

2007 Reunion

Classes ending in 2 and 7 heeded the call to campus with more than 300 alumni and friends returning to Upstate on September 28 and 29 for Reunion 2007.

Alumni were universally impressed with the physical changes at Upstate since their last campus visits—both the vertical expansion of University Hospital and the Setnor Academic Building are substantial and impressive upgrades to university facilities. Many took advantage of the Saturday morning tour of the Setnor Building, including the Clinical Skills Teaching Center and classrooms named for

prominent teachers, as well as the newly renovated Gross Anatomy Laboratory, now a state-of-the-art facility.

Others relished the opportunity to visit with cherished faculty members at the afternoon barbeque at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo, and with old friends at class dinners held at various locales around town.

It was also an occasion to give back. The Medical Alumni Association presented awards honoring two distinguished alumni and awarded scholarships made possible by the generosity of alumni and friends to 70 students with a total value of \$200,000.



Geno Andreatta and Mark Persky, MD '72



Misty Ondrusek '10 and Barry Berg, PhD, perform "Fortitude," by Kurt Vonnegut.



Buchholtz Scholarship recipient Matthew J. Daily '09 with his family



Simeone Scholarship recipient Aleksandra Policha '08 with Mrs. Henrietta Simeone



Weiskotten Lecture guest speaker Mel "Yogi" Bert, MD '67



Albert Del Negro, MD '37, and family celebrating his 70-year reunion.

2007 Reunion

A Special Visitor to the 50th Class Reunion

In addition to 20 members of the Class of 1957, the 50th reunion was highlighted by a visit from Davis G. Johnson, PhD, who served as dean of admissions and student affairs at the College of Medicine from 1952 to 1963.

During remarks made after the Class Dinner at the Century Club, Dr. Johnson shared "What a Green Dean Learned from the Class of 1957."

"I recalled specific examples about how I, as a 'green dean,' had learned very emphatically from them that most medical school applicants were unusually highly motivated and persistent and that most medical students were very smart, hardworking, cooperative, sociable, and compassionate (the latter quality experienced by me following major surgery in 1954)," says Johnson.

"I also noted that my work with them helped prepare me for a subsequent 20-year career as director of student studies and services at the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) and for almost 20 years as a full professor and part-time consultant to several deans of the Howard University College of Medicine."

Johnson thanked the Class of 1957 for indirectly encouraging him to write several books and more than 100 journal articles, most of them about medical students. His 1966 book *Doctor or Dropout? A National Study of Medical Student Attrition* is credited with helping cut the medical school dropout-rate in half.

Says Johnson, "The positive response to my remarks capped for me what was one of the most informative and rewarding reunions I have ever attended!"



The Class of 1957 at their 10-year-reunion.



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS

Jonas T. Johnson, MD '72



Jonas T. Johnson, MD '72, is chairman of the Department of Otolaryngology at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, where he is the Dr. Eugene N. Myers Chair in Otolaryngology. He is also professor of radiation oncology and holds an appointment as professor in oral maxillofacial surgery at the University of

Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine.

Dr. Johnson served in the U.S. Air Force as a member of the teaching staff at the Lackland USAF Medical Center in San Antonio, where he received a Letter of Commendation. A specialist in head and neck oncology, Johnson has published more than 350 manuscripts in peer-reviewed literature, co-edited 19 textbooks and is the author of more than 150 textbook chapters. He established the fellowship program in Advanced Oncologic Head and Neck Surgery at the University of Pittsburgh and serves as program director for residency training in otolaryngology.

Johnson has served as president of the American Academy of Otolaryngology, the America Head and Neck Society, and editor of the American Journal of Otolaryngology. He is currently editor of the Laryngoscope.

OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNA

Danielle A. Katz, MD '97



Danielle A. Katz, MD '97, is an assistant professor of orthopedic surgery at SUNY Upstate Medical University. After graduating from medical school, Katz remained at Upstate to complete a residency in orthopedic surgery in 2002. She completed fellowship training in pediatric orthopaedics at Children's Hospital in Boston in 2003, and returned to Upstate to join the Department of Orthopedic Surgery.

Dr. Katz's clinical practice includes almost all areas of pediatric orthopedics, with a particular interest in spine and hip deformity. She has authored several journal articles and book chapters, and has received two pilot grants for her research investigating possible treatments for osteopenia in children with cerebral palsy.

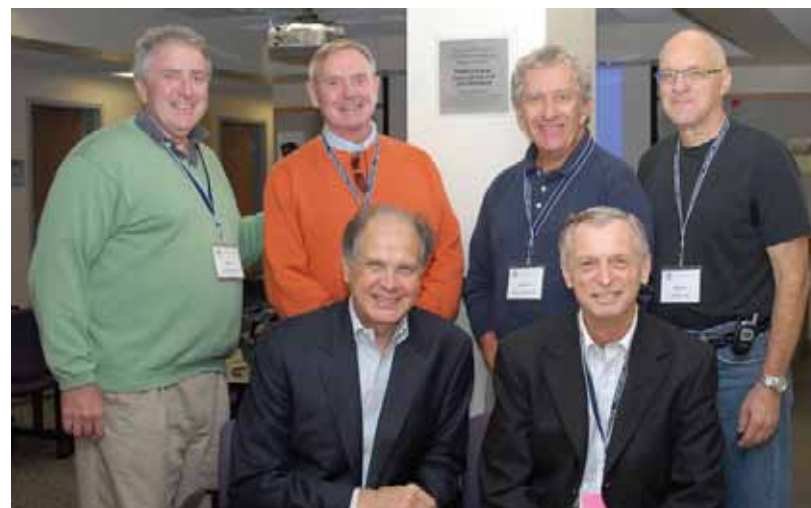
Within her department, Katz is a member of the Education Committee for the residency program and is the clerkship director for Orthopedic Surgery. On the national level, Katz is a Fellow and active member of the American College of Surgeons (ACS) and past-chair of the ACS Women in Surgery Committee. She is a member of the Committee on Young surgeons, The Fundamentals of Surgery Resident Curriculum Steering Committee, and the Public Profile and Communication Steering Committee.



Jean Bertram Burke Underhill Foundation member James Tucker, MD, and JBBU Scholarship recipients.



Milkey Merit Scholarship recipient Neha Das '10 with Milkey's daughter, Susan Cronin.



Scholarship recipient Jacqueline R. Busingye '08 and family.



Outstanding Young Alumna Danielle A. Katz, MD '97, HS '02, and family.