SECOND OPINION

A GOLDEN MOMENT

Here at Pitt Med we were pleased to learn that the magazine has won another Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) Gold Medal, this time for our district (which covers the Mid Atlantic, meaning most of the East Coast as well as Quebec and Ontario). Pitt Med took CASE’s top honor for general interest magazines against plenty of well-established and respected competition. We were pleasantly surprised.

RAIN DROPS ON ROSES AND Gastric ANALYSIS

Regarding your “Last Call” photograph in Pitt Med, October 2000 [above].

What a surprise to turn to your last page and see my med school classmates doing our own gastric analyses in organic chemistry. That would be the fall semester of 1952 (Class of 1956).

From left to right are Rudy Janosko, Joe Bayer, Fred Klein, and my roommate, Gerald Johnston. Back in those days, we all wore ties every day.

It spurred me to call my classmates and talk about the picture, reliving old, old times.

Thanks for the picture.

Joe Karcher, MD ’56
Hemet, California

The photo was taken (I think) in the fall of 1953—during physiology class and shows four of my classmates being intubated to recover gastric juices. Rudy Janosko is on the left and Gerry Johnston is on the right. I knew them well because, together with Joe Karcher, we shared a cadaver during our freshman year, 1952.

John L. (Jack) Humphreys, MD ’56
Atlanta, Georgia

We received many notes about the gastric analysis photo. There was some confusion about the year and whether that’s Fred Klein or Charles Pifer third from the left. Yet, it must have been a good class. Bernard Miklos, MD ’56, says that he remembers that day as though it were yesterday. And Mervin Stewart, MD ’53, recalls taking that photo and many others for the yearbook—including our back cover photo in this issue.

MEN TEN COMMANDED RESPECT

I enjoyed your article on Maud Leonora Menten [October 2000]. Those of us who sat under her teaching more than 50 years ago are not likely to forget her or the excellence of her work. You may be sure that we addressed her as Doctor Menten!

I was told at the time that Dr. Menten had a particular dislike for driving through tunnels. (I believe that is Dr. Lacey, who headed the microbiology department, in the 1950 photo of the gathering honoring Dr. Menten’s retirement from Pitt.)

Robert E. Kleinschmidt, MD ’45
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Your interesting piece on Maud Menten ends with the question “who?” There are some people who may know the answer. George Michalopoulos, MD, PhD, chair of pathology, for example, holds the Menten Chair in Experimental Pathology, and the Department of Pathology hosts an annual Menten Lecture in Experimental Pathology. Dr. Menten was a staff pathologist at Children’s Hospital, and since Dr. Menten’s induction into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame in 1998, the award is on display in the Menten Conference Room. Her presence is still felt.

Ron Jaffe, MD
Department of Pathology

The article on Maud L. Menten, MD, PhD, was a very good one and gave credit to an extraordinary person. I would like to amplify on the initiative by the Department of Pathology to honor her.

In 1988, the department raised funds to endow a chair in her honor: the Maud L. Menten Professor of Experimental Pathology. I was the first to hold this chair, and George Michalopoulos, MD, PhD, a distinguished experimental pathologist and the chair of the Department of Pathology, is the second. In addition, the department has endowed an annual lectureship in her honor. It also secured a full-length portrait of Dr. Menten, painted by one of her artist colleagues; the portrait now hangs in the school’s main auditorium.

These acts of recognition preserve the memory of a unique and versatile person—though belatedly. Such recognition of an outstanding member of the University community serves not only to honor the person involved but also to provide inspiration for the University’s future development.

Thomas J. Gill III, MD
Maud L. Menten Professor of Experimental Pathology Emeritus
Department of Pathology

SEND US LETTERS, MEMORIES, EVEN GREAT PHOTOS.
(WE MAY EDIT LETTERS FOR LENGTH AND CLARITY.)
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