



OLDEST LIVING ALUMNUS?

On page 40, in your last paragraph of the Last Call ["The Only School of Note," Fall 2011], you make a statement that Paul Caplan is the oldest living alumnus. This may be so, but I might challenge that. My birthday is Oct. 14, 1913. (I believe that a search of alumni records would likely show that century-old members exist.)

I am of the Class of 1937, and I'm 98. I was a Pitt med school faculty member from 1938–1953 with the Department of Physiological Chemistry. Part of that time I served in WWII, and later I received a PhD in biochemistry from St. Louis University. I finally left Pitt by returning to a career in the USAF in aerospace medical research. I commanded three different laboratories.

Incidentally, I found this issue of *Pitt Med* most interesting, since I am old enough to have lived through much of the history and people you reported on. I'm keeping my copy!

Joseph Quashnock (MD '37)
San Antonio, Texas

Dr. Caplan's birthday is Nov. 21, 1912.

LANSING: BOOK WORTHY

I am an alumnus of the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Class of 1960.

The book that I've just published, *The Lansing Effect*, is dedicated to Professor Albert I. Lansing, who was chair of the Department of Anatomy at the time I studied at the medical school. Lansing was well known internationally for his work in many areas, especially the study of the biology and physiology of aging (gerontology). [Simply put, the Lansing effect hypothesizes that the offspring of old parents tend to have shorter lifespans than the offspring of young parents.] Some of the topics that fascinated Lansing—and, because of my friendship with him, also fascinated me—are themes in this new book. They are quite relevant to current-day issues of importance to the medical profession, scientifically and ethically.

By the way, I enjoy the articles in *Pitt Med*. It is a first-class publication.

Donald Malkoff (MD '60)
Centreville, Va.

KEEPING UP WITH DR. HUMPHREY

I have read and reread better than half of the articles you have published in the magazine. Without hesitation, I can say it is one of the many magazines and journals that I look forward to receiving. I have shown certain articles to friends and colleagues who are truly impressed with the overall quality.

In regard to Dr. Tryphena Humphrey, the neuroanatomy teacher in the '50s and '60s: She was a small, white-haired, grandmotherly woman. To be sure I was not exaggerating or hallucinating, I checked with a couple of classmates, who confirmed these impressions: During class, she drew on the blackboard renderings of the brain and spinal cord, including the spinal tracts, ganglia, crossovers, etc. She ordinarily had approximately 10 colors of chalk with which she could write and draw (using both hands) while simultaneously lecturing. It was impossible for the 100 students to even hope to keep pace with her. All students came to class with a box of 10 to 12 colored pencils to duplicate her drawings, which were phenomenal. Heaven forbid that a lead in one of your pencils broke, as you were S.O.L.! There were no textbooks of neuroanatomy that contained diagrams as detailed as hers. She was in the Department of Anatomy with Dr. Davenport Hooker and Dr. Jacob Priman, who were also outstanding.

I believe all in the class (except perhaps those who failed) loved Dr. Humphrey. She would be deserving of recognition in one of your future issues.

Keep up the excellent work.

Lawrence Gilford (MD '59)
Brookville, Pa.

We gladly receive letters (which we may edit for length, style, and clarity).

Pitt Med
400 Craig Hall
University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
Phone: 412-624-4152
Fax: 412-624-1021
E-mail: medmag@pitt.edu
<http://pittmed.health.pitt.edu>

For address corrections:

Pitt Med Address Correction
M-200K Scaife Hall
University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, PA 15261
E-mail: medalum@medschool.pitt.edu

RECENT MAGAZINE HONORS

2011 IABC Golden Triangle
Award of Excellence, Feature Writing
(E. Vitone, "Mars and Venus Revisited")

2011 IABC Golden Triangle
Award of Honor, Magazines

2010 CASE Circle of Excellence
Gold, Periodical Staff Writing