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Cover: Celebrants at the milestone reunions gather
on the lawn of the Alumni Center for a family portrait.
Cover photograph: Helen Antonelle

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Dear Alumnae and Alumni:

The past year has been a banner one for our Alumni Association. A record number of us have paid our dues. Because of you, we have been able to broaden and intensify our activities. We have held chapter meetings in New York City, Los Angeles, New Haven, Washington, D.C., Boston, Phoenix, Chicago, and Miami. The Alumni Association's CME program held last winter was extremely successful; this year's will be held at the Cerromar Hyatt Regency in Dorado, Puerto Rico. It promises to be great. Come on down! February 3-10, 1991.

The relationship between our medical students and the Alumni Association has expanded and is on a firm foundation. We sponsored a lunch for the Class of 1994 during their orientation week, where we told them of your warm wishes for their success. I have met with the Student Senate on several occasions and am impressed by what I've seen and heard. The current generation of students has a keen interest in the past, present, and future of our college. They are knowledgeable, dedicated, and hardworking.

Joe Dursi again opened his home to the entering class, where he sponsored an exciting picnic dinner, a grand example of an alumnus reaching out to help our future colleagues.

As you have read in your dues-notice letter, we have started an Alumni/ae and Student Networking Program. Keep the information for that program coming with your dues. Together we can accomplish a great deal.

Over the 130-year history of our Medical College we have been fortunate to have fine direction from chairmen of the Board of Trustees. Mr. John K. Castle, who has resigned after 11 years as Board Chairman, gave the College steady stewardship. Thank you, John Castle! A new era is beginning, and again good fortune comes to us, now in the person of George Cooney, our newly elected chairman, who has been with the College as a member of the Board since 1974. You will read about his plans for the College on page 6 of this issue. George, you are family! The Board of Governors and the entire Alumni Association wish you good luck. We will do everything we can to support you.

I look forward to seeing many of you at chapter meetings. The dates and places are listed on the back cover. Do try to join us. Until then I remain,

With warmest wishes,

Louis E. Fierro '60
A Family Portrait Spanning 50 Years:
The 1990 Milestone Reunions


A milestone reunion at New York Medical College can be a weekend extravaganza. The Alumni Association has created a weekend package that includes diverse festivities: the 25-year class reunion on Friday evening, the dinner dance on Saturday evening, and the reunions of the 5-year anniversary classes on Sunday. For members of the 50-year class the program extends to Monday, when they receive gold diplomas at the College commencement and are guests at a luncheon in their honor.

During the 1990 weekend, a number of graduates attended the dinner dance, stayed in Manhattan overnight, and traveled together to the Westchester campus on Sunday morning. For that group the day's fun started early. Assembled in front of New York's best known hotel, The Plaza, waiting for the chartered bus to fill up, graduates and their families watched with amusement as a stream of celebrities passed in and out of the hotel's main entrance. NYMC alumni-turned-paparazzi have the film to show that Imelda Marcos and Ivana Trump were part of this Sunday morning "parade."

At the Alumni Center, graduates of 14 classes, spanning half a century, found a cordial reception awaiting them on the lawn, where a tent held tables laden with luscious hors d'oeuvres, and bartenders stood at the ready.

After allowing time for the guests to exchange initial greetings, Alumni Association President Louis E. Fierro '60 brought words of welcome from the Association's Board of Governors. He introduced College President John J. Connolly, who gave a capsule state-of-the-College report and thanked the graduates for their strong support of their medical school. Then, mindful of the eagerness of the guests to continue catching up with one another, Dr. Fierro turned them in the direction of the luncheon tables that had been set up under another tent.

The gathering included alumni, alumnae, spouses, parents, children, and friends. They came from the West and East coasts, the South, the Southwest, New England, and the Midwest to celebrate anniversaries of graduation from medical school and years of professional achievement.

The largest contingent came from the Class of '85, followed by '80, with a splendid turnout by the gold diploma Class of 1940. The warm, familial character of the day was enhanced by the presence of parents and children marking anniversaries jointly. For a member of the 50-year Class, Ardyw Ameduri of Houston, and his son Clifford '75 of New Orleans the day held a double pleasure as they celebrated milestones together. Chironian is indebted to Clifford Ameduri for the photo of 50-year class members on page 7.

The Butler family, numbering three graduates, flew in from California to mark Philip's 10th anniversary. On hand were Marjorie Pashke Butler '48, mother of both Philip '80 and David '79; Dr. Edwin Butler, Majorie's husband and father of David and Philip, and Susie and Teresa Butler, wives of David and Philip, respectively. The O'Brien family of Long Island celebrated both the 30th anniversary of John O'Brien '60 and the imminent graduation of David O'Brien, Class of '90, who received his M.D. degree the following day. Mary Louise O'Brien, John's wife and David's mother, and David's wife, Trish, joined in marking the day.

A wonderful weekend concluded with the taking of the College family portrait shown on the cover.
The Butler family of California: Philip '80 and his wife, Teresa; David's wife, Susie, David '79, Marjorie Butler '48, mother of Philip and David, and Edwin Butler M.D., their father.


Three classes are represented in this picture. Seated: William Draper '68, his wife, Barbara, Michael Berman '70, his wife, Nancy, and Joseph Vetrano '70. Standing: David O'Brien '90, his wife, Irish, his parents, John O'Brien '60 and Mary Louise, David Beccia '70 and his wife, Jessica.


Representing '85: Keith Leibowitz, Karen Stampf, Elizabeth Clark, Elizabeth's husband, Richard Claman, Lisa Turtz Birnbaum, and Zoe Birnbaum (Class of 2016?).

Representing '75: Neil Silber, Howard Berger and his wife, Phyliss Berger. Standing: Roberta Silber, Neil's wife, William Raynar, Clifford Ameduri, Edward Swibinski, John McAteer, husband of Mary Hawkins (McAteer), and Mary Hawkins.
George Cooney, the newly elected chairman of the College's Board of Trustees, comes to his post exceptionally well qualified for the job. An involved member of the Board for the past 16 years, he has a solid knowledge of the institution, a keen sense of both its strengths and its needs, and an enthusiasm that is sure to be contagious as he goes about the task of lifting the College to the position of leadership he believes is attainable within the decade.

The new Board Chairman also brings to the post a background that is both entrepreneurial and creative, and a view of medicine and health care delivery that is informed by his close association with the College and his experiences during travels in this country and abroad on behalf of the company he owns.

George Cooney is chairman, CEO, and sole owner of EUE/Screen Gems, Ltd., the company he purchased from Columbia Pictures in 1983, after operating it as a division of Columbia Pictures for 16 years. EUE Screen Gems is the largest producer of TV commercials in this country. In addition, the company produces the highly successful, long-running TV series, The Guiding Light. An international organization, the firm has offices and studios in New York, Los Angeles, Sydney, Dublin, and London.

A graduate of Fordham University with a B.S. degree in business and economics, George Cooney served in both the U.S. Army Medical Corps and the Reserves. He and his wife of 35 years, Cynthia Cooney, live in Bronxville, N.Y. They have four children. Cynthia Cooney is on the Board of the Joffrey Ballet and is also active in civic affairs.

Mr. Cooney received Humanitarian Awards from Flower Hospital in 1981 and St. Clare's Hospital in 1987. In 1989, New York Medical College awarded him the honorary degree, Doctor of Humane Letters.

*Chironian* talked with George Cooney about his plans for the Medical College. The questions and his answers follow.

**Q.** Given the pressures on medical education today and the challenges ahead, do you see leadership opportunities for the College in this decade? Do you see new directions for the College, as well?

**A.** The answer to both questions is yes, definitely. There are a number of areas in which leadership is within our grasp; and forward-looking changes will be made.

For example, in the 90's, in addition to our strong emphasis on research, we will be focusing on changes in the curriculum in order to address future health care issues. Our new primary care curriculum will be a very important component of our plans to emphasize health promotion and preventive medicine. I believe we are well positioned to assume leadership in these areas. This is not the time to be all things to all people, but rather to build on our areas of greatest strength.

**Q.** Do you have some specific areas in mind?

**A.** Several examples come immediately to mind: Cardiovascular disease, oncology, and AIDS. We have a firm foundation in each of these areas, and have much to contribute. In the case of AIDS, for example, we have in our combined affiliated hospitals one of the largest populations of patients with AIDS in the country, with a representative cross-section, including IV drug users, homosexual men, and babies. Our findings through clinical research should make a significant contribution to the understanding of the AIDS virus and its mode of transmission.

In the field of international medical education our chancellor, Msgr. James Cassidy, is deeply committed to the development of an international network in which New York Medical College would play a major role.
Through satellite communication and data bank networking we can provide information to schools in other countries and receive information from them in exchange. The possibilities for medical education are almost limitless.

Q. How do the graduate schools of basic and health sciences fit into plans for growth?

A. These schools complement our medical school effectively, and the Board of Trustees has approved a plan to strengthen all three components of our institution. As important parts of the plan, Charles E. Ford, D. Ed has been promoted to Dean for Academic Development and we have recruited a nationally known health care professional, Sheila M. Smythe, as Dean of the Graduate School of Health Sciences.

Q. In looking to the future, how do you view our hospital affiliations program?

A. Affiliations carry obligations, which this Medical College has taken very seriously from its beginning. We are justifiably proud of our history, which includes our continuing relationship with Metropolitan, the longest affiliation between any medical school and hospital. A diversity of hospital affiliations—urban, suburban, large and small—is an advantage, but we should look closely at each one and retain those in which our teaching requirements and our services to the hospitals have the greatest mutual benefit.

Q. Do you foresee a time when tuition can be lowered?

A. The Board is very sensitive to this issue and we are working hard to resolve the difficult dilemma caused by continuously rising costs. We have cut the percentage of the periodic increase and will continue to work with the administration and faculty on the problem. Our students’ peace of mind is very much on our minds; and ideally we would like enrollment at our medical school to be within the economic reach of any qualified student who wishes to study with us.

Q. What can each of the College constituencies do to help you achieve your objectives?

A. To be successful, an institution must have the participation of all its groups. My role is to try to involve everyone—trustees, alumni and alumnae, parents, faculty, and students—in the life of the College; and when the capital campaign goes forward we will need the help of all the individuals connected to our school to help take the campaign over the top.

Q. In addition to contribution funds, what would you particularly like the Alumni to do?

A. I look to the alumni and alumnae of our College to work closely with us as contributors, not only in a monetary sense but on an intellectual and professional level. In my travels I meet our graduates and am invariably impressed. We have many fine physicians, located in almost all parts of the country, whose experience and wisdom can be tapped. Dr. Fierro and I have talked about getting feedback from them to help us in our planning. I am also very much interested in the new Alumni/ae and Student Networking Program that he and the Board of Governors have put into effect. Our College is fortunate in our graduates.

I am excited about the role I will play. I will be spending a good deal of time on behalf of the College, not just the obligatory ceremonial time. This very fine medical school has given the country superb clinicians, and through research programs has made very substantial contributions to medical knowledge. Now we are ready to move on to further growth.

A GOLDEN MILESTONE

Members of the Class of 1940 celebrate a Golden Milestone. From left are: Ardow Ameduri, Roger Sherman, Hunter Harris, Irving Wecksell, Anne Strax Robbins, Fedele Bonito, Frank Pintauro, and Vincent Lodico at the luncheon in their honor following Commencement.
The 1990 Gala...

They Could Have Danced All Night!

A Lucullan feast set to music best describes the gala event the Alumni Association holds on the first Saturday night of June.

At this year's party on June 2, 1990, the evening started, as is customary, in the Terrace Room of The Plaza in New York with a convivial cocktail reception hosted by College President and Mrs. John J. Connolly, and continued in the Grand Ballroom with a sumptuous banquet and dancing to music of the Mark Towers orchestra.

Alumni Association President Louis E. Fierro '60, John K. Castle, Dean Karl Adler, and President Connolly welcomed all the guests—graduates, their families, and friends—and voiced special congratulations to the members of the gold and silver anniversary classes of 1940 and 1965 and the graduating class of 1990. Mr. Castle, in his last message as chairman of the College's Board of Trustees, reminded the alumni and alumnae of the pride the College continues to feel in them throughout their careers and of how much their strong support means.

Following these welcoming remarks and invocation by the Chancellor of the College, Rev. Msgr. James P. Cassidy, Dr. Fierro, on behalf of the Association's Board of Governors, presented special awards to four graduates recognized for their exceptional contributions to the medical profession: John G. Weg '59, who received the Alumni Association Medal of Honor; and Matthew Warpick '25, Rear Admiral John C. Duffy '60, and David Paige '64, who were awarded citations for distinguished contributions to the medical profession. These alumni and Victor Tchertkoff '43, who was honored by the College with bestowal of its 1990 Distinguished Service Medal, are profiled in the section of this issue called Newsmakers, pages 10-13.

New York Medical College history records that "the Alumni Association's first annual banquet took place at the Brunswick Hotel in New York on March 13, 1884," one year after the Association's founding. Now, 106 years later, this event continues to occupy a very special place in the Alumni Association's agenda as graduates come together to enjoy the good fellowship that comes of shared experiences, and to have a wonderful time at a vibrant, festive, sparkling dinner dance.
Seated: Susan Lorman, wife of Peter Lorman '65, Cheryl Sternlieb '65, Claudette Teich, wife of Marvin Teich '65, and Angela Maher, wife of Peter Maher. Standing: Peter Lorman '65, Dr. Fred Kashan, husband of Cheryl Sternlieb, Marvin Teich '65, and Peter Maher '65.

Seated: Irma Bono, wife of Joseph Bono '65, Joseph Bono, Barry Nash '65 and his wife, Muriel. Standing: Richard Allen '65 and his wife, Patricia, Howard Cantwell '65 and his wife, Lidia, Arthur Calick '65 and Dr. Linda Sanacola.

Seated: Johanna Kosinski, Leah Finkel, and Jo-Ann Steinberg, all '90. Standing: Peter Lorman '65, Dr. Fred Kashan, husband of Cheryl Sternlieb, Marvin Teich '65, and Peter Maher '65.


Classmates of '30, Ezra Wolff and Saul Schwartz, with Lila Wolff (left) and Mildred Wiesenfeld (right).

Msgr. James P. Cassidy, Chancellor of the College, delivered the invocation at the start of the dinner-dance.

The Alumni Association honored four graduates for their distinguished contributions to medical science and the delivery of health care. From left: David M. Paige '64, Matthew Warpick '25, and Rear Admiral John C. Duffy '60, who received citations, and John G. Weg '59, who was awarded the Alumni Association Medal of Honor.

John K. Castle, who was NYMC Board Chairman from 1978 until August 1990, with Dean Karl Adler, Rebecca Fierro, Armand Leone '47, Rita Girolamo '51, and Joan Adler.
NEWSMAKERS
Honors To Five Alumni

John G. Weg '59

John G. Weg '59, who was awarded the Alumni Association Medal of Honor for 1990 at the association's annual dinner dance on June 2, he addressed these words to the members of the Class of '90: “As a physician, you will be a role model. It will be part of your job. Each of you must participate in the task of helping to uphold high standards and to set guidelines for the future.

Dr. Weg, professor of internal medicine at the University of Michigan School of Medicine, has followed that dictum throughout his career, just as he kept before him another of his strong convictions: “We are taught from the beginning of medical school the well-known triad of medicine: teaching, research, and patient care—but the greatest of these is patient care. More and more, as we go forward in our careers, we find that excellence in patient care and teaching are inextricably interwoven.”

A review of John Weg's career and of the choices he has made along the way points to the consistency of his view. As early as 1961, while a resident in internal medicine at Wilford Hall, a U.S. Air Force hospital in Texas, he identified the need for a critical care unit developed for respiration in its totality—one that would integrate pulmonary, cardiac, and cellular functions—and he established one of the first RICUs in this country. This innovation was not only a significant development for patient care, but, as he points out in a chapter he contributed to the book Major Issues in Critical Care Medicine, published in 1984, the RICUs are valuable for teaching and research as well.

“These RICUs throughout North America and beyond, whether directed by pulmonologists, anesthesiologists, surgeons, or others,” Dr. Weg writes, “have served as an extraordinary educational resource for all members of the health care team. Individuals trained in the early RICUs now direct units in almost every large hospital and many smaller ones. These units have also been the sites of major clinical research, enlarging our knowledge and improving patient care.”

Also in the 1960s John Weg was responsible for contributing to the end of the sanitariums where TB patients were confined for long-term care, and to which they could be “sentenced” for treatment by court order if they refused to go. He explains that when he went to Houston as assistant professor of medicine at Baylor College of medicine and clinical director of the pulmonary disease division at Jefferson Davis Hospital, he and his colleagues at several other institutions around the country involved with the care of TB patients made use of data showing that, under treatment, patients quickly became non-infectious. Instead of being sent to a sanitarium, they were cared for at a county hospital for two or three weeks and sent home, where, Dr. Weg notes, they were given excellent follow-up care by the city's Health Department.

In recalling that chapter in the history of TB treatment, Dr. Weg notes the current sharp increase in the incidence of TB, which is linked primarily to the AIDS epidemic and IV drug use and is attributed also to crowding in inner cities, homelessness, and alcohol and other drug abuse.

“In patients with AIDS the immune system is so severely compromised that they are greatly at risk for TB,” he points out. “We had welcomed the steady decrease of TB in the 60s, 70s, and early 80s and became hopeful that the disease might be nearly eradicated in North America by the turn of the century. Now we are seeing a very disturbing rise.”

A highly significant project in which Dr. Weg has recently been involved is a study concerned with the diagnosis of pulmonary embolic disease, which is considered one of the most difficult diagnoses in medicine today. The work, funded by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, involved investigators from six medical centers, including the group from the University of Michigan of which Dr. Weg was the principal investigator.

The findings of the study, termed the Prospective Investigation of Pulmonary Embolism Diagnosis (PIOPED), were published in JAMA May 23/30, 1990, Vol. 263, No. 20. An editorial in the same issue called the work “a multicenter investigation that was extremely well done,” and described it as “an investigation of major importance, giving us information on the sensitivity and specificity of ventilation/perfusion scans in pulmonary embolism.”

Currently Dr. Weg is principal investigator on a study funded by Burroughs Wellcome to evaluate the efficacy of the drug Exosurf, an artificial surfactant, in the treatment of Adult Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS). This is being watched with particular interest because a study recently completed found that in premature infants with respiratory distress syndrome, treatment with Exosurf cuts the death rate in half.

A cum laude graduate of the College of the Holy Cross, John Weg served in the Air Force and was chief of the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at the University of Michigan Medical Center for 11 years before giving up his administrative duties in 1985. A former president of the American College of Chest Physicians, he has published extensively.

In concluding his remarks to the guests at the dinner dance, Dr. Weg spoke of teachers at the medical college who had been role models to him. He cited Dr. Alfonse Lombardi, Oscar Auerbach '29, and Dr. Israel Goldstein. He particularly mentioned two faculty members who, he said, had given most generously of themselves in caring for his family: the late Dr. Louis Salerno, obstetrician and gynecologist, and Dr. Margaret Giannini, pediatrician—the medical couple who attended the births and early lives of several of the Weg children.

The citation accompanying the Medal of Honor spoke of Dr. Weg's ardent work “to elevate standards of patient care,” and “his research that has charted new paths to knowledge of pulmonary and related diseases.” And there is compelling evidence throughout his career that, as the citation also states, he has indeed been a “clinician, teacher, researcher, and role model extraordinary.”

Matthew Warpick '25

Vinegar Hill was the neighborhood in Harlem where Matthew Warpick '25 set up practice in 1926. In a quiet section of brownstones occupied by Irish, Jewish, Greek, and Italian immigrants, and Blacks who had migrated from the South, Dr. Warpick opened his office. He chose a building at 600 West 138th Street, between Broadway and the Hudson River. He and his wife, Judith, impressed by the safety of the neighborhood, lived in the building and were able to leave their doors unlocked day and night.
Matthew Warpick still keeps his office there and treats an average of 25 patients daily, many of them for gunshot and stab wounds and drug-related diseases, including AIDS. The neighborhood is now a far cry from the one in which he settled 64 years ago. The streets he used to walk freely when making house calls are rife with danger. In recent years he has been mugged, tied up, and robbed, but he refuses to leave.

"I have an obligation to my patients," he explains. "They need me. Many of them have kidney disease, high blood pressure, arthritis, or other chronic conditions. They come to me with a history of overmedication. They have been treated at Medicaid clinics that operate their own pharmacies, and I find they have often been given medications that physicians know have harmful side effects, medications which can not only hurt them physically but can blow their minds."

In his practice today, Dr. Warpick has a staff of three and the office is equipped for a broad spectrum of diagnostic procedures. Although making use of advanced medical technology, Dr. Warpick first draws on a very thorough grounding in physical diagnosis.

No longer able to attend CME lectures, he is scrupulous about keeping up with current medical trends. Pointing to a stack of medical journals he says with a chuckle, "You should see my daily mail delivery."

Although Dr. Warpick, now 89 and a widower, no longer lives in the building, he is in his office every weekday from 7:45 to 3:00, and a half day on Saturday. He takes only a two-week vacation each year. In a concession to the dangers of the neighborhood, he is driven from his apartment in the East 60s to the corner of 138th Street and Broadway, where he is met by a security guard.

A child of Russian-Jewish immigrants, Matthew grew up in the Bronx. His father, a tool maker, was frequently unemployed, and the family lived on the fifth floor of a walk-up apartment building, their unit heated by a coal stove. It was in the kitchen of that apartment that Matthew was born, with the family physician, Dr. Max Fried, in attendance. Dr. Fried became the young boy's role model.

As a medical student he did clerkships at Metropolitan Hospital on what was then called Welfare Island. During his fourth year he was assigned to a maternity clinic on 110th Street, where he treated poor patients and, when necessary, went to their homes. After one delivery to an indigent patient he was rewarded by having the baby named Matthew Warpick Washington. He smiles as he says, "Somewhere out there is a black man in his late 60s who shares my name."

Paralleling Dr. Warpick’s enjoyment of medicine through the years has been his delight in his avocation: the form of musical expression known as “barbershopping.” It started in medical school when he and some fellow students formed a group known as “The Doctors of Harmony,” and he has been harmonizing with other barbershoppers ever since.

An active member of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartets, Matthew Warpick celebrates his birthday each year by giving a party for the members of the Society’s New York chapter. This year’s celebration was held on the afternoon of Sunday, June 10, and Dr. Warpick graciously invited Chironian to attend.

What a party it was! From all corners of the terrace that wraps around Dr. Warpick’s penthouse apartment came the sounds of music—singing quartets, made up of his friends in the chapter, alternating with the rhythms of a Dixieland band our host had engaged for the occasion.

Enjoying the celebration, and snapping scores of pictures, were three generations of Dr. Warpick’s family, all of them enormously proud of the family patriarch. It is little wonder they treasure this extraordinary man whose vigor is such that he spends six days a week caring for those who need his medical expertise and still finds time and energy to make music and encourage others to share his boundless zest for life.

John Duffy ’60

Rear Admiral John Duffy ’60, who was cited for distinguished achievement, and his wife Francoise Duffy, Admiral Duffy’s contributions have earned him the Distinguished Service Medal, highest award given a commissioned officer of the USPHS, and the Surgeon General’s Medalion.

"Hansen’s disease is society’s classic morality play," says Rear Admiral John C. Duffy of the United States Public Health Service. "It encapsulates all of society’s mythic prejudices, superstitious attitudes, and fears. It is almost a template you can apply against AIDS—infectious, disfiguring, dreaded."

"But the good news about Hansen’s disease, or leprosy, is that there is treatment for those afflicted with it," Dr. Duffy points out. "The treatment is palliative and the patient must take the prescribed medication indefinitely, but with compliance to the regimen the patient will experience none of the terrible consequences of the disease."

In his post as director of the USPHS Hansen’s Disease Program, Dr. Duffy heads the Gillis W. Long Hansen’s Disease Center in Carville, LA, and the 11 regional Hansen’s disease clinics operated by the USPHS in various parts of the country. He is responsible for the administration of direct patient care; development of research programs investigating the cause, control, and cure of Hansen’s disease; and the United States’ part in educating people worldwide about the disease and its treatment.

Some 4,000 people are in active outpatient treatment in the 11 USPHS clinics. "Most new patients, about 150 a year, are South Vietnamese and Cambodians who were diagnosed on their entry into this country," Dr. Duffy says. "Leprosy is not an excludable disease if the patient has been in active treatment, but the Immigration and Naturalization Service warns us when an individual with the disease enters the country so that we can put that person in touch with the nearest clinic. We have selectively recruited private physicians who have agreed to treat patients in their communities, and the USPHS provides medication free of charge."

All U.S. government research and teaching on Hansen’s disease is based on the Center’s 340-acre tract in Carville. The 350 patients for whom treatment is provided at the Center live and work in the community. Hansen’s disease patients are able to live in a family situation, marry, and have children, as long as they remain in treatment.

Dr. Duffy talks with justifiable pride about clinical research conducted at Carville and about the application of some recent findings, including a spinoff from one in particular that is applicable to the treatment of diabetics. "Our physicians developed a treatment technique for preventing the loss of hands and feet damaged in leprosy," he explains. "With the thought that it could be of value to diabetes patients, they sought out 400 diabetics who

NYMC President John J. Connolly with Matthew Warpick 25, recipient of a citation for distinguished achievement; Dr. Warpick’s assistant, Margarita Amico; his daughter, Francine Grossman; and son-in-law, Stanley Grossman ‘57.
were scheduled for surgery and enabled them to receive this treatment. We can now report that of the 400 patients only four or five had to undergo amputation.

Another treatment for Hansen's disease patients involves thalidomide, which Dr. Duffy describes as "a drug with a bum rap" because of its association with fetal deformities. "In our program we are always on the lookout for new uses of drugs," he says. "In some Hansen's disease patients, there is a very severe allergic reaction to the dead bacillus that circulates in the system as a result of the combination of antibiotics used in treatment, and the result is a severe inflammatory reaction that can be terribly disfiguring. Fortuitously, we found that thalidomide has a very powerful anti-inflammatory effect that mitigates the allergic reaction. The next problem, however, was to find a pharmaceutical company that would manufacture thalidomide for us, despite the enormous liability incurred by its historic misuse in pregnancy. One German firm agreed, but their liability carrier killed the deal; so now we make thalidomide ourselves in Carville. Incidentally, Drs. Duffy is using thalidomide experimentally in cases where patients have allergic reactions to radiation therapy for their cancer.

A native of Cleveland, John Duffy graduated from Boston College. He was a flight surgeon in the Air Force and took a psychiatry residency at the Mayo Clinic. In 1974 he joined the USPHS, where he has held numerous posts, including professor and associate chair of the department of psychiatry at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. He joined the surgeon general's staff in 1981 at the invitation of Dr. C. Everett Koop and became assistant surgeon general and chief physician officer of the USPHS. He has directed the Hansen's Disease Program since 1988.

The founding editor of two journals, the International Journal of Child Psychiatry and Human Development and World Leprosy Reports, he continues today as editor of the latter. He is also editor of Military Medicine, the official journal of the Association of Military Surgeons of the U.S., and a member of the editorial board of Medical Corps International. In addition, he is the author or coauthor of 11 books and more than 100 professional articles. His most recent contribution is Health and Medical Aspects of Disaster Preparedness, which he edited. Published by Plenum Press in September 1990, it is the fourteenth volume of a NATO series.

Proposed budget cuts had placed WIC funds in serious jeopardy, thereby threatening the well-being of hundreds of thousands of mothers and children across the United States.

David Paige '64, who was awarded a citation for distinguished achievement, and his wife, Nancy Kramer Paige. They live in Baltimore with their children, Tara Rachel and Daniel Frederick. Dr. Paige chairs the Greater Washington DC Chapter of the Alumni Association.

Dr. Paige, who has been close to the WIC program since the early days of his medical career, testified in several of his capacities: as professor of maternal and child health at the Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health, professor of pediatrics at the Johns Hopkins Hospital, chairman of the Maryland State Advisory Council on Nutrition, and a member of the State WIC Advisory Panel.

In this testimony Dr. Paige pointed out the inexorable linkage between maternal nutrition, birthweight, and infant survival, and he gave eye-opening data on the cost to our society of the program cuts being proposed. These included the estimated increase in the number of low birthweight infants to be born to high-risk, low-income pregnant women who would be denied WIC foods.

He stressed the urgency of preventing iron-deficiency anemia, the most common problem in the WIC-eligible population. Noting that iron may also play a role in influencing intellectual development, he said iron-deficient infants have lower mental development scores than those with adequate iron and added that the National WIC Evaluation showed improved cognitive development, including vocabulary scores and digit memory, in children whose WIC benefits began in utero.

"This was a major health care crisis, and the effect could have been devastating had we not prevailed," he said later. "But the hearings were heavily attended by representatives from both sides of the aisle, and we received striking bipartisan support for restoration of the required funds."

Reviewing for Chironian the career path that brought him to those hearings in the summer of 1990, Dr. Paige quotes a phrase attributed to Louis Pasteur, "Fortune favors the prepared mind," and then goes back to the year 1965 when, as a very recent medical graduate, he was appointed public health officer for the eastern half of the Navaho Indian Reservation. His responsibilities for the health of the reservation's residents pointed him toward a career in preventive medicine and original research that has resulted in far-reaching contributions to pediatrics and public health.

"What I found at the reservation," Dr. Paige recalls, "could have been overwhelming had not the medical education I received exquisitely prepared me for my clinical responsibilities. My education also provided the basic skills to observe and question, and finally initiate the research on the reservation that would continue for more than a decade."

"It all started with that remarkable man, Maurice Black," he says. "Every New York Medical College student who had the opportunity to study with Dr. Black was blessed. My training had opened my mind, and I was ready to explore."

"What we were finding was that the milk donated by the USDA was not being consumed by the Indian population. Instead, the Navahos were diluting the milk with water and painting their hogans with it, or feeding the milk to their livestock. We also found that Navaho children would not drink milk or eat ice cream. Why? When they ate ice cream they developed diarrhea, stomach cramps, and other discomforts. Clearly, ice cream was making..."
them sick, and government-supplied milk would do the same, but we didn’t understand why.

“Now it happened,” he recalls, “that when I arrived at Johns Hopkins for my pediatrics residency, someone asked ‘Did you see that new paper on levels of lactose in certain ethnic groups?’ Science and ‘the prepared mind’ came together, and it was then that I began original research on disaccharidases, specifically lactose intolerance and milk intolerance.”

That research, along with his research in maternal and child nutrition, was what led Dr. Paige to participate in developing the prototype of the WIC program under the supervision of the USDA. It was his emphasis on preventive intervention which resulted in the WIC program being linked to, and part of, the provision of health care services by the USDA.

Dr. Paige’s advice on problems related to child health and well-being is sought by a large and diverse group of organizations, ranging from Friends of the Philippines to the University of Nairobi, and he is also consultant to a significant number of U.S. federal, state, and local agencies, as well as corporations. He is editor-in-chief of two editions of the Manual of Clinical Nutrition, as well as of Clinical Nutrition Journal, which he has edited since 1983. He has written or co-authored more than 200 journal articles, invited papers, and legislative reports.

Summing up his feeling about his work, Dr. Paige told Chironian, “There are many opportunities in medicine to serve people in need; testifying for an essential program is just one. We have a responsibility as physicians to help guide and shape social policy and bring our expertise to consideration of the issues. We can help shape the health of an entire community or region. There can be no higher privilege or responsibility.

“There has never been a day since I entered New York Medical College that I was not enthusiastic about going to school or going to work. We graduates received a splendid medical education!”

Victor Tchertkoff ‘43

With the exception of a year’s internship at New York’s Beth Israel Hospital and two years of military service, Victor Tchertkoff has been associated with the Medical College since his enrollment as a student.

While in medical school, Victor met and married Mildred Schwartz. They now make their home in Upper Saddle River, NJ, and have two daughters. Bonnie lives in Florida where she teaches physical fitness. Susan, an involved conservationist, lives near her parents’ home and helps with the care of her mother, who has suffered a disabling stroke.

In the early years of his career, Dr. Tchertkoff recalls, he had the opportunity to work with outstanding members of the NYMC faculty. He speaks of the noted nephrologist Kurt Lange, professor of medicine, with whom he did research on nephritis. Troubled at the old Metropolitan Hospital, and the legendary Frank Speer, chairman of the NYMC Department of Anatomic and Clinical Pathology, with whom he trained in pathology and then joined as a member of the faculty. After working with Dr. Speer for nearly a decade, Dr. Tchertkoff returned to Metropolitan, where he has been director of laboratories and chief of pathology since 1961. He was named professor of pathology in 1967 and is presently also acting chair of the department. Dividing his time between Metropolitan and the College’s Westchester campus, he is responsible for and deeply involved in all the activities of the department.

Victor Tchertkoff’s day starts early. Driving from home in New Jersey, he listens to WQXR on the radio, and an office radio at Metropolitan is also quietly tuned to that station. The jostling among residents and staff is that they should expect to be quizzed by their leader on what is being played, for this physician—who loves music, literature, and fine art—is familiar with an enormous musical repertoire.

Talking with Dr. Tchertkoff, one quickly becomes aware that his commitment to his work is profound. “I am guided by these fundamental principles: primum non nocere—the physician must do no harm; the well-being of the patient must always come first; and, as a physician, you must be a good, keen detective, particularly if you are a pathologist.

“I take great pleasure in teaching the residents and seeing the good work they go on to do,” he says. “More than fifty graduates of our pathology program at Met hold important posts, both academic and hospital-based, around the country. I enjoy the role of father figure,” he continues with a smile. “I encourage our attendings to publish and I publish with them. Our research is stimulating and rewarding and has shed light on some puzzling questions.

“Five years ago,” he explains, “we were among the first to discover the association between AIDS and TB. We noted that the incidence of TB was skyrocketing among AIDS patients, whereas it remained constant among the non-AIDS patient population.

“Again in connection with AIDS,” he adds, “Dr. T. P. Poon and I were among the first to describe a form of lymphoma of the brain in patients with AIDS. We collaborated on a paper on computer tomography patterns of brain involvement in AIDS patients, which we presented at last year’s National Medical Association annual meeting.”

Dr. Tchertkoff speaks fervently about recent developments that have adversely affected the practice of medicine. “The paperwork could reach from here to China and back,” he says. “You can gauge the extent of the bureaucracy by the fact that when we have Quality Assurance conferences for pathology we don’t have space in the meeting room for all the non-medical staff who attend.

“The doctor-patient relationship, in particular, is a casualty of the bureaucratic approach. There is concern about lawsuits and the whole question of malpractice. Moreover, there is a false impression that all the technology existing today makes us omniscient; nothing could be further from the truth. Medicine is still an art, a human endeavor, a pact between physician and patient, and we must never forget that.”

Clearly this gifted and dedicated teacher will never forget that; nor will those who have been fortunate enough to learn from him at his much loved medical alma mater—the core of his life.
Reunion of the Class of '65: “How Great It Was!”

The reunion of the 25-year class is a very special event, remembered by those present long after it is over. This year’s celebration was chaired by Enzo DiGiacomo, who not only did a superb job in arranging an unforgettable evening, but thoughtfully addressed the letter below to all the class for publication in Chironian.

Dear Class of 1965:

To those of you who couldn’t attend our 25th reunion, I want to say we sincerely missed you. The voices of those of us who could attend echoed through the halls of Flower Fifth with comments like “How good it is to see each other” and “We must never wait so long again.”

The elevator took us to the 10th floor, the doors opened, and a pleasant breeze passing over Central Park greeted us. The roof bustled with servers tending to overflowing hors d’oeuvres tables and with bartenders ready to quench the thirst of the Class of 1965. The gathering was enhanced by the presence of Joe Dursi ‘59 and his wife, Martha; (Joe, a past president of the Alumni Association, is chairman of special events); current president Louis Fierro ‘60 and his wife, Rebecca; NYMC Chancellor Msgr. James Cassidy; College President John Connolly and his wife, Ingrid; Dean Karl Adier and his wife, Joan, and members of the Board of Governors who came to celebrate with us.

As the sun set over Central Park West, the dimming light (and a few words from Msgr. Cassidy) moved the class from the open space where we had gathered at the south end of the roof to the sit-down dinner under a large tent at the north end. The dinner began with presentations of silver certificates, New York Medical College pins, and—naturally—many expressions of “how great it was” and “what a great class we are.” During dinner the groups at each table had a chance for more conversation, which we all enjoyed.

The end of the evening brought us to the realization that we must not wait another 25 years to meet again; there may be only a few of us left! Therefore, we encourage the Class of 1965 to join the Alumni Association for the annual winter seminar at the Cerromar in Puerto Rico. And to be sure to attend the 30th Class Reunion in 1995.

Success, happiness, and love.

Sincerely yours,

Enzo V. DiGiacomo ’65
Chairman, 25th Class Reunion
Andrew Fezza, NYMC President John J. Connolly, Peter Maher and John McGroarty.

Marilyn and Harvey Weisslitz and Myron Katz.

Marvin Teich and his wife, Claudette, Joseph Dursi '59 and his wife, Martha.

Albert Saphier, Lois and Jack Vitenson, Julie Kubaska, director of alumni relations.


Louis Fierro '60, Alumni Association president, Robert Christmann, Salvatore Rini, Martha Morgan, Richard Allen and his wife, Patricia, and Rebecca Fierro.

Paul Levitt and his wife, Leslie, Joan Lee, Jack Lee, James Lee, Joan Lee. (Yes, there are two Joan Lees in this picture.)

Paul Fass and his wife, Carol, with Mary Louise DiGiacomo and Enzo DiGiacomo, chair of the 25-year reunion.
SOUTHERN FLORIDA CHAPTER...

On Saturday evening, March 24, 1990, the Southern Florida Chapter returned to a favorite rendezvous, the Jockey Club in Miami, for cocktails and dinner hosted by Donald Minervini '64 and his wife, Sharon. Chapter Chairman Richard Rose, also '64, greeted the group and gave a warm Florida welcome to the special guests from the North: College President John Connolly, Dean Karl Adler, and Alumni Association President Louis Fierro '60. The chapter will meet again on Saturday, March 16, 1991.

NYMC President John Connolly, Miguel Figueroa, Jr. '48, and Kenneth Hodor '69.

Charles Berky, husband of Dolores Arnold '70, Dolores Arnold, and Donald Minervini '64.

Steven Weissberg '66, his wife, Susan Weissberg, Joel Smith '63, and Louis Fierro '60.

NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER...

The New England Chapter held a dinner at the Copley Plaza in Boston on Saturday evening, April 21. President Connolly and Alumni President Fierro spoke to the members, describing new developments at the College and Alumni Association. Chairman Morris Diamant '78 was enthusiastic in his report of the dinner meeting. "We had several people coming from far distances, which bodes well for the growth of the chapter. My wife, Lisa, and I were pleased to have the opportunity to see people we know and become acquainted with fellow graduates we did not know," he said. "It was an enjoyable experience, and we look forward to holding future events for New England."

Morris Diamant '78, chair of the New England chapter, and his wife, Lisa Diamant.

Louise Gibbons, wife of James Gibbons '58, and James Gibbons.

Noreen Ferrante '84 and her husband, John Piccone.

Richard Rose '64, chapter chairman, and Dean Karl Adler.

Steven Weissberg '66, his wife, Susan Weissberg, Joel Smith '63, and Louis Fierro '60.
GREATER WASHINGTON, D.C. CHAPTER...

A new chapter, encompassing the Greater Washington, D.C., area, held its first event on Saturday evening, April 7, 1990. Chaired by David M. Paige ’64, the cocktail reception and dinner initiating the new group was held at the American Foreign Service Club. NYMC President John J. Connolly and Alumni Association President Louis E. Fierro welcomed the start of the new chapter and looked forward to its growth.

Chapter Chairman David Paige points out that NYMC graduates of this inaugural event represented involvement in many sectors of medicine: government, the academic community, and private practice, among them. “We had an interesting mix of our graduates here and it was very good to see people in different aspects of our profession coming together. We look forward to growth of the chapter. It is exciting.”

LONG ISLAND CHAPTER...

Anchors Aweigh!
Long Island Celebrates Nautically

The Long Island Chapter launched the new season with a party on the evening of Friday, September 14, 1990, that included a boat ride, a shore dinner, music and dancing, and proved worthy of an award for superb planning and achievement.

Frank Esemplare ’58, and his wife, Lenore, always perfect hosts, outdid themselves. The evening began with a ride on the Captree Spray from State Park Boat Basin to the well-known seafood restaurant, Flynn’s, on Fire Island.

The weather was perfect during the hours of the party, although threatened thunderstorms did fulfill the forecast after the group had returned to their homes. On board the Captree Spray everyone had the opportunity to meet, greet, have drinks, and enjoy the trip. At Flynn’s, the shore dinner menu offered steamers, lobsters, chicken and all the appropriate “extras.”

Party favors were Alumni Association T-shirts with the Long Island Chapter logo on the sleeve. Distributed to outstretched hands, they proved so popular that the hosts of the evening never did get theirs, but are happy that Chapter members have a special memento of the evening, one that we might describe as, for sure, oceans of fun, a great launch!
Annual Fund Honor Roll

Following are the names of alumni and alumnae who contributed to the Annual Fund Campaign for the fiscal year July 1, 1989 - June 30, 1990.
# Calendar of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Combined meeting of New York City, Staten Island, Northern New Jersey Chapters</td>
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<td>November 11, 1990</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>Arizona Chapter Meeting</td>
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<td>January 18, 1991</td>
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<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Northern California Chapter Meeting</td>
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<td>February 3-10, 1991</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Winter CME Seminar, the Cerromar, Puerto Rico</td>
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<td>March 14, 1991</td>
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<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Florida West Coast Chapter Meeting</td>
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<td>March 16, 1991</td>
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<td>April 1991</td>
<td>Southern Florida Chapter Meeting</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Southern New Jersey/Northern Pennsylvania Chapter Meeting</td>
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<td>May 8, 1991</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Alumni Association Annual Meeting</td>
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<td>May 14, 1991</td>
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<td>May 31 - June 3, 1991</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>Alumni Association Golf Outing and Dinner at Westchester Hills Golf Club, Sponsored by the Westchester Chapter</td>
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<td>May 31, 1991</td>
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<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Alumni Association Weekend</td>
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<td>June 1, 1991</td>
<td>Class of 1966, 25th Reunion</td>
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<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Annual Alumni Association Dinner Dance</td>
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<td>June 3, 1991</td>
<td>NYMC Commencement</td>
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<td>Golden Anniversary of the Class of 1941 Luncheon Honoring the Class</td>
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