

# The Old Brown Coat

University of Illinois Emergency Medicine Residency Alumni Newsletter  
Issue 28

November 2010

## The UIC Emergency Medicine Residency is Expanding!

We are excited to announce our re-affiliation with The Advocate Lutheran General Hospital. LGH was one of the founding hospitals of this residency in the late 1970's, and will now become an equal partner once again. LGH is a level one trauma center and boasts national acclaim as a Top 100 Hospital and Top 50 Teaching Hospital. Their EM faculty are both locally and nationally known for their outstanding mentorship of EM residents.

In order to accommodate this new partnership with LGH, we will be increasing the number of residents in each class. For this recruiting year, the EM program will expand from 13 residents per year to 15 residents per year, and the EM/IM program will expand from 2 residents per year to 3 residents per year. In 5 years, when we are fully staffed, we will have 60 residents in both programs making UIC Emergency Medicine one of the biggest programs in the country. Thanks to Brad Bunney, our Residency Director, and the Education leadership team (Tim Erickson, Valerie Dobiez, TJ Rittenberry, and Carl Ferraro) for their hard work in making this affiliation agreement happen.



Drs. John Piotrowski ('97) and TJ Rittenberry, 9/23/10.

## Annual Alumni Reunion Conference

Our annual Alumni Reunion Conference was held on September 23, 2010, at Masonic Hospital with John Piotrowski ('97) giving the keynote lecture titled "The Malpractice Experience: Sued and Survived." He spoke candidly and eloquently, engaging the residents with his characteristic wit and humor. John is now the Associate Medical Director for the Department of Emergency Medicine at Condell Hospital and Medical Center in Libertyville, IL.

Also on the roster was Dr. William Maloney ('91), Chair of the Emergency Department at Condell, who spoke on "Point of Care Cardiac Testing," and opened our eyes on the ease and immediacy with which some EDs are using POC testing for critical results and obtaining immediate results. His message included the prediction that this will likely soon become a standard of care.

After the conference a large group walked to one of the local Italian restaurants nearby for a delicious lunch and more opportunities to chat. Also there that warm fall day were Brett Jones ('10), Chris Hwang ('01, now at Rush Copley in Aurora, IL), Carlos Feliciano ('08), Chris Asandra ('08), and Jerry Suriano ('06), all at Emergency Medicine Specialits in Milwaukee, WI.



Drs. Maloney ('91) and Feldman, 9/23/10.

By the way, look for information in the new year regarding our **Alumni Reunion Conference** next fall—held, of course, on Thursday morning – and plan to attend. One of our favorite moments is the “open mike for alumni vignettes” with plenty of opportunities to hear your favorite stories from old and new Brown Coaters.

### **New Attendings:**

*Where did they go?*

Our newest graduates, those freshly-minted attendings and our newest alumni, the Class of 2010: where are they practicing now?

**Paul Casey** (IM/EM) is happy next door working at Rush Medical Center, where he sees Amy Parecha ('09), Louie Hondros ('07), and Ed Ward ('99). Paul was married in June to Anjali (a Rheumatology Fellow here at UIC!), and is currently studying for his EM boards (already passed his IM boards!).

**Matt Close** is in Greenville, NC, in his first year of a sports medicine fellowship. He works 5 days per week in the ortho clinic with joint or spine specialists and also cares for university and high school athletes, covering their major sporting events. He has also covered many sporting events in the area including triathlons, cycling races, and US Karate Championships. He hopes to be in Arizona with the Colorado Rockies for spring training. Oh, yes, and he also works in one of three ED's each week, a trauma center and two community ED's, where he remarks that the patients are very appreciative.

**Mario Fernandez** left for San Antonio, TX. **Alissa Gorelick** is now at Mercy (and also engaged), holding down the fort with **Sam Hayward** (who also works in Kankakee) who was just married to Stesha Merle in Greece. **Brett Jones** is also now working hard at Mercy. **Raj Kalsi** left the city for the greener lawns of the suburbs, working urgent care at Central Dupage Hospital and also in the ED at CGH Hospital in Sterling, IL. He and his wife are expecting a baby boy in February... and a lot less sleep!

**John Keebler** is working with EMP at St James Olympia Fields in Chicago Heights. **James Park** moved downstate to central Illinois and is working at Provena Covenant Medical Center in Urbana, IL. **Ricardo Santayana, Jr.** is now at MacNeal Hospital in Berwyn, IL.

**Colette Solatka** practices with Indiana Emergency Care Physicians in West Lafayette, IN (north of Indianapolis). **Andrea Tenner** (IM/EM) is enjoying her International Emergency Medicine Fellowship at Columbia University, where the current director is Rachel Moresky ('01), and where Anjali Pant ('04) is also on the faculty. She completed a Red Cross course on how to run a refugee camp, saw Kristiana Kauffman (current UIC International Fellow) at a recent tropical infectious disease course, and is meeting many key people in the world of humanitarian medical relief. She took her IM boards and is studying for her EM boards as well as taking classes at the school of public health and working ED shifts.

**Leo Treysman** did not go far... from the U, that is: he is our new Ultrasound Fellow, so he can be found in the ED every Wednesday (besides his regular shift days here and at Masonic ED and Rochelle) looking for fluid-filled cavities and echogenic bodies with his transducer. He was married to Anne Brusius on September 5<sup>th</sup>. **C. Grant VanHazenbroeck** is now at Alexian Brothers in Elk Grove, IL, and newly married to Stephanie Jensen VanHazenbroeck.

And now: news from the rest of our family of graduates!

### **News from our Alumni**

From the **class of 2009**, we hear from Cullen Kehoe that he was in Africa last July doing medical charitable work. His classmate Ben Stull (they both staff the ED in Minot, ND) works periodically at the U, and recently talked about his recent trip to Pyongyang, North Korea (yes, you read that right) and Beijing.



**Chris Trigger** writes that he completed his Sports Medicine Residency at U of Pittsburgh in July and was married in September. He is currently working with EMPG in the ED in St Joseph, MI (just around the bottom of the lake) and is medical director for the Steelhead Ironman Triathlon. He has accepted a core faculty position with a new osteopathic EM residency (affiliated with MSU) which will accept its first class in 2011. **Kruti Shukla** lives in Ann Arbor and is working at Henry Ford Hospital, while her husband is in business school at U of M.

**Jon delaCruz** writes from Springfield, IL that he has been very busy since becoming assistant professor (the tenure track) at SIU 16 months ago. Their first 6 residents started in July and are now interviewing for their next class. He loves his job! He also married his sweetheart Marthe Phelps last May in Champaign. He misses the U, of course, and looks forward to seeing old friends.

**Tim Meehan** ('08, Toxicology Fellow '10), was recently married to Laura Cummings on September 11, 2010 (betcha won't forget that anniversary!). **Amy Parecha** now works across the street in the Rush ED. She worked in Haiti several months ago. We hear through the grapevine that **Lisa Spear** is now working in Philadelphia at Jefferson Medical College. **Mark Braun** is now the ED director at Rochelle Hospital.

Stretching back further to the **class of 2007**, **Todd Templeman** (IM/EM) is an Associate Professor at Georgetown where he is director of HIV Screening and International Programs. He works primarily at Washington Hospital Center in DC and lives in Potomac. His second daughter, Aryia Sarina, was born on his wife's birthday (9/21/10), joining sister Alana Sofia (born 2/1/09). He misses everyone at the U, especially **Tritt** ('11). **Jonathon Babbitt** came to town for a brief visit to attend George Hosfeld's son Chris's wedding in early October. He showed off his son Jono briefly in the ED. He and his wife Miriam live and work in Olympia, WA. **Michael Zimmerman** sends his regards and is doing well at New York Hospital in Queens, and lives on Long Island. With his wife Lauren and daughter Maria, they welcomed baby Michael into the world on 6/3/10.

From the **class of 2004**, we hear that **Scott Miller** and his wife Nikki and three sons welcomed Samuel Red Miller into the world on June 19, 2010 at a healthy 7lbs and 20 inches. Congratulations! Joe Lachica who had been working at the U (and several Chicago ED's) since graduating, moved to Madison, WI in August. He now works at Mercy Hospital in Janesville, where his patients are "salt-of-the-earth" with "high acuity." He still works part-time at Belvidere Hospital (with several of our UIC faculty). He is dearly missed by faculty and staff at the U!

**Matt Jordan** (class of '03) was seen at the Mock Oral Boards at Cook County Hospital last May. He is currently at Resurrection Hospital (associated with St Mary's, Westlake) where he works with emergency and family practice residents. **Paul Gilbert** writes that he is a partner at EMP which staffs hospitals in Cottonwood and Sedona, AZ, where he works part-time; he spends most of his time running the ED at Payson Regional Medical Center in AZ. He has two daughters (7 months and 2 yrs), and also is busy with a business venture to [test] and bring to market a new type of NG tube, developed with his father, a gastroenterologist (see website for info: [www.EZ-NG.com](http://www.EZ-NG.com)).

**Rob Miller** ('02) was recently sighted by our own Val Dobiez at an airway course in Las Vegas...not, it seems in class, but among the one-arm bandits...? Val also **sighted Tuleka Singh** and **Kavitha Reddy** (both class of '03) there.

**David Townes** ('96) sends his regards to everyone at our program from Seattle, where he is Assistant Professor in Emergency Medicine and Associate Residency Director at University of Washington School of Medicine. He recently moved back to Seattle from Atlanta, where he spent two years completing his fellowship at the CDC, making 6 trips to Africa and several to Haiti and Indonesia. **Kenji Oyasu** (also '96) recently took over and is now director of the ED at NAH here in Chicago.

**Jaime Rivas** (class of 1995) writes from Southern California where he is also a partner with CEP America and medical director at two sites (Palomar Hospital in Escondido and Pomerado Hospital in Poway) where he works with EM residents. Sports medicine is a "hobby" as he staffs a pro tennis tournament annually. He

and his wife are kept busy with two daughters and two sons.

**Wes Eilbert** ('93) has recently left Mercy Hospital and is now at UIC. Wes recently ran into several alums at a Halloween happening and put us in touch with **Peter Hull** (also '93) who writes from Roseville, CA, where he is now Medical Director of the Emergency Department at Sutter Roseville Medical Center. With an annual volume of about 71,000, he has his hands full, because he is also the chief of staff for the hospital, overseeing about 700 physicians. He says that ER physicians are ideally suited to for such a position because they are strong communicators and “not prone to panic”, traits which have served him well in this position. He is a part of CEP America, where he sees partners and former Brown-Coaters **Jaime Rivas**, **Chris Markus** ('96), **Bill Webster** ('98), and **Bill Mostow** ('92).

Word comes from **Bob Uslander** ('91) that he's doing well, is currently the ED director at Sonora Community Hospital in California, and has three children (19 months to 7 years).

We heard from **Ray Hart** (class of 1987) that he is thriving in Kentucky with his wife Bridget and 4 children. He is also a former EM residency director here at the U. **Ralph Losey** ('86) has left the U for greener pastures... literally, the rural landscape of southwest Wisconsin, where he's had a farm for 22 years. He is the regional medical director for Acute Care, Inc. (an emergency physician staffing company serving small rural community hospitals), and works primarily at Southwest Health Center in Platteville, WI. He is also still the Chief Medical Officer at Midwest Medical Center in Galena, IL. After a recent afternoon of Packers football, he's on his way to becoming a cheesehead!



*Minute Profile*

## Mark Mackey MD

Mark Mackey recently received an award from UIC for his contribution and dedication as a

core faculty member, and in recognition for receiving the Bill B. Smiley Award from ICEP last spring. This is ICEP's highest honor, given for his contribution to the advancement of Emergency Medicine in Illinois. Since before he joined our faculty in 1993, Mark has been active in government affairs and “behind the scenes” in areas vital to Emergency Medicine. He has served as past president of ICEP, has worked in a dedicated fashion on reimbursement issues, met with state legislators, and was important in the 2006 passage of tort reform.

In his warm acceptance speech (<http://www.icep.org/news/MackeyAward.htm>), Mark took the opportunity to thank colleagues and to educate and inspire. He discussed his “fierce advocacy” for supporting our profession with its unique character and challenges, noting that “nobody can do the work that we do” in the emergency department everyday and do it consistently with dexterity and efficiency. He added that, “My voice has been through ACEP, but each of you must find your own route and express it vigorously.”

He exhorted his colleagues to take up his call to get involved and support our profession, noting that “it will take all of us to do it.” To the mature physicians he asked that they not retire, that they stick around and contribute, because “we need your institutional memory and your wisdom;” and to the younger physicians, he said “we need your technology expertise, your community, and your energy.” How did he get started? “One day someone I admired said to me, ‘Why don't you come to this meeting with me?’” “When somebody asks you personally to do something, and takes an interest in you, it's powerful.” Like his mentors and teachers before him, something clicked when Mark recognized that he was involved in something bigger than himself.

Mark said, “With volunteerism, you're your own boss, and it's an opportunity to have an impact in your field, on your world, to make a contribution, to work on your terms and in a low-stress situation” compared to the ED. He believes it is vital to give back to one's community. “Some people may be afraid of the commitment, but your time is flexible and you can be as peripheral or as busy as you want,” adding, “For me, it's about the people.” The relationships he's forged in this work have

become some of the most enduring and important friendships of his life.

Needless to say, he has found this work fulfilling, and the opportunity to serve as a mentor to others has been its own reward. He admits that it was a different environment 20 years ago, but despite challenges, there are still many opportunities for those who seek them. "Everyone has to find their unique contribution; for some it's research or teaching, for me it was governmental affairs," he said. "Just showing up for your shifts isn't enough"—not for the profession or for yourself. As for young doctors who ask themselves 'what will be my area of expertise?' his advice is to explore and pursue your interests, and "don't be afraid of commitments, because some of them will be the opportunity of your lifetime."

## **Tales from the *Real World***

*With this issue, the Brown Coat introduces a new feature: contributions from our alumni, a surprisingly creative and witty bunch. We welcome your submissions, tales of humor and horror, about your practice of EM after graduation. Here is a letter we received recently from one such alumnae.*

George,

I have been kicking about practicing EM and trying not to get too burned out. I found the best motivation for working day after day, night after night in the ER was a generous amount of debt, an ex-wife and eight children! It has been the key to my practice longevity. I had a hundred thou in the bank once back in 1999 and very little debt. My motivation to work went missing. I had just sold an airplane and thought I would get out of flying, but then I realized my motivation to work was sapped like Sampson with a crew cut. I quickly bought another plane for about \$50,000 to raise my motivation to a more comfortable level.

Now I have set myself up for life, as far as motivation to work goes, with some farm land and 5 more children to send through college. Just worried that there are not enough hours in the month to make ends meet!

I left Chicago after residency in 1987 landing my first ER gig in Cheyenne, WY where I was paid the phenomenal sum of \$25 an hour! I did not know I was being taken until the used car salesman laughed at my salary when I bought a car from him. I was the director of the ER and there I learned I had all the responsibility and no authority when the Hospital Administrator told me I would have to OK any changes in the ER with the nurse manager! I was a Corporate Doctor, a cog in the company's machine with all the respect of a side order of grits with a cigarette butt placed unceremoniously into it. That gig lasted two and a half years.

The community physicians hated the ER physicians, but mostly the community physicians hated each other. I was befriended by a handful of physicians of the over 100 who practiced in the community.

Dr. S was a 55 yr old GP who gave me my first lesson in being a successful physician. "Ford, all it takes to be a great physician is the 4 "A's"; availability, affordability, affordability and ability- in that order."

Dr. G was a 67 yr old neurosurgeon, who loved gold. He once bragged he had bought and lost his house 4 times making poor investments on gold mines. His wife left him the last time he lost the house and he lived in the hospital. He only had one grey suit. When I bragged to Dr. G that I had salted away \$8000 for my retirement my first year, G leaned back in his chair, hand on his chin, and quipped: "Well young Dr. Ford, your wife is going to see to it you get a fine nursing home when you retire!" This stung me, and has shaped my financial philosophy ever since.

The only black physician in Cheyenne, Dr. H was 37 years old when I got there. He wore a big white Stetson cowboy hat and blue jeans with the cuffs rolled over cowboy boots. He was a urologist, and had bought a 10,000 acre ranch outside Cheyenne. One day he was visiting with me in the ER and said: "Ford, how many children do you have?" "Three" was my reply. "Shit, man. A fine smart fellow like you should have a dozen kids at least. We are becoming overrun by stupid people. So do your part Ford, reproduce man!" I took his advice and had a few more children, good advice by the way for me. He left medicine to be a full time

cattle rancher at age 47! He has six children. He is quite a guy.

If I have learned anything about emergency medicine, it is not a bad way to make a living, and you sure do get to meet and interact with some wonderfully talented and interesting people. My life has been enriched by it all.

## Charlie

Charles Ford, class of 1987

(Charlie blogs under the pseudonym, Jack Maybolt in *The Urban Poverty Law Center*, <http://urbanpovertylawcenter.blogspot.com/> You might want to check it out!)

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### Additional news from the U

Armando Marquez ('89) was recently given the Hispanic Center of Excellence Volunteer of the Year award, for his guest speaking and work with Hispanic students.



Stacey Chamberlain (above), attending and International EM faculty, and husband Michael welcomed baby Gabriel in late August.

Angela Bailey ('12) presented at the national meeting of the National Medical Association last August, winning first place in the resident research competition with a pediatric obesity study.

## Who are the “Baby Brown Coats?”

This past July we welcomed our new interns, the “Class of 2013”, and the “Class of 2015” for the combined EM/IM residents, all sixteen of them. Here they are and where they came from:

- Thomas Alcorn (EM/IM) graduated from UIC School of Medicine
- Gursaran (Sara) Banipal, Midwestern University
- Jessica Barber, Eastern Virginia Medical School
- Katherine (Katya) Bayer, Rush University
- Vasilios (Bill) Bournas, Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine (and congratulations to him and his wife on their new baby!)
- Saba Choudhry, University of Maryland, Baltimore
- Yelena Dukarevich, Rush University
- Justin Hepker, Ohio State College of Medicine
- Ryan Hurth, UIC
- Jared Marcucci, Chicago Medical School
- Lee Katherine (Kate) Moore, UIC
- James Phillips, attended University of Oklahoma before a few years in a plastic surgery residency at U of M
- Elizabeth Portnoy, University of Massachusetts at Worcester
- Christopher Shinneman, Indiana University at Indianapolis
- Jeremy Smiley (EM/IM), UIC
- Jillian Theobald, Chicago Medical School
- Neal Patel, our new junior resident, completed his internship at The University of Mississippi at Jackson. *WELCOME* to our new residents, one and all, from the faculty and alumni!

## The Derek Piper Memorial Scholarship Award Winners

As many of you already know, our Emergency Medicine International Education Award is named after Derek Piper, IM/EM class of 2004, international physician and adventurer, mountaineer and sailor, and who is fondly remembered by his friends here at UIC. This year’s recipients of the Derek Piper Scholarship, to promote opportunities for our residents in International Emergency Medicine, were announced by Janet Lin ('02), director of the International Emergency Medicine Program. They are **Elena Caraman** and **Phillip Mumm**, both from the class of 2011.

Elena will be heading to Nepal in October to work with a physician that heads the Nepal Disaster & Emergency Medicine Center. Phil will spend a month in rural Uganda this winter working at Nyakibale Hospital, in a program with which our UIC attending and current International Emergency Medicine Fellow Stacey Chameralain is affiliated, called Global Emergency Care Collaborative ([www.globalemergencycare.org](http://www.globalemergencycare.org)). While there he will be working on an assessment of the emergency medicine curriculum for Nurse Practitioners in their program.

*(\*For opportunities for this and other charitable giving opportunities related to our department and its broader mission, please see related article in this newsletter.)*

## **"Dear John"**

PHEW! What a long hot summer we had! Surely one of the longest and hottest on record, right? Here in the midwest May was unseasonably warm-- and the heat intensified into the summer months. Then, just when one expects the cooling northwest breezes of autumn-- we had more short-sleeve sunny days in the 80's! Then: a cool night or two, and just when one should be preparing for October frosts—more summerlike days in the 80's! No one's complaining, mind you, but doesn't it cause you to rub your chin and wonder?

So naturally if you thought some sort of record was broken, you'd be right—almost. Global warming theories aside, it turns out that 2010, so far this year, is the fourth warmest on record in the US (NOAA dating to 1895). It's the seventh warmest period (from June through August) in Illinois history, with an average temperature of 76.4 degrees. Sure was warmer than that in October!

Speaking of which: those lucky enough to work the ED during this year's Chicago Marathon in October (10/10/10) were again preparing for heat-related emergencies (remember the disaster three years ago?)—and the marathon delivered.

Temperatures soared into the 80's (even higher than predicted). There were over a dozen runners with significant heat-related injuries brought to UIC, and over 60 were evacuated from the course to area hospitals. This doesn't include, of course, the larger numbers of runners who stopped and were treated on-site, and is a small percentage of the record 38,000 runners that started the race. There was even a disaster plan briefly put into effect by the city due to the number of runners needing medical care.

One of the most severe heat illnesses was in a young man who ran to within 100 yards of the finish line, only to collapse, get back up to take a few steps, then collapse again. His temperature was an impressive 106.3 degrees. Unfortunately, this runner was none other than the son of our own George Hossfeld. George was watching his son Chris as he approached the finish and was startled by the sudden turn of events. When he finally was able to reach him, Chris was confused but alert. George directed the ambulance to our own ED where Chris received exceptional care. Fortunately, he recovered quickly and did well afterward. But what a story!

I'll end this column with a little heat trivia (ready, Tim?). You probably know how vital hydration is to staving off the effects of heat stress, heatstroke, and multi-organ dysfunction... but did you know the body can produce (depending upon acclimatization) up to three liters of sweat per hour? And that blood flow to the skin can be as much as 8 liters per minute? And that sweat production and efficiency of cooling the body falls dramatically when ambient humidity exceeds 75%?

Stay cool, alumni and friends, and please **KEEP IN TOUCH!**

**John** ('95)



## **Opportunities for Giving**

The Department of Emergency Medicine at the University of Illinois at Chicago has various opportunities for giving, related to our mission of education, research, public health, and international medicine. These include:

EM Residency Research and Education:  
Fund #776341

The Derek Piper EM International Education  
Award: Fund #773047

EM Guatemala Mission: Fund #335471

O'Hare Clinic Fund: Fund #335628

Donations can be made online at:

[www.uif.uillinois.edu](http://www.uif.uillinois.edu)

If you would like to know more, please contact Rhea Begeman, Administrative Director for the Department of Emergency Medicine, at 312-413-0002, or [rheab@uic.edu](mailto:rheab@uic.edu).

## **THE LAST WORD**

With this issue we have new co-editors, George Hossfeld and John Williams, who will endeavor to carry on the work of *The Old Brown Coat* so capably and reliably done by Elizabeth Orsay for years. As many of you know, Liz is handing off the reins, but she's not disappearing. As for future issues, you may expect a few changes. We hope this newsletter strengthens the connection among our alumni and with the physicians at our home base hospitals. Tell us what you think.

More importantly, if you'd like to hear about your colleagues and classmates—from last year or last decade—and you can be sure they'd love to hear from you!-- then drop us a line or a photo! Doesn't have to be elaborate, just a couple words on you, your work, your family, or even colleagues you recently saw, email or snailmail, to one of us: John Williams [medwright@gmail.com](mailto:medwright@gmail.com) or George Hossfeld [emrgncymd@att.net](mailto:emrgncymd@att.net). Handwritten notes may be sent to the department, at the address below. ***Don't forget to tell us if you'd prefer to receive your newsletter via email, or USPS on paper.***



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