

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY MEDICINE

University of Rochester School of Medicine & Dentistry

Highland Hospital



Newsletter of One of the Premier Family Medicine Departments in the United States

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Department of Family Medicine Plans 40th Anniversary Celebration

The Department of Family Medicine (DFM) will celebrate the 1968 founding of the Family Medicine Program of the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry with a celebration to be held October 10 through October 12. Alumni and faculty will gather at class dinners, tours of the new Highland Family Medicine and Brown Square facilities, alumni panel discussions and presentations on relevant/current topics. Participants in the symposium will receive AAFP CME credit.

Time has been scheduled for alumni to visit and get reacquainted with their classmates as well as enjoy the beautiful fall season in Rochester. Alumni and their families can enjoy such local attractions as the Harbor Belle Fall Foliage boat trip, the Strong Museum of Play, Casa Larga Winery tour and the Seneca Park Zoo among the many options in this area. A banquet/awards ceremony will be held on Saturday evening at the Rochester Museum and Science Center with recognition of the former department chairmen. Founding chairman, Gene Farley, M.D. plans on attending.

"We expect a great turnout for this event. Over 100 alumni have already indicated that they will be attending," says Tom Campbell, M.D.(1982) chair of the Department of Family Medicine. "We look forward to spending time with our alumni and sharing in the exciting educational and social events we have planned for the weekend." For more information contact Sandi Erklenz at Sandi_Erklenz@urmc.rochester.edu



DFM Faculty Member Helps Care for Tibetans

Caring for the underserved is a primary mission of the Department of Family Medicine and many faculty members volunteer their time to bring health care to various corners of the world. Clinical Associate Professor Deborah Pierce, M.D., M.P.H. (1995) traveled to Rima, Yushu Prefecture, Qinghai Province, China again this year to work with Project Drolma. This is a project led by Nancy Chin, PhD, MPH of Community and Preventive Medicine and Becky Loy, PhD of Neurology at the University of Rochester Medical Center to improve maternal and child health in this very remote section of the eastern Tibetan Plateau.

Since the start of the project in 2004, several important steps have been taken, most notably the building of a school and a clinic. This year's accomplishments included the completion of a community survey about utilization of the clinic; delivery of 35 more birthing kits (which include misoprostol generously donated by Dr. Steve Eisinger and Freedom of Choice, to prevent postpartum hemorrhage); an educational in-service at the Yushu County Hospital by Dr. Pierce on preeclampsia and hypertensive disorders in pregnancy; a community educational project on hand hygiene; and ongoing collaboration and teaching of the village doctors in western approaches to illnesses including developing a more comprehensive charting system.

For more information on this project contact Dr. Pierce at deborah_pierce@URMC.Rochester.edu To view more photos visit www.imageevent.com/deborahpierce/tibet2008.



Thoughts
FROM THE CHAIR

It is hard to believe that the Department of Family Medicine at Highland Hospital and the University of Rochester is 40 years old. In 1968, leaders from the medical school, including Bob Haggerty, chair of pediatrics, John Romano, chair of psychiatry and Bob Berg, chair of community and preventive medicine worked with Jacob Holler, head of medical education at Highland Hospital to establish the third family practice residency program in the country. They recruited Gene Farley from private practice in Trumansburg, NY to run the program and Norm Wettarau and Duane Lawrence were the first residents. Since that time, the program has graduated over 400 residents who are practicing, teaching and conducting research across the US. Many of our alumni and former faculty have gone on to be chairs of departments of family medicine at other medical schools or have taken other leadership roles in our discipline. Several have been inducted into the prestigious Institute of Medicine. Our residency remains one of the top programs in the country and was recently selected as one of 14 programs to participate in the P4 national demonstration project (see this page).

This fall (October 10-12), we will celebrate these 40 years of success and look ahead at what our Department and specialty faces in the future. Saturday morning, we will have alumni panel discussions on the future of Family Medicine, Health Care in the US, and Global Health. We will have a gala celebration on Saturday night at the Rochester Museum and Science Center where we will honor our former chairs and some distinguished alumni. I hope that you can join us.

Best Wishes,

Tom Campbell, M.D. (1982)
William Rocktaschel Professor and
Chair, Department of Family Medicine



P4 Program Energizes Department

by Stephen H. Schultz, M.D., Residency Director, Assistant Professor of Family Medicine

Preparing Personal Physicians for Practice (P4) is a national demonstration project sponsored by the Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors (AFMRD) and American Board of Family Medicine (ABFM), in collaboration with TransforMED, the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) practice redesign initiative designed to change the way family physicians are trained to practice medicine. The University of Rochester was one of 14 residency programs chosen to participate. The focus of our P4 project is integrate practice redesign and quality improvement into our residency practice and to develop a teaching Ideal MicroPractice (IMP).

Being a P4 program has energized us to experiment with curricular ideas, and to change aspects of how we practice, learn, teach, and interact. We seek to break down barriers between "the practice" and "the residency," and to simultaneously improve both.

What would an alumni of our program notice is different? Our teaching afternoon has evolved from one in which the same curriculum was taught two weeks in a row, to one where we only had teaching every other week, so that residents could see and interact with all of their resident colleagues every teaching afternoon. This year, we went back to teaching every week; the difference is that each week is unique, so we have doubled the number of teaching afternoons. All rotation schedules have been changed to allow all residents to attend every week.

Every teaching afternoon now starts with team meetings. These meetings had previously been on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons, and only residents who happened to be scheduled on those afternoons ever attended them. Now all residents attend every week. One of the emphases on their increased involvement, and the increased meeting time, has been a focus on quality improvement. The National Committee on Quality Assurance (NCQA) and the Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors (AFMRD) have recently worked out an arrangement

whereby residency programs can apply for NCQA recognition in excellence in diabetes care. We will apply for this designation, with every team tracking 35-40 diabetic patients to ensure they have met nationally recognized goals of diabetic care.

We have long been known for our approach to the patient in the context of family. We seek to expand this systems-based approach to the provision of care in the context of teams, to provide our residents with the knowledge, skills and attitudes to recognize how to build, nurture and leverage team-based care to provide the best possible care for the families for whom they care. For more information please contact me at Stephen_Schultz@URMC.Rochester.edu.



Steve Eisinger, M.D. Opens Freedom of Choice Practice

Freedom of Choice: Ob/Gyn Services of Western New York was recently opened by Steve Eisinger, M.D. exclusively for the purpose of pregnancy terminations. Emphasis is on medical excellence, patient and staff safety, confidentiality, and prompt, supportive service to both patient and referring physician.

"Pregnancy termination is a vital service to our community, and too few physicians are willing to participate in this work," says Dr. Eisinger. "The new practice is housed in a bright new office and was designed from the ground up to meet the medical and psychological needs of our special patients. We want to support them through what must be a difficult time in their lives. Many emerge from the experience in better control of their lives and with a sense of self-esteem for having made and carried out a difficult but necessary decision."

The practice will be a training venue for selected residents from the Family Medicine Program. For more information contact Dr. Eisinger at steve_eisinger@urmc.rochester.edu



Promoting Community Health in Honduras

by Douglas Stockman M.D. Director and Barbara Gawinski, Assistant Director Global and Refugee Health

The Department of Family Medicine at the University of Rochester continues to operate a year round Global Health Program which offers didactic training throughout the year and travels twice a year for two weeks at a time to rural Honduras. The Department has partnered with an NGO called Shoulder to Shoulder and a rural community called San Jose San Marcos de la Sierra in the Southwestern state of Intibucá, Honduras. The needs of the target community are great and go beyond curative medicine. By listening to the concerns of the local community members and performing qualitative community assessment, we are creating interventions designed to address the common problems. Below are highlights of our May 2008 trip.

The largest concerns of the village people continue to be water projects and latrines. The first two ferro-cement water tanks we built are doing well. A third tank was started while we were there. This tank will provide water for the volunteer, Matthew Malek – a UR med student, who will start living in San Jose in July. Villagers from La Calera and Portillon, who were benefiting from piped water projects, were required to help with this tank's construction. In addition to helping the project move forward faster, Portillon members learned about the specifics of ferro-cement tank construction. The Portillon people will be building a ferro-cement tank as part of their piped water project.

During our November 2007 trip we helped La Calera begin a piped water project. They had completed the first half of the project and had installed pipe from the water source to a distribution tank. During this trip we helped them purchase the additional 2+ miles of tubing needed to install a faucet at every household. When we arrived they had already hand-dug all the trenches required for the project. Within 12



Participants included MD Attendings: Tom Campbell, Rebecca Dwyer and Doug Stockman; Family Therapists: Barbara Gawinski and Kathy Cole-Kelly; Residents: Peter Hoffman, Brad VanHeukelum and Kevin Zhao; Researcher: Georgia Kayser; Dental: Frank Carberry, DDS

Mike Lewis, DDS; Peace Corps Volunteer Brianna Bond; Interpreters: Joren Selleslaghs and Ann Van Gele and Shoulder to Shoulder Representative: Javier Mejia

hours of the pipes being delivered to San Jose Centro where the road ends, the pipe was being carried on villagers' shoulders for the 2+ hour walk down the treacherous mountain-side to La Calera. Given each person was carrying 27 pipes that were 20 feet long and each bundle weighed over 60 lbs, it was quite a feat of human endurance.

We built our first Ventilated Improved Pit (VIP) latrine this trip in San Jose. The VIP latrine has a chimney which helps remove some of the foul smells from inside the latrine. The initial latrine was made for the volunteer house. We were able to train a local person, Apolinar, on construction techniques. He will run this project with DFM providing the materials that must be obtained outside the area such as cement and PVC pipe for the chimney and each home must providing all the labor and local materials.

Six months ago, teachers from the school asked for some assistance in creating teaching kits in science and math. Representing the First Unitarian Church's Honduras Project Committee – Teacher Resource Committee, Moritz Wagner and Barbara Gawinski, along with the team

members from the Department of Family Medicine, personally delivered over 50 pounds of school supplies to the classrooms, three teacher science/math curriculum kits, and 250 books and resource books to four of the five schools in the San Jose region: San Jose Centro, Portillon, Potrerros, Guanacaste. Scholarship programs are also being started in the area.

We are always impressed by how much we can accomplish in two weeks when dedicated hard working people pool their collective energies and skills. There was a great synergy between this group and the many hard-working Hondurans. We are building a very strong relationship with the Hondurans that is already yielding many fruits. Our Global Health Program is maturing nicely and expanding to include The First Unitarian Church has provided new resources to the Hondurans through teacher education and potential for student scholarships. Thanks to everyone who has made this program a success.

Transitions

Rebecca Dwyer, M.D. joined the ambulatory clerkship team at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry as one of the co-directors this spring. The clerkship is a longitudinal experience for first and second year medical students which introduces them to the clinical aspects of medicine, particularly preventative care and chronic care. The year and a half long course consists of preceptorships in primary care offices, biomedical integration conferences, and small group experiences that include case conferences, journal club sessions, and teaching of clinical reasoning skills.

"I am enjoying my new role in this important part of medical education," said Dr. Dwyer, "as my position involves coordinating and participating in the educational conferences and small group sessions, assisting in preceptor recruitment, helping to prepare both written and standardized patient examinations, reviewing students' evaluations, and grading their performance."

Steve Lurie, M.D., Ph.D. serves as Director of Assessment in the Office of Curriculum and Assessment (OCA), at the URM Medical and Dental School where he is responsible for overseeing evaluation of all aspects of the 4-year curriculum leading to the M.D. degree. In addition to regularly scheduled reviews of all 23 courses and clerkships in the curriculum, OCA provides and analyzes data to assess new curricular innovations. The office is also responsible for administering postgraduation surveys to both residency directors and alumni in order to assess long-term influences of the curriculum. In his role, Dr. Lurie is a standing member of the 1st/2nd year Instruction Committee, the 3rd/4th year Instruction Committee, and Curriculum Steering Committee, and the Academic Research Track Executive Committee. The department also continues to produce scholarly articles about student assessment.

Robert E. Gramling, M.D., DSc joins us as Assistant Professor of Family Medicine and



*Robert E. Gramling,
M.D., DSc*

of Community & Preventive Medicine. Dr. Gramling comes to us from Rhode Island, where he was faculty in the Departments of Family Medicine and Community Health at Brown University and his wife, Lindy, was a Women's Health specialist in physical therapy. Dr. Gramling's research is focused on physician-patient communication about risk and uncertainty at two key junctures in the spectrum of family medicine: screening and palliation. He has two NIH grants to study the impact of perceptions about personal cardiovascular risk on long term outcomes and is developing other communication research collaborations with the inpatient Palliative Care service at Strong, where he is a consultant with Drs. Ron Epstein and Tom Campbell. He will also be co-directing the required "Mastery of Medical Information" course for first year medical students along with Susan Fisher, M.D. from Community and Preventive Medicine.

New Family physicians **Brigid Mack, M.D.** and **Ben Mailloux, M.D.** recently joined the Maternal Child Health Fellowship. This one year program provides training in high risk obstetrics and care of the newborn with an emphasis on underserved women and children. Both Dr. Mack and Dr. Mailloux will be seeing patients on Suite 300 when they are not busy on the labor floor at Highland Hospital. Dr. Mack recently finished her residency at UNC-Chapel Hill in North Carolina. She grew up in Albany, graduated from the University of Rochester and attended medical school in Buffalo. Dr. Mailloux, is originally from Maine and graduated from Dartmouth Medical School. He earned a Master's degree in

Clinical Science at Dartmouth and a Bachelor's degree at Colgate University. He completed residency at Fairfax Family Practice just outside of Washington, DC. His professional interests include public health, improving health care delivery, obstetrics and preventive care.



Lori Conway



Marta Maletzke

Highland Family Medicine welcomes **Lori Conway** and **Marta Maletzke** as Family Nurse Practitioners. For many years Conway worked in Farmington, NY for program fellow graduate Laurel Dallmeyer M.D., alongside Susan Langraf, M.D. Her special interests include smoking cessation, well child, and preventative health care. She is a graduate of the University of Rochester School of Nursing and a long time Henrietta Resident. Maletzke completed her undergraduate degree in social work at Valparaiso University. After working several years in the Juvenile Court System returned to school and completed masters in Nursing Science at New York Medical College/Pace University, a program for students with non-nursing baccalaureate degree. She received a second masters in Nursing at the University of Rochester and began her nursing career at Oak Orchard Health Center in Brockport including various services at Highland Family Medicine (1978-1986), Group Health-Folsom Center and most recently at a Highland Primary Care office in Rush, New York. Maletzke is also a certified Diabetes Education.

Second Annual Southeast Health and Safety Fair Involves Community



Anh Bui, second year resident and some special treats for health fair attendees.



Robin Johnson, Medical Secretary enjoyed the day.

Highland Family Medicine hosted the 2nd Annual Southeast Health & Safety Fair, with sponsorship by Highland Family Medicine, Southeast Area Coalition, South Wedge Planning Commission, and the South Clinton Merchant's Association.

This year's fair featured over 35 vendors and performances by World of Inquiry (Public School #58) school choir and Kate Lee and No Strings

Attached. During a summer afternoon which featured scattered showers and a dramatic downpour, the Fair attracted approximately 175-200 visitors.

Popular displays included the Rochester City Fire Department's smokehouse, student massage therapists from the Onondaga School of Therapeutic massage, and representatives from the South Wedge Farmer's Market. Children enjoyed balloons and silhouettes as well as free stuffed animals and books with health education provided by the first year family medicine residents.

Community Medicine Class Beautifies Neighborhood

During the Community Medicine rotation, the Class of 2010 joined forces on a beautification project and community garden construction in the Star Alley, a city-owned lot on South Avenue, adjacent to Lux Lounge. This lot had been cleaned up last year by the class of 2009 during their rotation, when they reconstructed and painted an old fence and old picnic tables. They also installed a fence to block egress from a side alley, known for drug dealing activity.

This year's class, in collaboration with the Business Association of the South Wedge (BASWA), landscaped the rear of the lot by planting donated shade-loving perennials, and constructed 5 raised bed gardens with fresh clean soil, to be used by neighborhood

residents as vegetable gardens.

BASWA hosted a Thursday night concert series in the lot over the summer. Pete Saxe, NET administrator recently expressed his gratitude in an e-mail to Colleen Fogarty, M.D., M.Sc., (1995) Assistant Residency Director; Residency Site Director, Brown Square Health Center; Director of Community Medicine; Assistant Professor of Family Medicine. "Colleen, the business association and residents are impressed with the work that was done. The timing was perfect to coincide with the totem pole art project on South Ave. Please thank the residents. They were the most determined lot. I look forward to working with you in the near future. I count my lucky Stars that you are our neighbor."



Second year residents Ashley Gallagher, Sachiko Kaizuka, Alicia Zysman-Cromwell and Pebble Kranz tend to the South Wedge Community Garden.

"Photo by Carlos Ortiz, courtesy of the Democrat & Chronicle."



The Center for Youth was one of the organizations that participated in the health fair.



Chris LeStorti, Department Administrator helped out at the Popcorn booth.

Family Medicine Academic Update

Grants

New faculty member **Robert Gramling** brought two NIH grants with him from Brown University which are funding his investigations into 1) the impact of cardiovascular disease (CVD) risk perception on long-term CVD outcomes and 2) whether raising awareness of heritable CVD risk improves long-term outcomes among individuals with a strong family history. **Jennifer Carroll** (1999) received a five year career development award of approximately 600K from the Clinical and Translational Science Institute. She is the first family medicine faculty to receive the award, and among the first in the Medical Center. Kevin Fiscella noted that this is a highly competitive award that is bestowed only upon the most gifted and promising young researchers across the entire Medical Center. In addition to the career development aspects of her award, she will be engaged in a research project designed to pilot the feasibility of a communication training intervention for primary care clinicians, linked to a community program referral, on promoting physical activity in underserved patients. **Barbara Gawinski** received a one year, \$10,000 contract from Montefiore Medical Center to study the former Family Medicine Reproductive Health Program graduates to identify and describe the barriers and enablers that deter or promote abortion provision among abortion procedure trained non-gynecologists.

Selected Publications

Carroll J, Fiscella K, Epstein RM, Jean-Pierre P, Figueroa-Moseley C, Williams G, Mustian K, Morrow G. Physical Activity Interventions Targeting Underserved Populations: A Systematic Review with Recommendations. *J Fam Pract.* 57:170-175, 2008.

Carroll JK, Fiscella K, Meldrum SC, Williams GC, Sciamanna CN, Jean-Pierre P, Morrow GM, Epstein RM. Clinician-patient communication about physical activity in an underserved population. *JABFM.* 21:118-127, 2008.

Carroll JK, Fiscella K, Epstein RM, Jean-Pierre P, Figueroa-Moseley C, Williams GC, Mustian K, Morrow GR. Getting patients to exercise more: A systematic review of underserved populations. *J Fam Pract.* 57:170-175, 2008.

Epstein R., *Mindful Practice* (Book Chapter). Christensen J, Feldman M (eds): *Behavioral Medicine: A Guide for Clinical Practice.* New York: The McGraw-Hill Companies, 2008, pp 49-54.

Epstein RM, Mauksch L, Carroll JK, Jaen CR. Have You Really Addressed Your Patient's Concerns? *Family Practice Management.* 15:35-40, 2008.

Mauksch LB, Dugdale DC, Dodson S, Epstein RM. Relationship, Communication and Efficiency in the Medical Encounter: Creating a Clinical Model From a Literature Review. *Arch Intern Med.* 168:2008. Young

HN, Bell RA, Epstein RM, Feldman MD, Kravitz RL. Physicians' Shared Decision-Making Behaviors in Depression Care. *Arch Intern Med.* 168:1404-1408, 2008.

Epstein RM, Siegel DJ, Silberman J. Self-monitoring in clinical practice: a challenge for medical educators. *Journal of Continuing Education in the Health Professions.* 28:5-13, 2008.

Fiscella K. Guide to Developing and Revising Alcohol and Opioid Detoxification Protocols (Report). In: *Standards for Health Services in Jails.* 2008.

Fiscella K, Bennett NM, Szilagyi PG. Nomenclature in translational research. *JAMA.* 299:2148-2149, 2008.

Fiscella K, Meldrum S. Race and ethnic coding agreement between hospitals and between hospital and death data. *Med Sci Mon.* 14:9-13, 2008.

Fogarty CT, Donohue L. Mindfulness Training in Family Medicine: An Experiential View. *Family Medicine Digital Resources Library.* 2008.

Fogarty CT, Fredman L, Heeren TC, Liebschutz J. Synergistic effects of child abuse and intimate partner violence on depressive symptoms in women. *Prev Med.* 46:463-469, 2008.

Gramling R, Klein W, Roberts M, Waring M, Gramling D, Eaton CB. Self-rated cardiovascular risk and 15-year cardiovascular mortality. *Ann Fam Med.* 6:302-306, 2008.

Ruddy N, McDaniel SH. Couple therapy and medical issues: Working with couples facing illness. Gurman A (ed): *Handbook of Couple Therapy.* New York: Guilford Press. 2008, pp 618-640.

Selected Presentations

Steve Barnett

Adapting the BRFSS to survey deaf sign language users. CDC 25th Annual Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) Conference, Orlando, FL.

Working Collaboratively for the First Community-Based Comprehensive Health Survey of a U.S. Deaf Community. Presentation by Aggas J, Barnett S, David T, Graybill P, Kelstone K, Lomeo C, Sullivan JP, Pearson TA at CDC Prevention Research Centers Annual Program Meeting, Atlanta, GA.

Rick Botelho

Motivational Practice. Grand Rounds at Richmond University Medical Center Internal Medicine Conference, Staten Island, NY.

Promote Healthy Habits in Families and Communities: Going Beyond Scientific Evidence to Personal Evidence, 28th STFM Annual Conference on Families and Health, New Orleans, LA.

Jennifer Carroll

A Communication Intervention for Physical Activity in an Underserved Population: Preliminary Results from a Feasibility Trial. 29th Society of Behavioral Medicine Annual Meeting, San Diego CA.

Ronald Epstein

I Saw It on TV: Responding to Patient Requests for Prescription Medications. 19th National Congress of Clinical Interviewing and Communication Assistance, Guadalajara, Spain.

Research on the Patient-Physician Relationship and Repercussions on Clinical Practice. Institute for Health Studies International Conference, Barcelona, Spain.

Why Doctors Make Mistakes: The Role of Self-Monitoring. Invited Plenary Session, 13th Ottawa International Conference on Clinical Competence (Ozzawa), Melbourne, Australia.

Improving Patient-Family-Clinician Communication in Palliative Care Settings: a New Framework. Presentation with Street RL, Jr. at the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine, Tampa, FL.

Kevin Fiscella

Why are Racial and Ethnic Minority Populations Vulnerable? Pandemic Influenza Preparedness & Response in Selected Vulnerable Populations, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta.

Impact of Disparities in Cardiovascular Care on African American Deaths. Academy Health Annual Research Conference, Washington DC.

Addressing Disparities in Cancer Screening. American Cancer Society Task Force on Disparities. New York.

Addressing Health Care Disparities: Its About Time (and Money). Academy Health Annual Research Conference, Washington DC.

Vincent Silenzio

Ambient Findability, Sexuality, and Suicidality. [Research Paper]. American Association of Suicidology, 41st Annual Conference, Boston, MA.

The Promise and Perils of Online Social Networks in Suicide Prevention and Research. [Research Paper] American Association of Suicidology, 41st Annual Conference, Boston, MA.

Rochester Behavioral Science Training Held at Hanoi Medical University

Worldwide, up to 50% of morbidity and mortality is thought to be the result of unhealthy behaviors. Many developing nations are addressing this issue by starting or expanding Family Medicine programs, and in particular emphasizing training in Behavioral Medicine. In November 2007, Alan Lorenz MD (current faculty and former resident and fellow), Cathy Morrow M.D. (faculty at Maine Dartmouth and former resident) were brought in by the government of Vietnam to provide a 1½ week certificate training experience at the Hanoi Medical University.

Many of the sessions were co-taught with health care professionals from the Medical University, Family Health International and the UN. Topics included: motivational interviewing, domestic violence, alcohol and substance abuse, cultural competence, PTSD, pregnancy, child behavior problems, depression, death and dying, and



Alan Lorenz (4th from the left) and Cathy Morrow (6th from the left) with the French Attaché and a variety of Vietnamese Health Care Professionals at the 105th year anniversary celebration of the Hanoi Medical University.

general family systems concepts including family conferences. A variety of teaching strategies were employed, including: didactic, role-play, and family sculpting – one sculpt involved 13 participants including many of the Vietnamese Family Medicine residents.

A high point of the trip was an invitation to

the lavishly celebrated 105th year anniversary of the Hanoi Medical University. As the only Americans in attendance, they were honored by sitting adjacent to the Minister of Health and the Minister of Education, next to the Japanese Embassy, and just behind the French Embassy (see picture).

Medical Assistant to Medical School: Career Development at Highland Family Medicine

Working as a medical assistant or in a clerical role at Highland Family Medicine has been a good resume builder for many of our full time and summer staff.



Tom Veeder



Laura Gift

For the past 8 years Highland Family Medicine has hired college students who are hoping to go into the healthcare field as per diem medical assistants. The student MAs help to cover staff vacations and work in the full capacity of the job. Staff have been very receptive to training and working with the students who bring lots of energy and enthusiasm to their positions. We have also had some of our permanent staff and a few students working in a clerical capacity pursue a higher level of education.

Highland Family Medicine has had 13 medical assistants go on to Medical School and 3 staff

members will be starting med school the fall of 2008. There have been 6 medical assistants attend Nursing School, 1 chose a PA program and 1 student is pursuing a PhD in psychology.

The phenomenal success rate of students being accepted into the healthcare training of their choice is a source of pride in the department and is very encouraging for the 4 current students on staff as medical assistants at HFM.

Department of Family Medicine 40th Anniversary Celebration

Friday, October 10

5 pm – 8 pm Welcome Reception/Tour of the new Highland Family Medicine Center

Evening Individual Class Dinners

Saturday, October 11

8 am – 1 pm Breakfast and 3 alumni panels on the future of family medicine, health care in America and global health

12:45 pm Lunch

2 pm Tour of new Brown Square Health Center

Afternoon Free Time (suggested activities include tours of local winery, Strong Museum of Play, Seneca Park Zoo, Memorial Art Gallery)

6 pm Gala Dinner at Museum and Science Center including cocktail reception and recognition of former Department Chairs and Distinguished Alumni and dancing

Sunday, October 12

9 am Brunch and presentations about present-day activities of DFM

For registration and fee information, contact Sandra_Erklenz@urmc.rochester.edu



Gene Farley, M.D., founding chair, examines a young patient with Mary Townsend.