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Cover — Our cover story, “Medicine and the Arts,” speaks to the place of the arts in the lives of physicians. This original plaster, “Mère et Enfant,” by Alexandre Charpentier, 1892, is from the collection of Michael and Lana Schlossberg.


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Dear Colleagues,

We have accomplished a good deal this past year. Our Association has had ten chapter meetings, the number of dues-paying alumni and alumnae is gratifying, our CME course was well received, and the golf outing was very successful. Most importantly, there has been a closer relationship between the graduates and the student body. The Alumni Center has become a focal point for the students to seek advice concerning their intramural activities and answers to such questions as the location of graduates who may be helpful in finding residencies. The Center is also a hub of student, faculty, and administrative functions. Further, as requested by the students, we have formed an advisory group of alumni and alumnae who will be available to the Student Senate to offer suggestions and recommendations on matters of concern to them. In order to insure continuity from year to year, we have made space available to the Senate in the Alumni Center.

Leonard Newman of the Class of '70 has been selected as chairman of the Department of Pediatrics. His appointment continues a tradition of alumni pediatric chairmen, Lawrence Slobody '36 and Edward Wasserman '46 having preceded him in the post. I am extremely proud of Lenny's appointment. He is singularly qualified for this position, and he will further the excellence of pediatrics at our medical school. You will read of his thoughts and plans in the section “New Chairpeople Appointed.”

I have frequently written about the diversity of activities our alumni and alumnae are engaged in. The practice of our profession can be all-consuming, and yet many of us have made time for avocations and adventures. We have presented accounts of various of these unique pursuits in past issues of *Chironian*, and I think you will be interested in the several reports about them in this issue.

On August 1 of this year, Rev. Harry C. Barrett, D. Min., M.P.H., became president and CEO of New York Medical College. He has been involved with the College since 1988. As president, Harry has already won the support of the students and faculty with his forthright response to questions, his understanding of the needs of the College family, and his warmth and open door policy.

In a recent meeting of the new president with the Board of Governors of the Alumni Association, it quickly became apparent that Harry has a great deal of respect for the graduates of NYMC and their contributions to the College, and that he will work closely with us.

We look forward to working with Reverend Barrett in increasing the reputation of our College as an outstanding institution of learning whose graduates reflect proudly on their alma mater.

Again, I want to thank all of you for your continuing support. We can accomplish what must be done only with your help.

With best wishes,

Louis E. Fierro ‘60
Reunion Weekend at New York Medical College has become increasingly popular in recent years, with new entries on the events calendar and new participants each successive spring. In 1992, while the Class of '67 gathered on the New York side of the Hudson River, the Class of '47 met on the New Jersey side. Joining these celebrants and their guests for other gala reunion functions were members of classes spanning half a century, including the golden anniversary class. Following is an overview of a wonderful weekend.

"Precocious and Talented"

The Silver Anniversary Class Remembers

The quarter-century since graduation from medical school seemed to vanish into the cool night air as members of the Class of '67 gathered on Friday evening, May 30, 1992, for their 25-year reunion on the rooftop of the place they knew as “Flower,” now the Terence Cardinal Cooke Health Care Center. Stepping off the elevator at the 10th floor, the reunion guests smiled as they paused to take the oversized ID buttons showing their photos as of 1967. Then it was on to the roof to mix with classmates at a jovial, convivial cocktail party where they caught up on current news and recalled highlights of four momentous years.

At the dinner following cocktails the class heard from the chair of the evening, Steve Obstbaum, and from officers of the Alumni Association and the College. Steve told of having "been volunteered" for the job. “I have the good fortune of working with Lou Fierro at Lenox Hill Hospital,” he said. “One morning as I was leaving the O.R., Lou turned to me and said, ‘By the way, Steve, you know your class is having a silver anniversary. How would you like to chair the event?’ Could I have said no?

“It’s wonderful to be here with all of you, to see how well everyone looks, and to congratulate ourselves on how precocious and talented we were in having made it through medical school,” Steve continued. He then introduced his "recruiter," Louis Fierro ’60, Alumni Association president, who told of having spoken to the graduating class at their honors program that morning. “You fellows look as young as they do,” he said to a round of applause. “As you go forward through the next 25 years be sure to remember your roots. Remember the part the medical school played in bringing you to the point in your career and in your life where you are today.”

College Dean Karl Adler presented the graduates with silver certificates, and Joe Dursi ’59, special events chair, presented mementos of the evening as a very happy commemorative event became part of New York Medical College history.
Marking 45 Years

Looking Toward 1997

On that same Friday evening, the Class of ’47, looking ahead to their fiftieth anniversary and remembering back to their twenty-fifth, held a festive cocktail and dinner party at the Marriott Glen Point in Teaneck, NJ. Herbert Eskwitt, who chaired the party, expressed the feelings of the group when he told Chironian, “It was a great thrill to see so many members of our class and to relive old times. I’ll now be collecting information from all our classmates for a newsletter to be distributed once or twice a year in the time leading up to our golden anniversary celebration.”

Nearly half the members of the class attended the 45-year gathering, coming from all parts of the country. Grace Stuart, who lives near the Valhalla campus, said she hadn’t seen most of her classmates since their 25-year reunion, although she had been in touch with many by mail or phone. “It was exciting to be together again,” she said, “and I was especially pleased to have been able to get lots of pictures.”

The Banquet—

Good Company, Good Food, Good Music, Great Fun

The Alumni Association’s annual cocktail reception and dinner dance, held this year at the Rye Town Hilton in Westchester, were pronounced highly successful by the guests who came together for these festivities on the evening of Saturday, May 30, 1992. The change from The Plaza in New York—the result of a one-time scheduling conflict at the hotel—had caused considerable concern, but the evening proved most enjoyable for all.

Classes represented at the 1992 banquet included those observing gold and silver anniversaries—’42 and ’67—and the milestone-year classes of ’47, ’52, ’57, ’62, ’77, and ’82, as well as those of ’46, ’54, ’60, ’64, ’69, ’70, and ’73. Rounding out the assembly were the joyous members of the Class (continued on pg. 6)
The Banquet (continued)

of '92 celebrating the completion of four of the most unforgettable years of their lives.

In his welcoming remarks, George Cooney, chairman of the NYMC Board of Trustees, spoke of the College’s high standards of excellence and complimented the Class of '92 on upholding them so well. He thanked the alumni and alumnae for their support “in these times of astronomical costs.” That support, he said, is being translated into “outstanding academic accomplishment and the enhancement of research facilities that can greatly benefit humankind.” The chairman concluded, “We have the challenge of making this a truly great university, and we will be grateful for your help in meeting that challenge.”

John Connelly, Ed. D., told the gathering that the weekend festivities would be his last social occasion as president of the College. (See Spring 1992 Chironian.) “Faculty, students, administrators come and go,” he said. “What doesn’t change are alumni and alumnae. You will always be part of the College. You must play an active role. Don’t delegate or relegate it. You are the institution. Protect it, preserve it, cherish it.”

Adhering to his very popular pattern of brief speeches, Alumni President Fierro then introduced the three alumni being recognized for outstanding contributions to the medical profession and presented their honors. Charles Aswad '57, whose specialty is family practice, was awarded the 1992 Medal of Honor; Roger Duvoisin '54, a neurologist, and Joel Kupersmith '64, a cardiologist, were presented with scrolls citing their distinguished achievements.

Dr. Fierro then presented the College dean with a check for $20,000 from the Alumni Association for the Department of Cell Biology and Anatomy.

Dean Adler, speaking of the College’s educational mission, referred to the honorees in remarks he directed especially to the graduating class. “You see here three alumni who have made a difference,” he said. “I challenge you to aim high so that you, too, can make a difference in your chosen profession.”

Lou Fierro also addressed the members of the Class of '92, saying, “As you will discover to

(continued on pg. 7)
The Banquet (continued)
an increasing degree, medical education is a lifelong process. You have now completed the foundation. Build on it well. Be proud of it; remain proud.” In concluding the program, the Alumni president spoke to all the assembled graduates, “Don’t forget us. Call, write, visit, keep in touch. We love hearing from you. Now, just continue to enjoy the evening. Have a ball!”

Intrepid and Undaunted—

They Celebrated Major Milestones

Graduates of New York Medical College are known to be skilled, accomplished, committed, dedicated professionals. Let it now be known that they are also intrepid and undaunted.

On Sunday, May 31, 1992, a group of hardy souls representing classes from 1942 to 1987 braved torrential rains to reach the Alumni Center on the Valhalla campus and arrived smiling, cheerful, and ready to enjoy to the fullest their five-year class reunions. Their hosts had made preparations for the inclement weather by providing a huge tent and mammoth-sized umbrellas that staff members used to ferry guests across the few steps between the Center and the tent.

Once inside, all were well protected, as was the bar and luncheon buffet. The weather may have been—was—more than damp; not so the spirits of the graduates. They gathered to reminisce and share news of classmates unable to be present, to exchange family pictures, and to graciously

(continued on pg.8)
Intrepid (continued)

stand for "photo opportunities."

Throughout the weekend alumnae and alumni reflected on the pleasure of being with colleagues of many classes. They marveled at how well their colleagues looked and sounded, and concluded that there must have been something in the water at NYMC that came from the fountain of youth.

Golden Jubilance

A New Commencement

On Monday, June 1, the College tendered a golden jubilee luncheon in honor of the 50-year class. The event was hosted by Msgr. James P. Cassidy, then chancellor of the College. (See UPDATE.) Following the luncheon, which was held at the New York Athletic Club, the 18 members of the 50-year class walked to Carnegie Hall, site of the College’s 133rd Commencement. There they received the gold-adorned diplomas that signify a half-century of service in the medical profession and set a goal to which the new physicians of the Class of ’92 might aspire. It was the perfect cap to a wonderful weekend of rejoicing and renewal.

With the Class of ’52 were Karen Crowley, a guest of Sears Edwards, and John Polito, Dorothy Flynn and Donald Weisman, all ’52.

Rosalie Bizzarri and Dante Bizzarri ’42 and Joseph Giuffrida ’42. Dr. Bizzarri is former chairman of the NYMC Department of Anesthesiology. He and Dr. Giuffrida, a former professor in the department, and their families enjoyed their golden anniversary. Dr. Giuffrida is holding the 1942 yearbook, Fleur-O-Scope.

Eighteen members of the Class of 1942 gather for a photograph with their class marshals. Seated are Philip Appfel, George Lanfranchi, Albert Cullum, Clifford Moran, Joseph Giuffrida, Dante Bizzarri. Standing in the row immediately behind them are Saul Schwartz ’30, one of the class marshals; Edward McDermott, Patricia Spier, Jacob Oberman, Zira Defries, Theodore Struhl, Leon Small, and Rita Girolamo ’51, a marshal. Standing in the last row are Dr. Fierro, Joseph Andronaco, Sidney Stahler, Albert Schoenbucher, David Kraft, Vincent Merendino, Victor Altchek, and Saverio Bentivegna ’50, a marshal.
Charles N. Aswad '57—Prime Advocate and Role Model

Long before the great American awakening to the mounting crisis in health care delivery, Charles Aswad knew there was an urgent need to give patients ready access to primary care and to develop the specialty of family practice. He was convinced that this specialty had much to offer in solving many of the health care problems that have now become a prime focus of national attention, socially and politically.

Dr. Aswad received the Alumni Association's 1992 Medal of Honor at the annual banquet last spring in recognition of his contribution to family medicine, both as a vigorous, articulate advocate and as a role model. He talked with Chironian about his work and his view of health care.

"In the last decade the number of young doctors entering primary care practice has dropped by 14 percent," he said, "from 37.3 percent in 1981 to 23.6 in 1989, according to a survey by the Association of American Medical Colleges. This trend is definitely going in the wrong direction, particularly at a time when 37,000,000 people are entering the health care system at the most expensive level."

"No matter how much work we do in the family medicine societies at the state and national levels, the specialty will not grow to any substantial degree until the medical schools of this country take steps to elevate its image. We have come through a 40-year period in which so few physicians went into family practice that there has been a lack of advocacy and mentorship. And because today medical students go from general training to specialty training very early, having to make fundamental choices by the end of their third year, mentorship is particularly needed. Until medical schools call their students' attention to the rewards of family medicine and help them to see the potential for a challenging and gratifying career, the problem will continue. Fortunately some schools are now tailoring curricula to provide this option for students. New York Medical College is one of them." Dr. Aswad continued, "Under Dean Karl Adler, our school has taken a leadership position, developing innovative programs in cooperation with affiliated hospitals and area physicians."

The recognition of what his specialty offers patients and of its full potential in the health care delivery system came early to Charles. Following internship at Binghamton General Hospital in upstate New York, he was invited to take over the practice of a retiring physician. After a year alone, he was joined by two NYMC alumni, first by his classmate John Spring and later by Patrick O’Hara ’61. Soon after, Charles acted on his belief in the importance of giving patients ready access to primary care. He and his associates closed their office and became one of the first private groups to staff a hospital emergency room full time. Not until 1965 was there an attending physician in an E.R.

In order to accommodate both the care of his patients and his advocacy role for the specialty—in which he is an acknowledged national leader—Charles works 60 hours a week. Board certified in family practice in 1972, he holds appointments at several hospitals in the Binghamton area and is on the clinical faculty of SUNY Health Science Center in Syracuse. He is a former president of the New York State Academy of Family Physicians and is active on several of its commissions. He is also an immediate past president of the Medical Society of the State of New York and is currently the vice speaker of the American Academy of Family Physicians.

As chairman of the AIDS Task Force of the State Society, he works with the AIDS committees of other medical societies and with the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta. He is appalled that "the kids take this scourge—the single most serious disease we have ever confronted—so lightly."

Dr. Aswad is a member of the Council on Long Range Planning and Development of the AMA and is vice president and treasurer of the Medical Liability Insurance Company, the largest physician-owned medical liability insurance company in the country.

Charles and his wife, Joanne Aswad, live in Binghamton. Charles is quick to point out that Joanne’s extraordinary competence and her dedication to the work they both believe in so strongly make it possible for him to do much of what he accomplishes. The couple have five daughters one of whom, Margo, an NYMC ’89 graduate, is a third year resident in surgery.

Asked how he felt about Margo’s choosing a surgery specialty rather than primary care, Charlie said, "Let me tell you about that. One of the most precious moments of my life was when Margo came and asked, ‘Dad, how disappointed would you be if I were to go for surgery rather than primary care? I really enjoyed the rotation, and there is a challenge to prove women can do just as well as men in surgery.’ My answer came from the heart. Joanne and I
have never tried to impose our views on any of our daughters. I told Margo ‘I’ll be proud of you only if you do what you want. Go for it!’”

Charles Aswad himself has “gone for it” throughout the 35 years of his career. As the citation accompanying the Alumni Association’s 1992 Medal of Honor says, he has shown “foresight, intellectual and personal integrity, and has done skilled and compassionate work on behalf of patients beyond number.”

Roger C. Duvoisin ’54 —
The Genetic Marker Holds the Key

The name of Roger Duvoisin is synonymous with progress in understanding Parkinson’s disease. One of the first physicians to use the drug L-Dopa in the treatment of Parkinson’s in the 1960s, he has continued to study Parkinsonism and related disorders and to treat afflicted patients with all the skill, talent, and developing science and technology at his command.

Dr. Duvoisin is founding chairman of the Department of Neurology at UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in New Brunswick, NJ. In 1990 he was the recipient of a $3.5 million endowment establishing a laboratory of molecular genetics and the William Dow Hovett Professorship of Neurology, which he now holds.

Cited by the Alumni Association for his outstanding contributions to his field, Roger talked with Chironian about his work, saying that he and his team are now embarked on a quest “to clarify the genetic etiology of Parkinson’s disease, olivopontocerebellar atrophy, and related disorders.” This is a quest of profound importance to progress in treating a group of neurodegenerative conditions that afflict one percent of the population over the age of 50, and deeply affect their families and others around them.

“The clarification will come about in stages,” Roger explains. “First, it must be shown that genetic factors are involved. This is now well established for olivopontocerebellar atrophy. Recently we have been able to show that heredity also plays a significant role in Parkinson’s disease. The next step is to find a DNA marker through linkage studies. These are presently under way, and we hope to find linkage within 18 to 24 months. Finally, once we have a gene marker we can locate the gene, sequence it, and identify the protein it codes for and find the defects in the gene responsible for the disease.

“There may be a deletion in the genes such that one or more amino acids in a key position may be missing in the protein encoded by the gene. When we reach this stage of the investigation we will have opened up all sorts of possibilities for treatment and, ultimately, for prevention and cure. Other scientists will be able to study how the protein encoded by the defective gene impairs the normal function of the nervous system.

“This has been called reverse genetics,” Roger continues. “With the gene marker we may be able to make diagnoses we cannot make now. We now look at families of Parkinson’s disease patients and see that some members have only a tremor. Is that tremor a symptom of Parkinson’s? With the gene marker we will be able to answer that question. We will be able to clarify the meaning of the relationship between Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s disease. In some families both diseases occur, and the association seems to be more than just chance. We have a great deal to learn, but we are optimistic, and I hope we may achieve some significant progress before my retirement in a few years.”

When Roger was 17 he gained his parents’ permission to enlist in the U.S. Navy and served as a medical corpsman in this country and North Africa in 1945 and 1946. He then entered Columbia University, where he received his bachelor’s degree in 1950, and went on to take his M.D. at NYMC. After internship and a residency in neurology at Lenox Hill Hospital in New York, he completed a two-year residency at the Neurological Institute of Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center.

Roger’s second tour of military duty was with the U.S. Air Force, where he served as a commissioned officer from 1955 to 1962. During that period he organized the first neurological inpatient service at what is now Wilfred Hall Air Force Hospital at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, TX, and served as its chief of neurology. He was also involved in the medical aspects of early space exploration, serving as a consultant to the School of Aerospace Medicine, Brooks AFB, on medical support for Project Mercury and Project Apollo.

He resigned from the Air Force to accept a faculty appointment at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, where from 1962 to 1964 he was the first research fellow of the Parkinson’s Disease Foundation. During his 11 years at P&S, he held hospital appointments at the Neurological Institute and attained the rank of professor of neurology. He was a visiting scientist in the neurology department, King’s College Hospital, and the Institute of Psychiatry, London, England, in 1973, and that September joined the faculty of the newly formed Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York as professor of neurology. In 1979 he assumed the chair of neurology at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey-Rutgers Medical School, recently renamed the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School.

Roger and his wife, Winifred, who taught in the New York
City schools, live in New Brunswick. They have two sons and two daughters.

Roger Duvoisin has made nearly 200 contributions to various publications as author or co-author. His book, *Parkinson’s Disease, A Guide for Patient and Family,* is now in its third edition. “This book is the best thing I’ve done,” says the scientist whose research is renowned throughout the world—giving clear evidence of his affinity for the people whose lives he has touched through four decades of compassionate care.

**Joel Kupersmith ’64 — Exploring the Heart’s Mysteries**

Greater understanding of normal and abnormal cardiac function and the more effective treatment of cardiovascular disease have been the goals of Joel Kupersmith’s research for more than two decades. During that time his professional journey has taken him through postgraduate training at Harvard and Columbia and to service on the faculties of Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York and the University of Louisville School of Medicine. Now professor and chair of the Department of Medicine at Michigan State University College of Human Medicine, Dr. Kupersmith was honored by the Alumni Association for his outstanding contributions to cardiology.

The more than 100 articles and nearly as many abstracts that he has authored or co-authored detail the extensive investigations and results through which he and his colleagues have shed light on such areas as electrophysiologic mapping during open heart surgery; the effects of antiarrhythmic drugs in ischemia; the determinants of cardiac repolarization, particularly the effects of extracellular potassium level changes; and mechanisms of arrhythmia, specifically early afterdepolarizations. He is presently involved in the design and development of implantable defibrillators and in the development of ways to do transvenous defibrillation. A textbook, *Clinical Manual of Electrophysiology,* which he coedited, was published by Williams & Wilkins this fall.

Now Dr. Kupersmith’s team at the College of Human Medicine is also moving into the increasingly significant field of health services research, developing a network of community hospitals where they will examine the proper use and cost benefits of new technology and various forms of therapy. “One of our major plans for the next few years,” he says, “is to apply the results of randomized clinical trials to examine more women, Blacks, and other underrepresented groups to determine if the outcomes are similar to those in the randomized trials.”

At Michigan State University Joel sits on the executive committees of both the College of Human Medicine and the full-time faculty practice group. In a recent appointment of a different nature, he has been named director of a new program called Michigan State University-Bulgaria Partnerships in Health Care. Under the aegis of the U.S. Agency for International Development, the program is designed to improve the management of cardiovascular diseases in Bulgaria.

Michigan State has campuses in East Lansing, Saginaw, Flint, Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, and the Upper Peninsula. As chair of the Department of Medicine, Joel is based on the main campus in East Lansing and directs approximately 100 full-time and clinical faculty members who carry out the department’s responsibilities on the various campuses. Full-time faculty members travel to all of the university’s branches, and the programs at each are interactive.

When we called Joel in August to check details for this story, he had just returned from a trip to the Upper Peninsula, and he spoke very enthusiastically about the emphasis the school is placing on primary care. Entering medical students at MSU have the option of applying for a two-year primary care rotation on the Upper Peninsula, a rural part of the state encompassing many isolated communities. Students are selected for the rotation after completing their first and second years on the East Lansing campus. To the gratification of the school’s administration, a high percentage of those who take this rotation go on to practice primary care in rural environments.

Patient care was the physician role that originally attracted Joel to the profession, and he never seriously considered another career field. But his real love affair with medicine began four years after his graduation from New York Medical College when, as chief medical resident at Metropolitan Hospital, he met a third-year NYMC student named Judith Friedman. It was the beginning of a beautiful friendship that was to result in a very special NYMC family that includes three children. For Judith Friedman Kupersmith’s story, see “Medicine and the Arts.”

Joel’s early career included an instructorship at NYMC followed by a two-year fellowship at Harvard Medical School and two years as a research associate in pharmacology at Columbia P & S. In 1974 he joined the faculty of Mount Sinai School of Medicine and headed various clinical units at Mount Sinai Hospital while advancing in faculty rank to professor of medicine and achieving membership in the American Society for Clinical Investigation. In 1986 he moved to the University of Louisville, where he held the V. V. Cooke Professorship of Medicine when he left in 1991 for his present post.

Throughout this itinerary, Joel Kupersmith has continued to expand his horizons. He now finds new challenges in-shaped the direction of the department he chairs, but he continues always to treat patients. “It is important to keep that hands-on contact,” he says. “Otherwise you lose touch with the ultimate purpose of your professional life.”
Chironian's series of first-person articles by NYMC graduates, reporting on noteworthy professional experiences at home or abroad, continues below. If you would like to participate, please address inquiries summarizing the nature of the experience and the availability of pictures to Editor, Chironian, Alumni Center, New York Medical College, Valhalla, NY 10595. We hope to hear from you and will respond promptly.

With Esperança in the Amazon
by Paul Van Horn '55

Paul Van Horn is an orthopaedic surgeon practicing in Princeton, NJ. His wife, Margaret Van Horn, M.D., is a psychiatrist on the faculty of the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in New Brunswick. In the summer of 1990 the two physicians signed on as volunteers with Esperança, a non-profit medical organization with headquarters in Phoenix, AZ, and clinics in Brazil and Bolivia.

Paul Van Horn tells their story, with excerpts from his diary:

We left our home in Princeton, NJ, at noon on August 6 and flew to Miami, where we met two other members of our surgical team and together boarded a plane for Manaus, Brazil. We reached Manaus at 4:30 the next morning and transferred to another plane for Santarem, a city at the confluence of the Amazon and Tapajós rivers some 500 miles from the mouth of the Amazon. On the outskirts of town is the Esperança Clinic, where we would be working for next 11 days.

The purpose of the clinic is humanitarian treatment of indigent people, especially children, in the central Amazon basin. It is part of the Esperança compound, which also includes a women’s clinic, a dental clinic, and immunization and other community health programs utilizing village health workers, as well as training programs for health care professionals at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Tuesday, August 7 - Was introduced to the work ahead at the afternoon surgical clinic in which 42 patients were seen. Most are scheduled for surgery during the next 10 days. Majority are children. The most common problems are club foot and post-polio residuals.

Wednesday, August 8 - Up at 5:30 a.m., breakfast about 6, in O.R. before 7, and worked until 1 p.m. Then explored Santarem, walking among the bazaars and along the waterfront.

Thursday, August 9 - Surgery from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., including posteromedial release, several club foot casts, removal of internal fixation from previous ankle fusion.

Among the problems we and other teams dealt with were lack of x-ray equipment, which meant making all our diagnoses purely on physical observation. We also experienced sudden failures of electricity, which occurred quite frequently and for varying lengths of time. On one occasion our team worked without power for 90 minutes, using our flashlights.

Many of our patients were babies under a year old who...
A group of youngsters whose orthopaedic problems have been treated by the volunteer surgeons.

had been born with one or two club feet. In the two- or three-hour operation required, we lengthened the tendons, cut the ligaments attached to the bones, straightened the bones and set them with pins, then put them into casts for the healing process. It was good to be able to treat some of the children at a very young age when their cartilage was malleable. While in the recovery room, the children would lie in hammocks rather than cots. They were very quiet; we heard very little complaint.

**Saturday, August 11** - Took a ride to the top of a hill where one could see the Tapajós River joining the main part of the Amazon with its muddy, chalky water. Bought a chisel for use in surgery, had it sharpened by some Franciscans; selected some wood carvings.

**Sunday, August 12** - Took a small plane ride over the Amazon and Tapajós rivers. Looked like the Great Plains would look if flooded. In the afternoon went to a beach and swam in the Tapajós, saw sunset on a beautiful, very quiet deserted stretch of water and beach.

**Monday, August 13** - Surgery 7 a.m. to 2 p.m., including PMR, bilateral tendon Achilles lengthening, triple arthrodesis for bad congenital club foot, excision of multiple osteochondromas from a femur, and three consultations.

The clinic has a staff of 40 Brazilians, some of them former patients, who care for more than a thousand patients a month. Each volunteer surgical team consists of four persons: surgeon, anesthesiologist, and two surgical nurses. Because the supporting infrastructure and living quarters at the compound are limited, a spouse may participate only if he or she is a health professional and works as a team member.

My wife scrubbed with me, summoning her internship surgical training.

Team members provide and pay for their own transportation to and from the Amazon; Esperança provides room and board. Volunteers are encouraged to bring essential drugs and supplies, according to their specialties. Our contributions included plaster, cast batting, antibiotics, and pain medicine. We had to supply an itemized list of these, written in Portuguese.

Preparing for the trip involved a great deal of paperwork. The Brazilian government requires a special passport as well as several licenses, including a narcotics license. We also had to provide a letter giving assurance that neither of us had police records.

We had journeyed to another remote area two years earlier when we volunteered for a similar effort in Pakistan. This time our plan was to go to the Esperança Clinic in the Amazon basin to help lighten the load, at least temporarily, of the remarkable professionals there, and then to do some traveling in the area.

**Tuesday, August 14** - Surgery 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. angulation and rotation osteotomy of the tibia, excision of exostoses fifth toe

**Wednesday, August 15** - triple arthrodesis and closed reduction proximal phalanx thumb . . . Brief rainstorm with striking rainbow over the Amazon. Walked down the waterfront to see the ship Esperança.

**Saturday, August 18** - Beautiful morning trip up the Tapajós and Amazon, going up one of the Amazon tributaries, great for photographing. Returned to Esperança for packing and departure. Got to the airport where the electricity went off, and our flashlight was the only light at the check-in line.

Our adventures after leaving Santarém included a camping trip in Peru’s vast Manú Park, a wildlife preserve which we reached by means of a nine-hour ride in a dugout canoe. The highlight of our post-clinic travels was a visit to Machu Picchu, the sacred city of the ancient Incas high in the Andes. It was a magnificent, powerful experience, quite moving in a mystical and religious way. We explored the ruins at sunset, and early the next morning climbed to the top elevation—9,000 feet—where we watched the sunrise while misty clouds drifted over the ruins.

The month-long trip was rewarding in many ways, and we hope in the future to travel to still another distant area, where we can use our medical skills and learn more about the diverse people and places of this wonderful world.
Medicine and The Arts

If all art is a revolt against humanity’s fate, as the French philosopher André Malraux once wrote, it is not surprising that many physicians are powerfully drawn to the creative arts. Medicine’s commitment to overcome pain and suffering, and to nurture life and health, is paralleled in the creative artist’s search for beauty, meaning, or worth in the human condition. For the following article Chironian talked with three NYMC graduates in whose lives art plays a major role.

The Joy of Collecting —
Michael Schlossberg ’62

Michael Schlossberg, whom Art and Antiques magazine names one of the top one hundred collectors of art in this country, became interested in the visual arts at a very early age when his father took him to visit the great museums of New York City, where the family lived.

“We would tour the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the American Museum of Natural History, the Frick Collection, and the other museums regularly on weekends and holidays,” he recalls. “That kind of early exposure doesn’t always stick, but I was one of the lucky ones. My interest in art continued to grow and became a source of deep satisfaction. As I got older I began to wonder how it would feel to own great art—to be able to have paintings, drawings, or sculpture close by, to study them and become familiar with their history.

“In 1964, while doing my ob/gyn residency at Brookdale Hospital in Brooklyn, I made my first purchase at a small auction in Queens,” he says, adding, “I still remember that purchase with great pleasure.”

He also started “gallery hopping.” He would read the New York Times art pages to see where the exhibits that seemed most interesting were being held and then visit those galleries. The gallery owners were very responsive to the young collector and taught him a great deal. He also read extensively and began collecting books on art. His art library now numbers more than 5,000 volumes.

Michael completed his residency in 1967 and then began a two-year tour of active duty as a major in the U.S. Army Medical Corps, stationed in Atlanta, GA. He found that he liked Atlanta and has remained there ever since, adding to his collection, which now comprises more than 1,000 drawings, 30 to 40 paintings, and 75 bronzes, in addition to some 400 prints.

His primary interest is French art of the 19th and early 20th centuries, and his collection includes works by Picasso, Seurat, Toulouse-Lautrec, Manet, Renoir, and Jacques Louis David, among others. He lends works to museums throughout the country, is in correspondence and phone communication with curators and collectors worldwide, and travels to New York, Paris, and London, accompanied whenever possible by his wife, Lana Coplan Schlossberg, and their 7-year-old daughter, Bette Ann. Michael also has two children from his first marriage—Ellen, an attorney practicing in Atlanta, and Richard, who is a medical student.

Michael is a trustee of the noted High Museum of Art in Atlanta. From time to time the Schlossbergs open their home for fund-raising events at which guests have the opportunity to view the outstanding private collection. They also host visiting groups from museums in other parts of the country. At the same time, Michael’s medical practice remains a very important part of his life. Board certified in ob/gyn, he works four days a week,
and until recently had one associate. Now they have joined with another team to form a group of six. "I'll be covering the Delivery Room at the hospital every sixth night and will stay there the nights when I'm on call," he says. "I continue to see 30 to 35 patients a day, mostly with gynecological problems."

Does he feel there is a connection between his primary vocational and avocational interests? "Perhaps," he says. "When I was a student at NYMC, Professor Benjamin Panskey taught anatomy, and he would draw everything in colored chalk on the blackboard. He was a splendid illustrator. You can read pages and pages of text, but very often it's a drawing or photograph that gives you real understanding, the knowledge you remember. I think all physicians are visual. My interest in medicine was undoubtedly reinforced by my interest in visual art.

"People often ask me what I collect. That's easy to explain. They also ask how I collect, and that, too, is simple. But then there is the question 'Why do you collect?' That's much more difficult. I just know there is immense enjoyment for me in collecting and in learning more about the artist and the history of each work. The experience has a spiritual quality."

A Felicitous Blending —
Judith Friedman Kupersmith '69

At this time in history when a spotlight is focused on how women see their various roles within and outside the family, Judy Kupersmith not only blends her professional and family life most effectively but has also combined her medical expertise and her experience as a ballet dancer for the substantial benefit of the performing arts community.

"The medical profession has a special responsibility to aid performing artists in distress," Dr. Kupersmith says. "The arts contribute so much to the health and well-being of our community and society—we must give something back."

Judy started her transition from ballet to medicine in the 1960s. After five successive years with the New York City Ballet, she decided she wanted more from a career than the intensive concentration on self that dance required; she wanted to be able to help others.

After earning her M.D. at NYMC, she interned at Metropolitan Hospital and took a residency in psychiatry at Boston City Hospital, a clinical fellowship at Harvard Medical School, and an additional residency at Montefiore Hospital before joining the psychiatry faculty of New York University School of Medicine in 1973. She remained at NYU until 1986, and during her last six years there was also an assistant to the director of the mental hygiene clinic of NYU-Bellevue Medical Center.

But it was in 1981 that the confluence of medicine and the arts occurred in which Judy Kupersmith has been involved ever since. In that year she became a founding member of the Performing Arts Center for Health (PACH), a non-profit organization concerned with the health and well-being of performing artists. In explaining the rationale on which PACH is based she cites the career-related stresses to which men and women of the performing arts are subject, stresses that require the attention of experienced, understanding medical and psychiatric professionals who can help to restore the artist's confidence, health, and capabilities.

Judy started the psychiatric division of PACH at NYU-Bellevue Medical Center in 1982 as the first psychiatric clinic in the United States devoted exclusively to treatment of performing artists. In 1986, when she joined the faculty of the University of Louisville, she started Louisville PACH, and in 1991, when she was appointed associate professor of psychiatry at Michigan State University, she started her third PACH.

Earlier this year Judy served on the board and faculty of the 1992 World Congress on Arts and Medicine, held in New York City. The conference attracted physicians and other health professionals, artists, and teachers to a richly varied week-long program of workshops and symposia.

Performing arts medicine is a new subspecialty, now in the process of formation, Judy points out. It involves specialists in several disciplines, including rehabilitation medicine, internal medicine, orthopaedics, and nutrition, as well as psychiatry.

This summer, when we spoke to Judy for Chironian, she and Marian Horosko, an editor of Dance magazine and the co-author of Judy's first book, The Dancers' Survival Manual, had just accepted a proposal from the book publisher HarperCollins to write a second, popular book chronicling milestones and roadblocks experienced by young artists as they make their way in professional life. The authors are starting their collaborative effort this fall.
At Michigan State Judy teaches courses for first and second year medical students, including one on the doctor-patient relationship. She is director of the psychiatry clinic for the residents' training in psychiatry, and she also treats patients as well as sharing in the administrative functions of the department.

In talking of her professional work and her life with her husband, Joel Kupersmith '64 (see “Honors to Three Alumni” in this issue), Judy says: “Joel and I are most fortunate in our work and our life together and with our children, David, who is at Amherst, Becky, in liberal arts at NYU, and Adam, who is at Okemos High School. And it all started at New York Medical College.”

“Music Hath Charms” —
Jonathan S. Jahr ’85

The 17th-century English dramatist William Congreve wrote the words, “Music hath charms to soothe the savage breast, to soften rock, or bend a knotted oak,” to which Jonathan Jahr might add, “and at times to aid the mind in learning.”

Music has been a part of Jonathan Jahr’s world since early childhood, and he anticipates that it will always have a major place in his life. His parents, both physicians and musicians, enrolled him in a school that taught art and science from the youngest level through the 12th grade, and he started playing the cello at a very early age. For his bachelor’s degree he chose Hamilton College in upstate New York, where he joined the Hamilton College Chamber Orchestra and also played in the Utica Symphony Orchestra, in addition to taking honors in biology.

During the summer between college and medical school, Jonathan took a job as a pulmonary technician in Kansas City. “While there I heard that the Kansas City Philharmonic was holding auditions and I thought I would audition,” he says. “But when I heard that 45 outstanding cellists, all as good as I was or better, were applying for one opening, I decided to go forward in medicine and continue to enjoy music as an avocation.”

It was as a student at New York Medical College that Jonathan discovered in a very personal way how the two hemispheres of the brain interact with one another in handling different types of problems. When confronted by a particularly difficult course, or preparation for a very tough examination, he found that the most effective way to come to grips with tension was to be immersed in sight-reading a new piece of music—a concerto or parts of a symphony, for example. It became evident to him that while he was concentrating on music, at home or in rehearsal, one side of his brain was continuing to work on the scientific problem that had confounded him and was resolving it while he was absorbed in music.

During his first two medical school years Jonathan lived at Manhattanville College and made time to play with the Manhattanville College Community Orchestra. After graduation and an internship at St. Vincent’s Hospital in New York, he spent three years in Pittsburgh in further postgraduate training: an anesthesia residency at the University of Pittsburgh Health Center; a fellowship in pediatric anesthesia at the University of Pittsburgh Children’s Hospital; and another fellowship in cardiovascular anesthesia at the Medical School of Pennsylvania’s Allegheny General Campus. Throughout those years he played cello with the University of Pittsburgh Orchestra.

Board certified in anesthesiology in 1991, he is now an assistant professor of anesthesiology and pediatrics at Tulane University School of Medicine in New Orleans. He is the coordinator of medical student education and oversees rotations in the second, third, and fourth years. In addition to his teaching, he is associate director of research, and he has published 14 scientific articles.

Currently he plays with the Tulane Orchestra and the Civic Symphony, as well as with a spinoff group, the Jupiter Chamber Ensemble, comprising musicians from Tulane who play benefits for such organizations as Operation Mainstream, which is concerned with overcoming illiteracy. In talking of the compatibility of his dual interests, Jonathan points out that there have been many renowned scientists who were also artists, among them Albert Einstein—but he is quick to add that he is not comparing himself with Einstein!

Jonathan Jahr is now married. Not too surprisingly, his wife, Jamielynn Hanam-Jahr, is a dental student at Louisiana State University, a ballet dancer, and a pianist. A harmonious tradition continues in the Jahr family.
New Post for Monsignor Cassidy

Rev. Msgr. James P. Cassidy, Ph.D., who served as chancellor and CEO of New York Medical College during the past five years, has been called to Rome to establish an International Association of Catholic Health Institutions under the Pontifical Council for Pastoral Assistance to Health Care Workers. His appointment to the Vatican post, in which he will serve as president of the association, was effective August 1.

Monsignor Cassidy’s involvement with the College began in 1976 when, serving on the Board of Trustees, he was instrumental in steering the College through a difficult financial period. He brought to the chancellor’s post a total of 30 years’ experience in national and international health care positions, the last 16 of them as director of the Department of Health and Hospitals of the Archdiocese of New York.

One of his initiatives as chancellor of the College was to establish the Institute for International Health, which draws on the expertise of the faculty and resources of the College in providing professional and technical advice to advance health care worldwide.

At the request of Pope John Paul II, the new international association will coordinate over 20,000 Catholic hospitals and other health care institutions worldwide, enabling them to share expertise and technical assistance. The organization will also promote the moral and technological training of health professionals. The Roman Catholic Church is the largest provider of health care in the world.

Monsignor Cassidy holds a doctorate from Fordham University and has done postdoctoral training in clinical psychology at St. Vincent’s Hospital and Medical Center in New York.

The Alumni Association wishes Monsignor Cassidy continuing success in his endeavors.

Farewell to President Connolly

The Alumni Association’s Board of Governors held a dinner in honor of former NYMC President John Connolly and Ingrid Connolly before Dr. Connolly left the presidency in June. At the dinner they presented him with a scroll which read in part:

“During ten years as president of New York Medical College, John J. Connolly, Ed.D., has consistently given strong support to the Alumni Association. He has traveled across the country, stopping to visit wherever clusters of our alumni and alumnae have gathered. He has met with the College’s graduates at chapter meetings, CME seminars, class reunions, banquets, and barbecues. On all these occasions...”

At the Alumni Association’s farewell dinner for John Connolly, five former Association presidents and current President Louis Fierro joined for a photograph with the guest of honor. From the left are the late Paul Tartell ’52, Joseph Dursi ’59, Rita Girolamo ’51, Louis Fierro ’60, Dr. Connolly, Seymour Schlussel ’51, and Saverio Bentivegna ’50.

President Connolly’s presence symbolized the enduring commitment of New York Medical College to all its graduates.

“In recognition of his interest and encouragement, the Board of Governors tenders to John Connolly this scroll of appreciation with warm wishes to him and Ingrid for their future and with full confidence that he will skillfully and effectively meet the challenge of the years ahead.”
Rev. Harry C. Barrett, D. Min., M.P.H., was named president and CEO of New York Medical College by the Board of Trustees, effective August 1, 1992. He had been a member of the Board of Trustees since 1988 and was serving as vice chairman and secretary when he resigned to accept the presidency.

Reverend Barrett was director of pastoral formation and professor of pastoral counseling at St. Joseph’s Seminary in Yonkers, NY, from 1986 until this appointment. Previously he served as associate director of the Department of Health and Hospitals of the Archdiocese of New York. He holds a doctorate in ministry and pastoral psychology from the New York Theological Seminary and several masters degrees, including an M.P.H. from Columbia University and an M.S. Ed. from St. John’s University. President Barrett enjoys hiking and is a trail maintainer in the Appalachian Mountain Club. He is also a skilled ham radio operator, in contact with operators in many parts of the world.

Since assuming the presidency, Reverend Barrett has met with many groups and individuals at the College, including students, faculty, staff, and the Board of Governors of the Alumni Association. The response to the new president has been very positive, with particular acclaim for his accessibility and the direct, forthcoming manner in which he communicates his beliefs, goals, and plans. In these pages he speaks to the graduates of NYMC, answering questions that have come to the Association and clarifying points that have been raised recently. With thanks to Reverend Barrett for his cooperation, we present the following interview.

**Q. How do you view your role as president of New York Medical College? What are some of your priorities?**

**H.C.B.** I am an educator. My primary role will be to foster and nurture the environment most conducive to learning. Ultimately, all the activities in our medical university have the goal of preventing illness and caring for patients, including—whenever possible—curing or alleviating the condition that brought them to us.

**Q. You speak of “our medical university.” Many graduates have asked the meaning of the term “medical university in the Catholic tradition.” Would you explain it, please.**

**H.C.B.** The designation medical university was given to this institution by the Board of Regents of the State of New York. It came about when our other schools—Basic Medical Sciences and Health Sciences—were added to New York Medical College, forming three schools and thus meeting the requirements for the university designation; it was awarded in 1984 upon application of the NYMC Board of Trustees.

As for the term “medical university in the Catholic tradition,” I will explain that fully, but let me first explain what it does not mean. It does not mean that this is a university for the education of Catholic physicians only. It does mean that we welcome men and women of diverse beliefs and interests. It means that the qualities of excellence, justice, charity, and particular concern for the poor will be in our thoughts and in our deeds throughout our history. Everyone who studies here, everyone who teaches here, everyone in our care, is an individual to be given the respect that is due them.

**Q. Some graduates have expressed concern about the question of academic freedom in a Church-related medical university. Would you address that point.**

**H.C.B.** The answer is very direct. The Catholic Church developed the concept of the modern university in which students and scholars of all disciplines were free to
investigate the many diverse questions and theories that interested them in law, literature, science, and the arts. You cannot have a true university without discourse and dialogue between individuals of diverse views.

**Q. How does the education of a physician differ from the education of those in other professions?**

**H.C.B.** The teaching of medical students and their postgraduate training is like no other educational process because, very simply stated, physicians have the ability to affect the lives of their patients in the most profound sense. Their actions can be lifesaving; their mistakes can be fatal.

All of us connected with this institution must keep in mind that the education of a physician is a unique responsibility. We must give those we teach here the absolutely best chance to excel; we must be sure that those who go on to teach others will pass on the qualities of excellence they have found here.

**Q. You have spoken of the concept of global health and its implementation. How do you view this in relation to the medical university?**

**H.C.B.** As we all know, the world is becoming more and more closely interconnected, and we have both the opportunity and the obligation to learn a great deal about the people of other countries and other cultures and to help them achieve the best quality of health care possible. Through our Institute for International Health we can offer the kind of expertise that is needed. Simultaneously, our medical students can learn much from others as they take international electives; and we can arrange study visits for physicians and other health professionals from abroad.

**Q. How do you view the present state of medicine, the health of the profession?**

**H.C.B.** The profession of medicine is at a critical point today and must surely be concerned for its own health. The technological flood we have been witnessing is remarkable. It is also very dangerous in that it is disturbing relationships that should be held in the highest trust. If technology is permitted to take over, if the human relationship is further diminished or disappears, we will have lost an irreplaceable element in the long tradition of medicine. Physicians must continue to make use of the benefits of technological advances but must never stop looking deeply at what it means to be human and to care for a human being.

**Q. What in your view are some of the most important needs of the university?**

**H.C.B.** We have several very important needs, among them expansion of the library and 10 endowed chairs. My intent is to link needed projects such as these with potential donors, to link graduates who might wish to contribute to their own medical school in a very lasting way with projects that will genuinely interest them.

We need a very much expanded library, one that is appropriate to increasing use by students, faculty, and community professionals. I want to see the library community oriented and hospitable to all who use it. We need space, automation, and a complete update of equipment to take advantage of the wonderful opportunities for exchange of knowledge that are currently available. A library is one of the most important resources any educational institution can provide. We need funds to make ours the excellent resource it should be. It is a splendid opportunity for a named gift.

Endowed chairs are essential to attract and retain the most highly qualified individuals to lead our departments into the next century. In accordance with a number of important criteria, the medical school is in very good shape. We do very well on MCATs and in residency matching. Our graduates number many of the best people in their fields. We have an impressive history of sending outstanding physicians out into the communities in which they settle and practice and teach. In addition to our long held accreditation by the Liaison Committee for Medical Education, we are moving toward additional accreditation by the Committee on Higher Education of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Universities. Now we need the funds to enhance the programs we will be offering into the next century.

**Q. How do you see the relationship between the New York and Westchester components of the medical college?**

**H.C.B.** There is no basis for tension in that relationship. Geographically the two are contiguous. Our goals are similar. Tension need not exist. Professionally there is a true linkage, and we must work together to fulfill our commitment to excellence at all levels.

Throughout our university, in all departments, all divisions, all locations, we must work in harmony. We cannot win greatness by war. War means death. Our commitment is to life.
New Chairpeople Appointed

Pediatrics: Leonard J. Newman ’70

“A recession impacts children profoundly,” says Leonard Newman, NYMC Class of ’70 and new chairman of the Department of Pediatrics at the College. “Children of poor families are the first to fall below the poverty line, and almost inevitably they will suffer poor nutrition and inadequate health care in deplorable housing conditions, and because of all of the above, deficiency in learning.

“But children of families in higher income groups also suffer in times of recession,” Dr. Newman continued. “Normally conscientious attention to a child’s health may go by the board. A parent’s job loss or anxiety about financial loss can transfer all too quickly to children. The result can be emotional stress which, if unrecognized or untended, can manifest itself in serious problems down the road. In short, children are very vulnerable in recessionary times, and we have to be prepared to help them or we may feel the consequences in years ahead.”

Leonard Newman was appointed head of the department in June 1992, having served as acting chair for one year following the retirement of Edward Wasserman ’46. In a conversation with Chironian he talked about his new post.

“The job of a chair of pediatrics, as I see it, is twofold,” he said. “One half of my job is to be a spokesperson for children. It entails advocacy of programs and steps that will improve the health and well-being of children in all economic circumstances, from infancy through adolescence. The other half encompasses my obligation to the College. I have a commitment to the medical school to lead this very fine program that provides comprehensive services to the tri-state area. We also conduct a medical genetics center at WCMC offers extraordinary support services. Our division of adolescent medicine, which is very strong, cares for patients from about age 10 to 21 at affiliated hospitals in Westchester and New York City.

“We provide home treatment for more than one hundred children with diverse gastroenterological and nutritional conditions, greatly reducing the need for hospitalization and even eliminating hospitalization for many area children. We treat children with Lyme disease and AIDS, and we are designated the referral center for pediatric open-heart surgery in the tri-state area. We also conduct a medical genetics program that provides comprehensive services to the

“The Society will foster programs giving students summer jobs in clinical pediatrics and research and will point out career opportunities. We want to give students clinical exposure in the first two years and then help them to choose appropriate electives in their third and fourth years. We will collect information on electives and residencies and maintain a data base. We will help them in every way to choose pediatrics—and then we would love to have these students stay on with us as residents.

“We want to involve more NYMC graduates in the work of our department,” he went on to say, explaining that the Student Pediatric Society has started writing to all NYMC graduates now in the specialty asking them to rate their residency programs.

“We all know the staggering cost of childhood diseases that affect patients for decades to come, and we know that it is through dedicated, committed research, both basic and clinical, that answers are ultimately found. Every section of the department has ongoing research on various diseases affecting children. For example, we are investigating such subjects as Lyme disease in children and the efficacy of DNA-ase in the treatment of cystic fibrosis. In the section that deals with my own subspecialty, pediatric gastroenterology and nutrition, we are studying allergy and intolerance to calcium, using special equipment to measure acid reflux in the esophagus. We are also working on the feeding of children with heart disease to improve their nutritional status before surgery.

“We have a great foundation to build on,” he said, “and will add strength in various ways to continually enhance the quality of all our work—in teaching, research, and patient care. For example, we recently brought on Dr. Michael Swift, an outstanding molecular biologist from the University of North Carolina, who is well funded by NIH. He will head the new Section of Human Molecular Genetics, where we will be able to investigate the genetic factors in children’s diseases, including cystic fibrosis.

“Parallel to the department’s efforts in teaching and research is its commitment to excellence in patient care. Our perinatal center at WCMC offers extraordinary support services. Our division of adolescent medicine, which is very strong, cares for patients from about age 10 to 21 at affiliated hospitals in Westchester and New York City.

“We provide home treatment for more than one hundred children with diverse gastroenterological and nutritional conditions, greatly reducing the need for hospitalization and even eliminating hospitalization for many area children. We treat children with Lyme disease and AIDS, and we are designated the referral center for pediatric open-heart surgery in the tri-state area. We also conduct a medical genetics program that provides comprehensive services to the
population of seven counties of the lower Hudson Valley. And this is just a sampling of what we do,” he said.

Leonard took his B.A. at Rutgers University in New Jersey. As a student at NYMC, he was elected to AOA and Cor et Manus, an organization which, he notes with regret, is no longer an active part of student life. Following graduation, he interned at University Hospital of San Diego County in California. During the next two years he did a residency and chief residency in pediatrics at NYMC, and then held a two-year fellowship in pediatric gastroenterology and nutrition at Albert Einstein College of Medicine. He returned to NYMC in 1975 with a dual appointment in Community and Preventive Medicine and Pediatrics. He was named associate professor of pediatrics in 1989 and full professor in 1991.

Board certified in both pediatrics and the subspecialty of pediatric gastroenterology and nutrition, he has received a number of grants for his research in his subspecialty. He is the author or co-author of some 50 articles in medical journals and has contributed chapters to several books.

Leonard met his wife, Randi Barrett, through her brother and his classmate, Charles Barrett ’70. Married soon after Leonard’s graduation, they have three children: Jennifer, an art major at Skidmore College, who is spending her junior year in Florence, Italy; Benjamin, who is also at Skidmore; and Rebecca, a student at Scarsdale High School. The Newmans live in Scarsdale, NY, and enjoy spending holidays at their vacation home in Sacandaga in the Adirondack Mountains.

Anesthesiology: Elizabeth A.M. Frost, M.D.

Elizabeth Frost, M.D., who was appointed last spring to chair the Department of Anesthesiology, is a history buff. As an undergraduate student in her native Scotland, she majored in history. When she decided on a medical career, her historical interests became focused on the history of medicine. From there it was a natural progression to the history of her specialty, anesthesiology. Now she has taken the next step: exploring the history of anesthesiology at New York Medical College.

In a meeting with her departmental faculty and staff in September, Dr. Frost spoke enthusiastically of both the past and the future of the department. Paying tribute to those who had preceded her, she shared many interesting discoveries she has culled from the records of Metropolitan and Coler hospitals. Among them was the impressive finding that the first board certified professor of anesthesiology in the United States, the holder of certificate No. 1, was Dr. Thomas Buchanan of New York Medical College. Noting that Dr. Buchanan, like herself, was from Glasgow, she said, “I am proud that now, almost 90 years later, another Scot, albeit an expatriate, has become the leader of the department.”

Elizabeth Frost’s subspecialty is neurosurgical anesthesiology, a field in which she has won both national and international recognition and on which she has been invited to lecture and hold visiting professorships in many parts of the world. She also has a particular interest in the education of medical students and in continuing medical education.

Among developments in the department since her arrival, Dr. Frost cited expansion of the residency program to include additional hospitals and the use of a mentor system; increased coverage at WCMC with additional coverage in the plastic surgery and burn units; and expansion of the pain service at Lincoln Hospital. She also cited significant advances in the education of the medical students, including an admittedly more demanding program in the anesthesiology rotation that has been enthusiastically received by the students.

The role of the department in continuing medical education is being expanded through increased publication and participation in CME programs, she said. As an example of the latter, she noted that the 30th Annual New York Anesthesiology Review, to be held next June, will be hosted by New York Medical College, Mount Sinai Medical School, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, and Columbia Presbyterian Hospital, “as a true leadership review from the major departments of anesthesia in New York City.”

After receiving her M.D. from the University of Glasgow, Dr. Frost took internships in surgery, medicine, obstetrics, and general practice in Scotland before coming to the United States. Here she completed a residency in internal medicine at Englewood Hospital in New Jersey and one in anesthesiology at New York Hospital. She then began what was to be a 26-year career at Albert Einstein College of Medicine, starting as a fellow and going on to become a professor of anesthesiology and an attending physician at Einstein’s affiliated hospitals.

Dr. Frost has received several major grants, and her bibliography and list of presentations includes 14 books and more than 60 scientific papers. She is president of the Anesthesia History Association and editor of the International Trauma and Critical Care Society’s Trauma Newsletter.

After discussing her diverse professional activities and interests with Chironian, Elizabeth Frost noted that her top interest remains her four sons: Garrett, Ross, Christopher, and Neil. We learned also that she would soon be traveling briefly to Johannesburg, South Africa as an invited lecturer to participate in the 50th anniversary of Barawanath Hospital, the largest medical facility in Africa. She will also participate in the Egyptian Society of Anesthesiologists’ meeting in Cairo - a symposium to be attended by 1,000 anesthesiologists from Europe, the Near East and the Middle East in January.

It seems safe to say that this physician is not only reading history; she is adding impressively to its pages, professionally and personally.
Otolaryngology: Steven D. Schaefer, M.D.

Steven D. Schaefer, M.D., the newly appointed professor and chairman of NYMC's Department of Otolaryngology and Communicative Sciences, is one of only 17 otolaryngologists in the United States who are principal investigators for NIH grants. He is a member of both the Division of Research Grants at NIH and the NIH Strategic Research Plan Committee. His own areas of research are both clinical and basic. On the clinical side his interests are head and neck cancer, sinus disease, and laryngeal problems. His research in the basic sciences focuses on how the brain controls the human vocal tract.

Dr. Schaefer has come to NYMC from the University of Texas, and is bringing his research group, funding, instrumentation, and laboratory equipment with him. He explains that the move he and his group have made to NYMC is based in part on the large population available for diverse aspects of study through the network of NYMC affiliated hospitals. The group includes Ben Watson, Ph.D., a speech scientist, and Rick Roark, Ph.D. an electrical engineer.

Dr. Schaefer, whose work in head and neck surgery as well as in research is known in many parts of the world, had just returned from a trip to Korea when we talked to him for Chironian. He had been invited by the Yonsei University Medical Center to talk on surgical treatment of sinus disease and his research on the vocal tract disorder known as spasmodic dysphonia, as well as to meet with Dr. Young Bin Choo on plans to develop an Eye-ENT hospital within the medical center. He will continue to be in touch with Dr. Choo, the prime mover of the hospital concept, as plans go forward.

Dr. Schaefer received his M.D. at the University of California at Irvine in 1972 and completed an internship and general surgery residency at UCLA Health Science Center, followed by three years of residency at Stanford University Medical Center. In 1977 he was appointed an assistant professor of surgery at the University of Texas Health Science Center, where he spent the next 15 years, leaving with the rank of professor with tenure to come to NYMC. He is now also professor and chairman of the Department of Otolaryngology at New York Eye and Ear Infirmary, and directs the clinical departments of otolaryngology at NYMC's university hospitals: Westchester County Medical Center and Metropolitan, Lincoln, and St. Vincent's hospital and medical centers.

Board certified in otolaryngology in 1978, he is president-elect of the Society of University Otolaryngology. He is author or co-author of 140 papers and abstracts, 18 book chapters, and the book, Paranasal Sinus Surgery, the second edition of which was published by Raven Press this year.

Steven Schaefer, his wife, Phyllis Lois Clark, who is an art teacher, and their daughter, Jessica Leigh Schaefer, have now made the transition from the southwest to the northeast, where they are being warmly welcomed.

Neurology: Joseph C. Masdeu, M.D.

Joseph C. Masdeu, M.D., who was appointed chairman of the NYMC Department of Neurology last year, has set in motion a plan to expand the department's faculty and diversify its capabilities. Dr. Masdeu is also director of the neurology service at St. Vincent's Hospital and Medical Center in New York, a post he has held since 1987, and in which he has vastly strengthened the service, regaining full accreditation for the neurology residency program.

Dr. Masdeu's primary focus has been on Westchester County Medical Center, because, he explains, as a tertiary care center WCMC should provide support to local neurology practices and comprehensive specialty services through the affiliated hospitals. The enlarged faculty of the department will represent stroke, neurooncology, neuroimmunology, neuromuscular disorders, neurodegenerative diseases, and epilepsy, resulting in stronger teaching programs and diversified training for residents.

At present Dr. Masdeu's own areas of research are geriatric neurology, gait disturbances in the elderly, behavioral consequences of temporal lobe surgery for patients with epilepsy, and a study of people with head trauma whose CAT and MRI scans are normal but who have various complaints including depression and an inability to adapt or work well. Dr. Masdeu has an NIH grant on the natural history of Alzheimer's, correlating it with pathophysiologic mechanisms. He also has a book in progress on gait disturbances in the elderly. The study of patients with epilepsy is also on an NIH grant and is being done in collaboration with John Hopkins University.

Joseph Masdeu was born in Madrid, Spain, and became a United States citizen in 1980. He took his M.D. degree at the University of Madrid Medical School and completed an internship in the University's Department of Internal Medicine and a residency in psychiatry at the University of Valencia before going to the University of Chicago Medical School for a three-year residency in neurology. He then went to Peter Bent Brigham Hospital of Harvard Medical School as a neuropathology fellow.

Dr. Masdeu's academic appointments included an associate professorship at the University of Chicago, Strich School of Medicine, and another at Albert Einstein School of Medicine, before his appointment as professor of neurology at NYMC in 1988. He was certified in psychiatry in 1972 in Spain and in neurology in 1976 by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology. Currently he is an associate editor of the Journal of Neuroimaging and a member of the practice committee of the American Academy of Neurology, among other professional associations. Dr. Masdeu's impact on the department, after a very short time, has been dramatic.
Sponsors Golf Outing

The Alumni Association's second annual golf outing, sponsored by the Westchester Chapter, brought out 69 happy players who declared the event highly successful. The outing was hosted by Association President Louis Fierro '60 and his wife, Rebecca. A committee consisting of Lou Fierro, Michael Antonelle '62, Joseph Dursi '59, and Philip Cea '70 planned the tournament and made a deal with the Weather Bureau to cut off the heavy showers of the days just preceding the outing so that the sun shone brilliantly, providing a perfect day.

Cocktails, dinner, the awarding of trophies, and the distribution of many fine prizes followed the tournament, which netted $14,500.

GREATER WASHINGTON CHAPTER

Holds Spring Meeting

The Alumni Association's Greater Washington Chapter met for cocktails and dinner at the George Washington University Club on Thursday evening, April 9, 1992. David Paige '64, chapter chair, welcomed the guests. Michael Antonelle '62, president-elect of the Association, brought greetings from the Board of Governors, and spoke of his enjoyment of the Washington environment when he was in naval service there. Richard Biondi, NYMC vice-president for institutional advancement, gave a progress report on developments at the medical school. All present agreed that the setting of the meeting was conducive to a delightful evening, which they proceeded to enjoy.

As it later turned out, this meeting exemplified one of the great advantages of participation in the network of chapters that spreads from coast to coast, for John Duffy '60 joined the Greater Washington Chapter during the short period he was assigned to that area as an Assistant Surgeon General of the United States, serving under Surgeon General C. Everett Koop. Very soon thereafter, he accepted two appointments at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in New Hampshire. He is associate director of the C. Everett Koop Institute at Dartmouth and assistant dean for admissions at Dartmouth Medical School. John and his wife, Francoise Duffy, Ph.D., are now assured that the New England Chapter, chaired by Morris Diamant '78, will greet them with the same warmth and enthusiasm they found in his fellow graduates of the Greater Washington chapter.
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, 1991 – June 30, 1992.
We Report with Sorrow

Paul Tartell '52, immediate past president of the NYMC Alumni Association, died suddenly of a heart attack on July 14, 1992. He was 65 years old and lived in Roslyn, NY, with his wife, Phyllis Glass Tartell.

Paul Tartell had a deep and abiding love for his medical school and his fellow graduates. He participated actively in the affairs of the Alumni Association and had been a member of the Board of Governors from 1978 until the time of his death.

In an interview printed in *Chironian* when he assumed the presidency, (Volume 104, 1988) he recalled that one of the first projects he worked on as a member of the Board of Governors was negotiating with the County of Westchester for the lease for the Alumni Center, and then working with the architects and other members of the board on plans for restoring the building. “Other board members pitched in enthusiastically,” he said, “and worked actively to accomplish the transfer of the building to the College and then to create the wonderful Alumni Center we now have.”

On May 31 of this year Paul vastly enjoyed what was to be his last visit to the Alumni Center he helped bring about. The Tartells are an exceptionally close family, and Paul’s justly famed smile was much in evidence as he and Phyllis, whom he married when she was still in college, joined with their son Jay and Jay’s wife, Debbie, to celebrate their dual milestone anniversaries—Paul’s 40th anniversary of graduation from NYMC and Jay’s 10th. (See “Alumni Weekend” in this issue.) The Tartell family also includes their elder son, Brian, a Wharton School graduate now in investment banking, and Jay and Debbie’s two children, Jacqueline and Harris.

Paul Tartell received his undergraduate degree from New York University in 1948. Following graduation and internship, he served residencies in internal medicine and radiology at Queens General Hospital. In 1954, during the Korean War, he was drafted into the Navy and was assigned to the U.S. Naval Hospital at Camp LeJeune, NC. After his discharge he completed postgraduate training as chief resident at Roosevelt Hospital in New York. He then served on the staffs of Queens General and Hillcrest (now St. Joseph’s) in Flushing, NY, where he was director of radiology for 12 years. From 1974 until the time of his death, he was director of radiology at Astoria General Hospital in Astoria, NY.

Alumni Association President Louis Ferrero '60 said of Paul Tartell, “we deeply mourn the passing of our colleague, a leader who devoted himself wholeheartedly to the college and our Alumni Association. We extend warm sympathy to Phyllis, our fellow alumnus Jay, and all the Tartell family.”

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*All or part of these contributions received by Alumni Association.*

*Please Note: The compilers of this report have carefully reviewed the names that are included. Nevertheless, in listing of this length and complexity, errors and omissions may occur. If your name has been omitted, misspelled, or listed incorrectly, please accept our apologies and bring the mistake to our attention.*
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<th>DATE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Dallas / Ft. Worth Area Alumni/ae Reception</td>
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<td>November 10, 1992</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>American Academy of Ophthalmologists Alumni/ae Reception, Dallas, TX</td>
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<td>November 11, 1992</td>
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<td>Sunday</td>
<td>New York City / Northern New Jersey Chapter Meeting</td>
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<td>November 22, 1992</td>
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<td>Jan. 30- Feb. 6, 1993</td>
<td>Winter CME Seminar</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons Alumni/ae Reception, San Francisco, CA</td>
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<td>February 19, 1993</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Alumni Association Annual Meeting Alumni Center</td>
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<td>May 12, 1993</td>
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<td>Thursday</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 13, 1993</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>American Urological Association Alumni/ae Reception, San Antonio, TX</td>
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<td>May 18, 1993</td>
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<td>June 4-7, 1993</td>
<td>ALUMNI/AE REUNION WEEKEND</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>Class of 1968 25-Year Reunion</td>
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<td>June 4, 1993</td>
<td>Annual Alumni/ae Banquet</td>
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<td>Saturday</td>
<td>New York Medical College Commencement Golden Anniversary of the Class of 1943</td>
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