CLASS NOTES

'50s  HENRY J. MANKIN, MD '53, professor of orthopedics at Harvard Medical School, was the speaker at the inaugural Marshal S. Levy, MD, Memorial Lecture given in Pittsburgh last fall. Mankin and Levy were classmates at the School of Medicine.

CYRIL H. WECHT, MD '56, has been honored by Duquesne University, which has established the Cyril H. Wecht Institute of Forensic Science and the Law. The institute is designed to inform health care professionals, among others, about the emerging role of forensic science both in related fields and in the judicial process.

'60s  FRED F. CIAROCHI, MD '69, is president of the Dallas County Medical Society. Last spring, he led the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School Class of 2000 in reciting the Hippocratic Oath.

'70s  HOWARD K. RABINOWITZ, MD '71, has been elected to the Institute of Medicine. Institute members engage in a broad range of studies on health policy issues. Rabinowitz is a professor of family medicine at Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He also directs the Physician Shortage Area Program, which works to increase the number of family doctors in rural and other underserved areas.

'80s  MICHAEL D. PATTERSON, MD '80, is chair of the Department of Medicine at Mercy Providence Hospital in Pittsburgh.

A. KIMBERLY (POPOVICH) IAFOLLA, MD '84, has been appointed medical director of the Adventist Center for Children at Shady Grove Adventist Hospital in Rockville, Maryland. She also chairs the institutional review board of that hospital. She can be contacted at kiafolla@aol.com.

'90s  STEPHEN GILMAN, MD '91, is an assistant professor of psychiatry at New York University School of Medicine. He also is a consultant to the Hazelden Foundation and in private practice in New York City, where he specializes in addiction psychiatry as well as corporate and workplace wellness. He can be reached at gilstep2@pol.net.

LARA J. KUNSCHNER, MD '94, a neuro-oncologist, has joined Allegheny General Hospital in Pittsburgh, where she will serve as medical director of that hospital's neuro-oncology program. She completed her neurology residency at the University of Michigan and a fellowship in neuro-oncology at the University of Texas.

CATHY NELSON-HORAN, MD '97, has graduated from the emergency medicine residency program at Grand Rapids, Michigan's Spectrum Health Downtown (formerly Butterworth Hospital) and is on the full-time EM faculty at Hershey Medical Center in Hershey, Pennsylvania. —RM

REUNIONS

Evidently few among the CLASS OF '75 have cholesterol concerns. At least not among those who attended their 25th reunion on November 4. At the dinner—held at the Top of the Triangle, which overlooks downtown Pittsburgh—doctors could choose either tenderloin or salmon for their entrée. Few chose salmon, according to class agent Barbara Zawadzki, MD '75, who organized the affair. Few chose salmon, according to class agent Barbara Zawadzki, MD '75, who organized the affair. One favorite topic of discussion was the free-spirited mode of transportation of Charles Kelley, MD '75. Kelley informed everyone he still rides his motorcycle regularly, and he had one other bit of information. He was retiring from his thriving pediatric practice.

As for the future, he and the rest of his classmates in attendance were already discussing their next reunion in 2005. —RM
WE WEEKEND EDITION

Extra! Extra! Pitt unveils a $500 million capital campaign; more than $350 million already raised! That was the BIG news on campus during the last weekend of October, dubbed Discovery Weekend. Among the flurry of activities, CATHERINE DEANGELIS, MD '69, editor of the Journal of the American Medical Association, and BERNARD FISHER, MD '43, returned to Scaife Hall as “Legacy Laureates.” Speaking at Grand Rounds, Fisher chronicled his groundbreaking breast cancer research. In his opening remarks he noted, “It’s important that a new generation of students and faculty of this institution realize that for 40 years there were a large number of people on the ninth floor of Scaife Hall who planned and conducted research that led to the radical and revolutionary changes that have taken place in both the understanding and treatment of breast cancer.”

At the conclusion of his remarks, Fisher received a standing ovation.

Doris Rodman and her daughter KAREN RODMAN, MD ’86, didn’t receive a standing ovation for their role in Discovery Weekend. That doesn’t mean they didn’t deserve one, too.

Karen Rodman’s journey to Pitt began when she was 8-years-old. She had lost her father three years earlier, when he died suddenly from a heart attack. Now her mother was being whisked away from their home in Virginia, to undergo major surgery in New York. The little girl worried she was about to lose her mother. Four weeks later, she came home from school, and there was her mom waiting at the door.

“She looked wonderful,” says Karen Rodman, who became enamored with medicine at that very moment and is now a neurologist in Indianapolis. The Pitt med grad and her mother fear the spiraling costs of medical education could dissuade others from pursuing similar dreams. For that reason, they announced during Discovery Weekend that they are establishing a scholarship for minority students at the school.

As the campaign continues, look for more big news from the medical school. —RM

IN MEMORIAM

KARL B. CHRISTIE (MD ’53)
OCTOBER 9, 2000
NANCY M. DICOLA (MD ’49)
OCTOBER 3, 2000
GERALD P. DURKAN (MD ’49)
AUGUST 19, 2000
IRVING F. ERLICHMAN (MD ’44)
JANUARY 9, 2000
DONALD G. FERGUSON (MD ’46)
AUGUST 28, 2000
ROBERT A. HEINLE (MD ’59)
AUGUST 1, 2000
RAYMOND E. MASTERS (MD ’35)
AUGUST 16, 2000
MARTHA SCHICK MEREDITH (MD ’47)
JULY 24, 2000
JOHN A. MURRAY (MD ’58)
OCTOBER 3, 2000
KURT J. NELLIS (MD ’83)
SEPTEMBER 29, 2000
ROBERT W. NICKESON (MD ’43)
OCTOBER 12, 2000
PHILIP B. O’NEILL (MD ’41)
SEPTEMBER 16, 2000
JAMES S. RANKIN (MD ’49)
AUGUST 27, 2000
JEROLD R. RUBEN (MD ’55)
AUGUST 9, 2000
MENDEL SILVERMAN (MD ’46)
SEPTEMBER 16, 2000
JOHN S. WITHERSPOON (MD ’35)
AUGUST 20, 2000
Dreams to become dean of a medical school aren’t popular among youngsters. Certainly, in the 1940s and ’50s, boys who grew up in Crafton, Pennsylvania, were more interested in one day playing baseball for the Pittsburgh Pirates.

“I was very definitely a Pirates fan,” says James Corrigan, MD ’61. But he was a fan of his dad, too. And when he realized he wouldn’t be the Pirates’ next second baseman, he thought he would become a dentist like his father (who graduated from Pitt’s dental school). So at Juniata College, in Pennsylvania, he undertook a pre-dental/pre-medical curriculum. By his junior year, he had decided to become a physician. “Dad was disappointed,” he says, “but very supportive at the same time.” It wasn’t as if he had dropped out of school.

During medical school at Pitt, Corrigan enjoyed working with children, especially at Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh—with one historic exception. It was in the pre-air-conditioning times of 1960, a warm and muggy autumn day. In an attempt to let in some air, most of the hospital windows were open. “I had a hard time concentrating,” he remembers. Not because of the heat, though. A few blocks away, the World Series was taking place at Forbes Field. It was game seven and, for Pittsburgh fans, thank goodness neither Corrigan nor anyone other than Bill Mazeroski was playing second base for the Pirates. While Corrigan was checking on a patient, he heard a tremendous roar that stopped everything. Mazeroski had clubbed a home run to beat the New York Yankees. The celebration was on. “After my shift, there was no way to get home. Huge crowds were mingling around on the streets. Traffic couldn’t move, and all the streetcars were stopped. It was complete chaos.”

Corrigan would go on to hit his own home run—in the field of medicine. He became a highly honored professor of pediatrics and internal medicine and, eventually, the dean of Tulane University’s School of Medicine. He is the recipient of many honors, including the Ross Award in Pediatric Research (1975) and Pitt’s Philip S. Hench Award (1997).

During Corrigan’s tenure as dean, he oversaw significant growth of the school and modernized the curriculum.

“When I arrived here [as vice dean] in 1990, there wasn’t one computer in the building for students.” He is proud of Tulane’s reputation and his legacy there. “The university is in the black, too, which is not always the case anymore, especially for private schools. One area that I do feel we need improvement in is research. We’re not anywhere near Pitt, for instance, in regard to research dollars.”

He stepped down from the deanship this July and will serve as vice president of Tulane’s medical center. He’s not looking back: “I was tired. I was well into my seventh year. Actually, I think unless you are a very unusual person, a dean ought to take on a job for five years. If you haven’t completed your goals by that time, you’re probably not going to do so.”

Corrigan, 65, who continues to make rounds and teach, says he won’t be retiring for some time. “When I make one more move—it’s not if, it’s when—it’s going to be back west.” Before his arrival at Tulane, he was at the University of Arizona for 20 years, where he served as chief of pediatric hematology/oncology and rheumatology and a professor. “We loved it out there,” he says.

There will be another pilgrimage—east, however. “My 40th reunion is coming up. I’ll be back.” Maybe then, he’ll glance at Forbes Field’s left-field wall, which still stands on Pitt’s campus, and think back to muggy autumn days at Children’s Hospital.