

Mark Your Calendars!  
Reunion Weekend 2007  
SEPTEMBER 28 & 29

2007

Designates classes celebrating reunion in 2007: 1942, 1947, 1952, 1957, 1962, 1967, 1972, 1977, 1982, 1987, 1992, 1997

1942

2007

SEPTEMBER 28 & 29

**Frederick N. Roberts**, of Syracuse, NY, finally retired from pediatric practice and is volunteering at the Upstate Pediatric Clinic.

1947

2007

SEPTEMBER 28 & 29

**David L. Poushter** writes that last summer he and his wife, Phyllis, moved to Rochester, NY, to be near their daughter.

**Warren Winkelstein, Jr.**, of Port Richmond, CA, was elected to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies of Sciences (1989).

1949

**Bernard R. Lustick**, of Watertown, NY, and his wife, Renee, continue to watch the development of their 12 grandchildren with relish, one of whom is a third-year medical student at Upstate, **Rachel Garner '08**. Dr. Lustick writes, "It's great to share her enthusiasm for medical studies."

1951

**Martin M. Black**, of Fayetteville, NY, has had three sons graduate from Upstate Medical University.

1952

2007

SEPTEMBER 28 & 29

1954

**William H. Hampton, Jr.**, of Greenwich, CT, is still in full-time psychiatry practice that includes private practice and hospital clinic, which interferes horribly with his golf game. He has a new great grandchild, who is of great delight to him and his wife of 54 years. He writes, "Lets go SU football!"



**Robert V. Hutter**, of Livingston, NJ, was named the Beahrs Memorial Lifetime Achievement Award recipient of the National Cancer Fighter Awards Trust. Board chairman, Robert E.

**Liechti, MD**, said the honor was conferred on Dr. Hutter during the annual Commission on Cancer meeting of the American College of Surgeons convention in Chicago.

**Harold L. Kaplan** is enjoying the good life in Boynton Beach, FL, with his wife of 47 years, Ruth. Their oldest son, Edward, is a radiation oncologist in Boca Raton. Their daughter, Debbie, is in Redmond with her husband at Microsoft, and their younger son is in Stamford as a producer with A&E and the History Channels.

**Robert H. Zimmer**, of Sackets Harbor, NY, attended the wake of **Norman C. Elitharp** with classmate, **Arnold Moses '54**. Dr. Zimmer writes he enjoys teaching his granddaughter how to fish.

1957

2007

SEPTEMBER 28 & 29

1958



**Sidney S. Weinstein**, of Rochester, NY, has been volunteering overseas and has served in India, South Africa, Honduras and Uganda in the last five years.

1961

**Carlo R. DeRosa**, of Syracuse, NY, is hoping to sell his local residence and live year round at his home in Englewood, FL, just north of Sarasota.

**Norman L. Pollock** is enjoying retirement living in West Palm Beach, FL, and Gilmanton Iron Works, NH. He has four children and 11 grandchildren.

1962

2007

SEPTEMBER 28 & 29

**Edward G. Mehrhof**, of Cortland, NY, and his wife, Barbara, welcomed their fifth grandchild in April, a grandson, Cooper Seamus Faughnan. Dr. Mehrhof writes that work is busy and something he still enjoys. He is amazed by all the changes in psychiatry and his nose is always in a book, much to Barbara's chagrin. Mehrhof writes, "Our yard/garden continues to be a work in progress—just as I!"

1964

**Murray J. Miller** continues to practice endocrinology, his 33rd year in the Fort Lauderdale, FL, area. He is getting ready for another hurricane season and trying to keep up with all the new technology involved with controlling diabetes. He is also completing his second year of drum lessons. He has three children in Charlotte, NC: Dan is a CPA, Roslyn a psychologist, and Kristin in business and music.

**David W. Watson** has retired and continues to live in Charlotte, NC.

1965

**Richard N. Snyder**, of Los Angeles, CA, is still working per diem after retiring from his partnership. He is mostly "documenting patients' declines" at the microscopic pathology level. Dr. Snyder just visited Italy, the Grand Canyon, and amazing mainland China, including three hospitals, modern and traditional oriental medicine. He highly recommends China. "The tiger sleeps no more," he writes.

Sheldon O. Burman, MD '51

Pioneering New Procedures

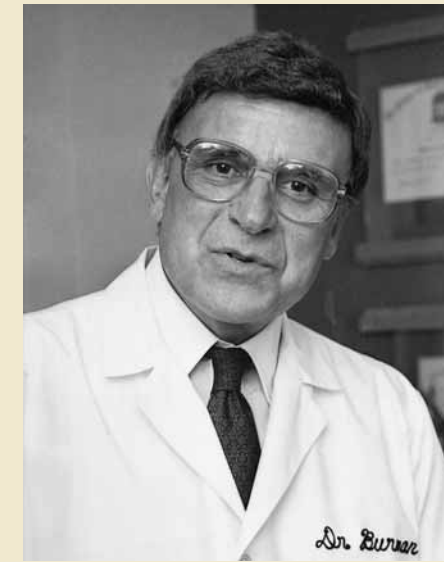
In July 1967, Sheldon O. Burman, MD '51, performed the first successful animal-to-human heart valve transplant, using the aortic valve of a calf. The following year, he and his colleagues published a series of papers documenting their work with aortic and mitral heterografts and homografts in calves and humans.

It was pioneering work on a procedure still being performed today, primarily in older adults, the primary benefit being no need to take anti-coagulants, as with artificial valves.

"Although we didn't know it then, we learned that these animal valves will deteriorate slowly over about 15 years," says Dr. Burman. "Particularly in older patients it's a viable option."

Until this time, diseased and damaged human heart valves were removed by open-heart surgery, and replaced with artificial heart valves made of cloth, metal, and plastic. From the stand-point of flow dynamics, these valves generally worked fairly well. But they had serious disadvantages, including mechanical malfunctions, where the new valves would become dislodged or their discs, balls or wafers froze in an open or closed position. The constant pounding of the mechanical device often damaged the formed elements of the patient's blood, causing bleeding and clotting problems. The constant clicking of the device was troubling to the patient when he or she heard it, and more troubling when he or she didn't hear it. Most importantly, patients with artificial heart valves had to take anti-coagulant drugs for the rest of their lives, which brought many associated problems.

Replacing a diseased valve with a donor human cadaver valve, like other tissue transplants such as kidneys or corneas, seemed



Sheldon O. Burman, MD '51

an attractive alternative. The scarcity of donor valves was the problem. In 1965, with a research grant from the National Institutes of Health, Burman began a three-year research project to see whether valves harvested from domestic animals might be a suitable substitute.

The surgery break-through made newspaper headlines around the world and Burman appeared on numerous radio and television talk shows. Then associate professor of surgery at New York Medical College, Burman was recruited to become chairman of the Department of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery at the University of Sherbrooke in Quebec, and later, chief of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery at the University of Illinois Veterans Administration Hospital and then at the University of Health Sciences the Chicago Medical School. He also served as vice chairman of the Department of Surgery at that school.

Then came the event that would send Burman's life in a new direction. In 1981, at age 55, Burman was hit by a car while crossing as a pedestrian in Highland Park. Burman was seriously injured, and after a year of rehabilitation felt he could no longer conduct ultra-sensitive cardiothoracic surgery.

Instead, he became a pioneer in an entirely differently area of medicine. After reading all the current literature, apprenticing himself to a friend who was the chairman of the Department of Urology, and visiting every U.S. medical facility doing work on male sexual dysfunction, Burman opened the Male Sexual Dysfunction Clinic in Chicago. The practice was the first of its kind dealing exclusively with problems of male sexuality, such as impotence, premature ejaculation, Peyronie's disease, and other forms of sexual dysfunctions.

"This was 15 years before Viagra," says Burman. "There wasn't a single place in the United States where a man with erectile dysfunction could go and be systematically diagnosed and treated with the then-known modalities."

He garnered media attention again when he was asked to appear on a new Chicago-based television talk show, *AM Chicago with Oprah Winfrey* (which would soon be renamed *Oprah*.) His invitation to speak for 12 minutes on male erectile dysfunction extended to the entire hour of the program, knocking off the other invited guests. The phones at Burman's clinic rang off the hook and Burman subsequently made more than 100 radio and television appearances to discuss his work.

"I realized there was an enormous need," says Burman, who retired in April 2005.

"I've had two careers, both of which brought me to the forefront of my fields and had a profound effect on people's lives," says Burman, a founding member of the American Academy of Phalloplasty Surgeons.

"To this day, when I speak about the animal-to-human valve procedure, someone in the back of the room will raise their hand and say, "my father had that operation." It saved people's lives and that makes me feel wonderful."

—Renée Gearhart Levy



Roger Breslow, MD '67, and John R. Moore, MD '67

### 1966

**Clark Gardner**, of Endicott, NY, writes that although he did not graduate with his class, he did eventually return to medicine, graduating from Ghent, Belgium. Dr. Gardner interned and did a psychiatry residency in the McGill program in Montreal and then returned to the Binghamton area where he did hospital-based psychiatry until 1980. From 1980 to 1991, Gardner practiced occupational medicine with IBM and then returned to psychiatry, working mainly in a county mental clinic. His wife, Priscilla, is a nurse from the Philippines. They have a daughter, Rebecca, who just finished law school in Honolulu and is now doing a clerkship in the circuit court there. Their son, Michael, is also in Hawaii working on a master's degree in Asian Studies. "Life has been good to us," he says.

**Austin M. Pattner**, of Englewood, NJ, writes that doctor Susan Clifford joined our nephrology/HTN practice. "Now we are six."

**John W. Petrozzi** has retired from his dermatology practice to enjoy winters at his home in Naples, FL, and summers at his beach house in Ocean City, NJ. Dr. Petrozzi says he looks forward to more time with his five grandsons and many hours of joy as well as frustration on the golf course at his home base in Haddonfield, NJ.

### 1967

**John R. Moore** and classmate, **Roger Breslow** are still working in Utica, NY. Dr. Breslow is the senior internist at the Slocum-Dixon Medical Group and Dr. Moore is medical director of surgical services at Faxton-St. Luke's Healthcare.

### 1970

**Walter F. Erston** is enjoying retirement with his wife, Suzanne, splitting their time between Charlotte, NC, and Charleston, SC.

### 1971

**Jay B. Brodsky**, of Palo Alto, CA, has been appointed medical director of operating room services at Stanford University Medical Center.

**Geoffrey M. Graeber** and **Janet E. Graeber '72**, of Morgantown, WV, write that their son, **Brendon**, received his medical degree from Yale University School of Medicine in June; he is an intern in pediatrics at Yale New Haven Medical Center. Their older daughter, **Carolyn**, is a third-year medical student at Yale Medical School. Their youngest daughter, **Kristen**, entered the freshman class of Yale as an undergraduate this September.

### 1972

**Harvey M. Cohen** is still practicing in Boca Raton, FL, and is now teaching at the University of Miami Medical School at Florida Atlantic University.

### 1973

**Steven Schenker** has been a primary care provider/internist at the VA Outpatient Clinic in Jacksonville, FL, since 2000, after practicing in Massachusetts for more than 20 years. Son, **Matthew Schenker, MD**, has finished his residency in radiology at the Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. He has become board certified in radiology after successfully completing his oral and written boards. He will continue there doing a fellowship in interventional radiology for the upcoming year.

### 1974

**Mary Virginia Smith Green**, of Baldwinsville, NY, hopes all her classmates are enjoying life. She and her husband, **Tim**, have four children, now adults: **Jennifer** and **Daniel** are teachers, **Julie** is a lawyer, and **David** is a financial broker. She writes, "Life is good."

### 1975

**Craig J. Byrum**, of Manlius, NY, was promoted to full professor of the department of pediatrics and medicine in the fall of 2005.

### 1976

**Lorinda J. Price** is still in Tampa, FL, as an independent contractor practicing general pediatrics both inpatient at Tampa Children's Hospital and outpatient in various offices. Her daughter, **Linnea**, 16, returned from a three-week trip backpacking in Iceland.

**Murray I. Wellner** and wife, **Susan**, are living in West Hartford, CT, where he still practices internal medicine.

### 1977

**Carolyn A. Smith** recently moved to Dallas, TX, and is clinical associate professor of medicine at the University Of Texas Southwestern Medical School. Dr. Smith is acting associate chief of staff for ambulatory care at the Dallas VA Medical Center. She is still practicing rheumatology.

**Gary J. Tyndall**, of Camillus, NY, was appointed National Program Director for Emergency Medicine in the VHA in August. He will continue to serve as chief of emergency services at the Syracuse VA Medical Center.

### 1979

**Wendy Balopole**, of Garden City, NY, had hoped to attend her 25th medical school reunion but was unable. She has been happily married for 20 years to **David Brillon, MD**, director of the diabetes unit at Weil Cornell New York Presbyterian Hospital and recent fellow of the ACP. Her daughter, **Rachel**, entered her senior year in high school and her son, **Jason**, started seventh grade. She writes, "they are wonderful children and we are truly blessed."

### 1981



**Ellen M. Kaczmarek** happily relocated to gorgeous Asheville, NC. Her daughter, **Claire**, is in seventh grade, and husband, **Gary**, is self-employed doing home redesign. Dr. Kaczmarek works half-time as a geriatrician in a retirement community. "Come and visit!" she writes.

**Martin C. Michaels**, of Dalton, GA, began a two-year term as president of the Georgia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics in July.

## All in the Family

When the extended Pietropaoli family of Rochester gets together for a family occasion, there's undoubtedly a lot of medical talk. You see, the family boasts five Dr. Pietropaolis.

There's also a lot of talk about Syracuse University football or basketball. That's because three Dr. Pietropaolis graduated from Upstate Medical University (and two of them from Syracuse University as well).

"I lived with my brother in Syracuse for seven years," says Rochester internist **Robert Pietropaoli, MD '94**. "First, when we were both undergraduates at SU, then I was at SU and he was in medical school at Upstate, then we were both medical students, and finally, I was in medical school and he was a resident in orthopedic surgery at Upstate."

Dr. Pietropaoli says the fact that his brother—**Marc Pietropaoli, MD '92**—attended Upstate Medical University had "everything" to do with his own decision to apply.

"We're very close. Because we lived together, I knew his medical school friends and knew they were all having a good experience," Robert says. "Plus, I liked living in Syracuse and enjoyed SU sports."

But it didn't begin there. Cousin **Anthony Pietropaoli, MD '90**, whose father, **John Pietropaoli, MD**, and brother, **John Pietropaoli, Jr., MD** are also physicians, was actually the first Pietropaoli to attend Upstate.

"I applied to all of the New York state medical schools, but Upstate was my first choice," Anthony says. "There was a collegiality among students and faculty that I didn't see at any of the other schools."



From left to right, Robert Pietropaoli, MD '94, Marc Pietropaoli, MD '92, John Pietropaoli, Sr., MD, Anthony Pietropaoli, MD '90, John Pietropaoli, Jr., MD

Dr. Marc Pietropaoli says it was Anthony who encouraged him to consider Upstate Medical University. "Originally, I was looking elsewhere mostly because I was ready for a change of scenery," says the Skaneateles orthopedic surgeon. "I'm not sure I would have stayed in Syracuse another four years, but I respected Anthony's opinion and figured if he liked it so much I ought to take a look."

"It wasn't a hard sell," says Anthony, now a Rochester pulmonologist and intensivist. After showing Marc around and introducing him to medical school friends, Marc ultimately applied to Upstate early decision, and then stayed on for his residency in orthopedics.

"The only downside was that Marc was a far better student than I was, so it didn't take long for him to eclipse me," Anthony jokes. (Marc was his class valedictorian.)

Today, both Robert and Anthony practice out of Rochester's Strong Memorial Hospital. Robert actually practiced with his Uncle John for three years in a group practice and regularly refers patients to his cousin for specialty consultation.

All three Upstate alumni say they liked having the family community as part of their medical school experience. At Marc's medical school graduation, he was hooded by Anthony and Anthony's father ("The original Dr. Pietropaoli," says Marc). And Marc carried on the tradition, hooding Robert at his College of Medicine graduation.

"The Upstate connection holds a special significance for us," he says. "We think it's special that there are five Dr. Pietropaolis. And even more so that three of us came out of Upstate."

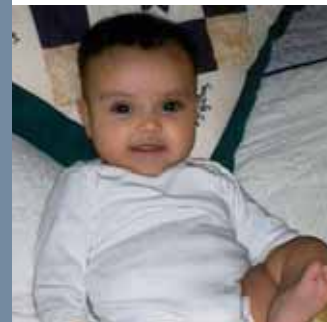
— *Renée Gearhart Levy*



Daniel Luthringer, MD '86, with daughters Meg and Julia



Max, Norma, and Alex, wife and sons of Mitchell Shek, MD '86



Quinn, daughter of Christopher C. Medina, MD '04



Seda, daughter of Serdar H. Ural, MD, HS '97

**Barbara E. Strassberg** writes that she was sorry she couldn't attend the reunion but it was "Parent's Day" at her son's school. Harry is a senior at Riverdale Country School and Louise, her daughter, is a junior at Barnard. Dr. Strassberg is still in private practice in Riverdale, NY.

**1982**

**R**  
2007

SEPTEMBER 28 & 29

**Joseph A. Smith**, of Hillsborough, NJ, writes that daughter, Becky, 23, just became a dancer for the New Jersey Nets in addition to her finance job. Dr. Smith's practice of 21 years in family medicine is doing well. His wife, Fern, heads his insurance and billing departments and their other kids, Jenny, 20, and Dan, 17, are good.

**1983**

**Robert C. Morgan**, of Oswego, NY, was the 2005 New York State Family Physician of the year.

**1986**

**Michael P. Cuda**, of New Hartford, NY, is a staff anesthesiologist at Faxton-St. Lukes Healthcare in Utica, NY. He is married with two girls ages 14 and 18.

**Daniel Luthringer**, of Manhattan Beach, CA, took a vacation to China with his daughters Julia, 15, and Meg, 11.

**Mitchell Shek** is practicing medical and cosmetic dermatology in Birmingham, MI. He and his family (wife, Norma, and sons, Alex and Max) went on safari to Botswana and visited Victoria Falls in Zambia this past April.

**1987**

**R**  
2007

SEPTEMBER 28 & 29

**Barbara L. Gannon**, of Blooming Grove, NY, is just breaking ground on a new medical office building. She writes, "Does the fun ever end?"

**1991**

**John** and **Christina LaBella**, of Wexford, PA, writes, "15 years go fast, our memories of Syracuse will last a lifetime; sorry we couldn't make the reunion."

**1992**

**R**  
2007

SEPTEMBER 28 & 29

**Gary Wilks**, of Bethesda, MD, was selected as the new medical director for Evercare Hospice and Palliative Care. He and his wife, Madeline, a family physician in D.C., have two beautiful children, Isaac and Ella.

**Dino Messina**, of Brewster, NY, became the associate program director for the internal medicine program at Danbury Hospital, an affiliate of Yale University.

**Eric Seybold**, of Johnson City, NY, recently developed a comprehensive spine center in Binghamton, NY, at Orthopedic Associates of 65 Pennsylvania Ave. Go to [www.bonecare.net](http://www.bonecare.net) for photos.

**1994**

**Michael S. Ramjattansingh**, of Lewes, DE, and his wife, Dorothy, welcomed the arrival of their first child, Rachel Emily, on June 23.

**1996**

**Luis J. Castro**, of Camillus, NY, was nominated one of the Top Doctors in CNY by *CNY Magazine* for 2006.

**Timothy J.D. Gregory**, of Harker Heights, TX, writes his wife, Karen and he were expecting their second daughter in November. He is finally out of the Army and enjoying civilian life.

**1997**

**R**  
2007

SEPTEMBER 28 & 29

**1999**

**John A. Ternay**, of Knoxville, TN, joined East Tennessee Heart Consultants.

**2000**

**Aimee Baron**, of Bronx, NY, writes that she and Jonathan are thrilled to announce the birth of their son, Doniel Aryeh, on March 22. He joins big sister, Leah, who is now three and loves doting on him. Dr. Baron is planning on going back to work, as a part-time pediatric hospitalist at Roosevelt Hospital in NYC.