Celebrating 10 Years of Service

Hadassah–Stritch Exchange a First
Historic Campaign Aims for Excellence
A Legacy of Faith & Hope
A Tradition of Service & Loyalty
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Tribute Fund is a Family Affair

When family and friends think of Sophia Sukys Walsh, they often remember her love of dancing, especially Lithuanian folk dancing. “She never missed an opportunity to dance; she was so full of life,” recalled her daughter, Julie Walsh Wegner. Diagnosed with ovarian cancer in 2001, Ms. Walsh underwent treatment at Loyola University Health System (Loyola). “Physicians gave her only a 20 percent chance of living five years, but she survived five years, two months and three weeks,” said Mrs. Wegner. “She put a tremendous amount of faith in the Lord and her doctors, and she always remained hopeful and positive.”

In remembrance of Ms. Walsh’s zest for life, Mrs. Wegner and her husband, Ken, established the Sophia Sukys Walsh Endowment Fund, which has grown to more than $110,000 thanks to gifts from family and friends. Income from the endowment fund is used for research investigating the causes of ovarian cancer as well as new treatments.

The Wegners met with Ronald Potkul, MD, Professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Division of Gynecologic Oncology, Loyola, to learn about his research. “My mother had a special interest in Dr. Potkul’s research.” Mrs. Wegner responded well to chemotherapy, but one tough little cancer cell remained and began to grow,” she said. “We’re hoping that the endowment will enable women diagnosed with ovarian cancer to dance a little longer than my mom.”

Although the Wegners initially started the fund, other family members and friends have made contributions. Last Christmas, Chuck Walsh, Mrs. Wegner’s father, made a gift in his four grandchildren’s names. One of the grandchildren, Spencer Wegner, requested that guests to his 13th birthday party make donations to the fund instead of giving him presents. He raised $1,580 from his friends and classmates.

“When please make sure this money goes to cancer research in honor of my grandma, and think of my grandma today. She is a hero who never stopped fighting,” Spencer wrote in a letter that accompanied his donation. “I pray for you all every day to come closer to finding a cure for cancer.”

“It was a wonderful party; The kids had fun while learning a valuable lesson about giving,” Mrs. Wegner said. “Today, so many families have all the material goods they need. A gift to a fund honoring a loved one is one much more meaningful than another toy or game.”

The Wegners are pleased to receive donations to the fund for all gift-giving occasions, “It’s my new favorite gift; I can’t think of anything else I’d rather receive.” Mrs. Wegner said.

For more information on setting up a tribute fund to support oncology research or other causes at Loyola, contact Barbara Luce-Turner at bluce@lumc.edu or (708) 216-1051.

Dear Friends:

Welcome to our new Vision! As we at Loyola University Health System continue to strive for excellence in patient care, education and research, we want to update you about those efforts in a new and dynamic format. We have redesigned this publication and added features for you to get to know us and the work we do in a more personal and immediate way.

I am proud to be part of this institution, and delighted to be able to share news of it with you. Everyday we continue to build on our Catholic, Jesuit traditions of compassion, service and respect for life in order to realize our potential as an academic health system of world renown. The programs we support have the potential to transform the communities we serve, the patients we heal and the students we educate. These are stories worth telling.

We welcome your input about what you read here or what you would like to see featured in upcoming issues. I encourage you to contact the Office of Development to let us know what you think. Whatever your connection to Loyola — as a patient, friend, alum, parent of a student or benefactor — I know you will find a story that captures your interest, if not your heart.

Yours sincerely,

Paul K. Whelton, MB, MD, MSc
President and CEO
Loyola University Health System

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©2009 Loyola University Health System
The Van Kampens were reaching for a glimmer of hope when they came to Loyola University Health System (Loyola) in 1999 seeking treatment for family patriarch, the late Robert Van Kampen, founder of Van Kampen Investments.

Mr. Van Kampen was in dire need of a heart transplant. He had gone through unsuccessful experimental treatments at another medical center and had been sent home to die. "The family had been through a horrific 2 ½ years watching Bob go through treatments that were taxing on him," recalled Scott Pierre, Mr. Van Kampen's son-in-law. "We were at a dark point when Bob arrived at Loyola, but the doctors and other health specialists we met there ignited our hope for life."

Cardiovascular specialists evaluated Mr. Van Kampen and put him on the transplant list, but his condition quickly deteriorated. He underwent emergency surgery to implant an artificial heart. "The surgery went well, but my father-in-law contracted a blood disease a couple of weeks later and died," Mr. Pierre said.

Although the Van Kampen family’s experience with Loyola was limited to three weeks, in that short time the high caliber of compassionate care Loyola specialists give to their patients strongly impressed them. In appreciation of the care given to Mr. Van Kampen in his last weeks, his wife and the rest of the family — three daughters, three sons-in-law and 12 grandchildren — made a $2 million pledge to the Department of Thoracic & Cardiovascular Surgery at Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine (Stritch).

"My mother-in-law, Judith Van Kampen, really felt a sense of gratitude for the willingness of the entire Cardiology Department to take Bob in and give him hope," Mr. Pierre recalled. "We’ve always been a family of faith, a family with hope in life eternal. But even though we don’t fear death, we wanted to offer Bob the chance to live as long as the Lord allowed."

The family made their donation in several increments, with the most recent gift of $958,000 given to support cardiovascular research, including investigation by cardiothoracic surgeon Robert Love, MD, to reduce the rate of human heart and lung transplant rejection. In honor of the family’s overall philanthropic support, and specific research support, the laboratory where Dr. Love and his fellow investigators conduct their work will be named the Van Kampen Cardiothoracic Research Laboratory at Loyola University Health System.

"Mr. Van Kampen and his family went through a long ordeal with heart disease and came up against the limitations of our ability to overcome his highly sensitized immune response while he was awaiting transplantation," said Dr. Love. "As difficult as that has been for the Van Kampens to bear, the family’s generosity in supporting our research will allow us to develop more tools with which to treat future patients in similar difficult situations."

In addition, the gift will fund surgical tools and educational activities, specifically the establishment of a research forum in Loyola’s Van Kampen Cardiovascular Research Facility to promote ongoing research cooperation in investigating heart and lung failure.

The Van Kampen Conference Center in the Stritch Cardiovascular Institute was created in 2005 with an earlier installment from the family’s $2 million gift. The center offers a significantly improved meeting space, state-of-the-art audio-visual equipment, more work stations with computer connections to accommodate staff and fellows, and head-lamp cameras worn by surgeons that record surgeries. The cameras were an especially important addition, as they allowed cardiovascular surgery staff and fellows to view these complex procedures, enhancing both post-graduate education and surgical care.

Dr. Love is investigating methods to desensitize the immune response to Collagen V, which triggers an autoimmune response problematic for organ transplant patients. He explained that in both heart and lung disease, the injury process causes certain proteins involved in collagen structure, normally hidden inside the architecture of collagen fibers, to become exposed to the immune system. These proteins, or Type V Collagen fibers, cause the body to mount an immune response designed to eliminate foreign tissue. Chronic, ongoing tissue rejection is the chief obstacle to long-term survival for patients who have undergone heart and lung transplantation.

The Van Kampen’s latest gift will cover the cost of research equipment and tools, as well as support for existing faculty members and a new research technician. It also will finance ongoing research in cardiopulmonary failure.

The late Robert Van Kampen

Researchers conducting investigations in the cardiothoracic laboratory will benefit from a recent Van Kampen family donation.

Focus on Research

Double-duty Antibody May Prove Promising for Vitiligo, Melanoma

oyola University Health System (Loyola) researcher Caroline LePoole, PhD, Department of Pathology, has received a five-year $1.25 million federal grant to investigate a method to treat the skin disorder vitiligo. Approximately 2 million Americans, and between 0.5 – 1 percent of the world’s population, suffer from this disorder, which causes white patches on the face, hands and other parts of the body. It affects males and females and all races equally. There is no current treatment to prevent vitiligo from progressing.

Vitiligo appears to be an autoimmune disease, in which the immune system goes into overdrive and kills the pigment cells which give skin its color.

In people who are prone to vitiligo, a skin injury, such as sunburn, can trigger pigment cells to generate stress proteins. Immune cells absorb these proteins and signal killer T cells to trigger pigment cells to generate stress proteins. The immune system speeds up the immune system to attack the pigment cells.

According to the American Cancer Society, there will be more than 62,000 new melanoma cases diagnosed in the United States in 2008, and more than 8,000 deaths.

For more information about current research projects at Loyola, including those in need of funding, contact the Office of Development at development@lumc.edu or (708) 216-3203.

The Van Kampen family has a history of philanthropy and has given gifts to religious organizations spanning the globe. "We’ve given to ministries around the world, but this donation was a unique situation in that it hit closer to home," Mr. Pierre said.

Dr. Le Poole’s research is to adjust the immune system so that it stops attacking pigment cells.

In people who are prone to vitiligo, a skin injury, such as sunburn, can trigger pigment cells to generate stress proteins. Immune cells absorb these proteins and signal killer T cells to destroy the pigment cells. Dr. Le Poole is developing an antibody molecule that would block the immune cells from absorbing stress hormones and triggering the immune response.

Dr. Le Poole’s research also will be useful in finding new treatments for melanoma, the deadliest form of skin cancer. While the antibody she is developing to treat vitiligo would slow down the immune system, she also will investigate ways for the antibody to speed up the immune system to attack malignant pigment cells and kill the melanoma.

Although melanoma accounts for less than 5 percent of skin cancers, it is responsible for most skin cancer deaths. According to the American Cancer Society, there will be more than 62,000 new melanoma cases diagnosed in the United States in 2008, and more than 8,000 deaths.

For more information about current research projects at Loyola, including those in need of funding, contact the Office of Development at development@lumc.edu or (708) 216-3203.
Paul Whelton, MD, MB, MD, MSc, president and chief executive officer of the health system, said, “Its success will raise us from a nationally recognized center of clinical excellence to an academic health sciences center of world renown.”

Loyola University Health System, which includes Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine (Stritch) and Loyola University Chicago Marcella Niehoff School of Nursing (Niehoff), has defined a shared vision for the future that advances innovative health-care education, leading-edge medical research and the delivery of world-class patient care. The goal is to raise $250 million for the initiatives included within these three related care priorities.

Daniel J. Walsh, president, Board of Directors, Loyola University Health System; Patricia Walsh; Sheila Whelton; Paul K. Whelton, MB, MD, MSc, president and chief executive officer, Loyola University Health System

The medical and nursing schools provide unparalleled educations. As part of a larger Catholic, Jesuit health-care system, the only one in the country wholly-owned and operated by a Catholic university, students are uniquely prepared in the health system’s own hospital and outpatient center for careers in health care. “Partner: The Campaign for the Future of Loyola” provides an historic opportunity for alumni and friends to partner with Loyola University Health System in support of medical and nursing education of the highest caliber,” said Karen Alexander, vice president, Development.

“Opportunities also exist for philanthropy from individuals to be directed toward leading-edge research in areas such as heart and vascular disease, oncology, immunology, transplantation, pediatrics and much more.”

Providing Excellent Patient Care

The passion for excellence that is one of the guiding principles of our Catholic Jesuit mission infuses the campaign’s plans for new initiatives in patient-centered care. While maintaining areas of current clinical excellence vital to the community we serve — emergency and trauma care, obstetric services and burn care — the campaign aims to move the institution into a national leadership position in five key areas: cardiovascular, immunology, cancer, musculoskeletal, and neuroscience services.

Enhancing these programs means that the health system will be able to offer patients all the benefits of the latest in technology, equipment and facilities innovation that private support can provide.

Creating Discovery Space

The health system campus will have a significantly expanded physical profile at the conclusion of the campaign. Among the new structures will be a new nursing education building and a new building dedicated to research.

Locating the nursing building near the medical school, with shared learning resources, will allow future nurses and physicians to be trained to work together in an environment similar to what they will experience upon graduation. This project has attracted the support of The Arthur Foundation, which has made a $10 million gift to the new building.

A planned Clinical Simulation Center will provide the medical and nursing schools, as well as the hospital, with a new resource to maintain their excellence in clinical care. The facility will encourage small groups of learners to develop and enhance their clinical examination skills using high-tech patient simulator models that mimic the responses of human patients.

A new learning center — the Health Sciences Bridge — is also planned, located between the medical school’s John & Horna Cancer Center and the new school of nursing building. The center will make all materials available in digital format, accessible by computer, allowing students, teachers and researchers to interact.

To achieve the research goals that the medical school, nursing school and the health system share, plans call for a new research building. “A new research building is vital to the research goals established by our strategic plan,” said Richard Kennedy, PhD, vice president for health sciences research at the health system and Stritch’s senior associate dean, research. “Productive scientists occupy our available research space — and much of that is quite dated — leaving us little room to house the critical mass of investigators we need to pursue our targeted areas of research growth.”

Supporting Students and Faculty

Continuing to attract top-notch faculty and students is a key goal.

“Institutional commitment to sustainability of our educational and scientific enterprise demands that we acknowledge that our long-term viability and sustainability is inextricably tied to the students we recruit and graduate,” said Mary K. Walker, RN, PhD, dean, Niehoff. Creating endowed, four-year, and annual scholarships is a fundamental tool in this undertaking. The prospect of large debt burdens can dissuade students from pursuing a health-care career or force them to choose specialties that will ensure they can pay off their loans.

John Lee, MD, PhD, dean, Stritch, notes that “Right now, our average medical student debt upon graduation is $161,976, because we can only offer 22 percent of our students scholarships or grants, compared to the national average, where 43 percent of students receive support through grants and scholarships. To continue attracting the best students, it’s absolutely critical to improve our financial support.”

Maintaining the ability of Stritch and Niehoff to attract talented faculty also is a priority. Because the prestige of holding an endowed chair is a substantial recruitment tool, increasing the number of endowed professorships in research, medicine and nursing is critical.

Promoting Research

Laboratory research at all levels — basic, clinical and translational — in the vehicle for creating and implementing effective new treatments. The campaign aims to augment the research-focused faculty by increasing the number of endowed research professorships. Prestigious named professorships help recruit and retain exceptional faculty members by assuring them that their research can be supported. Creating endowed research funds also is a key focus for the campaign. Endowed research funds are dedicated funds that focus on a specific area of inquiry. They provide the institution with a reliable base from which to generate new treatments by funding clinicians, scientists or laboratory personnel.

In addition to augmenting faculty, a new research center will foster collaborative, interdisciplinary science across all of Loyola’s academic and clinical units. The new facility will house important institutes; provide essential areas for participant interviews, behavioral assessments, and intervention studies; and feature video conferencing capabilities to provide a vital link between Loyola and other academic medical centers.

An Inspiring Beginning

While the gala marked the kick-off to an historic event, it also was a gathering to celebrate the campaign’s success to date. During the “quiet phase” that preceded the official launch, generous supporters helped “Partner: The Campaign for the Future of Loyola” raise more than $270 million for the university and the health system.

Visit www.luc.edu/partner to learn more about “Partner: The Campaign for the Future of Loyola.”
Hadassah-Stritch Exchange a First

When he was offered the opportunity to spend part of his fourth year of medical school in Israel, Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine (Stritch) graduate Curtis Vandenberg, MD, couldn’t believe his good fortune.

“It was my first opportunity to travel abroad so it was a big deal for me,” Dr. Vandenberg said. “I was excited to be able to learn about both the medical care and the culture in Israel.”

Last spring, Dr. Vandenberg, who is now an orthopaedic surgery resident at St. Luke’s Roosevelt Hospital Center in New York City, and his friend and Stritch classmate, Joel Kileny, MD, spent two months doing their clinical electives at Hadassah Medical Center in Jerusalem, which includes a school of medicine affiliated with the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Dr. Vandenberg spent his weekdays working with a musculoskelet al radiologist and in the orthopaedic surgery clinic at Hadassah Medical Center. In the evenings and on the weekends, he and Dr. Kileny toured the country.

While Drs. Vandenberg and Kileny were in Israel, two medical students from Hebrew University of Jerusalem were at Stritch, experiencing life as American medical students.

The four students can thank the generosity of Hymen Milgrom, a Chicago business of Hymen Milgrom, a Chicago businessman, for their experience. Mr. Milgrom’s generous gift to Stritch funded the exchange program. The two Israeli students who participated in the exchange were his granddaughter, Yael Milgrom, and her classmate, Odeya Novogrocki.

“Both my granddaughter and the other young lady were very enthusiastic about the experience and benefited from the opportunity to learn how the American health system works,” said Mr. Milgrom.

“The Stritch students’ academic experiences were excellent,” said Myles N. Sheehan, SJ, MD, senior associate dean of the Stritch Education Program, adding that this was the first time Stritch students had gone to Israel for their medical training. “Mr. Milgrom’s gift gave our students a great opportunity to expand their horizons and observe how other health systems operate. We are looking into the possibility of continuing the experience in future years.”

Mr. Milgrom made the gift in hopes that an exchange between students at Stritch and Hadassah would eventually lead to an exchange between faculty and collaboration in research.

He also gave the gift in gratitude for Loyola University Chicago’s generosity to him during the Depression. He attended the university from 1933 to 1934. At that time he was working two jobs and supporting his family because his father was out of work. “I had no money for tuition, so I made arrangements to make installment payments. But when the first quarter was up, I still couldn’t make any payments,” Mr. Milgrom recalled. “When I informed the bursar of my predicament, he asked about my grades and I told him I had two As. He let me sign up for another quarter without paying anything. I eventually was able to make my payments but I never forgot Loyola University Chicago’s generosity.”

Mr. Milgrom attended Loyola for one year then transferred to another school. After graduating, he created a medical manufacturing firm that specialized in devices used by obstetricians and gynecologists, which he operated for more than 60 years.

“We are indebted to Mr. Milgrom for thinking innovatively and creatively about what makes a student’s experience at Stritch meaningful,” said Robert Barto, executive director of leadership and major gifts in the Office of Development.

Dr. Vandenberg said his experience helped him gain an appreciation for the struggles faced by people in Israel. He was impressed by the quality of care at Hadassah Medical Center. “Someday I would like to return, perhaps to collaborate in research or work in an underserved area,” he said. “It was a pleasure to do my clinical electives there.”

Couples Team Up to Support Stritch

Volunteerism, you might say, is at the heart of the Jesuit philosophy. After all, St. Ignatius first started the order 500 years ago with a company of just six volunteers. That band has grown through the centuries to become the largest Catholic religious order, serving in more than 112 nations and including more than 28 colleges and universities in this country alone. Today, at Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine (Stritch) that tradition has found expression in the newly formed Dean’s Council.

This group of 30 Stritch volunteers will function in an advisory capacity to the dean, so that together, they can promote the school’s mission to serve humanity through medical education and biomedical research. The council will provide advice, perspective and direction on critical issues, including fundraising, strategic initiatives, campaign planning and institutional visibility.

“The advocacy, outreach and philanthropic support provided by the Dean’s Council will be instrumental in achieving our vision for Stritch in the twenty-first century,” said John Lee, MD, PhD, dean. “We aim at nothing less than preeminence in both clinical training and biomedical research.”

Members of the Dean’s Council are drawn from the ranks of business, medical and community leaders. They include friends and alumni of the school. “The ability to draw on the professional expertise and wise counsel of this dedicated group of advisors is of enormous benefit to the school,” said Karen Alexander, vice president, Development.

Kathleen T. Schneiderman, MD (’78), and Gary Schneiderman, MD (’77), are among the current volunteers serving on the council. The Schneiders met while at Stritch, married and have raised three children while in practice in Sacramento, Calif. Volunteers Mark and Jeanne Reilly, both Boston College graduates, were born, raised and continue to live in LaGrange, Ill., where they raised their four children. Their home is only 20 minutes from the Stritch campus.

Together, the Schneidermans and the Reillys represent the diversity of expertise and perspective that makes the council such a valuable asset to the school. Dr. Kathleen Schneiderman is a pediatrician, while her husband is an orthopaedic spine surgeon. Mr. Reilly, who designs compensation plans for businesses, has a background in finance and economics and holds an MBA degree.

Mrs. Reilly, trained as an accountant, is a realtor and sits on several not-for-profit boards and does extensive community volunteer work.

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This is just the background four individuals bring to the table. As they consider decisions affecting the future of Stritch, the dean together with the chief executive officer and president of Loyola University Health System, the president of Loyola University Chicago, and the boards of both institutions can count on the advice and experience of all 30 council members.

Just as each volunteer contributes individual experiences and education to the council, each has a unique personal history of connection to Stritch. Dr. Gary Schneiderman found the people and welcoming environment he encountered during his interview “so totally different from the highly competitive atmosphere of my undergrad pre-med days at UCLA” (See Couples on page 11).
A Tradition of Service and Loyalty

From the variety of volunteer opportunities to the excitement of the annual gala dinner, a family’s participation in the Stritch Junior Service League (SJSL) is a memorable experience — whether it’s the family’s first teen participating, or fourth. Several families who attended the 2008 Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine (Stritch) Annual Dinner this November are veterans, having watched all of their children receive recognition for their participation in SJSL. Even when their last child has been honored, many families continue to attend the dinner and support Stritch in the name of loyalty and tradition.

For the McGrath/Smith and Kelly families, the connection to SJSL began about 40 years ago when Laura Kelly Smith’s and Patrick Kelly’s parents, Donald and Byrd Kelly, became active with fundraising for Loyola. “They became involved through their community and the corporate world,” Ms. Smith said. “They even chaired the Stritch Dinner one year — it had to be more than 30 years ago — before their grandchildren, future SJSL members, were even born.”

Matthew, a 2008 SJSL member, is the fourth of the McGrath siblings to participate, preceded by Colleen, Brian and Patrick. Matthew’s cousin, Kathleen Kelly (K.K.) also is the fourth of her siblings to participate, preceded by John, Caroline and Margaret. “I was looking forward to being in the Stritch Junior Service League because I had heard so many good things about it from my brother and sisters,” she said, during a break from sealing bags of donated cereal at the Chicago Food Depository, which provides food to pantries and other nonprofit organizations in Cook County. “I enjoyed all the activities because I felt they were a good way to serve the community hands-on.”

Ms. Smith believes the most valuable aspect of the program for her children was the realization that their participation counts. “The service work helped them realize one person can make a difference and that they play an important role in the mission of Stritch,” she said. Although she feels a bit nostalgic now that the 2008 Stritch Dinner is over, it will not be the last dinner she attends.

“We will still attend every year. I have a younger brother with two sons,” she said. “I hope my nephews will carry on the family tradition.”

Barbara Feldman said the SJSL experience inspired her children, William and Madeleine, in different ways. “Will did not realize he felt so strongly about social issues until he worked with various charitable agencies during his SJSL experience,” Mrs. Feldman said. “He has continued working with several of these agencies on his own.”

“Maddy has always been motivated to volunteer, so she slipped easily into the work,” Mrs. Feldman added. “However, she worked with agencies our family had no previous involvement with, so she took ownership of the efforts, making it more personal to her.”

On a hot July morning, 2008 SJSL member Mackenzie (Mac) Hendrickson shoveled toasted oats cereal from a huge box into bins where other volunteers could pack them into family-sized bags at the Chicago Food Depository. Joking that he probably wouldn’t be able to look another toasted oat for a while, he added that the volunteer work was a good way to keep busy in the summer while being of service to the community. “Both of my older brothers, John and Pat, were in the Stritch Junior Service League, so you can say I got pulled into this,” he said, without regret.

For the Weldon family, daughter Caelen’s participation in the SJSL was both a growth opportunity for her and an opportunity to honor her late mother. Bill Weldon explained that his wife, Madonna Weldon, was dedicated to service projects and was a mentor in the Big Shoulders Fund, that provides support to the Catholic schools in the neediest areas of inner-city Chicago. Mrs. Weldon worked to instill the same value in her children and encouraged her son, Connor, to join SJSL. “Connor had a good experience, as well as the whole family,” he said. “So when we discovered that Caelen could be involved as well, she thought it would be a great tribute to her mom, who passed away in January after a six-year battle with ovarian cancer.”

K.K. Kelly weighs packages of toasted oats that are to be distributed to food pantries throughout Cook County.

Matthew McGrath interacts with a resident of Misericordia during a softball game.

Mac Hendrickson shovels toasted oats into bins in preparation for packaging at the Chicago Food Depository.
Students, alumni, staff and friends interested in the history of the Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine (Stritch) will be able to go back in time 100 years when they stroll through the lower level of the school.

The Stritch History Wall will be erected in Stritch’s lower level and will include a timeline installation showcasing antique photos. The history wall is expected to be finished in the fall of 2009, just in time for the celebration honoring 100 years of medicine at Loyola University Health System (Loyola).

Gloria Leischner has spent the last eight years conducting the research for the wall in commemoration of her late husband, Ralph P. Leischner Jr, MD, former senior associate dean of Stritch, who had a keen interest in the history of Stritch. “I was very involved with Ralph’s work so I was pleased to join the Loyola community and help finish some of his projects,” she said.

Mrs. Leischner was delighted to learn that Todd Hewell III, MD, a 1978 graduate of Stritch and president of the Stritch Alumni Board, and his wife Margaret, recently gave $25,000 to fund the history wall. “Stritch certainly had an interesting and a tumultuous history,” remarked Dr. Hewell. “The History Wall will enhance what is already an extraordinary building and familiarize students and alumni with their roots.”

Mrs. Leischner said the most challenging aspect of the project has been getting an accurate accounting of the school’s history because good records were not readily available. “Usually expenses for keeping an archive are the last thing to be funded in a budget, so there was a lot of missing information and photos,” she explained. “It was crucial that I obtain accurate information, so I relied on key people to review my findings.”

“People who view the display will realize what a colorful history the school has and how it persevered despite almost closing a number of times back in the 1930s and 1940s,” she said. “It’s a story of determination and courage on the part of the Jesuits.”

Pride in Stritch and strong ties to Loyola University Chicago are a family tradition for Dr. Hewell, a plastic and reconstructive surgeon with a private practice in St. Charles, Ill. His daughter, Lauren, is a third-year student at Stritch; his brother, Charles Hewell, MD, is a 1984 alumnus. His wife, Margaret, worked in Loyola’s neonatal intensive care unit and at the cancer center; and his mother, Marcella, was a cardiac care nurse at Loyola.

Dr. Hewell looks forward to the 2009 reunion and the unveiling of the Stritch History Wall. “We have so much to be proud of in what we’ve achieved, and the History Wall will do a great job of showing our pride of the past 100 years and the years to come,” he said.

Please contact Gloria Leischner at gleisch@lumc.edu if you have artifacts such as historically significant medical equipment, books or documents from your days at Stritch that can help illuminate the school’s history.

The Stritch History Wall will focus on four eras:

- **The Early History: 1909 to 1916**
  In 1909, Loyola University Chicago created a medical department and began an affiliation with Illinois Medical College, which then merged with Bennett Medical College and became Bennett Medical College of Loyola University Chicago.

- **The Wolcott Street Era: 1917 to 1966**
  Loyola medical school was located at 706 Lincoln Street, later renamed Wolcott Street, across from Cook County Hospital.

- **The Early Maywood Era: 1967 to 1996**
  Stritch moved to the new campus in Maywood and was located on the north end of the hospital. The new facility accommodated 432 students, compared to 302 at the crowded, outdated facility on Wolcott Street.

- **The Later Maywood Era: 1997 to the Present**
  In 1997, Stritch became a leader in innovative medical education with the opening of the $43 million medical education building, the John & Herta Cuneo Center.

The pediatric mobile clinic of the Ronald McDonald® Children’s Hospital of Loyola University Medical Center is a 13-ton, 40-foot children’s clinic on wheels that has provided, at no cost, clinical care to uninsured, underinsured and at-risk children in the Chicago area since 1998. The first of its kind in the Midwest, the clinic offers children from infancy to age 21 a variety of services, including routine check-ups, immunizations, asthma care and general health education. According to Susan Finn, RN, MSN, director, staff see an average of 7,000 children per year — more than 83,000 since the program’s inception.
What A Difference a Gift Makes

A new era in the history of Loyola University Health System (Loyola) has opened with the launching of the largest campaign the university has ever undertaken. Despite the economic challenges facing our country, friends and alumni are stepping forward with generous gifts in support of our shared mission. When this issue went to print, “Partner: The Campaign for the Future of Loyola” had raised $283,184,499 toward the $500 million combined university and health system campaign goal.

Recent Gifts
We have received several transformational gifts in the past month. You can read more about these significant commitments toward the important work we do at Loyola in the next issue of Vision. I would also like to announce that we have received a $250,000 grant from the George M. Eisenberg Foundation for Charities to help fund a new clinical simulation center that will employ high-tech simulation mannequins and task training models designed to replicate a variety of patient conditions and situations — all to improve the educational experience of our medical and nursing students.

Notable Events
Recently, we dedicated some campus spaces that have been part of ongoing renovation efforts.

• The new Michael Carta and Louis Sciame Teen Lounge for pediatric patients was made possible by a $40,000 gift from Mary Lou Carta in honor of her late son, Michael and her late brother, Louis. Michael Carta was a cancer patient at Loyola in the late 1980s.
• The Sally and Jim Dowdle Electrophysiology Laboratories were relocated to the new Hospital Tower and are named for Loyola trustee Jim Dowdle and his wife, Sally. The Dowdles are longtime supporters of Loyola and Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine.
• Karen Alexander, senior vice president, development & external affairs

Current Gifts
$283,184,499

Pledged Goal
$500 million

News in Brief

New Infectious Disease & Immunology Institute
Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine (Stritch) has formed a new institute to find ways to diagnose, cure and prevent infectious diseases by studying how microbes and the human immune system interact. Researchers at the Infectious Disease & Immunology Institute focus on bacterial and viral diseases such as HIV, influenza and hepatitis C. They also will explore the link between cancer and viruses and bacteria, as well as the relationship between animal and human viruses.

Niehoff/VA Partners
The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has awarded a $3 million grant to the Loyola University Chicago Niehoff School of Nursing (Niehoff) as part of a five-year pilot program creating a VA Nursing Academy formed through partnerships with nursing schools. Niehoff, one of 10 accredited nursing schools nationwide selected from among 42 applicants to participate in the partnership with the VA, will use the funds to expand faculty and the student body to address the nursing shortage in the United States.

Nitrogen Zaps Pre-cancerous Cells
Loyola University Health System (Loyola) is one of a few health systems worldwide, and the first in the state, offering cryospray ablation, a minimally invasive procedure that uses cold liquid nitrogen to destroy pre-cancerous cells that may lead to esophageal cancer. It takes an average of two or three sessions for the treatment to remove all of the abnormal tissue. Patients receive outpatient treatments every six to eight weeks and are usually on their way home just an hour after entering the recovery room.

Prescription Robot Debuts at Loyola
At Loyola’s pharmacy, a robot recently began filling patient prescriptions. The two-armed “pill-picking” robot works around the clock, accurately filling up to 600 individual doses of medication each hour. Besides reducing the risk of patients receiving the wrong type or dose of medication, the robot frees up pharmacists so they can spend more time monitoring drug therapy and working with patients, nurses and physicians.

Blue Cross/Blue Shield Recognizes Cardinal Bernardin Cancer Center
As acknowledgment of its excellence in complex inpatient and surgical care, the Cardinal Bernardin Cancer Center has been named a Blue Distinction Center for Complex and Rare Cancers by Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Illinois. This designation is reserved for medical facilities that contract with local Blue Cross/Blue Shield plans. They must offer comprehensive inpatient cancer care programs for adults delivered by multidisciplinary teams with subspecialty training and distinguished clinical expertise in treating complex and rare subtypes of cancer.

Farmers Market Brings Healthful Choices to Maywood
Loyola is part of a team that helped organize a farmers market in Maywood in the summer and early fall to help compensate for the lack of a major grocery store in the village. The Maywood Multicultural Farmers Market was open for business the second and third Saturdays of the month from June through October at St. Eulalia Catholic Church. The market was the first of its kind in Maywood, an area that has high levels of chronic illnesses frequently linked to poor eating and exercise habits. It offered low-cost fruits and vegetables, herbs, arts and crafts, flowers and gourmet items produced by local Latino, Asian-American and African-American farmers and gardeners. The market is expected to return next summer.

Loyola Ranked Among Top 100 Hospitals for Cardiovascular Care
Loyola University Medical Center is the only Illinois hospital ranked among the nation’s top 30 teaching hospitals with cardiovascular residency programs. The medical center is among 100 Top Hospitals® Thomson Reuters named for cardiovascular care. The list includes three categories: teaching hospitals with cardiovascular residency programs, teaching hospitals without cardiovascular residencies and community hospitals. Compared with other hospitals, 100 Top Hospitals had higher survival rates for heart failure, angioplasty and heart bypass, and lower rates of surgical complications such as infections and bleeding. Thomson Reuters is a health care business that produces reports to help organizations manage costs and improve performance.
Save the Date
Join us for an informative evening with research scientists from Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine at

Investigation and Impact: Infectious Disease Research & “Superbugs”

Feb. 18, 2009
Cocktails 6 p.m.
Dinner and Program 6:30-8:30 p.m.
at The Chicago Club

Seating is limited. Please call Ericka Lynk at (708) 216-9634 to learn more about attending this event.