

2008 Reunion

Alumni from across the nation enjoyed a glorious fall weekend in Syracuse, September 19 and 20, Upstate Medical University's 133rd Reunion. Members of classes ending in 3 and 8 had the opportunity to catch up with each other and with faculty members during activities that included a Medical Alumni Writing Seminar, Dean's Lunch, tours and historical exhibits, class dinners, and family barbecue at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo.

The weekend also marked the annual presentation of scholarships presented by the Medical Alumni Association to outstanding current students, as well as recognition of outstanding alumni with the presentation of the Distinguished Alumnus Award to Welton M. Gersony, MD '58, and the Outstanding Young Alumnus Award to Anthony G. Visco, MD '93.



Class of 1958 members: Ella Burger Noble, MD '58, Linda and Sid Weinstein, MD '58, Howard Weinberger, MD '58, Virginia and Steve Elgin, MD '58



Above: Upstate President David R. Smith greets Miriam Swift, MD 3/43



Left: John Fischer '09, Vince Kuss, executive director of the Alumni Association, and Chris Jones '09



Onondaga County Medical Society Scholarship: David R. Smith, MD, Steven J. Scheinman, MD, Matthew Peckham '12, Past Medical Society President Thomas Bersani, MD '82, and Karen Heitzman, MD '83



Melissa Sciolino, MD '98, her husband, Mark Butler and their daughter, Victoria.



Carol Kavanagh and Class of 1973 Scholarship: Karen Heitzman, MD '83, Sandy Reyes, David R. Smith, MD, Judy Noel, Martha Kincaid, Anjuli Cherukuri '12, James Philip, Beverly Philip, Eve Scopelitis, Greg Threatte, Steven J. Scheinman, MD



Above: Kim Berger, Jeremy Berger '09, Erin Murphy '09, and Oliver Masaba '09

Below: Christie Nixon '12 and Keisha French '12

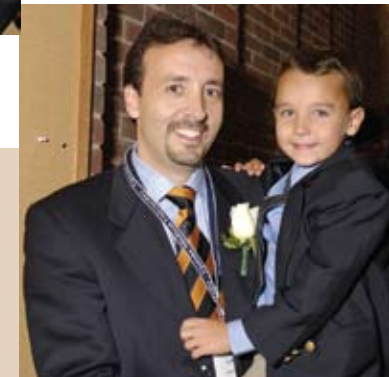


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Akwasi Boateng '10, Paul Berman, MD '63, and David Rosen, MD '63

Class of 1948 members Donald Schwing, Bill Phippen and Henry Romano



Outstanding Young Alumnus recipient Anthony Visco, MD '93, with his son, Nicholas, age 5



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS Welton M. Gersony, MD '58

Distinguished Alumnus recipient Welton Gersony, MD '58, with his wife, Susan



Welton M. Gersony, MD, is the Alexander Nadas professor of pediatrics at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University, and professor of pediatrics at Cornell Medical College, and has served as director of pediatric cardiology at Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital-New York-Presbyterian Medical Center. Over the past 35 years he has supervised the training of 110 fellows in pediatric cardiology.

Dr. Gersony is a past chairman of the American Heart Association's (AHA) Council on Cardiovascular Disease in the Young; the American Board of Pediatrics' Sub-board of Cardiology; and the Steering Committee of World Congress of Pediatric Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery. He serves on numerous editorial boards and has been a consulting editor for *Circulation*.

Gersony delivered the T. Duckett Jones Lecture at the 1999 annual meeting of the American Heart Association and received the AHA Distinguished Service Award in 2003. He received the Founders Award bestowed by the American Academy of Pediatrics in 2007. He was Principal Investigator for the first and second collaborative studies on the Natural History of Congenital Heart Defects; Principal Investigator and primary author of the report of the Effects of Idomethacin on Premature Infants with Patent Ductus Arteriosus for the National Collaborative Study; and a Principal Investigator of the Pediatric Heart Network of the NHLBI. He is the author of more than 300 published papers and chapters, and the textbook *Congenital Heart Disease in the Adult*. Gersony has been an invited visiting professor and lecturer at many medical centers throughout the world.

OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNUS Anthony G. Visco, MD '93

Anthony G. Visco, MD, is an associate professor and director of the Division of Urogynecology and Reconstructive Pelvic Surgery, director of gynecologic robotic surgery, and vice chair of gynecologic surgery for the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Duke University.

Dr. Visco is a nationally respected leader in urogynecology and has served as the Principal Investigator of a National Institutes of Health (NIH) RO1 grant evaluating the mechanism of pelvic organ prolapse and has served as the Principal Investigator of the NIH-funded Pelvic Floors Disorders Network for the last seven years. Visco completed an NIH-sponsored systematic evidence review on cesarean delivery on maternal request and presented the results at the NIH State-of-the-Science conference in 2006. He currently serves as a member of the board of directors and chair of the Research Committee for the American Urogynecologic Society.

Visco developed the technique for performing robotic sacrocolpopexy, a highly successful, minimally invasive treatment for advanced pelvic organ prolapse. He maintains an active clinical practice, performing robotic, vaginal and abdominal reconstructive surgeries, vesicovaginal and ureterovaginal fistula repairs. He is widely published and his personal research interests include evaluating outcomes of robotic surgery for the treatment of pelvic floor disorders, assessing the efficacy of intradetrusor botulinum toxin for the treatment of overactive bladder, evaluating the risks and benefits of cesarean delivery on maternal request, predictors of urodynamic stress incontinence and pelvic organ prolapse, and conducting non-surgical and surgical trials to determine the ideal management for women with pelvic floor disorders.



Betty Reiss, MD '68, and Jacob Reiss, MD '68, Family Scholarship: David R. Smith, MD, Steven J. Scheinman, MD, Jacob Reiss, Elizabeth Dawson '09, Betty Reiss and Karen Heitzman, MD '83



Barry Abrams, MD '78, with his two sons, Noah and Nathaniel, and classmate Dana Gage, MD '78