

# The Old Brown Coat

Issue 22

University of Illinois Emergency Medicine Residency Alumni News

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## Brown Coat Family Reunion: ACEP, 2008 in Chicago!

Plan ahead – *way* ahead! ACEP returns to Chicago in October 2008, conveniently coinciding with our silver anniversary – yes, 25 years since the graduation of our first combined University of Illinois Emergency Medicine Residency class in 1983. Good reason to throw a party! (Though we have grads dating back as far as 1979, 1981 was the year of the coalescence of the Lutheran General, Mercy and Illinois Masonic programs.)

How we have grown and flourished since, with over 300 graduates of the program now, practicing and impacting health care worldwide.

Our residency program has a long list of impressive accomplishments, advances and overall excellence, including the first program to be granted five consecutive five year approvals, as well as the first program to be granted a seven year approval. However, we are somewhat remiss in losing track of many of our grads. It is with an eye toward building a culture of mutual allegiance that we will ask alumni to email us to “catch up” on your lives since graduation.

Fact is, we share an important part of our past lives, not to mention current occupations (in most cases), thus making us practically family.

Apparently our mentors did something right since often, when we hear from alumni, we discover even more reasons to have pride in our alma mater. Forging stronger ties, the residency program stands to benefit from referrals of outstanding students and faculty and a large pool of gifted and successful alumni. The stronger the residency program, the better the reputation we each carry professionally. Networking may help alumni with recruiting and commiserating for various projects such as mutually beneficial ventures with educational programs, group tours or adventure travel (mountain climbing anyone?) Sky’s the limit....

Please help us by updating mailing address and email addresses and your preferred contact information. We would also appreciate news on your personal and career highlights, as well as a few words of advice for current residents. And, as always, pictures are much appreciated. We anticipate posting a picture and story board at the reception so the entire UIC family can share in the events of our last 25+ years.

Barring any unforeseen conflicts, our projected date of the reunion is **Tuesday, October 28, 2008**. Whether you plan to attend the scientific assembly or not, plan to attend this special silver anniversary reception. Any alums interested in helping with the planning may contact your humble editor, Liz Orsay at [Eorsay@pol.net](mailto:Eorsay@pol.net) and/or George Hossfeld ('83) at [EmrgncyMD@comcast.net](mailto:EmrgncyMD@comcast.net).



# Pediatric Emergency Medicine Conference, Nov 9-10, 2007

UIC proudly announces the educational program “High-Volume/High Acuity Cases in Pediatric Emergency Medicine, 2007” on Friday and Saturday, November 9-10, 2007 at the University Club of Chicago in downtown Chicago. The program is filled with renowned speakers, accomplished clinicians and respected colleagues in emergency medicine, pediatrics,



pediatric surgery, pediatric radiology and the Sudden Infant Death Services of Illinois. Topics include “Pearls of Pediatric Radiology” by Dr. Schey, “The Medically Complex Pediatric Patient” by Tulika Singh ('03) and “Pitfalls in the Diagnosis of Appendicitis” by Dr. M. Holterman. Bill Ahrens

and fellow UIC Emergency Medicine pediatrician Nick Furtado join the line up, as well as Tim Erickson ('89), Ralph Losey ('86), Steven Salzman, Gary Strange and TJ Rittenberry. Collectively, these speakers have years of clinical experience behind them, each bringing their unique perspective and expertise on the care of the acutely ill child. This is a rare opportunity to glean the knowledge they have to share – and get some shopping in on the side.

Participants are entitled to 11 hours of category 1 CME credits (of the required 15 credits in pediatrics needed to maintain pediatric emergency care status at credited institutions.) The University Club is located on Monroe Street, at Michigan Avenue, near the Art Institute, Millennium Park, the Magnificent Mile shopping, the Museum Campus and the downtown theater district. For more details, check out the website:

[www.conferences.uiuc.edu/PedEM07](http://www.conferences.uiuc.edu/PedEM07) or email the program coordinator, Ralph Losey at [rlosey@uic.edu](mailto:rlosey@uic.edu).

# Faculty Alumni Day, Sept 2007

was just brimming with sage advice as our loyal alums, faculty and residents gathered to hear Jody Crane (class of 2000) speak on the business side of Emergency Medicine – with authority. Jody has accomplished much since his graduation from UIC. In 2004 he completed the University of Tennessee Physician Executive MBA program and has since been a consultant teaching Lean applications to healthcare for the Air Force, Stryker and private/public healthcare organizations in the US, Canada and Europe. He has applied his expertise to his own ED, a busy 50 bed ED in Virginia. In the past 4 years, his ED has dropped their “treat and released LOS” from > 4 hours to 2.5 hours, while simultaneously increasing their census from 75,000 to >100,00 with the same staffing! Their LWBS rate was cut in half during this same time frame. Now *that's* impressive...

Jody spoke first about the benefits of residency training at UIC in preparation for the “real world”, highlighting UIC diversity in patient populations and ED settings, our teaching, leadership and educational conferences, and diversity of faculty specialties and interests outside of medicine (climbing with Carl has its benefits.) He then discussed the benefits of having an MBA degree with a medical career, relating that administrators respect MD's clinical skills but not their business skills. Those physicians with MBAs demand respect and get more attention.



Applying knowledge from business to our emergency departments is key. Without a business model and attitude in your ED “we will go down in flames” from an operational standpoint.

Valerie Dobiesz ('91) + Jody Crane

Future Medicare cuts and insurance company games will continue to effect our reimbursement rates, while we struggle with ED overcrowding, inadequate staffing and impending nursing shortages. The lack of specialists on call to EDs is now a problem nation-wide. 911 calls have been placed from the ER waiting room of MLK-Drew LA County Hospital, an ED physician was accused of homicide in Waukegan, IL in the case of a cardiac arrest in the waiting room and hospitals in Florida are now opening up new facilities without EDs so they don't have to take uninsured patients. All this, while only 4% of the Homeland Security budget in 2002-2004 went to EMS EM services – yet we are expected to be the safety net for the entire health care/disaster system. Just thinking about it causes chest pain and shortness of breath....

So what is a savvy ED doctor to do in these trying times? He stressed the importance of proper and timely billing and coding, ED's with a "results waiting room", fast track and triage staffed with physician assistants and improved flow with color coded ED teams where patients are assigned to these separate teams.

Jody may be contacted at [jcranemd@gmail.com](mailto:jcranemd@gmail.com). For those interested in further information on trimming fat from your ED operation, he suggested attending the University of Tennessee's one week Lean for Healthcare course where he participates on their faculty. "This has the most cutting edge operational management curriculum (with an ER twist) that is out there."

[http://thecenter.utk.edu/non\\_degree/lean\\_health.htm](http://thecenter.utk.edu/non_degree/lean_health.htm)

## Days of Our Lives....

-Suzi (Donick) Siegel ('97) recalls fondly (or not) her assigned "task" from Carl Ferraro as a 4<sup>th</sup> year med student – she was gowned up to clean up maggots from a homeless man, then offered lo mein for a snack. Some experiences in life are just unforgettable. (It's amazing we ever get any applicants to our program...) She currently works in Kenosha and soon at Condell with fellow alums Manish Acharya('99) and Jon Piotrowski ('97). She and husband Aaron have 3 children, ages 7, 5 and 3.

-Jay Sharp ('02) and wife Anna welcomed their first child into the world, Luis J. Sharp VI on Feb 20, 11 weeks early, but doing well after a 7 week stint in the NICU. Baby is home now keeping parents awake on a regular schedule.

-Jerry Suriano ('06) recently returned from 4 ½ month deployment to Afghanistan, where he was one of 3 ER docs staffing the ED in Craig Joint Theatre Hospital, the main US military hospital there. The hospital is the tertiary care center for all the other forward bases located closer to Pakistan, though he was exposed to "fresh" trauma from blast injuries sustained from workers hired to clear their base of mines (not a job for the meek) and victims from a suicide bomber in a nearby market – a "trial by fire introduction to mass casualty." He saw quite of bit of blast injuries from ieds and rpg's as well as a fair share of GSW's, most from AK-47s. Sounds like quite a learning experience. We breath a sigh of relief now that he is home safely. We appreciate the dedicated service that he and others in the military have provided for our benefit.

-Mike Halferty ('98) welcomed fellow alum Jonathn Babbitt('07) (our token Canadian) to the west coast to join his ED in Oregon. He writes "I see some logic in having the Canadian work the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. It's the holiday where everyone from Seattle to Eugene jams their way to the Oregon Coast to drink themselves blind while jet skiing through the red tide with an ungrounded circular saw. And, of course, in celebration of the consummation of the Declaration of Independence all patients have summarily set themselves on fire. He might want to take the citizenship test after that shift." We have not heard boo from Jonathan since his debut there.



*Bill Shawler ('05) with Jonathan Babbitt ('07)*

-Anjali (Tripathi) Pant ('04), completed her international medicine fellowship (and additional faculty time) at Johns Hopkins and is currently in New York City at the Cornell campus of NY Presbyterian on the upper east side, where she works part time. The rest of her time is spent on a family foundation that she and husband, Ashish started to assist with poverty alleviation in urban slums in Mumbai. She hopes to also work with Rachel Moresky('01) on the International Emergency Medicine fellowship there – a very “dynamic and exciting program...with lots of amazing people doing a variety of activities...”

- Ray Hart ('87) checked in as well. He now has 3 children, 4 yo Brian, 2 yo Evelyn and 5+ month old Elise.

-Therese Chan ('05)is thoroughly enjoying her life and work in the beautiful central coast of California, in San Luis Obispo where she staffs 2 community hospitals, part of a larger democratic group, the California Emergency Physicians. She loves living there with her husband and two daughters “right next tot the beach and in the middle of wine country, with plenty of opportunities for outdoor pursuits such as hiking, mountain biking and water sports. Her group is looking to expand and would like to hire another ER doc. If interested, contact her at [tec@po.cwru.edu](mailto:tec@po.cwru.edu).

-Scott Miller ('04) and wife Nikki have a new home and a new son as of June in Loma Linda, California. The email came entitled “and then there were three..” but I’m counting four...



-Joilo Barbosa ('98) (announced the “accomplishment of one of my more esoteric goals in life.. I completed my checkride and obtained my CFI certificate” He is now a Certified Flight Instructor. He offers his services as a resource for those interested in the lofty goal of learning how to fly, needing a BFR or any other goals in which a CFI is involved. He may be contacted at [joilo@barbosanet.com](mailto:joilo@barbosanet.com). His new

motto: “Get a higher education, learn how to fly.”

-Nicole Zendejas ('06) has set up home and work in Reno, Nevada, with husband Ruben and their 2 children, along with her parents, with mom serving as #1 babysitter. Life is described as “crazy and chaotic”.

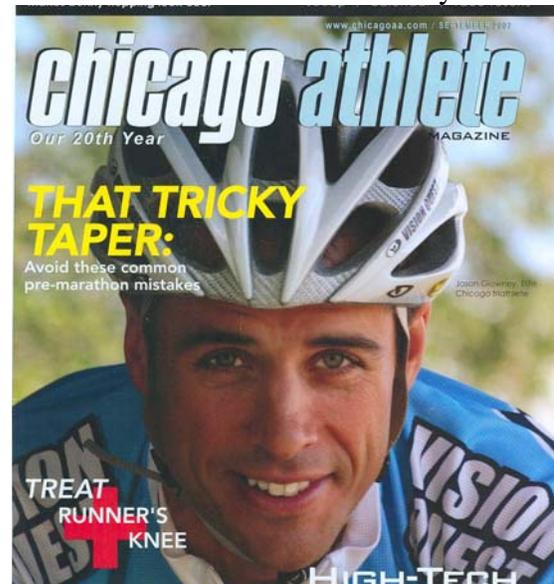
- Matt Westermeyer ('06) sent pictures and news from the “Loma Linda’ers”. “Babbit seems to be really taking to the liberal west coast culture.”

Pictures were from a visit to Lincoln City, Oregon (Jonathan’s current place of home and work) by Bill Shawler and Matt.



Bill Shawler ('05) with Matt Westermeyer ('06)

-Jason Glowney, current 4<sup>rd</sup> year IM/EM resident made the cover of September’s *Chicago Athlete Magazine*. Jason is a major triathlon contender and is currently one of the top ranked amateur “Iron Men” in the country.



# Photo Gallery



*Felix Ankel ('92) and Peter Hull ('93) at ACEP 2006 in New Orleans*



*Matt Westermeyer('06) family on the Oregon Coast*



*Sarah Unterman, Elizabeth Moran, Jason Reisinger, Reema Gupta and Rachel Lucas, all from the class of 2007*



*Brad Bunney, Heather Prendergast and Ed Sloan ('87) at the MEMC IV meeting in Sorrento, Italy*



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