

# The Old Brown Coat

Issue 24 University of Illinois Emergency Medicine Residency Alumni News November 2008

## Brown Coats Return...

For a most memorable homecoming! From across the nation they gathered on a crystal clear night atop Mercy Hospital for a magical evening. With panoramic views of the city, between glittering high rises and the broad expanse of Lake Michigan, the penthouse provided the perfect setting for a perfect evening. Hundreds of Old Brown Coats, current Brown Coats, families, friends and past and present faculty gathered for an evening of reminiscing and reconnecting. Eyes lit up, smiles beamed as Old Brown Coats streamed in, saw – and recognized – their friends and colleagues from days gone by. Handshakes, hugs and kisses, and sometimes even tears flowed faster than the wine and beer Alums from as far back as 1981 (Herb Sutherland) and as far away as New Hampshire (Bryce Lambert '90), Arizona (Les Tukan '85) and California (Dave Meyers '94, Peter Hull '93, Chris Markus '96, Therese Chan '05, Jaimie Rivas '95, Mark Langdorf '87, Michael Jugo '03 and Melissa Tom '03– perhaps others) traded tales of the past (some of them true), updates on the present and plans for the future.



Stan Welch '93, Bryce Lambert '90, Max Koenigsberg '84, Gannon Dudlar '02

No UIC reception would be complete without our own in house band, *Code Brown* providing the entertainment. Band members Wes Eilbert

('93), Carl Ferraro, Valerie Dobiesz ('91), Tim Erickson ('89) and friends entertained the masses with all six songs they knew – twice. That is, two sets to accommodate the adoring fans in the cozy upstairs penthouse: lead singer Carl waving his



long hair and hugging the microphone; Val and Tim in matching Brown Coats strumming their guitars (“momma played bass...”), Wes, keeping the beat on percussion, Kelly O’Keefe (Tracy Sanson’s ’90 husband) on sax and friends on backup.

There was of course a presentation on the history of our program -*not* your typical dinner speech. Tim Erickson provided a commentary on Old Brown Coat Pride and Trivia as only Tim Erickson can do. (This residency was never one for stodgy speeches and formality.)

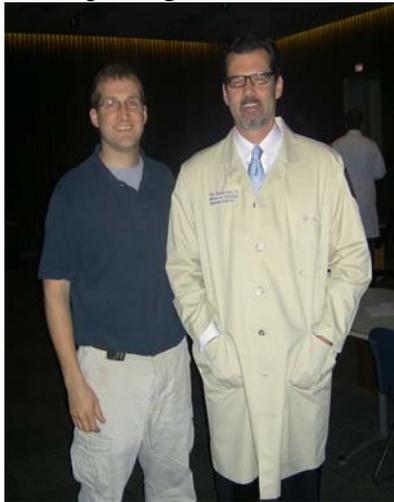
All in all the event, celebrating 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the graduation of the first combined class of the residency (actually over 30 years of existence), was a stunning success, surprising even the event planning committee – faculty not accustomed to party planning. Many, many thanks go out to all the Old Brown Coats who travelled from near and far to attend, as well as the faculty and staff that participated in planning, prepping, and worrying. If you were unable to attend, the brochure for the event, authored by George Hossfeld ('83) has been included for your reading pleasure. The many pictures of the event and possibly a video of our own *Code Brown* band can be viewed on our

residency website at  
<http://tigger.uic.edu/com/er/EMProg/index.shtml>.

Words cannot describe the pride and joy that we faculty have had in watching our residents grow and launch into the world to become the caregivers, leaders, educators and administrators of health care and beyond. Your return to the homeland at this family reunion has touched our hearts in so many ways. What a party it was!

## Faculty Alumni Day 2008

Sporting his Old Brown Coat, Triple boarded



Steve Trzeciak MD, MPH ('01) returned from where he hails on the east coast to deliver this year's faculty alumni Grand Rounds and lecture. Following completion of his IM/EM residency at UIC in 1996, Steve proceeded on to a critical care

John Shanley '07, Steve Trzeciak '01 fellowship at Rush university before heading east to UMDNJ Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and Cooper University Hospital in Camden, NJ. The ever humble and gracious Dr. Trzeciak delivered a superb talk on the Advances in Sepsis Resuscitation 2008, based upon his research and clinical experience. Presenting with the comprehension and detail of the internist and the practicality and expertise of the emergency physician, he discussed the importance of early recognition and intervention, "effective" resuscitation and "goal oriented hemodynamic optimization." His lecture was a clear, concise analysis of sepsis, current treatment and research advances, focusing on clinically relevant recommendations that impact our care in the ED. He presented highlights of his research, including biomarkers as predictors of organ dysfunction, rates of creatinine changes as predictors of mortality and flow velocity in microcirculatory failure. He is currently focusing his research on the *practical* assessments and

treatment in the ED to "deliver us from the central line (and SVO2, CVP) era."

*HALLELUJA!!* His current research hypothesis, that lactate clearance is as effective as SVO2 measurements in septic shock assessment, is very promising. If his research results in a clinically effective sepsis protocol for the ED that is doable in a busy, overcrowded ED (ie., no ultrasound probes draped in sterile sleeves, triple lumen central lines, central pressure monitors....), he should be annointed for sainthood by the pope himself. Patron saint of septic shock – something to be proud of...

*A little bit of Trivia...*

Other alums who have participated in post graduate educational marathons in pursuit of multiple board status:

Michael Knisley, '08, IM/EM '08, palliative care fellow

John Shanley, IM/EM '07, critical care fellow

Rob Gordon, IM/EM '06, Cardiology '08

Robin Eisner '85, Ob-Gyne '90, Gyne Onc '92

## In Memorium

We received word that our founder, Vera Morkovin, MD, FACEP passed away in early 2008. She, along with Hal Jayne, MD led in the formation of a new residency program for the youthful specialty of emergency medicine in the late 1970's. Forging new paths was nothing new to Dr. Morkovin, being the first woman trained in general surgery by the Cook County Hospital Program. She was able to diplomatically draw on her friendship with Lloyd Nyhus, MD, a fellow alumnus of that same residency program and then chairman of surgery at UIC, to foster the relationship that led to academic sponsorship of the residency.



Dr. Morkovin did all this while in her late 50's and early 60's. She became the first Division Chief for Emergency Medicine as well as the ED director of Illinois Masonic Medical Center. She continued to work shifts in the ED, where she was known as the definitive socially conscience physician. Her compassion was contagious.

In those early days of the ABEM and ACEP existence, Dr. Morkovin served in many

capacities, laying the bricks for emergency medicine in Chicago and the country. One of her abiding legacies is a foundation for community service for the residency program.

### William Bornmann, DO, 1954 – 2008.



Bill ('83) passed away August 30, 2008 in Murrieta, California. After completing his residency in 1983, Bill moved to California where he worked for numerous southern California hospitals and was a senior partner of the California Emergency Physicians of

America. Dr. Bill's family was his pride and joy and emergency medicine was his ardent passion. He is survived by his wife of 8 years, Lisa, a son William Lloyd Michael (4) and a daughter Hailee Michelle (7).

## Alum News....

-Nicole Zendejas ('06) moved back from Reno, NV and is currently working with Bill Sullivan in Streator, IL. She is busy as mom to children Madeleine (2) and Andrew (1).

- Les Tukan ('85) wrote from home in Phoenix, Arizona, where he has been working for the past 22 years at Good Samaritan Hospital. His first daughter has recently been launched off to college, making him "officially old (mature)".

-Mark Langdorf ('87), chair of EM at the University of California, Irvine is also now Editor-in-Chief of the fastest growing journal in our specialty, the Western Journal of Emergency Medicine (*WestJEM*). It is the official journal of the California chapter of AAEM and is a quarterly peer-reviewed academic journal that focuses primarily on the roles of technology and public health in providing efficient and optimal emergency care. *WestJEM* is an open access journal, accessible without charge at

[www.westjem.org](http://www.westjem.org), where you can also subscribe to printed version. The journal is indexed in Google Scholar, eScholarship, MDLinx Emergency Med, and Melvyl, the catalog of the University of California Libraries. It will soon be available in Pub Med Central and Medscape. Section Editors for *WestJEM* include alums Tess Hogan ('87) and Brandon Wills (tox fellow, '05).

-Other alum productivity include Paul Gilbert('03), who with wife Jodi welcomed daughter Sophia into the world in June, Mike Zimmerman ('07)(now Ultrasound director at Newark Beth Israel in New York) and wife Lauren were expecting their first child in September, Lydia Edokpayi-Aluyi ('02)(working at St. James Hospital) expecting her third child, and Anjali(Tripathi)



Pant ('04)who with husband *The Pant family* Ashish ushered in son Avi Oct 21. Nicholas Jian Zhong (Steadfast Loyalty) Jugo joined sister Sonja, and parents Micael Jugo ('03) and Melissa Tom ('03)(currently living and working in the San Francisco East Bay area) on August 23 All claim to be doing well, though sleep deprivation may be an issue.....

-David Townes ('96) has taken a leave of absence from the University of Washington to do an EIS Fellowship with the CDC in Atlanta in the Malaria Branch of the National Center for Zoonotic, Vector-Borne and Enteric Diseases. He is also editor of the book "Expedition and Wilderness Medicine" recently published by the Cambridge University Press. The book is described as the "most practical guide to medical practice in extreme and remote environments...(it) covers everything a prospective field physician or medical consultant needs to prepare for when beginning an expedition..." Contributing authors include Janet Lin('02), Tim Erickson('89) and Mike VanRooyen('91).

-John Wightman ('91) retired from active duty Air Force in 2006 after 23 deployments (!! ) and now is a civilian working for the government clinically and Wright State academically, as well as being a Reservist for the Uniformed Services University.

-Karen Carmody ('83) recently retired from emergency medicine practice and now enjoys life with new husband Steve Smith, spending time between their ranch in Lorena, Texas and home in Park City, Utah.

-Brian Macaulay ('94) headed west with family to Colorado to accept a position as chief medical officer of the Rocky mountain region of

Sound Inpatient Physicians. He manages six hospital physician groups of hospitalists,



growing the groups' presence in each hospital site, adding new sites to the Denver region and rolling out new work flow process changes for the hospitalists to make them ore efficient and valuable to their hospitals. It is challenging work but very interesting – a

good company with a unique business model that works well with hospitals and drives value. He is also on staff at the University of Colorado working part time in the ED, alongside Rene King (international med fellow '08).

-Pat Kelly ('90) received the 2007 Roper St. Francis Foundation Physician Champion Award. (Not to be mistaken with the Academy Awards...) He is described as “a foot soldier who leads by example” whose “leadership has made a lasting and positive impact on the



Foundation and the healthy system it supports.” Pat joined the medical staff of Roper

Hospital in Charleston, SC in 1991 and has served as Medical Director of the EDs and a member of the Board of Directors at Roper Hospital and RSF Medical Center-Berkeley. He is secretary/treasurer of the Medical Society of South Carolina and co-chair of the Foundation's Physician Partners Committee.

- Rachel Moresky ('01) continues to remain active running the international emergency medicine fellowship at Columbia University in NY. Most recently she has coordinated the sidHARTE program in Ghana, with the support of the GE Foundation and Ghana Health Service. This pilot project provides clinical services, training of health staffs and systems process improvements for 3 years, with EM physicians serving in 4-8 week block rotations. Funding for travel is provided – a rarity in international work. EM physicians and 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> year residents may apply. If interested, contact the program manager, Tanya Hart at [sidharte@columbia.edu](mailto:sidharte@columbia.edu).

## Dear John,



It was magnificent to see so many graduates of our program return to Mercy Hospital for our program's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary and alumni celebration on October 28. The success surprised many of us, given the number of alumni and friends that returned, and the number of handshakes and heartfelt clasps on the back. It was wonderful to catch up with so many old friends, hear of the careers they've established, the families they've created, and the challenges they've met. It was gratifying to hear how they have carved out their place in emergency medicine, and to hear them exclaim how well-qualified they have found themselves after leaving our program. We've heard many a story from our alumni of memorable patients or a great save in the ED, and the storyteller invariably ends with a comment on the excellence of his training at UIC. And, I might add, how fabulous to have someone mention how wonderful you were as an attending... or how little you've changed in the intervening years...(really? and you thought I did this for the money.)

There's a lot of talk about heroes lately, and I began to think of the extraordinary amount of work represented by each graduate, following their own path after they left and making their mark in medicine and doing well in the world... and each, when he comes back to visit, returns a hero.

Let's make a promise to return in the not-too-distant future. Plan to return next time, join in the fun, and maintain our family of physicians and friends from the program. It will be too much fun to miss!

And one last note: a big thank you to those who imagined the reunion and made it happen, most of the faculty, and including George Hossfeld, Lisa Gehm, and particularly Liz Orsay, the doyenne of party planning, who's efforts and vision have guided the reunion, this newsletter, and who is the strongest link between this program and its alumni. Thanks Liz!

*John Williams '95* (medwright@gmail.com)



*Class of 1995: Joe Cortez, Jaime Rivas, Mike Green, Mike Coogan, John Williams*



*Class of 1993: Pat Lee, Peter Hull, Valerie Phillips*



*Will Washington '06 and friend*



*Craig Rosenberg, In-Hei Hahn '98, Rachel Moresky '01*

## *If you choose to give...*

A gift card and addressed envelope have been provided. Gifts may be designated to the funds which support our residency and international medicine fellowship or help underwrite the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Alumni Reception. The **Emergency Medicine Residency Program Fund** provides annual funding for volunteer, research and educational activities of the emergency medicine residents. The **Derek Piper Endowment Fund** is a scholarship supporting the senior international emergency medicine elective in our residency. Established as a tribute to Derek Piper's (IM/EM '04) passion for world travel and medical relief work, this fund allows our residents to experience the life and career changing effects of an international medical rotation. The UIC **Emergency Medicine Guatemala Mission Support Fund** helps provide medications and supplies and offset transportation costs for those who donate their time to work in an established, successful health care initiative in rural Guatemala, now 25 years strong. This initiative also serves as the cornerstone of the field experience for our International Medicine Fellowship.

Your continued generous support of these programs is most gratefully appreciated. Thank you!



*Wes Eilbert '93*

Feel free to email comments, news and views to Liz Orsay at [Eorsay@pol.net](mailto:Eorsay@pol.net)



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