

MED *express*

SPRING 2006

BARRY UNIVERSITY ■ SCHOOL OF GRADUATE MEDICAL SCIENCES



Roger G. Beck, DPM '90
Elected President FPMA

SGMS Displaced by
Hurricane Wilma

message from the DEAN



Chet Evans, DPM, CWS

The Importance of Community and Service Learning Projects

Over the years, the numerous programs of the Barry University School of Graduate Medical Sciences have conducted many community service endeavors including, shoe drives for the homeless, golf tournaments for childhood cancer, health screenings for migrant farm workers, among many others. This year will mark the 10th anniversary of the Yucatan Crippled Children's Project in which Barry University's podiatric physicians have provided corrective surgery for 4,500 poor crippled children in the Yucatan of Mexico. Dr. Evans discussed with the editor the significance of community service projects for medical education and for improving the health care of the medically underserved.

EDITOR: What community service program has meant the most to you?

DR. EVANS: Abroad the Yucatan Crippled Children's Project stands above all others. Our podiatric physicians and surgeons have volunteered for over 50 trips to provide surgical and other treatment for crippled children in Mexico, helping thousands to walk and live a normal life. In greater Miami, Barry's involvement with the Open Door Health Care Center in Homestead has provided medical education for Barry's podiatric students and residents, physician assistant students, and nursing students. At the same time, the clinic offers free

primary care to the over 28,000 migrant farmworkers and many uninsured and undocumented indigent individuals who otherwise would not have medical care. I'm proud to be on the Board and have been involved in the development of the clinic with Dr. Nilda Soto. The clinic has received national recognition as a model free clinic and has helped save the limbs and lives of many individuals, through the service of Barry podiatric physician, Dr. Steve Maynard.

EDITOR: How important are community service projects to medical education?

DR. EVANS: Our community service endeavors parallel the mission of Barry University and we use the community service learning model as an active part of our medical education curriculum. The service learning curriculum has in fact been supported within the Barry PA Program for the past five years in part by a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Health Resources and Service Administration. The government recognizes the value of serving the community and encouraging students to give back to those who are in need. Many of our students have returned after graduation to work in the medically underserved communities that they have been trained in. We have seen PA students return to serve in emergency rooms in local medically underserved

communities and to work in drug treatment facilities in some of Miami's areas of greatest need.

EDITOR: What are the most prominent community service projects for the PA Program?

DR. EVANS: The PA Program has held many community service endeavors including health fairs, community screenings, and pediatric community health programs. Every year for the past five years the Barry University Physician Assistant Student Association (BUPASA) has conducted a golf tournament to benefit local not-for-profit organizations raising over \$30,000. Recently the BUPASA conducted a "Run for

Life" program that raised funds for Kerry's Kids. I am very proud of all the efforts and support that the PA faculty have made in encouraging our "community caring environment" among our PA students.

EDITOR: What are the most prominent community service projects for the Podiatric Medicine and Surgery Program?

DR. EVANS: For the past six years our Podiatric Medicine and Surgery Program has been conducting pediatric examinations at the Gratigny Full Service Elementary School. Here Dr. Losito and his residents provide foot screenings and examine gait abnormalities. This year we began to work with the School of Nursing and the School of Education on Project ITTCH (Infant-Toddler Training and Children's Health) for the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties. This innovative program involves offering health screenings to children 0-5 years of age and conducting caregiver training on issues of childhood development, safety, nutrition, and health, among others.

EDITOR: Project ITTCH is now bringing podiatric screenings to many of Miami's preschool children. How important is this to overall childhood health?

DR. EVANS: Typically children are examined for major primary health care issues including vision and hearing. They should also be screened for lower extremity pathology, which Project ITTCH is now providing. This way we will be able to identify conditions that could affect health and mobility in the future. We screen for clubfoot, flatfoot, in-toe gait, fungal conditions, in-grown nails, skin conditions, and bowlegs. I have had one of my goals of overall childhood health and welfare for all children in Miami-Dade County partly realized by Project ITTCH.

EDITOR: What are the major outcomes of recruiting and training in medically underserved areas?

DR. EVANS: We know from federal employment and labor statistics that minority and disadvantaged students are underrepresented in the health professions. It is our mission to reduce this disparity and at the same time bring quality primary health care services to those in medically underserved areas. We are proud of our record of enrolling the highest percent of minority students in the country in our podiatric medical program with 63% from minority and disadvantaged backgrounds in 2004. Medical Spanish or Medical Creole is required for our PA students. It is encouraging our PA students to communicate with their patients in their native tongue – thus reducing barriers to care and enlightening our students on the cultural differences in health care practices and behaviors.

what's this ISSUE

inside



Message from the Dean2

PA Program Interview4

Dr. Beck Elected President FPMA5

Faculty News.....6

PA Graduation7

Project ITTCH8

Podiatric Alumni Spotlight9

Hurricane Wilma Damage.....10

PA Alumni Student Spotlight11

Important Dates12

MED *express* is published for the alumni, students, faculty, staff, and friends of the Barry University School of Graduate Medical Sciences. The primary purpose of Barry University is to offer its students a quality education. Furthermore, Barry University commits itself to assuring a religious dimension and to providing community service and presence within a more caring environment.

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Hurricane Update

Wilma Strikes GMS Building

The Barry University School of Graduate Medical Sciences building was severely damaged by hurricane Wilma's powerful winds on October 25, 2005. The physical damage to the building estimated to be over \$1/2 million including destruction of the roof, substantial damage to files, records, books, office equipment, and total loss of air conditioning service.

The School's administration offices were all relocated to Thompson Hall and construction of the new building has been delayed. Please consider a generous gift to our building fund or the student scholarship fund to help us continue our mission of providing quality education and community service.

program interview



Doreen C. Parkhurst, MD, FACEP

Aetna Grant Enables Physician Assistant Students to Train in Remote Medically Underserved Communities

The Barry University Physician Assistant Program (BUPAP) recently received a grant of \$35,000 from the Aetna Foundation to provide BUPAP students with clinical training experiences in remote, rural, medically underserved, ethnically diverse, and high risk population settings. As part of the BUPAP mission to train students in underserved and disadvantaged communities, the Aetna grant assists with travel costs to reach these remote locations. The editor spoke with Dr. Doreen C. Parkhurst, assistant dean and director for the BUPAP about the Aetna grant and its impact on student training

EDITOR: How important to the PA Program is the grant from Aetna?

DR. PARKHURST: It is extremely important. We have made great strides with our cultural competency curriculum. We bring students in before their first term for a communications course, to learn about different cultures, verbal and non-verbal communication. They do service learning projects in their first and third years and work with community partners at various shelters, co-ops and schools. They keep reflective journals in which they share with each other their strides in understanding cultures which are different from their own and the high risk problems that various groups have. The primary implementation of their insights occur when they are on rotations in medically underserved, ethnically diverse and rural settings. Many of these rotations that we have established are more than 60 miles away. The

only way that we can require students to travel that far is to provide them with housing and small travel allowances. This housing and travel has been funded over the past several years by our Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Bureau of Health Professions grant money. This year, we still have some HRSA funds for this but we needed more to maximize our students' rotation experiences. Aetna has enabled us to do this. Their grant funds are strictly for student housing and travel.

EDITOR: What locations will students be able to train in as a result of the grant funding?

DR. PARKHURST: As a result of the Aetna funding, student travel and housing has been supported in psychiatric rotations in Chattahoochee (rural North Florida), the primary care MediVan in rural Monroe County (Florida Keys), and primary care and pediatric rotations in Dade City (rural West Florida), Sebring/Lake Placid (rural Central Florida) and

starting rotations next fall. Additional funds will be needed to maintain this endeavor on the west coast of Florida as well.

EDITOR: Will you be seeking additional support from Aetna to continue this project?

DR. PARKHURST: We shall. The mission of Aetna is very much in line with the mission our program and it has been an excellent match. The Barry University Physician Assistant students have as part of their training requirement to work in underserved and disadvantaged communities. Aetna has as part of its purpose "to improve the quality of health by reducing racial and ethnic disparities by ensuring that every American has access to quality care and the opportunity for good health."

EDITOR: Why does the BUPAP place such an emphasis on training in these remote locations?

DR. PARKHURST: The locations are medically underserved, ethnically diverse and/or economically disadvantaged. Typically, the patients in these locations do not have adequate access to health care. Some of these areas are HPSA's (health professions shortage areas) and some are MUC's (medically underserved communities). Our program hopes to train PAs who will practice in medically underserved areas. By introducing them to these populations during their training, we hope to inspire them to return there to practice.

EDITOR: How successful have the community service learning projects been to PA education at Barry?

DR. PARKHURST: According to our surveys of graduates 100% of our PA alumni agree that the Barry PA training has improved their interactions with underserved and high risk groups as well as increasing awareness of diversity's influence on these groups. These overwhelmingly positive responses are largely due to our cultural competency curriculum.

EDITOR: What effect has the Medical Spanish and Medical Creole courses had on students working with non-English speaking patients?

DR. PARKHURST: As I read their reflections from their rotations, I learn that their language instruction has been very important. There is patient trust generated when a student says hello and asks how the patient is in the patient's native language. Even fluent Spanish speakers tell us that they have learned a great deal from the Medical Spanish course.

the Citrus County Health Department. The wonderful folks at the Rural Health Network of Monroe County, the Florida Keys Area Health Education Center (AHEC) and the Gulf Coast North AHEC have partnered with Barry University PA Program and provided preceptors and support for our students. We are very grateful for their support.

EDITOR: Is there an on-going need for funding support to continue to train students in these remote and underserved settings?

DR. PARKHURST: Yes, there certainly is. We have the funds for support to this extent for this year only. Each year, we shall need to try to find sources of funding to maintain these rotations. In addition, we now have 24 PA students in our first year class who are based at the University Partnership Center at St. Petersburg College. These students will be

Barry Alumnus Elected President Florida Podiatric Medical Association



Roger Beck Elected President

Dr. Roger G. Beck, DPM, a 1990 graduate of the Barry University Podiatric Medicine and Surgery Program, was installed on January 14, 2006 as the president of the Florida Podiatric Medical Association (FPMA) during their annual SAM meeting in Orlando. Dr. Beck became the first Barry University podiatric physician graduate to be elected as president of the FPMA.

Prior to his installation, Dr. Beck was bestowed the prestigious Dr. Marvin D. Steinberg Distinguished Podiatric Alumnus Award at the Barry Podiatric Medicine and Surgery's alumni reception held on January 12, 2006 at the Buena Vista Palace Hotel in Orlando. According to Dr. Chet Evans, Barry's vice president for medical affairs, "We are genuinely proud of Dr. Beck's phenomenal success as a podiatric physician and his election to the presidency of the FPMA."

Upon receiving the Dr. Steinberg Distinguished Alumnus Award, Dr. Beck exclaimed, "I am pleased and humbled to receive such recognition by my alma mater." The award honors individuals who have made significant contributions to the profession of podiatric medicine and the Podiatric Medicine and Surgery Program at Barry University. He received his award from its first recipient, Dr. Bradley Haves. The late Dr. Marvin Steinberg is considered to be the 'father' of modern podiatric medicine.

Dr. Beck came to Barry University through a circuitous route. He originally planned to follow in the footsteps of his father Milton Beck, M.D., as he began his medical education pursuing an M.D. degree at St. George's University School of Medicine in Grenada. In 1983, Grenada was invaded by Cuba and the entire medical school was

airlifted to the United States.

In 1985, the Barry University School of Podiatric Medicine and Surgery was established and Beck transferred to the new school to complete the Doctor of Podiatric Medicine degree. He then served a two year surgical residency at Hialeah Hospital under Barry University's faculty member, Dr. Charles Southerland.

Dr. Beck is currently in private practice in Tavares, Florida. He also serves on the staff of the Florida Hospital Waterman Wound Care and Hyperbaric Medicine Center in Tavares. He began his work with the professional societies of podiatric medicine serving as president of the Central Florida Podiatric Medical Society from 1998-2002. He became chair of the Council of Presidents for the State of Florida and has dedicated part of his professional career to being a voice for the podiatric physicians of Florida.

For the FPMA, he has held the offices of secretary, treasurer, second vice president, first vice president, and now president.

When asked how he feels about being elected president of FPMA he declared, "it is always an honor and privilege when your colleagues have the trust and confidence in your ability to provide them with the leadership that is needed to govern such an organization as the FPMA. I enjoy the opportunities and challenges that this endeavor has presented to me, working for the betterment of the profession of podiatric medicine and the protector of podiatric physicians in Florida."

A Matter of Fact

by David Molnar, Ph.D.

*Perceptions of Barry DPM Graduates
when asked:*

*Would you recommend Barry to a student
considering Podiatric Medical School?*

YES	NO
93%	7%

FACULTY *news*



L to R - back row, Dr. Thomas Merrill, Mrs. Brenda Merrill, Dr. John Nelson;
L to R - front row, Dr. Chet Evans, Capt. Lynn Evans, and Mrs. Mary Nelson

Nelson and Merrill Honored for Donations to Barry Podiatric Medicine Program

The Barry University School of Graduate Medical Sciences (BUSGMS) is pleased to announce that Dr. John Nelson, associate dean of clinics and professor of podiatric medicine and Dr. Thomas Merrill, professor of surgery and residency director for the Mercy Hospital/Barry University Surgical Residency Program were inducted into the Barry University Society of Founder's for their donations to Barry University of \$50,000. Drs. Nelson and Merrill were honored at the 2005 Barry University Founder's Ball on January 7, 2006 at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Miami.

This year's ball, which was also a celebration of Barry's 65th anniversary, proved to be an overwhelming success raising \$150,000 for the University.

"Both Drs. Nelson and Merrill bring so much phenomenal expertise and talent in podiatric medicine as faculty members of BUSGMS," said Dr. Chet Evans, vice president for medical affairs for Barry. "They have demonstrated their commitment to the profession of podiatric medicine and their interest in the medical education of their students by donating in such a generous manner to podiatric medical student scholarships," he added.

Nelson completed his bachelor's degree from Rutgers University and his doctor of

podiatric medicine from the Ohio College of Podiatric Medicine. He came to Barry University in 1988 and teaches Clinical Pharmacology, O.R. Protocol Lab, Orthotics Lab, and supervises the clinical training of all podiatric juniors and seniors. He has always had a strong interest in teaching podiatric medicine and to be able to impart knowledge to students and help mold the future of the podiatric profession.

According to Nelson, "All our faculty make a tremendous contribution toward the education of our students; both through our teaching and our financial support. We do it for the students and the profession."

Merrill was recruited by Barry University in 1985 to teach in the academic medical science program and he became one of the founding faculty members of the School of Podiatric Medicine in 1987. He holds his D.P.M. degree from the Dr. William M. Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine and has taught for Barry, Emergency Medicine and Traumatology, Cadaver Surgery, Complications in Surgery, Anesthesiology, and Podiatric Surgery. Merrill has been invited as a featured speaker in Germany and England to present on reconstructive surgery of the foot and ankle, and participates in efforts to increase awareness of podiatric medicine world-wide.

Free Clinic Model Discussed at National Physician Assistant Meeting in Puerto Rico

Keith Moore, J.D., PA-C, director of clinical education for the Barry University Physician Assistant Program (BUPAP) and Robert Nguyen, D.P.M., 2nd year Barry/Mercy Primary Care Resident presented a poster session on "New Model for Delivery of Health Care Services - The Open Door Health Center" to a national audience of physician assistant faculty at the Association of Physician Assistant Programs 2005 Education Forum recently in Los Croabas, Puerto Rico. The poster was viewed by more than 350 PA faculty from California to Massachusetts, many indicating an interest in replicating the free clinic model in their communities.

The presentation is part of a Barry University initiative to train health professionals nation-wide on how to develop free multidisciplinary health care clinics to reduce the disparity in access to health care among minorities and other medically underserved groups. This effort has funding support from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) through a grant to Barry University for Project Health C.A.R.E. II (Collaborative Area Resource Effort).

As a model, the Open Door Health Center in Homestead, Florida cares for patients regardless of their ability to pay or immigration status. The area is home to large migrant, immigrant and impoverished patient populations.



Keith Moore, JD, PA-C

According to Moore "there were several faculty members from New England and Michigan who are actively engaged in trying to establish community clinics and they found the Barry model information to be very timely and useful."

The model has won numerous state and national awards. Adaptation of the free clinic model on a national basis can positively impact health care delivery to many medically underserved communities.

Physician Assistant Class of 2005 Not Just a Job - A Vocation



Barry University PA Class of 2005

The Barry University Physician Assistant (PA) Class of 2005, joined by over 350 friends and family, recited the Oath of Hippocrates as the culmination of the Class of 2005 PA Academic Convocation. In doing so, these new health professionals pledge themselves to the service of humanity. This, according to Dr. Doreen C. Parkhurst, PA program director and medical director, is what the PA Program strives to instill in its students. "You are ready to go out and practice medicine and make a difference in peoples' lives," Parkhurst told the class. "Being a physician assistant is not just a job, it is a vocation which will bring you joy and will provide an improved standard of life to your patients," she added.

Richard Ball, PA-C, PhD, keynote speaker, assistant professor of medical education and associate director of clinical education for the Barry University Physician Assistant Program addressed the Class of 2005 saying, "This transition from student to medical practitioner is an important step in your new vocation as a PA and is not to be taken lightly. Remember you represent not only yourself but also Barry University - we are proud to have you represent us in the health care field."

The ceremony honored outstanding students including Alette Gutierrez, presented with the Dean's Award and the Vernon A. and Virginia M. Culver Memorial Scholarship for excellence in research analysis; Caridad Lopez received the President's Award in recognition of

outstanding service, academic, and clinical achievement; Amy Ellsworth was awarded the Emanuel Fien Memorial Scholarship for outstanding performance in Physical Diagnosis; the Marc and Mildred Rice Memorial Award for Excellence in pediatrics was presented to Terrie Brooks Dixon, based

on her essay "What a Child Taught Me."

This year, the Marion Weinreb Memorial Scholarship Award was presented by special guest and sponsor of this award Maurice Weinreb, Esquire, to two first year students who demonstrated overall leadership ability, Brian Petrine and Christopher Neal; Benjamin Taylor received the Dr. Jules Ross Memorial Award for demonstration of enthusiasm and excellence in community service. The Nurse Practitioner-Physician (NPA) Alliance Scholarship was also awarded for the first time to T. Harvey Greene for his excellence and leadership in the health care field.

Dr. Doreen Parkhurst announced the first awards of the Barry University Physician Assistant Scholarship Endowment saying "This is a very exciting moment; we finally reached our threshold amount of \$25,000 to grant a scholarship to first year students with financial need." The first recipients of this scholarship, Kaleena Francois and T. Harvey Greene are both students at the Barry University PA Program Expansion at St. Petersburg College. The Class of 2005 gave special thanks to the didactic faculty of the Physician Assistant Program, the clinical preceptors, and the medical residents and staff of the Barry University clinical affiliates by contributing \$700 to the Barry University PA Scholarship Endowment Fund.

PA Students Run for Life

Seventy Barry University Physician Assistant students and friends participated in the 6th annual "Run for Life" on January 14, 2006 on the campus of Barry University, raising \$2,600 for Kerry's Kids. According to Jonathan Caplan, Barry University Physician Assistant Program (BUPAP) class of 2006 and co-organizer of the event, "we usually conduct the run in November, but Hurricane Wilma postponed us for awhile. However, the Barry University Physician Assistant Student Association was really pleased with the turnout this year, and can't wait to have an even better run next year."

Kerry's Kids located in Oakland, California was established to carry on the dream of Dr. Kerry Spooner Dean to organize a mobile health clinic to serve indigent children and their families in the Bay Area. Today, Kerry's Kids conducts well childcare exams and immunizations, educates parents on preventative health care for their children, and assists eligible families to enroll in the Healthy Families insurance program. The program was selected by the American Academy of Physician Assistants as the Host City Prevention Campaign charity as San Francisco will host the AAPA's Annual Convention later this year.

Christina Davis, PA-C, BUPAP class of 2004 contributed \$1,500 to the "Run For Life" fundraiser as she currently practices in Phoenix and was unable to participate in the event. "I wanted to support the Barry PA Program and by donating to the "Run for Life" event, I was able to help Barry PA students achieve a goal to raise money for a great cause."

Dr. Doreen Parkhurst, associate dean of BUSGMS and program director of BUPAP said, "I am very proud of Virginia Valentin and Jonathan Caplan as co-organizers of the event and to all who participated. What our PA students are doing in community service endeavors is making the world a better place. Our students daily live the Barry University mission."

Project ITTCH Serves Miami's Tiniest Tots



Marvin Williams, DPM and Barry University Nurse Practitioner Deborah Lewis examine young child.

The education of every child begins at birth. With that in mind the Barry University School of Graduate Medical Sciences is collaborating with Barry's School of Nursing and School of Education to educate infant and toddler caregivers about the critical role they play in helping shape the future of the children in their care. Project ITTCH (Infant-Toddler Training and Children's Health) founded by the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties through a grant to Barry University School of Nursing, plays a vital role in this process for low income and disadvantaged children. The project offers health screenings to children 0-5 years of age, immunization checks and appropriate referrals to increase the children's chance to develop intellectually, emotionally, socially, and physically so that they are ready and eager to learn after they leave the daycare and enter kindergarten.

According to Marvin Williams, DPM, Barry University Podiatric Sports Medicine Fellow and podiatric physician for Project ITTCH "since starting with the Project in July, 2005 I have screened 500 children from a few months old to four years of age. The common lower extremity problems I have found include in-toe gait, excessively flat feet, and ingrown nails." In addition to the health screenings Project ITTCH provides a comprehensive training program for infant-toddler caregivers, mentors caregivers to enhance their role as early childhood educators and conducts an annual health fair co-hosted by the Barry University Schools of Nursing, Education, and Graduate Medical

Sciences, focusing on early childhood health and wellness.

Dr. Williams has presented the podiatric lecture to the daycare workers on "Early/Late Childhood Walking" and "Developmental Disorders in the Lower Extremity." These workshops are held on the Barry University campus and help the caregivers understand the appropriate age and level of development for children to begin walking as well as definitions of normal and abnormal development.

On a typical visit to the daycare centers, Williams will assess motion and flexibility at the hip, knees, legs, ankles, and feet. He also examines the children for any abnormalities as well as making sure that they are walking and running without difficulty.

After going with Barry University's nurse practitioner Deborah Lewis to daycare centers including Skipper Chucks, Tiny Town, Happy Kids, Christian Academy among others, Williams plans to incorporate pedo-podiatrics into his practice once his fellowship training is complete. "As a Barry podiatric sports medicine fellow I have a dream job, working on the sideline and locker room with Miami's collegiate and professional athletes," Williams declared.

It is a pleasure to work with Ms. Lewis because of her dedication and commitment to the success of the project," he acclaimed. "Seeing the smiles on the faces of the infants and toddlers at the centers and knowing we are making a difference is so rewarding," he added.

Buchman's Chapter Featured in Leading Textbook

Jacqueline Saxe Buchman, DPM, associate professor of podiatric medicine for the Barry University School of Graduate Medical Sciences has published a chapter on "Neurological Disorders in the Lower Extremity" for the seventh edition of *Neal's Disorders of the Foot*. This 2006 edition of the text focuses on the knowledge base of the profession while at the same time accepting that its role is within the wider medical profession, contributing to it as well as drawing from it. Buchman's chapter examines neurological disorders in the lower extremity resulting from disease processes that involve sensory, motor, and autonomic nervous systems.

Buchman has been with Barry University since 1989 and teaches junior and senior level podiatric medical courses including Senior Podiatric *Orthopedics and Biomechanics Seminar; Podiatric Medicine III & IV;* and *Foot Manifestations of Medical Disease*. She won the Outstanding Clinical Faculty Award in 2005 and recently served as a featured faculty member for the



Jacqueline Saxe Buchman, DPM

international conference on the *Biomechanics of Wounds and Wound Care* recently held in Great Britain.

Buchman earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Pennsylvania State University and a Doctorate of Podiatric Medicine from the California College of Podiatric Medicine. Said Dr. Chet Evans, vice president of medical affairs and dean for the School of Graduate Medical Sciences, "this accomplishment by Dr. Buchman demonstrates the significant contribution our outstanding faculty are making to academic education for the profession of podiatric medicine."

ALUMNI *spotlight*



Debra R. Boender, DPM

Podiatry on Wheels

This new practitioner finds that mobility can be an asset. Dr. Boender graduated from the Barry University School of Graduate Medical Sciences and practices in central Maryland.

I run an “office on wheels” from my Jeep Wrangler four days per week. When my second residency program folded with little warning, I had done no substantial planning for my practice and therefore did what I could afford to do – a house calls-only practice. My car, my instruments, and the knowledge and skills to provide thorough home-based care were enough to get started.

It has been difficult, and I continue to learn on the fly, but my practice is growing. My original plan was to purchase a mobile home and outfit it as a small office, but lack of financial reserves prevented that. So, I travel in my car and for individual house calls take two medical bags, a general and a “wound care” bag. For large facilities, I have a Stanley toolbox on wheels that holds an adequate supply of everything I need. A vehicle solely designated for my practice would be nice, but with the current price of gas and my patient population, a mobile home isn’t practical. A hybrid vehicle with adequate space in it for me and my basic equipment, and that offers easy access and egress to accommodate my disabilities, is now planned. Because of my disabilities, doing house calls provides a flexible schedule that a fixed office location does not. Recently I spent time with Ross Taubman, D.P.M., whose office is nearby, and whose

advice has been invaluable, as well as with Ross Cohen, D.P.M., who mentors me on billing and practice management which were problems at first. Overall, it has been a shoestring enterprise, and I have been affected by the new practice learning curve, but it’s working.

To date, I have two medical assisted-living facilities and a growing number of private house call patients within a 52-mile radius from my home in central Maryland. My private house call load has increased such that I now must consolidate patients in the same area on the same day to conserve time and fuel, and at the same time keep everyone outside the 61-day limit.

When prospective patients call, I inform them that they must have medical conditions that cause them to be homebound in order for Medicare to cover the visit. I also explain that I do a thorough podiatric H&P on the first visit before rendering any other treatments. Patients are pleasantly surprised by the amount of time I spend with them on this first visit. Only once was someone dishonest over the phone and when I arrived at her apartment she decided she didn’t want to be responsible for the bill and cancelled.

REFERRALS: Most of my referrals are from other podiatrists and medical doctors I

know in the Baltimore area. Being middle-aged (this is a mid life career change for me; I used to be a history professor), and born and raised in Baltimore, I’ve had many years to get to know physicians in the area. Once I decided to go to medical school, I made it my job to get to know more area podiatrists, and spent three of my externship months doing private externships in their offices. BUSGMS was very good about allowing us to organize our own externships, and I learned more in those than the “official” ones. Doing privately arranged externships hurt me when it came to residency programs, but paid off immeasurably now that I am in practice. I have worked hard at establishing my reputation in this area. Some patients have called as a result of running advertisements in my diocesan newspaper, in papers for the senior population, and sending out letters to every senior and assisted living facility in my county. I’m also active in the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland and have some name recognition from work in the diocese since 1989.

Likewise, I became active immediately in the Maryland Podiatric Medical Association, having been active in the American Association of Women Podiatrists and APMA since my first year of medical school. Past experience with professional life made me aware that it’s important to join one’s professional organizations; as part of that I attend the annual APMA scientific meeting yearly.

PAPERWORK: One remaining problem is not having an office staff to handle paperwork, which is very time-consuming. And, I am learning that every time I turn around, there are more papers to fill out! I created my own forms, superbills, and all other papers I use, which saved money but added slightly to my initial work load.

SHARING SPACE: Now, Podiatry on Wheels has “Off-Road Wednesdays.” Beginning in April, I opened a Wednesday office in space shared with my internist, who generously offered me the space at no charge while I am starting up! He says he is “paying it forward” because so many people helped him get started. My Wednesday practice is already growing with patients who don’t qualify for house calls. Many friends who told me they are saving their feet for me, and have been waiting for me to graduate and finish residency, are already making appointments.

HOSPITAL PRIVILEGES: Recently, I received temporary privileges at my hospital of choice, and look forward to permanent privileges at the end of April. Although it has been a somewhat “bumpy” road, things are progressing steadily, and I look forward to continued success as my practice grows.

(Reprinted from Podiatry Management, by permission)

BUSGMS Severely Impacted by Hurricane Wilma



Over half million dollars damage to SGMS building

The Barry University School of Graduate Medical Sciences' physical structure at 11600 NE Second Avenue in Miami Shores was severely damaged by Hurricane Wilma on October 25, 2005, causing significant disruption to the administrative, educational, and community service functions of the School. The physical damage to the building included, destruction of the roof, substantial damage to files, records, books, office equipment, and total loss of air conditioning service.

Barry's five Foot & Ankle Institutes were damaged severely as well and were without power for nine days. This resulted in a significant loss of revenue through cancellation of foot surgeries, postponement of clinical education rotations, and elimination of nine days of charitable foot care for the homeless, poor, and medically disadvantaged.

According to Dr. Chet Evans, vice president for Medical Affairs and dean of the School of Graduate Medical Sciences, "Hurricane Wilma had effect on the School, students, faculty, and staff. The entire faculty and administrative staff had to be relocated to an older, unused building which negatively impacts our student recruitment, retention, and our administrative functions."

Many of the School's students are from Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida and have had their homes and lives destroyed over the past two years of hurricanes. Now they also had their University severely effected with over \$2 million in damage campus-wide.

This places a tremendous financial and emotional burden on our students, especially

those from disadvantaged backgrounds who do not have the finances to withstand all these costs. This may result in an inordinate number of students dropping out, many may postpone their studies, and many potential students may decide not to enroll at all. Ten students in the podiatric program have already opted to go into the five year program, taking an extra year to complete their studies.

Said Evans, "Many of our employees had major damage to their homes, automobiles, and property. This has resulted in significant stress and absenteeism to repair their homes.



Car destroyed on campus

This has negatively impacted our services to our students as well."

"The workplace is so severely damaged," according to Freddy Ulloa, vice president of Facilities Management for Barry University, "that we have no idea how long the School will be displaced."

The Barry mission of providing quality education and community service to the disadvantaged is extremely taxed and is in need of support to help us recover. Please consider a generous gift to our building fund or student scholarship fund. A donation coupon is included in this newsletter. If you would like further information, please contact, Bob McKinlay, assistant dean for grants and program development at 305-899-3283.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The Barry University campus suffered more than \$2 million in damages from hurricane Wilma. As result we are in vital need we are in vital need of gifts to help us with our new building and our school.

Please direct all donations or request information by utilizing the return form below.

I want to make a difference!
My donation of \$ _____ is enclosed.

(Make check payable to BUSGMS)

(Choose One)

- _____ Building Fund
- _____ Steinberg Podiatric Scholarship Fund
- _____ PA Endowment Scholarship Fund
- _____ Yucatan Crippled Children's Project

Return to:

Bob McKinlay, M.P.S., Asst. Dean
Program Development
Barry University
School of Graduate Medical Sciences
11300 NE Second Avenue
Miami Shores, FL 33161

Alumni spotlight



Caridad Lopez, PA-C, Class of 2005

Physician Assistant Grad Survives Cancer Helps Other Survivors

by Caridad Lopez

Cardidad Lopez, PA-C, Class of 2005 overcame many barriers to completing her studies as a PA at the Barry University School of Graduate Medical Sciences. As a cancer survivor she is using her experiences which changed her outlook on life. Lopez is now making a difference in her own practice improving the quality of life of her patients.

In our Thanatology class we learned about how patients deal with death and dying as well as life threatening diseases. There is always something to learn from a cancer patient. How these patients sometimes survive against the odds and/or cope with their situation is amazing. I have a lot of experience with this topic. At the age of twenty-three I was diagnosed with breast cancer and, as a consequence, underwent multiple surgeries, chemo and radiation therapies. This experience completely changed my life and led to my decision to become a physician assistant.

At the time I found the lump on my

breast, I was a pre-med senior student majoring in Entomology/Nematology at the University of Florida. I was determined to study tropical medicine with high hopes of working for the CDC or the NIH. I was also doing an internship at the Shand's Hospital Clinical Research Center assisting in a national study: the Diabetes Prevention Trial. I felt young, healthy, and invincible. I had always taken care of myself, eating healthy, exercising regularly, drinking plenty of water and even taking my daily vitamins. How could I have anything serious? After undergoing several diagnostic exams, including a mammogram, ultrasound and biopsy, I was informed of the diagnosis. I will never forget that day. Using simple terms, in a very straight forward manner, and looking right into my eyes my doctor said "You have cancer."

That was only the beginning of a very lengthy and physically, mentally and emotionally demanding ordeal. I underwent multiple surgeries and treatments, including

chemo and radiation therapies. I was hospitalized many times, and there were moments of such weakness, that I thought I was not going to survive. It was my faith in God and the support I received from my family and friends that gave me the strength and drive to endure all the hardships. I also met many wonderful people, both patients and medical staff that I will never forget. I will forever be grateful to those who took part in my care. I was treated by very dedicated PAs with a high level of professionalism and at the same time compassion and understanding, and I hope to someday provide the same level of care to my patients. This experience completely changed my priorities and outlook on life. I think of each day as a blessing, a gift, and try to enjoy each day as much as I can. I never take people for granted, especially loved ones. I am grateful for everything I am able to do and experience, and plan to take advantage of the opportunity I have, as a physician assistant, to help others.

**2006
Combined
Board Review**

**Surgery
Orthopedics
Primary Podiatric Medicine**

**May 17-21, 2006
Orlando, Florida**

Sponsored by
**Barry University - School of
Graduate Medical Sciences
Podiatric Medicine and Surgery**

J. Smith, DPM

Barry Celebrates at Florida's FPMA SAM Seminar

The Barry University School of Graduate Medical Sciences (BUSGMS) held a reception to honor the 20th anniversary of the Barry Podiatric Medicine and Surgery Program in Orlando, January 12th, during the Florida Podiatric Medical Association's (FPMA) Science and Management (SAM) Symposium. Over 200 celebrants enjoyed the festive evening which included a salute to Dr. Roger Beck, Barry podiatric alumnus from the class of 1990 who was elected president of the FPMA. Beck was presented with the Dr. Marvin D. Steinberg Distinguished Podiatric Alumnus Award.

According to Dr. Chet Evans, vice president of Medical Affairs at Barry University, "we are exceedingly proud of Dr. Beck's achievement in being elected President of FPMA and also very appreciative of the 20 wonderful years we have had working with the

FPMA to advance the profession of podiatric medicine." Barry faculty participating as lecturers for the SAM Seminar included, Dr. Thomas Merrill, Dr. Charles Southerland, Dr. James Losito, Dr. Jacqueline Buchman, Dr. Albert Armstrong, and Dr. John Nelson.

The evening also honored several officials of FPMA for their gracious support and collaboration with Barry University over the years including, Dr. Barney Greenberg, Co-chair Convention Committee, Dr. Dennis Frisch, Co-chair Convention Committee, Dr. Robert Frimmel, Scientific Chairman, Dr. Joseph Strickland, Assistants Program Chairman, Dr. Robert Katz, 2005 President, Michael Schwartz, Esq., Executive Director, Dinah Cox, Chief Administrative Officer, and Dr. Terence McDonald, President, Florida Podiatric Medical Society.

Said Dr. Brad Haves, Barry co-host of the reception and Treasurer of the FPMA, "We are pleased to see so many of our alumni join us to renew friendships and share fond remembrances of Barry's Podiatric Medicine and Surgery Program." Barry University officials, Frank Casale, associate vice president of the Alumni Association and Joyce Riveira, director of the Barry Annual Fund attended the reception and discussed how alumni can help with the BUSGMS building fund, student scholarships, and as volunteers for the fundraising phonation.

The celebration also benefited the Dr. Marvin D. and Ruth Steinberg Podiatric Alumni Student Scholarship Fund with a 50/50 raffle that raised \$500 for the Fund. Dr. James Tracy of Westchester, Florida was the cash grand prize winner in the raffle.

IMPORTANT DATES

■ APRIL 29, 2006

Podiatric Medicine and Surgery Class of 2006 Commencement Ceremony, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Barry University Campus, Broad Center
Contact: Bob McKinlay/Rena Kizilisik (305) 899-3269

■ MAY 17-21, 2006

Primary Podiatric Medicine, Orthopedics, and Surgery Board Review
Barry University School of Graduate Medical Sciences
Podiatric Medicine and Surgery
Orlando, Florida
Contact: Julie Dotson (800) 319-FEET

■ JUNE 2, 2006

Podiatric Medicine and Surgery Class of 2008 Rite of Passage Ceremony, 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
Barry University Campus, Broad Center
Contact: Bob McKinlay/Rena Kizilisik (305) 899-3269

■ AUGUST 24, 2006

Physician Assistant Class of 2007 Rite of Passage Miami Shores Campus
White Coat Ceremony, 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.
Contact: Valerie Williams (305) 899-3293

■ AUGUST 25, 2006

Physician Assistant Class of 2007 Rite of Passage St. Petersburg Expansion
White Coat Ceremony, 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.
University Partnership Center Digitorium St. Petersburg College
Contact: Debbie Winton (727) 341-4156

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