Family Honors Patriarch, Advances Emergency Care

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Family Honors Patriarch, Advances Emergency Care

Frightened after being in an automobile accident with her 3-year-old daughter, Betty Williams will never forget the personal attention she received from the late John Keeley, M.D., a surgeon in the Emergency Department at Loyola University Health System (Loyola).

“I was waiting to have glass removed from my forehead, worrying about my daughter, when Dr. Keeley walked into my room holding her. He said, ‘I just wanted to let you know your little girl was fine,’” she recalled. “Then he removed the glass from my forehead himself, instead of calling over a tech to do the job.”

This happened about 30 years ago, but it’s still a comforting thought to Ms. Williams, who has been a service coordinator in the Emergency Department for 31 years and worked under Dr. Keeley. She remembers Dr. Keeley as a very precise and kind man. “He loved the emergency room, he really did,” she said. “He was truly a teacher at heart, happy to explain medical terminology and all the procedures he performed to patients, their families and medical students.”

A recent $2 million gift from the Keeley family, in honor of their father and grandfather, will provide for renovations to the Emergency Department. The department will be renamed the “John L. Keeley, MD Emergency Department.”

“The gift really speaks to the work Dr. Keeley did in the Emergency Department and the impact he had on patient care and the education of students and residents,” said Kevin Keeley, one of Dr. Keeley’s grandsons. “Emergency rooms can be very scary places, but a modern and comfortable environment can help families through their difficult situation.”

“The Keeley family hopes our gift will help provide services to a greater number of people in the community. That would be the most fitting way to honor my grandfather’s lifetime of work and commitment to Loyola.”

For more information on gift giving, please contact the Office of Development & External Affairs at development@lumc.edu or (708) 216-3201.

The gift will also be used to improve the staff work areas by making them more ergonomically functional with new chairs and adjusted counter heights. The Emergency Department waiting room also will be overhauled and moved to a more private area.

Dr. Cichon said the gift is greatly appreciated because the Emergency Department hasn’t undergone a renovation since the late 1980s. “The gift will assist us in creating a new Emergency Department that provides the best experience we can offer to our patients at a time that they are undergoing incredible worry and stress,” he said.

Dr. Keeley, a heart specialist and surgeon who passed away in 1992, was the chair of the Department of Medicine at Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine from 1958 to 1969. He continued to attend weekly Department of Surgery conferences and worked as an Emergency Room physician until 1982, when he was 78 years old.

“Just about all of us grandchildren, at one time or another, spent time in Loyola’s Emergency Room to get stitches or have a broken bone mended,” said Kevin Keeley, one of Dr. Keeley’s grandsons. “Emergency rooms can be very scary places, but a modern and comfortable environment can help families through their difficult situation.”

Upgrading the Emergency Department will help improve the delivery of care and increase efficiency and workflow,” he added. “The Keeley family hopes our gift will help provide services to a greater number of people in the community. That would be the most fitting way to honor my grandfather’s lifetime of work and commitment to Loyola.”

For more information about supporting Emergency Services at Loyola University Health System, contact the Office of Development & External Affairs at development@lumc.edu or (708) 216-3201.
A person in cardiac arrest has the greatest chance of total recovery if he/she undergoes angioplasty within 90 minutes of arriving at the hospital, according to a task force of the American College of Cardiology and the American Heart Association.

Cardiac patients arriving at the Loyola University Medical Center (Loyola) Emergency Department will receive angioplasty well within the recommended 90 minute window thanks to a $500,000 gift from Jim and Sally Dowdle to help fund the Heart Attack Rapid Response Team (HARRT) Initiative. The HARRT Initiative staffs a team of cardiologists, nurses and technicians in the Emergency Department 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The department’s efforts to reduce the time patients wait before they receive treatment starts even before they arrive in the hospital. Emergency medical technicians and paramedics in ambulances with EKG machines will attach patients to the machines to get a head start on the diagnosis. “Since many of our patients arrive in ambulances after an average ride of six to seven minutes, we decided it would be most efficient to use that time for diagnostics,” said Mark Cichon, DO, director of Emergency Medical Services.

If an EKG performed in the ambulance or hospital confirms a heart attack, the patient will be wheeled immediately to the cardiac catheterization lab, where an interventional cardiologist will thread a catheter from an artery in the groin to the heart. The cardiologist then will inflate a balloon in the tip of the catheter to open the artery and, in many cases, places a stent to keep the artery open.

“Time is heart muscle,” said David Wilber, MD, director of the Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine Cardiovascular Institute, “The sooner we open up the artery, the better.”

Fortunately for 56-year-old Joyce Moss, of Berwyn, little time was lost when she arrived at Loyola last November in the midst of a heart attack. Ms. Moss was on her way to work as a school bus driver when she experienced a tightening in her chest, nausea, numbness in one arm and profuse sweating. Recognizing the signs of a heart attack, she took a detour from her job and headed to First Avenue. “I’m a longtime patient of Loyola and I knew if I could get there I’d be fine,” she said. She had gotten as far as 31st Street and First Avenue when she had to call 9-1-1.

She was transported to Loyola and underwent an angioplasty within 42 minutes. “The nurses and doctors were all waiting for me and everything happened expediently,” she recalled. “I’m undergoing therapy now. I feel great and am able to enjoy my six children and 11 grandchildren.”

Learn about opportunities to support cardiac care at Loyola University Health System by contacting the Office of Development & External Affairs at development@lumc.edu or (708) 216-3201.

In instituting the HARRT initiative, Loyola University Chicago Medical Center has become the first hospital in the western suburbs to take an aggressive pro-active position in advancing immediate care to patients in cardiac distress. Most hospitals do not have cardiac specialists on site during nights and weekends, meaning that precious time is lost when the team has to be called in from home.

Oroya University Chicago Marcella Niehoff School of Nursing (Niehoff) held the school’s first Alumni Awards Brunch February 7, at Klarchek Information Commons on the Lake Shore Campus. Mary Ann Noonan, BSN (’64) MSN (’79), FNP-BC received the Spirit of Ignatius Award and Mary Dowd Sheehan, BSN (’74), MSN (’92), MBA, received the Distinguished Alumni Award. Thomas Mackey, BSN (’74), PhD, FNP-BC, gave the keynote address to the 100+ alumni who gathered for the event.

Dr. Mackey realized he had a vocation in health care while taking some time off after his freshman year at St. Xavier College in Cincinnati to work with a mission priest in Republic of the Congo, following years of military devastation in that country. As the only person with access to medical supplies in a remote and impoverished era, he became the area’s de facto nurse practitioner. “I delivered my first baby using the mission’s first-aid manual: I cut the cord and everything,” he recalls. Such trials-by-fire made it more than clear that he needed training to pursue this vocation, so he returned to the United States, where he attended Marcella Niehoff School of Nursing. A certified family nurse practitioner with 30 years experience in rural and urban health care, he is currently Professor of Clinical Nursing Director of the Occupational Health for Nurses Program, and serves as Associate Dean for Practice at The University of Texas Health Science Center School of Nursing in Houston.

Mary Sheehan was drawn to Loyola University Chicago because of its strong reputation and Catholic ethos. She started her college career as a pre-med student. But a five-day hospital stay at the end of her freshman year helped her realize that she wanted to pursue a career in nursing. Her clinical nursing career began on the oncology unit at Loyola University Hospi-

tal, where she found immensely rewarding. The sudden death of a young father of two, however, helped clarify for her what she felt health care at that time needed: a standard of care which adequately managed terminal patients’ pain and an environment where patients, families and caregivers could all say goodbye.

Following earning her master’s degree, she worked in Chicago’s first hospital-based hospice care unit and then for a home-hospice organization. Now president and CEO of the not-for-profit Midwest Palliative & Hospice CareCenter in Glenview, Ms. Sheehan said “When I was a nurse, my caseload was 12 people — now it’s 1,200. It is a privilege to be a nurse and to lead an organization that provides the kind of care I believe in and expect for myself and for my family.”

Ms. Noonan always, she said, had a desire to aid those in need. Early on, she felt that nursing was the best way to do it. She had a great role model in her mother, who returned to nursing school at 52 years of age, after raising six children. Her career has been an exciting journey, taking on diverse new roles as professional and service opportunities arose. Starting as a staff nurse at Edward J. Hines Department of Veterans Affairs Hospital in 1964, she soon discovered she had a gift for teaching and became a nursing instructor first at a community hospital and then at Loyola, where she spent 21 years. She completed her master and Family Nurse Practitioner degrees along the way and kept her hand in practice through intermittent part-time positions and private duty nursing. While at Niehoff, Ms. Noonan started a program for Niehoff graduate nurse practitioner students to complete their final clinical course on the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation in South Dakota. Now technically retired — she is professor emeritus at Niehoff — Ms. Noonan works at Constance Morris House (a residential shelter for domestic violence victims) and is a volunteer nutrition and healthy living teacher at a Catholic grammar school. As for the future… “Who knows?” she says. While spending as much time with their grandchildren as they can, she and her husband, George, consider new adventures, “throwing around ideas like working in Guatemala or the Peace Corps.”
R
cently, at a talk sponsored by the Neiswanger Institute for Bioethics & Health Policy (Neiswanger) at Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine (Stritch), people on their lunch hour learned that the United States is a “net −importer” of health professionals. Neiswanger also recently hosted a forum where people from around the country gathered to discuss bioethical issues. At events like these, Neiswanger worked to make concrete the Catholic, Jesuit principle that knowledge learned must lead to committed action.

Take the case of “imported” health-care workers. In a Stritch Ethics and Justice. “His talk was one of 12 typically scheduled system administrators, medical students and others, Neiswanger would empower them to be agents of change.

The goal was to educate students and professionals in a way that the presentation did not propose definitive solutions. The health- and nursing staff.

hospitals and clinics in the Philippines close for lack of medical doctors. Emigrating makes them part of a community that, in a year.

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Patrick Kelly credits the “typical Irish family democracy” of his parents for the creation of the Donald F. & Byrd M. Kelly Family Foundation, which has recently made a $5 million gift to support oncology research and related programs at Loyola University Health System (Loyola). “In other words,” he said, “Mom and Dad told us it was going to happen.”

Mr. Kelly, vice chairman of the Loyola University Health System Board of Directors, together with his brother, Thomas, and sister, Laura Kelly Smith, are officers of the foundation, which was established in 1985. Their mother presides as president.

“Chicago born and bred, South side Irish on both sides,” as their son puts it, Mr. and Mrs. Kelly grew up in the hard-scrabble times of the Depression. Although her husband was a ‘public’, Mrs. Kelly said, she attended both Catholic grammar and high school. “We paid $1 per month tuition in grade school and $5 per month in high school,” she recalls, and “I cried all summer one year because my father wasn’t at work, he was reading. "And when he wasn’t at work, he was reading medical journals, listening to cassette tapes, or going to seminars and conferences to keep up on the latest developments in the field. "He loved being a radiologist," daughter-in-law Angela concurred, "and until the day he died he was up on current procedures and developments in the field."

According to his children, the late Vincent Galante, MD, (’43) son of an immigrant Italian newspaper vendor on Chicago’s North side, was talked into going to medical school by his elder brother Charles, who was already an established physician. Sixty-five years later, after a long and satisfying career and retirement, Dr. Vincent Galante bequeathed an estate gift of $7.7 million to his alma mater. Medicine turned out to be a good fit for the younger Dr. Galante (he practiced until he was 71), who had intended to specialize in obstetrics/gynecology but chose radiology instead so that he could go into practice with his brother. “Dad never talked much about his work, but he was there six days a week,” said his son William, adding “Radiology was his hobby.” And when he wasn’t at work, he was reading medical journals, listening to cassette tapes, or going to seminars and conferences to keep up on the latest developments in the field. "He loved being a radiologist," daughter-in-law Angela concurred, "and until the day he died he was up on current procedures and developments in the field."

Like many young men of the period, Dr. Galante joined the war effort. Enlisting in the Naval Reserves in 1944, he served as a medical officer and surgeon in Washington D.C., China, Cross hospitals in Chicago. Dr. Galante's tremendous generosity comes at an exciting time of growth and investment in the educational and research efforts for the medical school. Discussions are underway for how the gift can best benefit Stritch and the future of medicine at Loyola. --

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Grant Assists New Parents

Loyola patients who were born prematurely and at-risk of developmental delays are eligible for participation in the program, along with low-income families and those headed by teenage parents. The Chicago Community Trust has been in operation for 93 years, connecting the generosity of donors with the needs of the community by making grants to organizations working to improve life in metropolitan Chicago.

“The support of Healthy Steps was an excellent opportunity for the Trust to continue to reap investment from our ongoing strategic support for changing pediatric primary care practice to better meet the needs of parents and children,” said Diana N. Derige, program officer, the Chicago Community Trust.

If you would like to support pediatric programs at Loyola University Health System, contact the Office of Development & External Affairs at development@lumc.edu or (708) 216-3201.

Grant Brings Students’ Perspective to the Community

Junior high students are the recipients of a second grant from the Chicago Community Trust allowing them to share their views of their community’s public health needs through photographs.

The $10,000 grant has provided digital cameras and project support to students at the Proviso Area Exceptional Child Center in Maywood, Ill., for the Maywood Past, Present and Future: Photo Voice Project. The goal of the project is to have students take photos capturing both the community’s public health needs and assets, according to the project’s principal investigator, Lena Hatchett, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Preventive Medicine & Epidemiology, Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine (Stritch).

“I believe adults have a lot of misconceptions about what kids think about their community,” Dr. Hatchett said. “This project will be instrumental in getting adults and community leaders to listen to children, while giving youth a voice in the community. I’m ecstatic that the Chicago Community Trust took a chance in funding this innovative new project building youth leadership and public health advocacy skills.”

“The Trust looks to support new and collaborative best practices that engage the community in improving health,” said Diana N. Derige, program officer, the Chicago Community Trust.

“The Photo Voice strategy is a novel way to capture the youth perspective on health using their cultural viewpoints, unique skills and strengths to capture need and assets in the community,” Dr. Hatchett said. “Through this process young people can plan, think, create and present their ideas and perceptions as equal partners in community health.”

The program ran through the school year. Student response has been positive. “The beauty of the project is that it’s designed by the children, who work in a team with peer leaders,” Dr. Hatchett said. “They take complete ownership of the project, deciding which photos to take and how to categorize them.”

From left, Monique Carpenter and Marissa Kessel, Proviso Area Exceptional Child Center students, look over photographs they’ve taken for the Photo Voice Project.

Students already have taken a variety of photos depicting the Maywood community’s public health strengths and weaknesses. For instance, several photos capture abandoned homes, stores where people who shot during robberies and graffiti scrawled on buildings. On the positive side, the students also took photos of youth volunteers picking up trash and the places where they feel safe, including schools, churches, parks and community centers.

The students will arrange the photos for formal exhibition in locations around the community where local leaders, police officers and the public can view them. In addition, Stritch student Bhrandon Harris is assisting the young photographers in setting up a web site to display their photos online. “This is an exciting opportunity for kids who don’t have regular access to a computer,” Dr. Hatchett said.

Dr. Hatchett is optimistic the project will extend beyond the current school year and has been preparing teachers at the Proviso Area Exceptional Child Center to add it to the school’s regular curriculum. “The teachers are enthusiastic about the project and report positive behavior changes in students who participated,” she said.

Stritch faculty and students who have been involved in the project also are excited about the opportunity it has provided to work with the community. “It’s been mutually beneficial for the junior high kids and the medical students to meet,” Dr. Hatchett said. “It’s a small project but it helps our students at Stritch learn more about the community they’re serving.”
Loyola University Health System (Loyola) began 2009 with the announcement of four transformational gifts which will have a profound impact on the delivery of patient care and further the educational and research missions of the system. All four gifts are featured in this issue of Vision.

Karen Alexander, senior vice president, Development & External Affairs
Barbara, made an outright gift of $2 million for the redesign of Loyola’s emergency department.

Loyola University Health System board member James Dowdle and his wife, Sally, have pledged $500,000 towards the cost of establishing the Heart Attack Rapid Response Team (HARRT) program, making Loyola the first hospital in Illinois to offer this service 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The Dowdles have supported other cardiac program initiatives at Loyola, with gifts totaling more than $2 million. An extraordinary $7.7 million gift from the estate of Vincent Galante, MD, a 1943 graduate of the Stritch School of Medicine, will be used to advance educational and research activities at the medical school.

A $5 million gift from long-time Loyola University Health System supporter The Donald P. & Byrd M. Kelly Family Foundation will be used for oncology research and related programs.

Recent Events
An investiture ceremony was held for Charles S. Hemenway, MD, PhD, the Ronald McDonald House Charities® Endowed Professor in Pediatric Hematology and Oncology. Dr. Hemenway’s research focuses on understanding mechanisms and developing treatment approaches for a common infant leukemia, Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. A professorial chair is the most prestigious honor that can be conferred upon a faculty member. We were proud to have representatives from the Ronald McDonald House Charities® attend this celebration and to be able to thank them for their generosity in supporting pediatric care at Loyola.

We held the last two installments of our Investigation and Impact research series in February and April. The Infectious Diseases and “Superbugs” event featured groundbreaking research being conducted on the genetic makeup of bacteria and methods to cease or control the spread of infectious diseases. Attendees at How to Mend a Broken Heart learned about advances Loyola has achieved in cardiac care and cardiovascular research. I would like to thank Patty and Dan Walsh and Marge and Bolf Gunnar, MD, for hosting these two events. We will resume this series in the fall.

Campaign Progress
I am pleased to report that we finished our 2009 fiscal year (July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009) well ahead of our fundraising goal. In this economy, it is a testament to the exceptional generosity of Loyola’s friends and alumni who believe in the outstanding work that transpires on this campus. The charts below show progress toward our campaign goals. I hope this progress is as inspiring to you as it is to me. Thank you for your continued support.

At top Alain Heroux, MD; bottom from left, Francis Banich, MD, PhD, Heidi and Peter Huizenga, all at Investigation & Impact: How to Mend a Broken Heart.

To learn about supporting research at Loyola, contact Shawn Vogen, PhD, assistant dean of development, at svogen@lumc.edu or (708) 216-5642.
After more than 40 years of assisting married couples resolve intimacy problems, Domena Renshaw, MD, a professor in the Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Neurosciences, Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine (Stritch), retired at the end of June. Dr. Renshaw, the director of the Loyola University Health System (Loyola) Sex Clinic, isn’t planning to retire without leaving a bit of herself behind. She has pledged approximately $50,000 to the Department of Psychiatry that she would like used toward the treatment of patients. “This is money I’ve received from supporters over the years and I can’t think of a more enjoyable way to spend it,” she said.

“I’ve always been dedicated to my patients and to the education of medical students learning to treat patients; I hope my gift will contribute to my legacy after I’ve retired.”

Dr. Renshaw joined Loyola as a resident in the Department of Psychiatry in 1965. “I was the first and only resident in the department,” she recalled.

After completing her three-year residency, she joined the department staff. “I became a full-time faculty member the day after my residency ended,” she said.

A native of South Africa, Dr. Renshaw earned her medical degree in gynecology, urology, family medicine, nursing and social work.

Dr. Renshaw said she has enjoyed her more than 40 years at Loyola University Health System and would not change anything about her experience. “The people I’ve worked with have been like family to me, and I’ve enjoyed helping my patients live more fulfilling lives,” she said.

After a well-deserved vacation to the Grand Canyon and some rest and relaxation, Dr. Renshaw warns Department of Psychiatry staff and medical students not to be surprised to see her back on the job. “I’ll probably miss my job so much I’ll return,” she predicted.

For more information about giving a gift to the Department of Psychiatry, contact the Office of Development & External Affairs at development@lumc.edu or (708) 216-3201.

Nursing has been a wonderful career choice for me, enriching my life both personally and professionally,” said Dr. Blouin. “It has given me the opportunity to teach, to take care of patients, to act as a consultant and to practice in a wide variety of environments.”

Eager to share the benefits of her career with those at the beginning of their nursing journey; Dr. Blouin and her husband, Robert Blouin, have pledged a gift of $50,000 to the Loyola University Chicago Marcella Niehoff School of Nursing (Niehoff) to create an endowed scholarship. Dr. Blouin decided the scholarship will go to junior and senior undergraduates, because after two to three years of school they are committed to nursing and often have the greatest financial need. “Once students graduate, they can work part-time while they work toward their master’s degree,” she said. “It’s more difficult for undergraduates to work enough to help pay their tuition.”

Dr. Blouin was working full time as a clinical nurse manager at Northwest Memorial Hospital when she earned her master’s degree in maternal/child nursing at Niehoff. “My teachers at Niehoff were very understanding, accommodating and flexible with my schedule,” she recalled. “I felt I had a lot of support in my dual pursuits of work and education.”

Dr. Blouin earned a master’s degree in business administration and a doctorate in nursing science. She has more than 30 years of health-care administration, consulting and clinical nursing experience and currently is the executive vice president of accreditation and certification operations for The Joint Commission.

In this role, Dr. Blouin is responsible for oversight of the accreditation and certification programs for more than 15,000 health-care organizations. She credits the education she received at Niehoff with helping her advance professionally. “Everyday in school I saw the Jesuit values of compassion and intellectual curiosity applied to nursing, along with the benefits of hard work and initiative,” she recalled.

Although it’s been almost 30 years since Dr. Blouin’s graduation from Niehoff, she is still active in the school. She was a member of the Alumni Council and is currently on the school’s newly established Dean’s Council. She enjoys being involved in the lives of future nurses and is proud to be able to offer her support.

“I am very fortunate that I was able to support my two children through their college education,” she said, adding that her daughter, Laura, is now training to be a chef and her son, Alexander, plans to pursue a career in public policy and law. “Even though my own children chose not to enter the health-care field, I am happy that I am now financially able to assist other young people in their career paths as nurses.”

To learn more about opportunities to support the Loyola University Chicago Marcella Niehoff School of Nursing, contact Shawn Vogen, PhD, assistant dean of development, at vogen@lumc.edu or (708) 216-5642.
Twins Mean Life with Gusto

C arol Wolniakowski recalls undergoing an ultrasound in 2004 to view the twin boys she was carrying. “The ultrasound technicians told me, ‘We’ve never seen babies this active in our lives: good luck lady!’ she recalled with a laugh.

True to the ultrasound technicians’ predictions, today Matthew and Jeffrey Birnbaum are lively, fun-loving 4-year-olds. “They are normal, extremely active boys driving me nuts,” their mother said, with affection.

“They love Thomas the Tank Engine, building things and playing with their tools.”

Ms. Wolniakowski is grateful for a life that is sometimes chaotic, considering the boys were born at only 28 weeks of gestation on Valentine’s Day 2005. Jeffrey weighed 2 pounds 7 ounces and Matthew weighed 1 pound 5 ounces. They were hospitalized in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) at Loyola University Medical Center until they were 3 months old.

“Both of the boys had brain hemorrhages and infections, but as time went by they steadily improved,” Ms. Wolniakowski said. “Once they learned how to suck from a bottle and coordinate their breathing and swallowing they were released.”

Despite the demands of setting up a home with her new family, Ms. Wolniakowski never forgot her sons’ first “home.” Every December for the past four years, she and her husband, Brian Birnbaum, have given $5,000 to Loyola’s NICU. The couple joins numerous other families who have given gifts to support the care of premature and sick infants.

The Birnbaum twins’ early birth was not a surprise. Loyola University Health System (Loyola) physicians closely monitored Ms. Wolniakowski throughout her pregnancy because she has a misshapen uterus which makes it difficult to carry one baby to term, let alone two. “We knew that Matthew was not growing as well as Jeffrey. At one point I was told to be prepared to lose him and that we would be lucky to have one baby survive,” she recalled.

When she went into premature labor at 27 weeks, physicians were able to hold off the delivery for another week and administer steroids to help the babies’ lungs develop. “During that week, I’m so grateful that one of my physicians, Jonathan Muraskas, MD, visited me in the intensive care unit and gave me a pep talk that it would be O.K. if our babies were born early,” Ms. Wolniakowski said. “I always felt confident in the care our babies received in the NICU and knew they were in the best place they could be. That’s why I’m so happy to contribute to the NICU and help other families whose babies are born too soon.”

Charity Begins at Home

H earthfelt letters pour into the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) at Loyola University Medical Center. Accompanied by photos of cherished children, the letters relate the challenges overcome by premature and sick infants who spent the first days, weeks or months of their lives in the NICU. Many letter writers include gifts to help support the work in NICU, their children’s first home.

One proud family, who has since moved to Florida, relates the career plans of twin brothers who graduated from high school last spring: one wants to work with computers and the other wants to be a chef. “When they were laying in the NICU, I never dreamed or thought I would see them out,” said the family.

The Schuster family of Western Springs sent a newspaper clipping detailing 15-year-old Danny’s success in a state high school tennis tournament and the Harrison family of Lake in the Hills sent a photo of 10-year-old Sara competing in her first horseback riding competition.

The letters and gifts are a part of the perks that make working in the NICU with the smallest and sickest infants so rewarding, according to Jonathan Muraskas, MD, professor of neonatal-perinatal medicine/obstetrics & gynecology at Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine.

“We’re so grateful for the generosity of our NICU families. Their support has helped us maintain the excellence we have enjoyed ever since we started this program 30 years ago,” he said. “But the best gift is the knowledge that so many of our NICU graduates are thriving.”

Dr. Muraskas said most of the gifts NICU receives go toward research, such as current investigations to identify biological markers in premature infants with necrotizing enterocolitis, a potentially lethal infection that affects the bowels. “If we can identify tests allowing us to predict this infection in the early stages, we would be able to treat infants earlier and prevent deaths,” Dr. Muraskas explained.

Researchers also are looking into long-term follow-up studies of newborns treated for necrotizing enterocolitis, to determine how they have fared up to 20 years after their discharge.

Matt Hoffman, 21, spent time in the NICU in 1987. Born 16 weeks early, he contracted necrotizing enterocolitis three times, as well as suffering a brain hemorrhage and rickets.

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It’s All in the Family

It’s All in the Family

YEARS OF MEDICINE AT LOYOLA

Medicine is a Lee family tradition, and they intend to keep passing it along. Family members have recently established the Lee, Miller and Weedon Family Medical Student Endowed Scholarship Fund at Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine (Stritch) to help alleviate the financial burdens facing many medical students today.

According to Edward Lee, who graduated from Stritch in 1948, his family’s connection to medicine goes back at least as far as his maternal grandfather, who practiced Chinese medicine in Guang Dong (Canton) Province, China in the late 19th and early 20th century. Edward and David’s father, who emigrated to the United States at 19 years of age, made his living as a merchant, but Edward and his brother, David (Stritch ’57), both became physicians and two of their sisters married physicians. They are just the beginning of his living as a merchant, but Edward and his brother, David (Stritch ’57), both became physicians and two of their sisters married physicians. They are just the beginning of his family tree below.

When Edward suggested the family pool their resources and create a scholarship for medical students at Stritch, family members were enthusiastic about the idea. “We were all making annual gifts anyway,” he said. “Why not get together and do something bigger?” Karen Lee Miller credited her making annual gifts anyway, “he said. “Why not get together and create a scholarship for medical students at Stritch, family tree below.

The Lee, Miller and Weedon Family Medical Student Endowed Scholarship Fund will be used to provide full or partial scholarship assistance to full-time medical students with preference given to second-year students with financial need and will be renewable provided the student remains in good academic standing.

Said Edward of his family’s commitment to Stritch: “It is a Jesuit institution that taught us to be ethical, transparent and honest in all our dealing with patients. That has been invaluable.” For more information about 100 years of patient care and quality improvement, visit www.stritch.luc.edu/alumni.com.

Vision

From left, Edward and David Lee, 1945

appreciates the education Stritch provides. We support its nurturing atmosphere and its ability to train well-rounded physicians who work well as a part of a team and can communicate well with their patients.” After their daughter, Kathryn, graduated from Stritch in ’05, Mrs. Miller and her husband, Robert (Stritch ’74), are now encouraging their son to consider the school.

The Lee, Miller and Weedon Family Medical Student Endowed Scholarship Fund will be used to provide full or partial scholarship assistance to full-time medical students with preference given to second-year students with financial need and will be renewable provided the student remains in good academic standing.

M. & Mrs. Lee

Edward R. Lee, MD (’48)

David H. Lee, MD (’57)

Randall E. Lee, MD (’86)

Ronald D. Lee, MD (’79)

Mrs. Karen Lee Miller

Robert P. Miller, MD (’74)

Kathryn Miller Weedon, MD (’05)

James W. Weedon, MD (’05)

News in Brief

$2 Million Federal Grant Funds Burn & Shock/Trauma Research

Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine’s (Stritch) Burn & Shock Trauma Institute received $2 million in federal grants from the U.S. Department of Defense to further research beneficial to the military. The grant money will be used to purchase equipment and expand the current scope and capabilities of the Institute’s research initiatives. Investigators at the center are currently researching treatments for infections, the use of blood substitutes, treatments for hypovolemic shock (shock caused by a decrease in the volume of circulating blood), immune response and wound healing.

State Pledges $2 Million to Help Build Nursing School

The State of Illinois pledged $2 million to Loyola University Health System (Loyola) to assist with costs in building a nursing school on the Maywood campus. The Loyola University Chicago Marcella Niehoff School of Nursing (Niehoff) will be built alongside Stritch, allowing medical and nursing students to learn and work in a collaborative environment, as well as to share resources. “State officials realize that nurses are the backbone of health care in the United States and that they need to address the shortage of nurses across the state,” said Karen Alexander, senior vice president, Development & External Affairs, Loyola. “They believe helping Loyola construct this facility will increase the growth of a new generation of highly trained nurses in Illinois.”

Niehoff Alumna Named President of Loyola University Hospital

Sharon O’Keefe, RN, MSN, has been named president of Loyola University Hospital. Ms. O’Keefe comes to Loyola from Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis, where she has served as chief operating officer since July 2002. A Chicago native, Ms. O’Keefe began her career as a critical care nurse at Loyola in 1974 and earned a master’s degree in nursing from Niehoff. “I am excited to return to the organization that shaped my academic and early professional years,” she said. Ms. O’Keefe has had significant experience in operations management; improvement in financial performance; achievement of quality, safety and patient satisfaction goals; support of the academic environment; and appreciation of mission objectives. “Her professional abilities and personal attributes, combined with her high level of energy and expertise, make her a tremendous addition to our organization,” said Paul K. Whitton, MB, MD, Msc, president and CEO of Loyola.

Study: Chaotic Clinic Environment Leads to Health Care Disparities

The environment of health care clinics may play a large part in the poor health outcomes that minorities experience from chronic conditions such as high blood pressure and diabetes, according to a study published in the Archives of Internal Medicine. Anita Varkey, MD, assistant professor, Department of Medicine, Stritch, and her fellow researchers compared 96 primary care clinics, including 27 that had at least 30 percent minority patients and 69 that had less than 30 percent. They found that the clinics with larger proportions of minority patients were four times more likely to have a chaotic work environment, and their physicians were half as likely to report job satisfaction. “When you have limited access to medical supplies, referral specialists and examination rooms, coupled with a more complex patient mix, you can start to see the challenges involved with providing high quality primary care,” Dr. Varkey wrote. The study authors indicated that strategies to improve patient care at these clinics should target measures to reduce physician burnout, clinic chaos and work control measures.

Catheter Ablation Superior to Medication for Atrial Fibrillation

Treating abnormal heart tissue with radiofrequency energy is a dramatically more effective way of treating common heart rhythm disorders than using medication, according to a major international study in which Loyola researchers were involved. The study included 159 patients at 19 cardiovascular centers. Lead researcher David Wilber, MD, George M. Eisenberg Professor of Cardiovascular Sciences and director of the Cardiovascular Institute at Stritch, presented study results at the American Heart Association’s 2008 Scientific Sessions last fall. One year after undergoing catheter ablation treatment, 75 percent of patients with irregular heartbeat, called atrial fibrillation, were free of symptoms. However, only 21 percent of those treated with medication were symptom-free. In the ablation procedure, an electrophysiologist destroys small areas of heart tissue that are responsible for the erratic electrical signals. A catheter is guided through blood vessels to the heart. The tip of the catheter delivers radiofrequency energy that heats and destroys the selected tissue.

Study Links Soda Pop Habit to Early Kidney Disease

Women who drink two or more cans of soda pop daily have nearly twice the risk of developing early kidney disease, according to a study published in the Public Library of Science’s journal, PLoS ONE. Researchers from Stritch and the University of North Carolina examined data from more than 9,000 U.S. adults participating in a national health and nutrition survey that involved urine samples and a questionnaire about dietary habits. Women who reported drinking two or more soft drinks in the previous 24 hours were 1.86 times likely to have albuminuria in their urine, a marker for early kidney damage. Albuminuria is an excess amount of a protein called albumin. Healthy kidneys filter out albumin, so an excess amount can be a sign of damage. Researchers did not find the same risk in men, or people who drank diet soda pop. They concluded that additional studies are needed to determine whether the elevated risk of kidney disease is due to high fructose corn syrup in soft drinks, an overall excess intake of sugar, lifestyle factors or other causes.
Save the Date

Friday, Nov. 20, 2009
The Hilton Chicago

Loyola University Chicago
Stritch School of Medicine

Annual Award Dinner

Honoring
His Eminence Francis Cardinal George, OMI
Gerard V. Aranha, MD
2009 Stritch Junior Service League