and Audrey Kon-Lo Tsang donated $150,000 to COMP.
UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT  Philanthropic gifts are vital for the university's growth and future success. Your financial support will provide needed student scholarships, faculty support and academic enhancements. We are able to assist with bequests and are honored to be a trustee of such gifts of final and lasting charity. A bequest may be designated to the university general fund to support all of our exemplary colleges or it may be directed to a specific college, program and/or department. The university has a team of development professionals who are all working to cultivate independent monetary resources to support the educational programs at the university.

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Western University of Health Sciences is educating the health professionals of tomorrow. Each of our graduates reaches out to communities across the United States, and the world, to help others. Your gift helps the university leverage corporate partnerships, raise the bar in health education and seize unexpected opportunities as they arise. Your gift touches health care and healing.

Take this opportunity to strengthen the quality of health care in our nation. Use the enclosed envelope today to send in your vital contribution or contact Annual Giving at 909-469-5678 or by email at annualfund@westernu.edu.

Change someone’s life for the better!